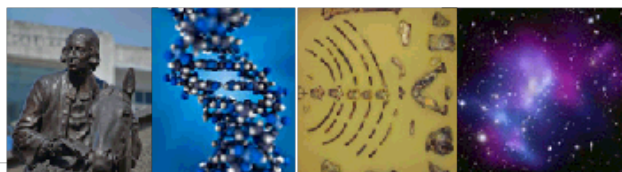


# WesleyNexus

*Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition*



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November 23, 2014

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

The cold weather has set in across the US including the mid-Atlantic. We at WesleyNexus are continuing to move forward in spite of the cold to bring to you all new opportunities to engage in science and religion discussion, reading and contemplation. I have always found that cold weather is the best time to sit down with friends, acquaintances, and even people you don't know in fellowship and discuss the "big questions" that are posed by the nexus of science and religion. Below you will find a number of programs you can attend and articles you can use to foster conversation, contemplation and understanding. We hope you find something of interest to you. And please send us notices of upcoming events in your area so that we can provide a heads-up to others who might be interested.

WesleyNexus continues to encourage science and religion dialogue for those who identify with the Wesleyan tradition and those outside the tradition. Each month we remind you of our need for your help. The evolution weekend program mentioned below is a good example why your support is needed. To bring to you a professionally produced live stream video available across the world requires the dedication of hundreds of dollars. We are pleased with last year's result which can be viewed [here](#). We plan to do the same this year but need your help. Since we have no staff, offices or consultants, all your gifts are used for programs and our website. Please consider supporting us with a contribution either through the PayPal DONATE link below, or, by sending a check to:

WesleyNexus, Inc.  
24500 Fossen Road  
Damascus, MD 20872



Thanks in advance for your support

God Bless,

Rick Barr, Secretary,  
WesleyNexus, Board of Directors



[Click to play 2014 Evolution Weekend video.](#)

**Dr. Ted Peters to speak at Trinity UMC in MD on January 10, 2015**

On January 10, 2015, Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick, Maryland, will host Rev. Dr. Ted. F. Peters in an evening conversation

on the intersection between Science and Faith. Dr. Peters, is Distinguished Research Professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA and one of the early trailblazers in the developing discipline of science and religion. He served as principal investigator of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) research project funded by the NIH to study the "Theological and Ethical Questions Raised by the Human Genome Initiative" and is the author of *Playing God? Genetic Determinism and Human* is also editor of *Science and Theology: The New Consonance* where the contributing authors from a variety of disciplines address issues affecting both theology and science. His most recent book was released earlier this month with the provocative title: *UFOs: God's Chariots: Spirituality, Ancient Aliens, and Religious Yearnings in the Age of Extraterrestrials*. Dr. Peters' blog can be found [here](#).



The program flyer can be found [here](#).

### **DoSER Program of AAAS: Science Perceptions National Conference, March 13, 2015 (Update)**

<http://www.aaas.org/event/science-perceptions-national-conference>

“Perceptions: Science and Religious Communities” is a national conference that “will bring together leaders in science and religion—including DoSER director Jennifer Wiseman, National Association of Evangelicals president Leith Anderson, and climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe—to further conversation and to plan a course for future dialogue.”



JENNIFER WISEMAN, DOSEI, AND LEITH ANDERSON, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS, WITH KATHARINE HAYHOE FROM THE PERCEPTIONS PROJECT

Since our last newsletter, the list of speakers has been updated and will include Nobel Prize winner in physics William D. Phillips, climate scientist Katherine Hayhoe, DoSER director Jennifer Wiseman and Leith Anderson, the President of the National Association of Evangelicals. Additional speakers are listed on the website which can be found [here](#). Registration is now open with a discount rate of \$59 in effect through December 31, 2014. After that, the cost of the program will be \$79.

### **Perceptions Project**

The Science Perceptions National Conference is part of the AAAS Perceptions Project. “When it comes to public understanding of and support for science from the large and varied sector of religious communities, it is the perception of the role of science and of scientists themselves – e.g. their motives, expertise, and influence – that often carries the most weight. Likewise the perceptions of scientists toward religious communities greatly impact their effectiveness in science engagement.” The program page can be found [here](#).



### **WesleyNexus Evolution Weekend, February 15, 2015 in Fulton, MD**

For the past two years, WesleyNexus has sponsored a major panel discussion as part of the Clergy Letter Project's Evolution Weekend. This year we plan to continue this tradition by hosting a panel discussion between an Imam, Traditional Christian, Progressive Jew and Unabashed Atheist as they talk about God. They will address the topic of “Science, Story, Scripture: Living Together with Understanding.” The panel includes Haytham Younis, a scholar in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Dennis Skocz, Ph.D. career diplomat and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at UDC, Daniel Spiro, author and coordinator of the Washington Spinoza Society, and John Shook, Ph.D. Instructor in science education at the University of Buffalo. The initial flyer can be found [here](#). The program will begin at 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. This is the Program that WesleyNexus plans to live stream worldwide, funds permitting, so you should plan now to have a discussion group organized and ready to participate. As we did last year, those groups registering will be provided a special email address through which your participants can submit questions to the panel. More information will be posted once available so please come back.



**Is Quantum Entanglement Real?**

It has been fifty years since physicist John Stewart Bell published a seminal article on quantum entanglement, the weird notion in physics showing that sub-atomic particles can become connected in such a way that when separated by vast distances a change in one particle will instantaneously trigger a corresponding change in the distant entangled particle. In this recent essay by David Kaiser in the NY Times, the general theme of quantum entanglement is described in an experiment that might silence some of its critics. Quantum entanglement refers to the strange phenomena of sub-atomic particle pairs being bound to each other so when there is a change to one particle there is an instantaneous change in the other. To verify this phenomena, one needs to do an experiment on light generated billions of years ago when the universe was young would have to be tapped. The article can be found [here](#).



**Exploded into being by divine love by George Weigel**

In this short article, George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C, reminds us that changes in cosmological science provide new space for dialogue between science and faith. With the big bang, questions of ultimate beginnings are taking on increased significance. As Weigel states, “Where did that primordial something, that “patch of material packed with ... repulsive gravity” that contained “the ingredients of what would become our entire observable universe,” come from? It defies all logic to suggest that something can come from nothing; yet science cannot get us “behind” that something from which everything came...what science calls the Big Bang was love exploding out of the life of the Trinity.” The article can be found [here](#).



## Why God Will Not Die – an article by Jack Miles

In the current issue of *The Atlantic*, Jack Miles, professor of English and religious studies at the University of California at Irvine, and author of books such as [God: A Biography](#), and [Christ: A Biography](#), raises the “big question” concerning the limits of science. The point is this: the more science reveals to us about our world and universe, the more questions are opened up. Miles references his own early years of despair about this, because he like many of our contemporaries, are looking for answers that will give some closure to the such big questions as our origins and our fate. In this context, Miles says he became accustomed to the idea that religion is simply a refuge for those facing massive uncertainties about the real world. But he also realized that so-called scientific progress is like climbing in the Alps: the higher you get, the wider the vista and the realization that there always seems to be more mountain ahead. In this broader context science makes special claims about knowledge, but must always be balanced by “a ritualized confession of ignorance.” Long ago Isaiah seemed to recognize this (Chapter 55:8-9), which Miles suggests was Isaiah's way of reckoning with the limits of his own mind. Miles, who has just completed a seven year job editing the newly published seven volumes [Norton Anthology of World Religions](#), concludes that we would be truer to ourselves if we give up seeking for absolutes and recognize that life – “our one wild and precious life” – is all we've got, and we should get on with it, ready or not. You can find the article [here](#).



