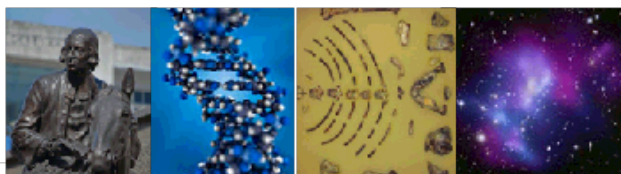


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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December 23, 2014

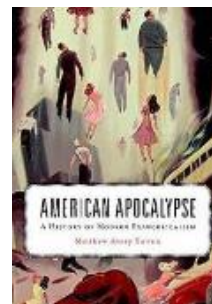
Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

It is the shortest day of the year and only four days until Christmas. I know this time of the year is filled with getting together with friends, family and faith community. That is how it should be and we at WesleyNexus hope your week is filled with joy and wonder. I will be taking the time to be with my family and to give thanks for all the blessings which I have received. I also hope to spend a little time reading some of the books I discovered over the course of the year.

Top of my list is a new book by Matthew Avery Sutton, Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professor of History at Washington State University.

The book, [American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelicalism](#), focuses on the impact apocalyptic thinking has had on American cultural identity over the past hundred years. Based on a particular approach to interpreting Biblical prophecy, American apocalyptic premillennialism,

with the anticipation of Jesus' return at any moment, has become one of the primary forces preventing the acceptance of science and modern scholarship by American Protestant churches. It has affected views on such diverse topics as politics, education, ethics and entertainment. It has emerged as one of the primary players in what has become known as the Culture War. Understanding those with whom one disagrees is very important. It is hoped that this book will provide necessary nuance and context on what is a very prickly aspect of current American culture.



I invite you to share your reading list as well. If there are any books or article you feel are worth sharing, please let us know.

Below you will find some reminders of future events that will take place in 2015. We encourage you to participate and to share with others.

Finally, we ask for your support. WesleyNexus is very much a virtual organization. We have no buildings, no offices, no staff or paid consultants. All funds that we collect are spent on maintaining our web presence, sponsoring programs, distributing the newsletter and promoting activities of other organizations within the science and religion space. 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

Reminder: January 10, 2015 Reminder: Dr. Ted Peters to speak at Trinity UMC in MD

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 Freedom*. He 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](#).

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 representatives of the following traditions talking about God: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Atheism. 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.



Update: By January 3, we will have a link available on the WesleyNexus website (www.wesnex.org)

to register for the Evolution Weekend event. We will be sending out a separate announcement once the registration is open. Please send us an email at WesleyNexus@aol.com if you have any questions.

Reminder: DoSER Program of AAAS: Science Perceptions National Conference, March 13, 2015. Register before December 31, 2014 and save \$20!

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

Registration for the Science Perceptions Conference 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. You may register [here](#).



“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.”

The list of speakers includes 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](#).

New Posting: Religion, Science and the Future, January 14 – 17, 2016 in Gainesville, FL

In a little over a year’s time, The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture will sponsor a major conference at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. The theme is “Religion, Science and the Future” and proposals are now being accepted on a variety of topics including Evolution, Religion and Science; Religion, Violence, and Neuroscience; Religion and Science on Health and Well Being; Religion, Science, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems; Consciousness, Mysticism, & Meditative Practice; The Greening of Religion; Religion and Nature in the Arts; and Ethology, Botany, and Sentience. This will be a major US conference and one you may want to attend. I know I do. Information on the conference can be found [here](#).



