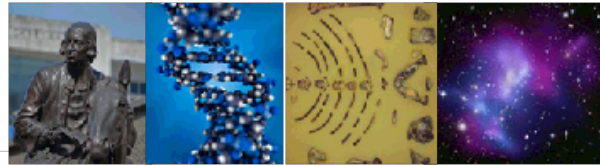


WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition



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September 19, 2015

Dear WesleyNexus Colleague:

We at WesleyNexus have put out on a regular basis newsletters full of relevant content of interest to our participants. This month, in spite of our workaday schedules we have again pulled together a number of articles and events for your viewing. Three we want to highlight are of particular importance to us.

First, WesleyNexus, The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Salem United Methodist church in Brookeville, MD are sponsoring a workshop where participants will be offered answers to the questions: "What should pastors know about science"? The writeup is below along with the link to register. You can also find the announcement on our www.wesnex.org.

Secondly, we have two book reviews that may be of interest to our participants written by participants.

We at WesleyNexus produce this newsletter and develop our programs as a labor of love and as a response to a call from that ultimate mystery just mentioned. To enrich our programs, we need your support. **THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ACTUALLY SENT RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS.** We want to stress that 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. **All contributions are acknowledged for tax reporting purposes either through PayPal receipt or by letter.** 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, Maynard, and the rest of the
WesleyNexus Board of Directors

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“What Pastors Should Know about Science.”

That will be the theme of a “day-retreat” hosted by WesleyNexus, Inc and Salem United Methodist Church in Brookeville on October 17, 2015. This is the second annual WesleyNexus Fall retreat open to all members and pastors of churches in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference.



Hosted by Pastor Sue Shorb-Sterling at Salem UMC (12 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833), the event will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the morning, and will include lunch and a follow-up discussion in the afternoon, ending at 2:00 (no later than 3:00 depending on interest).

Focus of the morning presentation will be the Science for Seminaries project, which began in 2014. This project is spearheaded by the AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), and is part of the program's efforts to advance science and serve society by encouraging productive dialogue between scientific and religious communities. The project was launched in partnership with the Association of Theological Schools, the seminaries’ central accrediting body.

Mr. Curtis Baxter, from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will be the morning speaker, and we expect several representatives from Wesley Theological Seminary to participate in the discussion. The program will be open to the first 40 persons to register; there is no cost to register. Donations to cover the cost of the lunch will be welcome.

Both pastors and lay members of the BWC churches are encouraged to attend. To register, send an email to wesleynexus@aol.com, or go to the [webpage to register](#) directly. Registration will remain open as long as space is available for participants. Additional information will be posted on the website: www.wesnex.org.

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Other Upcoming Events of interest:

Modern Cosmism Conference

Dates: October 10, 2015

Location: New York, NY

The conference will address fundamental philosophical issues that arise with the future design and use of artificial consciousness, mind-uploading and cyber-immortality. How will our concepts of subjectivity, perception, and morality change, if we will live in a mega-consciousness environment



where you can experience multiple presences, personality, gender (or no gender at all) and unlimited kinds of artificial feelings? What are the possible ramifications and consequences of digital consciousness? Cosmism suggests that the profound nature of the reality is also digital and it utilizes an existential source code coming from Being that is using “radiant humanity” for its own preservation and modification. Our keynote and plenary speakers are well-known international protagonists of Cosmism, Transhumanism and interdisciplinary researchers. Their lectures will discuss the most important current issues of Modern Cosmism from the point of view of philosophy, technology, ethics, robotics, psychology, and anthropology.

For more on Cosmism and the event, click [here](#).

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International Society for Science and Religion

This annual event is convened just on the eve of the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. For the latest, please check out the website at www.issr.yolasite.com

Dates: 20-21 November 2015. Location: Atlanta downtown hotels.

This year, we start our events on Friday Morning. In fact, if you can get to Atlanta, you won't want to miss this session, featuring a team of highly informed theologians, philosophers, and neuroscientists responded to the latest developments on "mirror neurons" and empathy.

As before, all our events are free. No need to register. And there's no need to register for AAR, although of course you'll want to check out the science and religion events that are part of the main schedule. See AAR for details on their program, at <https://www.aarweb.org/annual-meeting/program>
For more information on ISSR, contact Professor Ron Cole-Turner at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. www.theologyplus.org

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Religion, Science and the Future Conference

Deadline Extended by Popular Demand to 20 September 2015

The 10th Anniversary Conference of the The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, will be held 14 -17 January 2016 at The University of Florida, Gainesville.

The response to the initial Call for Paper deadline yielded many excellent proposals from around the world, generated a lot of interest, and many requests that we extend the deadline for proposals To accommodate these requests the ISSRNC board has approved an extension of the submissions deadline to 20 September 2015. The conference page is [here](#).



The Call For Papers in English: <https://goo.gl/z33PnX>

Award for Best Student Conference Paper

Submission Deadline 1 November 2015: <https://goo.gl/BhM8vS>

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Pope Francis and the Encyclical Laudato Si'

On June 18 the Vatican officially released the long a waited and greatly anticipated encyclical on climate change, a document that is already drawing strong criticism from conservative detractors, since it clearly identifies human factors as the primary cause for global warming. Citing the precipitous rise of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide among others) as documented in numerous scientific studies, the Pope also addresses issues such as air pollution, water quality, population density, and the loss of biodiversity as matters of critical concern. Importantly, the Pope addresses not just those in the Roman Catholic community, but he calls on all the peoples of the world to join in forging global strategies to alter the course we are on. Most importantly the Pope highlights the impact on the world's poorest people:



Experts have long argued that deforestation, biodiversity loss, water shortages and poor water quality, loss of traditional lands and any number of climate change effects have disproportionate impacts on developing countries and the world's poorest people. This constellation of factors is what lies behind the diminishing quality of human life, social degradation and planetary inequalities.

As the Pope visits New York, Washington and Philadelphia in the coming weeks, there will be several excellent discussion groups that will focus attention on the Pope's words, including: (1) the Science and Theology Group sponsored by the seminaries in the Washington Theological Consortium, meeting on Friday September 18 on the campus on St. Paul's College; and (2) the ASA Washington Metropolitan Section, meeting at the Cosmos Club on Saturday evening September 26 at 7:00 p.m. We at WesleyNexus welcome the advent of Laudaro Si' and urge that our colleagues in congregational discussion groups give the text extended attention to mobilize influences on public policy. For a summary of the ten key points in the encyclical that can serve as a framework for discussion, [click here](#).

For the full text in English of the 192 page document, including its 172 footnotes, [click here](#):

Book Review:

Oord, Thomas Jay. The Uncontrolling Love of God: An Open and Relational Account of Providence. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Academic, 2015. 220 pages (in press). ISBN 978-0-8308-4084-7

Reviewed by Rev. E. Maynard Moore, PhD, President WesleyNexus, Inc.
Dr. Tom Oord has been a member of the WesleyNexus Advisory Board since our inception. He has published a number of books in the science and religion field, and his newest proves to be one of the most exciting. It is due for a November 2015 publishing date. The review can be found [here](#).



Copies may be pre-ordered at [Amazon.com](#).

Book Review:

Heintzman, Paul. Leisure and Spirituality: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspectives. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015. 324 pages. ISBN 978-0801048722 (pbk).

Reviewed by S. Scott Mapes, D. Min. candidate in Science and Theology, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and Lead Pastor, Paden City, WV, Church of the Nazarene.

This is a comprehensive treatment of the subject, one often overlooked by those of us in the science and religion field, but a subject getting increasing attention in the neurosciences. The review can be found [here](#).

Just Added:

360.org... [Power Through Paris Workshop](#).

Washington Theological Consortium...[CERTIFICATE IN ECOLOGY AND THEOLOGY](#)

