



Cornerstone

VOLUME XLVII NO. 2

February 2012

Special Points of Interest:

- Believers Exploring Science and Theology Seminar
- RMMO Offering
- Announcements and Prayer Concerns
- INCH News February 2012

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Dear Friends,



You will see elsewhere in this newsletter I full page devoted to the upcoming commencement of the public phase of Believers Exploring Science and Theology (BEST), our Scientists in Congregations project. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am about this venture.

I was looking at the list of grant awardees on the Scientists in Congregations website, and it is an impressive list. You can access it at <http://www.scientistsincongregations.org/apply>. There are a few things I would like to point out about the list. First, it includes only two Baptist congregations: University Baptist Church and Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Alabama. I have not been able to find much about Dawson Memorial and nothing about their project, but I will continue to try.

There is another church in Ohio that has received a Scientists in Congregations grant, Sylvania United Church of Christ, near Toledo. According to their website, the Sylvania church will have lectures and discussions this spring, and will bring in Marcus Borg for an event in September. If you do not know Marcus Borg, I suggest you do a web search on him. He is a leading voice for progressive Christianity and has had a brilliant career as a teaching, author, and lecturer. I hope I will be able to attend his lecture; maybe several of you would as well.

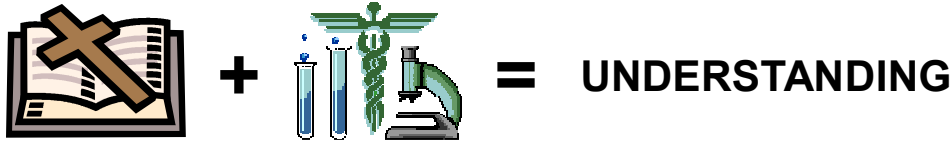
There are many Presbyterian churches and several Lutheran and United Church of Christ congregations on the list. It is a diverse list. The first few days of February, Kerry Cheesman and I will be attending a conference for Scientists in Congregations grant awardees in Chico, California. At that conference we will be learning about the other projects and have opportunity to share questions and ideas with the leaders of those projects.

BEST information appears this week in the e-newsletter of the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ. We are sending information and invitations to several colleges, universities, and seminaries in central Ohio. We are inviting all the Neighborhood Services, Inc., churches and the University Interfaith Association. We are sending information to the Center for the Study of Religion at The Ohio State University. The word is getting out. We have no way of knowing how many people will respond to the invitations, but we hope many will.

This is an amazing opportunity for University Baptist Church. I hope you are as excited about it as I am, and that you will come and share in the dialogue.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

Science and Theology – Can They Really Be Compatible?



By now hopefully everyone is aware that University Baptist Church received a grant from the Scientists in Congregations Program of the Templeton Foundation. We are extremely excited about the seminars that this grant enables us to have, focusing on the intersection of science and theology in contemporary society. While many in this country characterize these two fields as in conflict or at odds with each other, we prefer instead to look at how they can instruct each other and work in concordance to help us all understand our universe better.

Our goal is to have scientists write short papers about a contemporary area of study, and have our resident theologian (Pastor Tommy) write a companion piece for each one exploring how the Bible instructs us (or doesn't) about that field and the questions being investigated. For instance, the first paper and seminar focus on Evolution and Natural Selection, an area that some Christians have seen as being in conflict with the Bible. We will begin by looking at what the ***Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection*** really says (as opposed to what the common perceptions may be), why some Christians choose to see conflict with this Theory, and how we as interpreters of God's word can bridge that divide. The format will consist of short presentations about both the science and the theology, followed by questions and discussion. The papers are available on the UBC website (<http://www.ubccolumbus.org/Templeton.aspx>) and it is encouraged that everyone read the papers before coming to the seminar. Oh – there will also be a light supper for all to share before the seminar starts, and we hope to have good conversations around the table during that time.

Each month we hope to duplicate this format with a different science topic and a different scientist-presenter. Topics in the planning stages include “***The lives of stars***”, dealing with the origins of the universe and all within it, “***Ecological stewardship***”, looking at the importance of ecosystems and their management, and “***Nanotechnology***”, a new and rapidly expanding field technology that is creating amazing opportunities for each of us.

The stated purposes of the Scientists in Congregations Program are:

- To identify existing resources of congregations and to catalyze conditions for a sustained, rich, generative engagement between science and faith.
- When pastors and other congregational leaders set out to generate a deeper engagement between science and faith in the lives of their congregations, the impulse is to reach beyond to tap the expertise that resides beyond the life of their congregation. This initiative is intended to focus attention on the potential resources that are intrinsic to the life of congregations—specifically, scientists and science educators who are active participants in the life of the congregation. While not all congregations have these science related professionals in their midst, many do. But to our knowledge, there are precious few congregations who have recognized and drawn upon the insight they often possess from a lifetime of holding together their love and knowledge of science and of God. Indeed, many of these science professionals themselves may not recognize the wisdom they possess because they are rarely if ever called upon to articulate it. When there is such a science professional, a pastor who recognizes the importance of the engagement between these two worlds, and a congregation with a readiness to grow their encounter with science and faith, this program will serve as a powerful catalyst to draw these elements into a creative collaboration that could have a sustained impact in the life of a congregation. This more internally grounded strategy also enhances the likelihood of a cultural shift in a congregation that will be sustained over time in a way that one-off events and conferences, however good the outside speakers, do not.
- To provide pastors with the means to call scientists into a sustained collaboration that would enrich a scientist's engagement with theology and a theologian's engagement with science, and their shared participation in congregational life and leadership.

(Continued Next page)

- Many pastors are highly motivated to cultivate a deeper engagement with science in the life of their congregations but feel woefully unprepared to do so—and lack the time necessary to grow their expertise in this area. Many science-related professionals would welcome the challenge of contributing to a more robust integration of faith and science in their congregations, but are rarely called upon to do so and, if and when they are, often feel theologically unprepared. This program provides the context for pastors and science related professionals to enter into a mutually enriching collaboration that would overflow to the benefit of the congregation.
- To develop a range of locally grown models of how congregations can draw deeply from the well of their own congregational life to become communities where the life of science and the life of faith are experienced as spiritually enriching and intellectually stimulating, and to find ways of encouraging a multiplying number of other congregations to also implement, and improve on these models.
- While it is not uncommon to find among pastors a high level of interest in growing a more vigorous engagement between science and faith in the lives of their congregations, it has been difficult to provide them with a range of models of how individual congregations have actually done it and qualitative change they have experienced. For many, it is not even entirely clear what it would mean, or for that matter how it would enrich congregational life. The intent of this program is to raise up several models of how this impulse has been translated into a course of action that have measurable and enduring results. The models will be communicated as narratives and will provide concrete resources that can be translated into the lives of congregations across a wide spectrum. The intention of this program is thus twofold, first to support congregationally based efforts to develop and test models, and second to take the most workable and transformative of these efforts as examples that can be taken up by hundreds of other congregations who, with concrete program ideas to hand, do not need program development grants to get started.
- To mediate into congregational life many of the existing resources, as well as those now under development, that are intended to cultivate a generative encounter between science and faith in the life of congregations.
- The field of science and religion has developed in extraordinary ways over the past thirty years, generating a rich body of scholarly literature on the relations between the sciences and theology. These resources will be directly relevant to the congregational initiatives that will be developed in this program. But surprisingly little work has been done to either popularize these scholarly ideas and findings, or to explore their relevance for personal spiritual development or congregational life. It is anticipated that this program will, in the course of its implementation, result in a whole new range of resources especially relevant to congregational life.
- It is important to note that in supporting this program, the John Templeton Foundation is interested in a rich, productive and forward looking engagement between science and theology. Approaches that deny large areas of well-documented science (as among the creation-science community, and, to a lesser extent, the Intelligent Design movement) do not fit this criterion, nor would, of course, approaches which deny the importance of faith and theology (as among the new atheists or to a lesser extent, the religious naturalist movement). In addition projects concerned primarily with ethics will not fit because, important though they are, and while ethical discussions sometimes touch on or even use science, they are not themselves either science or theology.
- To help overcome the wider social issues which grow out of the troubling ways in which religious communities relate to science.

We believe our program throughout this coming year will accomplish these goals and energize our congregation and community, as we seek to learn from each other and appreciate a little more all that God has created and all that God has given us. I hope you will choose to be a part of this excitement!!

Kerry Cheesman

February, can you believe it? One month has already passed. Time sure flies when you're having fun!

I do have to say, I AM having fun. Who couldn't have fun? I direct a choir that brings to rehearsals and worship services all they have to give. They are amazing in their ability to follow my direction, even when it looks as though I'm just flapping my wings in front of them. Thank you to my choir. I also need to say a big thank you to our pianist/organist, and Johnny on the spot good guy, Ted. I don't know if you have noticed, but some of those beautiful pieces he plays before and after services and for the offertory are his improvisations. I can't tell you how fortunate I feel to have someone of his caliber working with me.

Now that I have effectively set up the "musicians' admiration society," let's take a look at the future.

As many of you know, February is African American Heritage month. So, we will be starting it off the first Sunday with a setting of "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me." It's a great arrangement, and our people are taking to it very well. We will be trying to honor this month with our music, and toward the end of the month especially with a solo of an African American Spiritual.

There is so much to say about the African American influence upon our culture. I was watching a special on OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) recently. It was a celebration of the 35th anniversary of the mini series Roots. Can you believe it? 35 years! it was 1976, I was in college, and I remember watching the series. I, like many people, I'm sure, never realized the landmark that series was. It was the first time there was ever a dramatic presentation about African Americans. How amazing it was to see Oprah interview such incredible talent as Cicely Tyson, Leslie Uggams, Louis Gossett Jr. Levar Burton, Ben Vereen and John Amos. They had a shared experience of being part of something life-changing. It was life changing in a global way. So many of us had finally seen in a very graphic way the strength of the family as they portrayed each generation, leading to the author, Alex Haley.

Of course the African American influence in our culture is not limited to one mini-series. You can see it in art, food, poetry, and most apropos to my life, music. My sophomore year at Judson, the choir did a wonderful musical rendition of "God's Trombones." This was a series of old African American sermons, put in book form by James Weldon Jones. The book, and the musical piece dealt with creation, salvation and death among other topics. Though we may not consider them scholarly theological works, it celebrates the passion, faith, and strength of character it took to be survivors in our country for most of our history. One simply cannot read these without experiencing in a new way, the relationships within that community, and their relationship with God. It is a piece that still affects me today. As I continue to develop my own relationship with the divine, God's Trombones continues to help me strive to not only depend upon the Bible, as important as that may be. If the Bible can be seen, at least in part, as a description of the experience with the divine of people throughout the ages, then my experience can also be seen as important as well. This includes my reading, my thinking, my hearing, my understanding, and of course, my emotions as I interact with the divine. All of these things, whether I realize it or not, influence my "theology." As you might expect, my experiences with music have been most important throughout my life, as I've come to understand my relationship with God. It is an ongoing process that I hope never ends. It is a growing faith, for me, and I hope as we experience music together, we can each see growth in our own understanding of the divine, and of our faith.

Thank you, for being part of my journey.

Frank Benline

Who are the Ohio Danforth Associates?

During the memorial service for Bill Riley Mr. Reid Huntley told us about Bill's and Mary's membership in the Ohio Danforth Associates. Afterward, I wanted to find out more about the organization, having never heard of it and being intrigued, because it was something important to Bill and Mary. It proved to be an interesting search and none too easy, but after some looking on the Web (I must admit), this is what I found. I thought you might be interested, too.

The Danforth Associates is a nationwide organization made up of professors, along with their spouses, who were recognized by the Danforth Foundation as being outstanding teachers at the college level and who worked toward humanizing their students' campus experience. The Associates attended regional conferences funded by the Foundation which addressed topics related to their roles as faculty, teachers and citizens. Like most national organizations, The Associates met at the state level. Bill and Mary were two of the approximately 6,000 men and women representing 900 institutions of higher learning that have been Danforth Associates nationally.

The funding for the Danforth Associates program came from the Danforth Foundation, a philanthropic organization begun in 1927 by William H. Danforth and his wife, Adda. Danforth, the founder of the Ralston-Purina Company, had a very interesting set of beliefs for how one should approach living. He believed that to be an effective individual in one's career, community, and family, one had to keep in harmony the four areas of one's life – mental, physical, social and religious. He tried to live his life accordingly and used his vast wealth to promote those ideals, especially in his foundation including the Associates.

The Foundation was "for charitable and humanitarian purposes and to promote the well-being of mankind." Danforth and the trustees felt this was best accomplished by developing tomorrow's leaders and educators through better education and interactions with others of high moral character, who were also active in their community, church, and campus. Besides the Associate program the Foundation also funded the Danforth Fellowships which were grants awarded to graduate students interested in pursuing college teaching careers.

Today, the Danforth Associates that remain must carry on by themselves. In the 1980s the Foundation stopped funding the Associates in order to focus on pre-collegiate education and urban affairs in its home city of St. Louis. The Foundation did give permission for those statewide and regional affiliates who wanted to continue, the right to use the Danforth name and pursue the Danforth ideals. While the small Associate groups continue to meet, the Foundation decided to close in 2011 by paying out \$70 million to a science center at the Washington University in St. Louis.

Leslie Floyd

Among Our Congregation . . .

Believers Exploring Science and Theology (B.E.S.T.)

EVOLUTION and NATURAL SELECTION

Relating Science and Theology in Modern Society Seminar and Discussion Led by

Dr. Kerry Cheesman (Professor of Biology, Capital University)

Dr. Tommy Faris (Senior Pastor, University Baptist Church)

MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Please join us for a light supper @ 6:15 pm
Workshop and discussion starts at @ 7:00 pm
All are welcome; RSVP is preferred to 614-537-2873.

Supported by a grant from the **Scientists in Congregations Program**,
John Templeton Foundation

Additional workshops in this series to be held on Mar 6, Apr 10, May 1, and Jun 5.

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Announcements

*If there is anyone who would like video of the sermons , we can burn DVDs here in the office. Please let Laura know if you would like to receive a sermon video. For those with access to YouTube, we have a UBC channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/UBCColumbus>. The written texts of sermons are available at <http://pneumatizing.wordpress.com/>.

*Once again this year we are going to prepare an Lenten devotional booklet. Please submit meditations, thoughts, articles, poems, or other devotional pieces to Laura Mowery in the church office as soon as possible. Submissions in electronic form are preferable. The deadline for submission will be Sunday, 12 February.

Please Keep In Your Prayers

*Pat Rohrbaugh who had knee surgery on January 26th.

*Michele Gerring, who is not feeling well.

Since 1935, American Baptists have contributed to special offerings received in their churches for retired ABC ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977.

Through this offering, American congregations in a tangible way thank the denomination's retired ministers and their wid-



annual offerings say thank you in a tangible way to the nation's retired missionaries or widowed spouses.

The offering provides them with: Emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need; and "Thank You" checks, based on 15 or more years of ABC service.

Thank You to Narthex Hosts

February

- 5...Leslie Floyd
- 12...Bob and Bobbi Hoersdig
- 19...Kerry and Maryann Cheesman
- 26...Laura and Alison Mowery

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!

February

March

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 02...Taun Nguyen | 07...Roderick Jungbauer |
| 06...Steve Jackson | 14...Lilya Yang |
| 07...Rini Saha | 18...Patrick Selbe |
| 10...Paul Burnam | 19...Caron Daley |
| 11...Kathy Ma Ng | 19...Kay Monjot |
| 14...Patty Day | 20...Theodora DeBaz |
| 14...Bob Hoersdig | 20...David Sonnichsen |
| 16...Diana McCollough | 21...Angela Nicolosi |
| 19...Clara O'Dette | 25...Katherine Selbe'02 |
| 27...Kristin Hegley | 29...Hanci Newberry |

****If any of the information you have read in this newsletter is incorrect, please contact the church office at 614.294.6333 or email ubccolumbus@gmail.com.

INCH News

INCH is in a transitional period. Mary Riley has left us to be with the Lord followed by her beloved Bill 4weeks later. I know they are in heaven looking down on us and asking "What's next".

Thankfully Amanda Hughes McClafferty has accepted the position as the new director of INCH. We all welcome her and are very proud she is following in the great footsteps of the founders of this church.

Our continuing problem is transporting the women who would like to attend and have no way to get here except the bus system, which we all know is very difficult with small children and bad weather conditions. This year we need drivers. We have put the word out there of our need and even contacted a few churches about using their buses but have not received any response back. If you can help, or know anyone who can, please let us know ASAP.

INCH continues its site on Facebook to stay connected even when women cannot attend. We would love any suggestions.

I want to end with a quote from Mary Riley;

"In my life there have been instances when the blessings I have received have somehow gotten tucked away in a secret stash of my memory. And while it is exciting to rediscover these divine gifts at different points in my life, what is much more important is to share the richness of those gifts and blessings with others".

Maryann Cheesman



"Why did you do all these things for me, I don't deserve it, I've never done anything for you?" "You have been my friend" replied Charlotte. That in itself is a tremendous thing.

E.B. White (Charlottes Web)

On 1-4-12 I turned 31, which was also the first day back to INCH. This day was very hard for me since the loss of both of my Grandparents, William and Mary Riley. The day I had been dreading started with two phone calls one from my parents and one from Kerry and Maryann both happily singing Happy Birthday to me. Off to INCH with my quilt in hand, that was made for me by the INCH ladies the day I was born. These ladies have been my friends for years and have become much closer to all of them these last 7months. Every week they would greet me with big hug and inquire about my Grandma. Today they sang Happy Birthday. The last time they did this I was with my Grandma. After both of my Grandparents past on, the ladies of INCH and Church helped me with my grief. So thank you all!

Beverly Holmes

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Black History Month Begins INCH 9:15-11:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal 7:30p.m.	CCC 6:30-9:30p	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2-4p.m.Chin Congregation Worships	B.E.S.T. Meeting	INCH 9:15-11:15 a.m. CCC 6:30-9:30p	Choir Rehearsal 7:30p.m.	CCC 6:30-9:30p		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2-4p.m.Chin Congregation Worships	Valentine's Day	INCH 9:15-11:15 a.m. CCC 6:30-9:30p	Choir Rehearsal 7:30p.m.	CCC 6:30-9:30p		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2-4p.m.Chin Congregation Worships	Presidents' Day	Ash Wednesday INCH 9:15-11:15 a.m. CCC 6:30-9:30p	Choir Rehearsal 7:30p.m.	CCC 6:30-9:30p		
26	27	28	29			
1st Sunday of Lent 2-4 p.m. Chin Worship		Leap year	INCH 9:15-11:15 a.m.			