

CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Wednesday Evening Book Group
a.k.a. Science and Theology Dialogue
a.k.a. Adult Non-Sunday School
List of Book and Film Titles

This history of our reading is a work in progress. Our group has had a variety of incarnations over the years. The earliest that I recall in my time here was a small group that met at the Coffee Roaster (one of a series of failed restaurants in the “cursed” former gas station at the corner of Salisbury and Robinson); we used to meet at 8:30 a.m. and then hightail it back to 545 Hayes for the 10:00 service. I’m not even sure of the dates (2001? 2002?). Peter led the group in those days.

As time passed, I somehow inherited leadership of the group, and the group shifted its meeting times—hence our erstwhile name of “Adult Non-Sunday School.” So far, by going through old bulletins and e-bulletins and by staring at the shelves in our library, I’ve been able to ascertain records as far back as 2006. I know there are other books that we’ve definitely (or probably) read, but I can’t place dates for them yet; I’ll list those first. As they say in academia, further research is called for.

Mark Thomas

Books for which I don’t have a specific date yet—but which I’m sure we’ve read!

Karen Armstrong, *Islam: A Short History* (I think we read this one.)

Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*

Shusako Endo, *Silence* (trans. William Johnston)

Bruce Feiler, *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*

Thich Nhat Hanh, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*

Jean-Yves Leloup, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*

Norman Mailer, *The Gospel According to the Son*

Armand M. Nicholi, Jr., *The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life* (I’m pretty sure we read this.)

Elaine Pagels, *Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas* (We read at least one other Elaine Pagels book at some point, but I’m drawing a blank as to which one. It could have been *The Gnostic Gospels*, or *The Origin of Satan*, or *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent*. Why wasn’t I writing these titles down as we went along?)

Richard E. Rubenstein, *When Jesus Became God: The Struggle to Define Christianity during the Last Days of Rome*

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

Jim Wallis, *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*

2006

Spring 2006

February 14 (Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.): J. Philip Newell, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*

March 7 (Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.): Esther de Waal, *Living with Contradiction: An Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality*

April 18 (Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.): Thomas Keating, *Manifesting God*

Summer 2006

June 20, July 25 (Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.): Michelle Goldberg, *Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism*

Fall 2006

“Adult Non-Sunday School” morphs into “Science & Religion Dialogue” at about this point . . . (This was when we had a tentative connection with the Metanexus Foundation via Professor Thomas Ryba at St. Tom’s. Also, the establishment of our Meditation Group on Tuesdays necessitated a time change.)

September 28 (Thursday, 7:00 p.m.): Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion*

October 29, November 5 and 12 (Sunday, 11:30 a.m.): The Dalai Lama, *The Universe in a Single Atom: The Convergence of Science and Spirituality*

November 19 (Sunday, 11:30 a.m.): Ursula Goodenough, *The Sacred Depths of Nature*

2007

Spring 2007 (beginning of new schedule: second and fourth Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.)

January 10 and 24: Ursula Goodenough, *The Sacred Depths of Nature* (continued from fall 2006)

February 14 and 28: Richard Powers, *The Echo Maker*

March 14 and 28: Francis Collins, *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*

April 11 and 25: Carl Sagan (ed. Ann Druyan), *The Varieties of Scientific Experience: A Personal View of the Search for God*

Summer 2007

June 13: Karen Armstrong, *A Short History of Myth*

June 27: *A Catechism of Creation*, published by the Episcopal Church's Committee on Science, Technology, and Faith; available at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/science.htm>

July 11: Film, *Wings of Desire* (dir. Wim Wenders, 1987)

July 25: Film, *Inherit the Wind* (dir. Stanley Kramer, 1960)

Fall 2007

September 12 and 26: Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

October 10: Alister McGrath and Joanna Collicutt McGrath, *The Dawkins Delusion? Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine*

October 24, November 28: Kenneth Miller, *Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground Between Science and Evolution* (There are notes in the weekly e-bulletins indicating that the discussion of Miller carried over into January 2008. There also seem to have been plans to read and discuss E. O. Wilson's *The Creation*, but I don't think that ever happened.)

2008

Spring 2008

January 23: Kenneth Miller, *Finding Darwin's God: A Scientist's Search for Common Ground Between Science and Evolution* (continued from fall 2007)

February 13 and 27: Adam Nicolson, *God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible* (Announcements for this book note that the group wanted to "branch out" from "science and religion" titles.)

March 26, April 9, May 14: Elizabeth Johnson, *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse*

Summer 2008

June 11 and 25: Sara Miles, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*

Fall 2008

“Science & Religion Dialogue” morphs into “Wednesday Evening Book Group” right about here . . .

September 10 and 24: Gene Robinson, *In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God*

October 22: Film, *For the Bible Tells Me So* (dir. Daniel Karlslake, 2007) (in conjunction with OUToberfest 2008; originally scheduled for October 8)

November 12: Garry Wills, *What Paul Meant*

2009

Spring 2009

January 14: Garry Wills, *What Paul Meant* (continued from fall 2008)

February 11 and 25: Richard A. Burridge, *Faith Odyssey: A Journey through Life* (There was a delay in getting copies of this book because it was out of print.)

March 25, April 22: Phyllis Tickle: *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*

Summer 2009

June 10: C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

June 24: Anne Rice, *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*

July 8 and 22: Christopher Moore, *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*

Fall 2009

September 9: Christopher Moore, *Lamb* (continued from summer 2009)

September 23: C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*

October 7, November 11: Susan Howatch, *Glittering Images*

December 2: Film, *Shadowlands* (dir. Norman Stone, 1985 BBC version)

2010

Spring 2010

January 13 and 27: John Shelby Spong, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*

February 10 and 24: James Griffiss, *The Anglican Vision*

March 10 and 24: David J. Wolpe, *Why Faith Matters*

April 14 and 28: Chris Yaw, *Jesus Was an Episcopalian (and You Can Be One Too!)*

Summer 2010

June 9 and 23, July 28: Diana Butler Bass, *A People's History of Christianity*

Fall 2010

September 8, October 13: James P. Carse, *The Religious Case Against Belief*

October 27 and November 10: Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*

December 8: Film, *Far Away, So Close!* (dir. Wim Wenders, 1993)

2011

Spring 2011

January 12 and 26: Martin Buber, *I and Thou* (trans. Walter Kaufman)

February 9 and 23: Nicholas Wade, *The Faith Instinct: How Religion Evolved and Why It Endures*

March 9 and 23: Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History*

April 13 and 27: Voltaire, *Candide: or, Optimism* (trans. Theo Cuffe)

Fall 2011 (We discontinued meeting in the summer at this point.)

September 14 and 28: Rob Bell, *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*

October 12 and 26, November 9: Paul Tillich, *The Courage to Be*

December 14: Film, *Defending Your Life* (dir. Albert Brooks, 1991)

2012

Spring 2012

January 11 and 25: Forrest Church, *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle Over Church and State*

February 8 and March 7: Nancey Murphy and Warren S. Brown, *Did My Neurons Make Me Do It? Philosophical and Neurobiological Perspectives on Moral Responsibility and Free Will*

March 28: Special event at St. John's Episcopal Church: **Charles Dickens Bicentenary Book Discussion** (including "light desserts in the Victorian style")

April 11 and 25: Christian Smith, *The Bible Made Impossible: Why Biblicism Is Not a Truly Evangelical Reading of Scripture*

Fall 2012

September 12 and 16: Gustavo Gutierrez, *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation* (trans. Caridad Inda and John Eagleson)

October 10 and 24: Terry Eagleton, *Reason, Faith, and Revolution: Reflections on the God Debate*

November 14 and 28: Lauren Winner, *Girl Meets God: A Memoir*

December 12: Film, *Joyeux Noel* (dir. Christian Carlon, 2005)

2013

Spring 2013

January 23: Bryan Berghoef, *Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation, and God*

February 27: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (trans. John W. Doberstein)

The group went on hiatus in March 2013 because of Purdue's spring break and Holy Week.

April 10 and 24: Joan Chittister, *Called to Question: A Spiritual Memoir*

Fall 2013

September 11 and 25: Phyllis Theroux, *The Good Bishop: The Life of Walter F. Sullivan* (Peter led the September discussions; Bishop Sullivan was the bishop who ordained Peter as a Roman Catholic priest.)

October 9 and 23: Gene Robinson, *God Believes in Love: Straight Talk About Gay Marriage* (The October discussions were in conjunction with Bishop Robinson's visit to Good Shepherd and Purdue on October 27-28.)

A follow-up discussion on Bishop Robinson's visit was originally scheduled for November 13, and then for December 11, but had to be rescheduled for January 22, 2014.

2014

Spring 2014

January 22: Follow-up discussion of Bishop Robinson's visit

February 12 and March 12: Donald Kraybill, Steven Nolt, and David Weaver-Zercher, *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* (A discussion scheduled for February 26 was cancelled because of bad weather.)

March 26 and April 23: John Dear, *Living Peace: A Spirituality of Contemplation and Action*

Fall 2014

September 10 and 24, October 8: S. Brent Plate, *A History of Religion in 5½ Objects: Bringing the Spiritual to Its Senses*

October 22 and November 12: Elaine Pagels, *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation*

December 3: Film, *The Princess Bride* (dir. Rob Reiner, 1987)

2015

Spring 2015 (beginning of new monthly schedule: second Wednesday of month)

January 14: C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*

February 11: Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*

March 11: Marcus J. Borg, *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning—and How They Can Be Restored* (Professor Borg passed away on January 21, 2015, and we chose the book in his memory; by coincidence, the discussion took place on what would have been his 73rd birthday.)

April 8: Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, *Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch*

Fall 2015

September 9: Rachel Held Evans, *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*

October 14: Philip Gulley and James Mulholland, *If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person*

November 11: Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*

December 3: Film, *Chocolat* (dir. Lasse Hallstrom, 2000)

2016

Spring 2016

No meeting in January (scheduling conflict)

February 3: Sara Miles, *City of God: Faith in the Streets* (one week early because of Ash Wednesday on the 10th)

March 9: Colm Toibin, *The Testament of Mary*

April 13: Film, *Spotlight* (dir. Tom McCarthy, 2015)

Fall 2016

September 7: Flo Morse, *The Story of the Shakers*

October 12 and November 9: Robert P. Jones, *The End of White Christian America*

December 14: First three episodes of the BBC-TV series *Rev.* (2010)

2017

Spring 2017

No meeting in January (scheduling conflict)

February 8: Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

March 8: Richard Rohr, *Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self*

April 12: Film, *Silence* (dir. Martin Scorsese, 2016) (Note: Once upon a time, the group read and discussed Shusaku Endo's novel *Silence*, upon which this film is based; but I have no clear record of when we did that.)

Fall 2017

September 6: Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*

October 11: J. D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*

November 8: Nadia Bolz-Weber, *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*

December 13: Film, *The Way* (dir. Emilio Estevez, 2010)

2018

Spring 2018

January 10: “Millennials and Religion” – discussion of three online articles:

Alex McFarland, “Ten Reasons Millennials Are Backing Away from God and Christianity” Fox News, April 30, 2017

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/04/30/ten-reasons-millennials-are-backing-away-from-god-and-christianity.html>

Libby Anne, “Why Are Millennials Leaving Christianity? Fox News Has No Idea” *Love, Joy, Feminism* blog, Patheos, December 13, 2017

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/lovejoyfeminism/2017/12/why-are-millennials-leaving-christianity-fox-news-has-no-idea.html>

Rachel Held Evans, “Want Millennials Back in the Pews? Stop Trying to Make Church ‘Cool’” *Washington Post*, April 30, 2015

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jesus-doesnt-tweet/2015/04/30/fb07ef1a-ed01-11e4-8666-a1d756d0218e_story.html?utm_term=.c25d9cc8ae93

February 7 and March 7: Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible*

April 11: Film, *Life Is Beautiful* (dir. Roberto Benigni, 1997)