

Christ in Evolution: Challenges and New Directions

Theology has been linked to cosmology for centuries and the core principles of Christian doctrine are based on a particular cosmology of the past. Modern science, especially evolution and quantum physics, has ushered in a new cosmology and our challenge today is to find coherence between our religious beliefs and the new cosmos. Since Christianity rests on the Incarnation, we will seek to explore the meaning of Jesus Christ in an evolutionary universe and the significance of Christ in evolution for the future direction of Christian life.

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SR. ILIA DELIO holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from Fordham University. Prior to joining the Woodstock Theological Center of Georgetown University full-time as a Senior Research Fellow, she served as Chair and Professor in the Department of Spirituality Studies at the Washington Theological Union, where she also served as Director of Franciscan Studies. Her current research interests in the field of science & religion include divine action, emergence, evolutionary theory, and artificial intelligence.



She has served on the Board of Directors of Metanexus, the Advisory Board of AAAS-DoSER (Dialogue on Sciences Ethics and Religion), and the editorial board of *New Theology Review*. Her books include *Christ in Evolution*; *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*; *Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love*; and *Franciscan Prayer*. Her articles include "Christ and Extraterrestrial Life" (in *Theology and Science*), "Theology, Metaphysics and the Centrality of Christ" (in *Theological Studies*), and "Brain Science and the Biology of Belief: A Theological Response" (in *Zygon*). In 2000, she received the Templeton Course Award in Science and Religion.

CONVERSATION WITH ILIA DELIO

Join our keynote presenter, Ilia Delio, for further conversation on her presentation topic, *Christ in Evolution: Challenges and New Directions*. This workshop will not be repeated in the second session.

LISTENING TO THE SKIES: A WRITING WORKSHOP

"The heavens are telling the glory of God..." (Psalm 19:1) To understand God, we only need to look to the skies, or so the Psalmist tells us. Recent discoveries of new galaxies and an ever-expanding universe call us to tell a new story, one that has the potential to radically alter our understanding of God, the planet, and how we live our lives. In this creative writing workshop, we will have the chance to respond to sacred stories through the lens of recent discoveries in cosmology. By drawing on the work of writers, musicians, and visual artists, participants will explore new ways to tell the story of the Big Bang and the Burning Bush, Supernovas and Starry Nights.



An award-winning storyteller, actor and radio commentator, **Jennie Kiffmeyer** loves telling and writing stories. Past venues include the Washington, D.C. Folk Festival, the National Cathedral, Indiana Historical Society, and the Richmond Civic Theatre. Currently, she is working on an MFA in Playwriting and studying spirituality at ESR.

IMAGINARY CHRISTS

In this workshop, participants will wrestle with the influence of psychology, theology, culture, and history upon their understanding of who Jesus was and is in their lives. Along the way, we will explore together the positive role our human creativity and imagination plays with regard to this understanding both personally and in community. Participants are encouraged to read the presenter's paper on the subject prior to the workshop in order to get a running start: <http://bit.ly/VvL7j9>.



Matt Hisrich is ESR's Director of Recruitment and Admissions and a 2008 graduate of the school. He lives in Richmond with his wife and two children and is a member of Richmond First Friends.

THE EVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF QUAKERISM

Evolutionary transformation has always been at the heart of Quakerism. Surrender of the self-centered will to God's will eventually leads to becoming "partakers of the divine nature." This workshop will present an overview of the journey of transformation, often described as the birth of Christ within. An experiential opportunity will invite participants to consider how to engage more whole-heartedly in the process. There will be time for reflection, journal writing, and sharing experiences with others.



Marcelle Martin has served as Pendle Hill's Quaker Studies teacher and traveled widely among Friends leading retreats on Quaker spirituality. Author of three pamphlets, including *Invitation to a Deeper Communion*, she is ESR's spring 2013 Mullen Writing Fellow.

FACE TO FACE WITH JESUS: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE TRANSFORMATIONAL KIND

Wouldn't it have been "really cool" if the people who Jesus came into contact with in the Scriptures had been avid journalers! Then we could read their journal entries for that meeting and know how it affected and changed them. Through Midrash Journaling we can do even better. We can become those people and tell the story to one another. Bring paper and pencil and an inquisitive mind and heart.



Pat DeWitt-Thomas is trained and experienced in facilitating discipleship and spiritual formation groups, workshops, retreats, and Bible studies. She has worked in youth ministry, church leadership, Biblical Counseling and Spiritual Direction. She developed and taught a nine week course, "The Art of Keeping a Journal," in adult education classes and in churches of various denominations. Pat worked 23 years at Valley Mill Camp in Maryland, ten years as a Camp

Director and Administrator of Training & Supervision. She spent three years at Earlham School of Religion in the Ministry of Writing Program. Pat is the founder and director of Pilgrimage of the Heart & Cloistered Soul Ministries, organizing and facilitating retreats & workshops on Cultivating Spiritual Disciplines & Practices and Contemplative Living.

SACRED GEOMETRY: DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL PATTERNS AND SYMBOLS IN NATURE

"The beautiful is a manifestation of the secret laws of nature . . . When nature begins to reveal her open secret to a person, he feels an irresistible longing for her most worthy interpreter, art."

— Johann Wolfgang Goethe

Geometric shapes and patterns occur in nature from the smallest, microscopic level to the largest cosmic scale that we can imagine. This geometry, which is observable everywhere we look, can be considered sacred because it is a beautiful expression of the Creator, and provides visible evidence of divine structure, order, balance and harmony in the design of our universe. In this workshop we will discover some of the basic principles of sacred geometry by looking at examples from nature, engaging in creative art and writing exercises, and reflecting together on the spiritual meanings that can be derived from symbols and patterns in the natural world.



Carol Sexton is a visual artist and an ESR grad from the class of 2001. While a student at ESR, she began to investigate the connections between the arts and spirituality. Helping others to grow spiritually through creative arts activities has been a primary focus of her ministry since that time. Carol has worked as a freelance artist, a retreat and workshop leader, a spiritual director, a campus minister at Earlham College, and an arts and spirituality teacher at Pendle Hill. She recently moved back to Richmond, Indiana and is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (____) _____
 E-mail _____

The registration fee covers the day-long event, which includes the keynote address, two workshops, a continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Vegetarian options will be available.

Workshop One preference (first & second choice)

- ____ Conversation with Ilia Delio
- ____ Listening to the Skies – *Jennie Kiffmeyer*
- ____ Imaginary Christs – *Matt Hisrich*
- ____ The Evolutionary Nature of Quakerism – *Marcelle Martin*
- ____ Face to Face with Jesus – *Pat DeWitt-Thomas*
- ____ Sacred Geometry – *Carol Sexton*

Workshop Two preference (first & second choice)

- ____ Listening to the Skies – *Jennie Kiffmeyer*
- ____ Imaginary Christs – *Matt Hisrich*
- ____ The Evolutionary Nature of Quakerism – *Marcelle Martin*
- ____ Face to Face with Jesus – *Pat DeWitt-Thomas*
- ____ Sacred Geometry – *Carol Sexton*

Send registration to: **Spirituality Gathering**, Mandy Ford,
 Earlham School of Religion, 228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374.

Please make checks payable to Earlham School of Religion.

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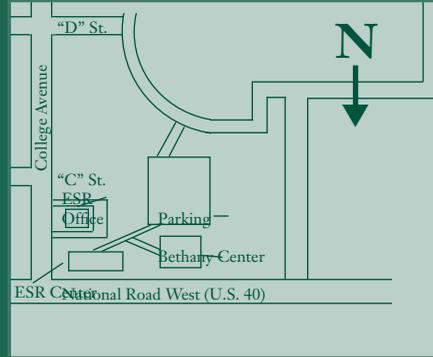
- Gathering prior to February 22, 2013: \$45
- Undergrad and graduate students: \$25
- Gathering after February 22, 2013: \$50

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:15 am Registration & Breakfast
- 9:00 am Worship
- 9:45 am Keynote:
*Christ in Evolution:
 Challenges and New Directions*
 Sr. Ilia Delio
- 11:30 am Lunch
- 1:00 pm Workshop I
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm Workshop II
- 3:45 pm Break
- 4:00 pm Closing gathering

TO REACH EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION:

Approach Richmond via Interstate 70; exit at Williamsburg Pike south, merging after about a mile into Northwest 5th Street. Follow Northwest 5th Street to U.S. 40 (National Road West). Turn right and prepare to turn left one block later, at College Avenue. Turn left (south) on College Avenue. The ESR Center (stone building) sits on the southwest corner. To reach the parking lot, continue south on College Avenue to the first stop sign, turn right. Turn right again at the next stop sign and take the next right into the large parking lot.



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AN ESR SPIRITUALITY
 GATHERING

MARCH 2, 2013
 RICHMOND, INDIANA

Featuring:
Sr. Ilia Delio

