

# CHURCHES NATIONWIDE HAVE GOOD WORDS FOR EVOLUTION

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*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Scientific evidence is mounting that the Darwinian theory of evolution is dead. The list of doctoral scientists who are willing to sign their name to a statement saying so has grown to over 500 (see related article below). Leave it to apostate clergymen to try and resuscitate Darwin even as rigor mortis is setting in. In the end, truth will prevail.*

*2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (NKJ)*

On the 197th birthday of Charles Darwin, ministers at several hundred churches around the country preached yesterday against recent efforts to undermine the theory of evolution, asserting that the opposition many Christians say exists between science and faith is false.

## **Forum: Human Origins**

At St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, a small contemporary structure among the pricey homes of north Atlanta, the Rev. Patricia Templeton told the 85 worshipers gathered yesterday, "A faith that requires you to close your mind in order to believe is not much of a faith at all."

In the basement of an apartment building in Evanston, Ill., the Rev. Mitchell Brown said to the 21 people who came to services at the Evanston Mennonite Church that Darwin's theories in fact had compelled people to have faith rather than look for "special effects" to confirm the existence of God.

"He forced religion to grow up, to become, really, faith for the first time," Mr. Brown said. "The life of community, that is where we know God today."

The event, called Evolution Sunday, is an outgrowth of the Clergy Letter Project, started by academics and ministers in Wisconsin in early 2005 as a response to efforts, most notably in Dover, Pa., to discredit the teaching of evolutionary theory in public schools.

"There was a growing need to demonstrate that the loud, shrill voices of

fundamentalists claiming that Christians had to choose between modern science and religion were presenting a false dichotomy," said Michael Zimmerman, dean of the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and the major organizer of the letter project.

Mr. Zimmerman said more than 10,000 ministers had signed the letter, which states, in part, that the theory of evolution is "a foundational scientific truth." To reject it, the letter continues, "is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children."

"We believe that among God's good gifts are human minds capable of critical thought and that the failure to fully employ this gift is a rejection of the will of our Creator," the letter says.

Most of the signatories to the project and those preaching on Sunday were from the mainline Protestant denominations. Their congregations have shrunk sharply over the last 30 years. At the same time, the number of evangelical and fundamentalist Christians has risen considerably, and many of them, because of their literalist view of the Bible, doubt evolutionary theory.

The Clergy Letter Project said that 441 congregations in 48 states and the District of Columbia were taking part in Evolution Sunday, but that was impossible to verify independently. Around Chicago, two churches that were listed on the project's Web site as participants in the event said they were in fact not planning to deliver sermons on the subject.

Still, those who did attend sermons welcomed what they heard. After the service at St. Dunstan's, Brett Lowe, a 41-year-old computer engineer, sat in a pew as his son Ian, 2, and daughter, Paige, 6, played at his side. "Sermons like this are exactly the reason we came to this church," Mr. Lowe said.

"Observation, hypothesis and testing — that's what science is," he said. "It's not religion. Evolution is a fact. It's not a theory. An example is antibiotics. If we don't use antibiotics appropriately, bacteria become resistant. That's evolution, and evolution is a fact. To not acknowledge that is to not acknowledge the world around you."

*Note from pastor Kevin: The fact that bacteria can become resistant to an antibiotic has nothing to do with supporting Darwinian evolution (Amebas mutating millions of times by chance, over millions of years, into all living biological life forms, including man).*

*In fact, the bacteria (lets say streptococcus) that becomes resistant does not change to another bacteria (say pneumonia), it simply exhibits an ability to fight back against the antibiotic. This capability comes from information that was contained in its original DNA, much like some humans have a strong immune system, and others do not. In addition, some bacteria have, within*

*their DNA, the ability to share and accept information from other DNA, so the bacteria is just acting out what it has been programmed to do.*

*Streptococcus bacteria that do not have a strong immune system against a particular antibiotic will die when attacked by that same antibiotic. But some with strong immune systems may survive if the antibiotic is not taken for the entire treatment. Then **ONLY** the bacteria with the genetic information to survive the antibiotic attack survive, and in a worst case, will now be immune from treatment by the original antibiotic when passed to other people.*

*This is selective breeding, not evolution. The resistant bacterium is still Streptococcus and the patient will still die from rheumatic fever, not some other ailment because a new species of bacteria has evolved.*

Jeanne Taylor, 65, a recently retired registered nurse attending services at St. Dunstan's, said the Bible was based on oral tradition and today "science is a part of our lives."

At the Evanston Mennonite Church, Susan Fisher Miller, 48, an editor and English professor, said, "I completely accept and affirm the view of God as creator, but I accommodate evolution within that."

*Which is equivalent to saying I accept that an engineer made my Ford truck, but the engineer had nothing to do with making it. My truck came into my garage after millions of years of raw materials deciding to get together (by chance and without an engineer, factory, or factory worker) to become the wiring, engine, computer, etc. necessary to be a truck, because they (inanimate raw materials) all knew I needed a truck.*

To Ms. Fisher Miller, alternatives to evolutionary theory proposed by its critics, such as intelligent design, seem an artificial way to use science to explain the holy. "It's arrogant to say that either religion or science can answer all our questions," she said. "I don't see the need either to banish one or the other or to artificially unite them."

## Discovery Institute News

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### **Over 500 Scientists Proclaim Their Doubts About Darwin's Theory**

**By: Staff**  
**Discovery Institute**  
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<http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&id=2732>

The Scientific Dissent From Darwinism list is now located at a new webpage, [www.dissentfromdarwin.org](http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org).

SEATTLE — Over 500 doctoral scientists have now signed a statement publicly expressing their skepticism about the contemporary theory of Darwinian evolution.

The statement reads: "We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

The list of 514 signatories includes member scientists from the prestigious US and Russian National Academy of Sciences. Signers include 154 biologists, the largest single scientific discipline represented on the list, as well as 76 chemists and 63 physicists. Signers hold doctorates in biological sciences, physics, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, computer science, and related disciplines. Many are professors or researchers at major universities and research institutions such as MIT, The Smithsonian, Cambridge University, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, the Ohio State University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Washington.

Discovery Institute first published its Scientific Dissent From Darwinism list in 2001 to challenge false statements about Darwinian evolution made in promoting PBS's "Evolution" series. At the time it was claimed that "virtually every scientist in the world believes the theory to be true."

"Darwinists continue to claim that no serious scientists doubt the theory and yet here are 500 scientists who are willing to make public their skepticism about the theory," said Dr. John G. West, associate director of Discovery Institute's Center for Science & Culture. "Darwinist efforts to use the courts, the media and academic tenure committees to suppress dissent and stifle discussion are in fact fueling even more dissent and inspiring more scientists to ask to be added to the list."

According to West, it was the fast growing number of scientific dissenters which encouraged the Institute to launch a website -- [www.dissentfromdarwin.org](http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org) -- to give the list a permanent home. The website is the Institute's response to the demand for information and access to the list both by the public, and by scientists who want to add their name to list.

"Darwin's theory of evolution is the great white elephant of contemporary thought," said Dr. David Berlinski, one of the original signers, a mathematician and philosopher of science with Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture (CSC). "It is large, almost completely useless, and the object of superstitious awe."

Other prominent signatories include U.S. National Academy of Sciences member Philip Skell; American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow Lyle Jensen; evolutionary biologist and textbook author Stanley Salthe; Smithsonian Institution evolutionary biologist and a researcher at the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Biotechnology Information Richard von Sternberg; Editor of Rivista di Biologia / Biology Forum --the oldest still published biology journal in the world-- Giuseppe Sermonti; and Russian Academy of Natural

Sciences embryologist Lev Belousov.

*Note from pastor Kevin: the following is another quote from a non-christian who is honest enough to state the obvious, that is that our bodies are so complex that it is impossible that they evolved (although he still believes in evolution). The full interview can be read at:  
[http://www.evolutionnews.org/2006/01/kurt\\_vonnegut\\_on\\_darwinism\\_and.html](http://www.evolutionnews.org/2006/01/kurt_vonnegut_on_darwinism_and.html)*

## **Kurt Vonnegut on Darwinism and Intelligent Design**

A recent NPR Morning Edition segment, "[Kurt Vonnegut Judges Modern Society.](#)" took a surprising turn late in the interview. Vonnegut is, of course, a renowned postmodern novelist and self-described secular humanist, not somebody who fits easily into [Barbara Forrest's conspiracy-haunted world](#) wherein all Darwin skeptics are Bible-thumping fundamentalists. The conversation turns to Darwinism and design a little over four minutes into the interview:

Mr. VONNEGUT: Where you can see tribal behavior now is in this business about teaching evolution in a science class and intelligent design. It's the scientists themselves are behaving tribally.

INSKEEP: How are the scientists behaving tribally?

Mr. VONNEGUT: They say, you know, about evolution, it surely happened because their fossil record shows that. But look, my body and your body are miracles of design. Scientists are pretending they have the answer as how we got this way when natural selection couldn't possibly have produced such machines.