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Things Old and New

In the gospel of Matthew (13:51–52), Jesus refers to his disciples as scribes who in their communication and interpretation of God’s teachings bring forth things “old and new.” Each of the five essays in this issue seeks to do just that for the ASA and broader academic science and religion communities. The first offers that the early Christian doctrine of Christ as prophet, priest, and king informs how Christians ought to act in response to the contemporary challenge of climate change. The second enriches a conversation, ongoing since the early 1960s, about the use of models in science and religion. It does so by applying insights from chemistry, which employs a panoply of models to make useful sense of matter at the atomic and molecular level.

Another paper, written by C.S. Lewis’s principal biographer, examines the many ways science contributed to Lewis’s thinking and efforts to address the trendy materialism and dehumanizing technological visions of progress that loomed large during his lifetime—and continue in modified form today.

The remaining articles contribute to additional conversations. A multidisciplinary team of authors representing the disciplines of English, gender studies, philosophy, physics, and psychology argue that science’s understanding of gender dysphoria problematizes theologies which consider this condition to be a result of the Fall. Specifically, they contend that such approaches are incongruent with biological and psychological understandings of the condition and, moreover, contribute to spiritual and psychological harm. The final article in this issue returns to the beginning, or rather, the Old Testament Origins account in Genesis 1:1–2:3. Examining its ancient Near Eastern context, it contends that the account is an artfully composed creation, employing a common ancient Near Eastern sevenfold literary pattern.

Rounding out the issue are seven book reviews, representing the care of numerous reviewers. Among these, Lauren Seifert, who served with excellence as Behavioral and Social Sciences editor prior to May 2024, and as book review editor between May and August

2024, concluded her service with *PSCF* to take up the post of co-editor-in-chief at *Current Psychology*.

Also concluding his term of service to the journal with our gratitude is Professor Alan Padgett of Luther Seminary, who has served on our editorial board since 2014. He, along with our editors, other editorial board members, and numerous anonymous reviewers are unsung heroes of the journal. The pages of *PSCF* have been immeasurably enriched by their insights and generous wise counsel. Fortunately, with this issue the board has been bolstered by the addition of three new members with a stellar track record: Professors Andrew Loke of Hong Kong Baptist University, Fred Cannon of The Pennsylvania State University, and Stan Rosenberg of Oxford University, who also serves as the Vice President for research and scholarship of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) and as the Executive Director of Scholarship & Christianity In Oxford (SCIO).

With this issue, the Manuscript Submissions (inside front cover) clarify that, while *PSCF* is an academic journal that primarily publishes articles and book reviews, it also seeks INSIGHTS that inform our readers of important emerging developments, REVIEWS which insightfully summarize the state of science and religion conversations, and EDITORIALS which offer informed perspectives on topics of particularly pressing interest.

It is my hope that all the contributions we publish reflect our commitment to pursue clarity and scientific, theological, and philosophical integrity. I reaffirm the expectations set forth by my predecessor, James Peterson, as described in the lead editorials to the December 2013 and December 2021 issues. However, this does not mean our articles are intended to be the last word on a topic. They are articulate, well-researched, and defensible perspectives that stimulate thought and are worthy of further engagement, both in the pages of this journal and elsewhere.

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Editor-in-Chief