

Announcement

Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Star Island Conference

July 27 to August 3, 1991

**Star Island in the Isles of Shoals,
off Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

The God Question in an Age of Science

This conference will be an exploration of the concept/symbol/experience of God by theologians, philosophers, and scientists. Topics addressed will include: (1) *Meaning*. To what does the word *God* refer? For example, Is God an objective reality? A transforming experience? An internal mental construct? Or . . . ? What, if any, is the action of God in the world? (2) *Functions*. What are the functions of the concept/symbol/experience of God? What role does it play in formulating, transforming, and transmitting our values, our ethics, and our identity? (3) *Methods*. How can we talk about God? How do we articulate, justify, and validate statements about God (including statements that reject the concept)? How do we evaluate the testimony provided by tradition, by personal or collective experiences, by reason, by scientific research, by prediction or prophecy? How do we know God—or can we? (4) *Alternatives/Equivalents*. What concepts/symbols/experiences are alternatives to God for individuals who are not theists and for religions in which God does not play a central role?

There will be small-group workshops to give conferees an opportunity to actively engage in the construction of theologies based on their own personal experience and understanding, taking into account current theological and scientific understandings. There will also be workshops on the role of music, art, and dance in rituals by which the concept/symbol/experience of God is understood nonverbally.

Speakers include: **James Ashbrook**, religion and personality, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; **Anna Case-Winters**, theology, McCormick Theological Seminary; **Eric Chaisson**, cosmology, NASA; **Eugene d'Aquili**, psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania; **Lindon Eaves**, genetics, Medical College of Virginia; **Nancy Frankenberry**, philosophy, Dartmouth; **Ward Goodenough**, anthropology, University of Pennsylvania; **Daphne Hampson**, theology, University of St. Andrews; **Philip Hefner**, theology, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; **Mary Hesse**,

philosophy, Cambridge University; **Gordon Kaufman**, theology, Harvard Divinity School; **Charles Lumsden**, sociobiology, University of Toronto; **Roy Morrison**, Philosophy, Wesley Theological Seminary; **Arthur Peacocke**, biochemistry and theology, Oxford; **George E. Pugh**, physics, Decision-Science Applications, Inc.; **Michael Ruse**, philosophy, University of Guelph; **Frank Tipler**, cosmology, Tulane University; and **Deborah Tooker**, Anthropology, Harvard University. The chaplain will be **Ellen Barrett**, Episcopal priest and church historian.

PROGRAMS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGE 5-16

REGISTRATION FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:

Bonnie Falla, Registrar, 810-1/2 North Ninth Street

Allentown, PA 18102. Tel: (215) 432-8711

Program Chairs: Ursula Goodenough, Washington University, St. Louis;
Thomas L. Gilbert, Chicago Center for Religion and Science

Conference Coordinator: Edward F. Rutledge, PO Box 543, Henniker,
NH 03242.

Registration Fees: Adults, \$95; young people between 5 and 16, \$60; children under 5, free. Fees, less 20%, are refundable if registration is cancelled before June 1. Room and board payable on island.