

# Matthew D. Groves

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Nashville, TN

## Media Appearances

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**NPR's *All Things Considered***, ["In This Bible Study, Science and Faith Don't Have to Compete."](#) Irina Zhorov (WHYY). April 29, 2018.

**NPR Philadelphia** (WHYY), ["Churches introduce science education into Bible study."](#) Irina Zhorov, The Pulse. November 16, 2017.

**NPR Nashville** (WPLN), ["A Baptist Church In Nashville Inspires Its Youth Group To Love The Bible – And Science."](#) Natasha Senjanovic. January 10, 2018.

**NPR Boston's *Here and Now*** (WBUR), ["Youth Group Confronts Thorny Questions about Science and Faith."](#) Natasha Senjanovic (WPLN). March 26, 2018.

**Shifting Climates: A Podcast About Climate Justice + The Church**, ["Feeding the Five-Thousand."](#) The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions of the Mennonite Central Committee. January 2019.

## Writings

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["Communicating with Skeptical Audiences."](#) *Journal for Research in Science & Mathematics Education*, 10/2022.

["Climate Activism and the Fruit of the Spirit: Joy."](#) YECA, 12/1/2020.

["Climate, the Coronavirus, and Justice."](#) *Justice Unbound*, 5/29/2020.

["Trump's Fuel Standard Rollback is Dangerous."](#) *The Tennessean's* opinion page, 3/9/2020.

["We're Young Evangelicals striking for the climate. Will you join us?"](#) The Christian Post, 9/19/2019.

["Protect God's Creation."](#) *The Tennessean's* Letters to the Editor, 9/13/2019.

["Don't Give Up On Climate Change."](#) Baptist News Global, 11/14/2018.

["Climate Change is a Gospel Issue. It's time Christians acknowledged it."](#) Baptist News Global, 8/4/2017.

["Climate Change: A Guide for the Perplexed."](#) February, 2017.

## Education

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**May 2019**      **Master of Divinity** GPA: 3.9      **Vanderbilt University School of Divinity**  
Concentrations: Global Christianities, Biblical Studies

**May 2016**      **Bachelor of Science in Physics** GPA: 3.45      **College of William & Mary**  
**Double-major: Religious Studies**      Williamsburg, VA

## Creation Care

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**June 2019 – Present**      **Fellows Coordinator**      **Young Evangelicals for Climate Action**

**Advocates Coordinator**  
**Steering Committee Member** (Civic Engagement and Fellows subcommittees, co-chair)

**Oct 2019 – Present**     **Tennessee State Steering Committee Member**     **Interfaith Power and Light Science** -----

**Aug 2020 – Present**     **Physics Faculty Fellow**     **Franklin Road Academy, Nashville**

**Aug 2016 – July 2020**     **STEM Teacher and Tutor**     **Gateway Academy's Learning Lab, Nashville**  
Topics taught include Physics, Calculus, Advanced Calculus, Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, and Geometry (Spring and Summer 2020).  
Topics tutored include Physics, Calculus, pre- Calculus, Chemistry, Algebra I and II, Geometry, and middle school science.

**Summer 2017**     **STEM Teaching Assistant**     **Vanderbilt Program for Talented Youth**  
Teaching assistant for the six-week Vanderbilt Summer Academy, a residential enrichment program for gifted high school students.  
Classes: Programming in Python and Special Topics in Math.

**Summer 2016**     **Math Teacher**     **Oak Hill Academy**  
Summer school teacher for Oak Hill Academy, a Virginia Baptist (BGAV) boarding high school in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia.  
Subjects taught include Algebra 2 and Geometry.

**Apr 2013 – May 2016**     **Member, Planning Committee**     **Society of Physics Students, William & Mary**  
Served on the planning committee and staff for PhysicsFest 2014 and 2015, a day of physics demonstrations for alumni, their children, and local schools.  
Organized and staffed science demonstrations for local middle schools.

**July 2014**     **Teaching Assistant**     **William & Mary Center for Gifted Education**  
Teacher for William and Mary Education School's two-week Summer Enrichment Program for talented and gifted children.  
Classes: introductory programming in JavaScript and HTML.

**Experience with Python, MATLAB, Mathematica, Audacity, LaTeX, and Stata**

**Faith** -----

**Aug 2016 – May 2019**     **Pastoral Intern for Education**     **Nashville First Baptist Church**  
Led Sunday School series for multiple age groups addressing topics relating to science and faith, such as Genesis, evolution, genetics, the age of the universe, and climate change.  
Led an evening retreat called "God and the Cosmos," exploring cosmology, the Big Bang, and Christianity's relationship with science.  
Co-led a weekly small group of high school boys and chaperoned numerous youth retreats and camps.

**Aug 2012 – May 2016**     **Member, Leadership**     **Baptist Collegiate Ministries, William & Mary**  
Served on Coordination Team for two years, organizing events, guest speakers, service projects, and periodically presenting a message at weekly gatherings.  
Family Group Leader, facilitated a small group designed to foster a sense of community while engaging in Bible study focusing on the Prophets.

**May – July 2015**     **Summer Volunteer**     **Source of Light Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

Lived and worked for eight weeks in the Center, an orphanage and school built in the aftermath of Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake.  
Assisted with water purification system, taught English, games, and crafts.  
Acted as a translator and guide for American service crews.

**May 2014 – May 2016 Member** **Canterbury Campus Ministry, William & Mary**  
Participated in the Episcopalian campus ministry book study in Summer 2014, attended weekly evening prayer during the school year.

## **Awards** -----

**May 2012 Eagle Scout** **Troop 5, Boy Scouts of America**  
Project: built a recycling center at Young's Chapel Baptist Church.

**Spring 2020 Sinai and Synapses Fellow**

## **Presentations, Classes, and Sermons** -----

**Williamsburg Baptist Church**, Williamsburg, VA:  
"Being a Christian and a Physics student," 4/24/2016.

**William & Mary Baptist Collegiate Ministries**, Williamsburg, VA:  
"Studying Science as a Christian," 4/24/2016.

**Young's Chapel Baptist Church** (combined adult Sunday School classes), Mouth of Wilson, VA:  
"Being A Scientist and a Man of Faith," 6/10/2016.

**First Baptist Nashville** (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:  
"Evolution, Genesis, and the Imago Dei," 11/6/2016.

**First Baptist Nashville** (Young Professionals Group), Nashville, TN:  
"God and the Cosmos, A Night Under the Stars," 1/21/2017.  
"God, The Big Bang, and the History of the Universe," 1/22/2017.  
"Genres of Scripture and Genesis 1," 1/29/2017.  
"Genesis 2 and 3," 2/5/2017.  
"Evolution and Genesis," 2/12/2017.  
"Climate Change and Why it Matters," 2/19/2017.

**Gateway Academy** (Environmental Science Class), Nashville, TN:  
"Climate Change 101: The Basics," 2/27/2017.

**Vanderbilt University** (Women in Earth and Environmental Science, Inequality in Biosciences Association), Nashville, TN:  
"How Not to Offend People: Communicating Apolitically at the March for Science," 4/20/2017.

**Woodmont Christian Church** (Challenge Sunday School class), Nashville, TN:  
"Reading the Bible as a Library of Genres," 6/4/2017.  
"Genesis 1: A Spreadsheet Cosmology," 6/11/2017.  
"Genesis 2 and 3: It Gets Complicated," 6/18/2017.  
"Evolution by Natural Selection," 6/25/2017.  
"Climate Change: What We Know," 7/2/2017.  
"Climate Change: Why Christians Should Care," 7/9/2017.

**First Baptist Nashville** (Joshua class Sunday School group), Nashville, TN:  
"Science and Religion: Friends, Foes, or Something Else?," 9/10/2017.

"Genesis 1 and *Enuma Elish*: Comparing Israelite and Babylonian Creation Accounts," 9/17/2017.  
"Genesis 2 and 3: Humanity Comes of Age," 9/24/2017.  
"Evolution By Natural Selection: Darwin's Unexpectedly Simple Idea," 10/1/2017.  
"Genes: DNA and the inter-relatedness of all Life on Earth," 10/8/2017.

**First Baptist Nashville** (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:

"Science and Religion: Why Can't We Be Friends?," 10/22/2017.  
"The Genesis Accounts: Two Portraits of God," 10/29/2017.  
"Being Pro-Science and Pro-Jesus: Getting Past Either/Or Thinking," 11/1/2017.  
"Climate Change: What We Know and Why Christians Should Care," 11/5/2017.

**Young's Chapel Baptist Church** (combined adult Sunday School classes), Mouth of Wilson, VA:

"The Big Picture: Science, Religion, and my NPR interview," 11/26/2017.

**Brookmeade United Church of Christ** (full congregation sermon), Nashville, TN:

"Environmental Enthusiasm: Creation Care as a Biblical Mandate," 2/4/2018.

**Eastwood Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ) (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:

"Science and Faith: Why Can't We Be Friends?," 3/4/2018.

**The Green Hills Rotary Club**, Nashville, TN:

"Science and Faith in a Nutshell: Why the Church Should Care," 3/16/2018.

**Vanderbilt University** (Earth and Environmental Science), Nashville, TN:

"The Climate and You: An Interdisciplinary Panel on Climate Change," 4/12/2018.

**Tennessee Tech Wesley Foundation**: A United Methodist Campus Ministry, Cookeville, TN:

"Science and Religion: Putting the Pieces Together," 4/16/2018.

**Holy Trinity Community Church** (United Churches of Christ), Nashville, TN:

"Stewardship: Reading the Good Shepherd on Earth Day," 4/22/2018.

**Calvary United Methodist Church** (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:

"Science and Faith: Thinking deeper," 4/29/2018.

**Woodmont Christian Church** (Points of View Sunday School class), Nashville, TN:

"Revelation and Peer Review: How Science and Faith Make Knowledge," 6/10/2018.  
"Climate Change: What We Know," 6/17/2018.  
"Climate Change: Why Christians Should Care," 6/24/2018.

**First Christian Church in Chattanooga** (Disciples of Christ) (joint adult Sunday School class), Chattanooga, TN:

"Science and Faith: Putting the Pieces Together," 7/22/2018.

**West End United Methodist Church**, Nashville, TN:

"God's Green Earth: Awe and Wonder," 1/16/2019  
"God's Green Earth: Natural Theology," 1/23/2019  
"God's Green Earth: Climate Change as a Gospel Issue," 1/30/2019

**Westminster Presbyterian Church** (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:

"Science and Faith: Setting the Stage," 2/24/2019.

**Woodmont Christian Church** (Points of View Sunday School class), Nashville, TN:

"The Christian Faith and Evolution: Scripture," 3/3/2019  
"The Christian Faith and Evolution: Science," 3/10/2019  
"The Christian Faith and Evolution: Theologies," 3/17/2019

**Westminster Presbyterian Church** (The Calling Sunday School class), Nashville, TN:  
“WPC and Climate Change,” 3/31/2019.

**Eastwood Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ) (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:  
“Creation Care at Eastwood,” 4/7/2019.

**Christ the King Catholic Church** (Credo Group), Nashville, TN:  
“Our Common Home: Earth Day and the Christian Faith,” 4/22/2019.

**First Baptist Nashville** (Youth Group), Nashville, TN:  
“Awe and Wonder: How Science and Religion Tell Stories,” 4/28/2019.  
“Awe and Wonder: Finding God through Natural Theology,” 5/5/2019.  
“Awe and Wonder: God, Nature, and Me,” 5/8/2019.  
“Awe and Wonder: God the Painter,” 5/12/2019.  
“Awe and Wonder: We are God’s Art, too,” 5/15/2019.

**West End United Methodist Church** (Combined adult Sunday School classes), Nashville, TN:  
“Intro to Science and Faith,” 6/2/2019.  
“The Bible and Genesis 1: Imago Dei,” 6/9/2019.  
“Genesis 2-3: Gardeners in the Dirt,” 6/16/2019.  
“Awe and Wonder: Humility in Job 38,” 6/23/2019.  
“Natural Theology: God the Artist of Creation,” 6/30/2019.  
“Climate Change is a Gospel Issue,” 7/14/2019.  
“Climate Change: How to Care at West End,” 7/21/2019.

**Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light**, United Methodist Tennessee Conference, Nashville, TN:  
“Climate Academy: Presenting the Climate Crisis from a faith perspective,” 10/19/2019.

**Otter Creek Church of Christ**, Nashville, TN:  
“Science and Evolution,” 11/24/2019.  
“Theology and Evolution,” 12/8/2019.  
“Science and Faith: a Panel,” 12/15/2019.

**Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light**, United Methodist Tennessee Conference, Nashville, TN:  
“Climate Academy: Digging Deeper on the Science,” 1/11/2020.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Nashville, TN:  
“Awe and Wonder in Nature and Christ,” 2/2/2020.  
“People, God, and Nature in Genesis 1,” 2/9/2020.  
“People, God, and Nature in Genesis 2-3,” 2/16/2020.  
“Finding God in Nature,” 2/23/2020.

**Vanderbilt University School of Divinity**, Nashville, TN (Guest lecture: DIV 5220: Ecology, Religion, and Community Development):  
“Climate Science and a Christian Response,” 3/26/2020.

**Bellevue United Methodist Church**, Nashville, TN:  
“Christians and Climate Action: Love God, Love Neighbor,” 4/19/2020.

**Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light**, Nashville, TN:  
“Faith and Climate Action: An Earth Day Webinar,” 4/22/2020.

**March for Science and Climate**, Nashville, TN (Virtual):  
“Climate Action and the Christian Faith,” 4/25/2020.

**First Presbyterian Church**, Nashville, TN:  
“Evolution and the Creation Accounts in Genesis,” 6/7/2020.

"Evolution by Natural Selection," 6/14/2020.

"Creationists, Designers, and Biologos, Oh My! Christian Views on Evolution," 6/21/2020.

"How America got here: Biblical Criticism and the Scopes Trial," 6/28/2020.

**Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light**, Nashville, TN:

"Climate Academy: Climate and COVID - Lessons from Crisis," 6/18/2020.

**Young Evangelicals for Climate Action:**

"Meet Three Young Christians Who Are Changing Their Communities," moderator, 7/29/2020.

**Franklin Road Academy**, Nashville, TN (Class: Christian Apologetics):

"Being a Christian Who Believes in Science," 10/12/2020.

"Fitting Together Evolution and Christianity," 10/20/2020.

**Otter Creek Church of Christ**, Nashville, TN:

"Reduce, Reuse, Revival: The prophets and land," 10/2/2021

"Wendell Berry and Communion," 10/3/2021.β

**Temple Ohabai Sholom (Jewish Reformed Synagogue)**, Nashville, TN:

"Climate Science," 5/1/2022.

**Christ the King Catholic Church**, Nashville, TN:

"It's Not All About Us: The Rest of Creation in God's Eye," 5/15/2022.

"Throwing away trash and throwing away people," 5/22/2022.

"What to do at Christ the King," 5/29/2022.

**Young Evangelicals for Climate Action** (Advocates Program):

"Talking to Your Church about Climate," 5/26/2022.

**Young Evangelicals for Climate Action** (Fellows Program):

"Climate science and communication," 8/1/2022.

**Immanuel Baptist Church**, Nashville, TN:

"Faith and Creation," 7/31/2022.

"Awe and Wonder," 8/7/2022.

"New Creation: The Bible and Land," 8/14/2022.

"A Sermons Conversation about Science and Faith," 8/14/2022

## Conferences, Trainings, and Events -----

BioLogos Conference: Christ and Creation. Houston, TX. March 29-31, 2017.

March for Science and Climate. Nashville, TN. April 22, 2017.

A Sacred Calling: Faith Communities Caring for Our Earth (Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light). Nashville, TN. October 14, 2017.

March for Climate and Science. Nashville, TN. May 4, 2019.

United Methodist Creation Care Summit. Nashville, TN. July 11-14, 2019.

Global Climate Strike: Nashville Protest, Interfaith Vigil, and Die-In. Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light and The Sunrise Movement. September 20, 2019.

South Regional Training, The Sunrise Movement. Nashville, TN. September 28, 2019.

Global Climate Strike: Nashville Protest. The Sunrise Movement. December 6, 2019.

Climate Liturgy and Die-In. Young Evangelicals for Climate Action and *Sojourners*. Washington, DC. January 25, 2020. <https://twitter.com/SojoAction/status/1222267965493649412>.

Sustainable Classrooms Workshop. Urban Green Lab Nashville. February 23, 2020.

Climate Reality Leadership Corps, July 2020.