**The Post and Courier**

**Annual Darwin Week kicks off with Evolution Sunday**

Sunday, February 2, 2014

The Rev. Jeremy Rutledge

The 14th annual Darwin Week kicks off next Sunday with Evolution Sunday at Circular Congregational Church in downtown Charleston.

Senior Pastor Jeremy Rutledge will discuss "Living Religiously as a Naturalist" during the church's 11 a.m. worship service at 150 Meeting St.

Circular is a progressive Christian congregation that supports natural and social sciences as partners in people's searches for truth and meaning.

Rutledge's sermon will consider religion from the point of view of a naturalist.

Rutledge, whose doctoral work focused on religious naturalism, will draw on Darwin's ideas and the Lowcountry's rich biodiversity to discuss his view of a deeper humanity found through connection with these myriad forms of life.

The event is free and open to the public. Darwin Week continues for the week after Evolution Sunday. For the schedule, go to http://dillonr.people.cofc.edu/DarwinWeek.html.

Among other Darwin Week topics, speakers will discuss the possibility of life on other planets, new findings in regard to evolution and transitional species fossils, discussions between science and faith, and whether modern brain imaging shows humans are wired for faith.

Rob Dillon, a College of Charleston biology professor, launched Darwin Week in 2001 to oppose those who wanted biblical creation to inhabit science classrooms alongside evolution.

The annual weeklong series attracts national experts to discuss issues surrounding the potential relationships between science and faith.