

Friday digest

December 20, 2013

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New today from the *Century*:

- Amy Frykholm [interviews sociologist Vern Bengston](#): "Religiosity is a driving force more salient than belief. Agreement with specific beliefs is the least likely religious trait to be passed on."
- Debra Dean Murphy on [Advent despair](#)
- Carol Howard Merritt on [the virtues of slacktivism](#)
- A brief [review of Paula Huston](#)

In the news:

- [In season of giving, atheist groups' charity rebuffed](#)
- [Frank Schaefer defrocked by United Methodist officials](#)