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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

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Sponsored by the Quaker Theological Discussion Group

Websites: New: <http://qtdg.wordpress.com>

Old: <http://theo-discuss.quaker.org>

The purpose of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group is to explore the meaning and implications of our Quaker faith and religious experience through discussion and publication. This search for unity in the claim of truth upon us concerns both the content and application of our faith.

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Sometimes Friends joke about being bi-denominational and use terms like “Quakopalian” to point to our engagement with or enrichment from other religious traditions. In our experience, though, we know that Friends do engage with other communities and traditions, and we need to consider how we interact with them, how we may be shaped by them, whether or what benefit we might gain from them, and whether or how we might still maintain the heart of our Quaker identity. The essays in this issue respond to the theme “Hybridity and Multi-Religious Belonging among Quakers,” which was the topic of one of the sessions of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group in November, 2016. I think you’ll find them diverse and interesting.

We sometimes include reviews of new Quaker books that will interest our readers. Doug Gwyn’s book, *The Anti-War: Peace Finds the Purpose of a Peculiar People; Militant Peacemaking in the Manner of Friends*, comes from a well-established scholar and teacher among Friends and offers fresh approaches to our thinking about peace. Vail Palmer’s new book, *Face to Face*, is the first of three Palmer volumes from Barclay Press. It deepens our understanding of how Friends have used the Bible and suggests useful ways forward today.

Vail Palmer has been part of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group and the work of *Quaker Religious Thought* from their earliest days, including editing QRT for several years. When he offered us a paper that he presented at the meetings of Quakers United in Publishing, I thought his long perspective on our work together would remind us of where we’ve come and offer guidance as we go forward. Vail has been very faithful as a scholar and a friend.

After many years of remarkable service to Friends, John Punshon passed away this last March 10. He was a wonderful friend and mentor to many of us and we continue to miss him. Through Paul Anderson, Veronica, John’s wife, has passed along a previously unpublished talk that we are glad to include in this issue. We also welcome Anderson’s tribute to John in this issue.

I have enjoyed the privilege of editing *Quaker Religious Thought* for several years now. Thanks to you all for entrusting me with this service. I’m glad to announce that Jon Kershner will now be taking up

this work and has collaborated with me in editing this issue. Jon is a fine young scholar, teacher, and pastor who has been steadily involved with QTDG and who many of you know as a skilled organizer of Quaker study sections in the American Academy of Religion. I've learned from hearing his research insights into John Woolman, and I've appreciated working with him on QRT. I'm sure Jon will be a fine editor.

The next meetings of the Quaker Theological Discussion Group will be 4:30-9:00 p.m., Friday, November 17, 2017, in Boston, Massachusetts. They will be just prior to the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, which will be held in the Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street, Boston, and surrounding hotels. As we publish this issue we don't yet have the room assignments for the QTDG meetings, though folks who are interested can contact Carole Spencer (cspencer@georgefox.edu) for more details. Papers presented will address the topics of "Quakers and Public Theology" and "History and Interpretations of Quakerism." We welcome all who are interested in attending.

Of course, we invite you to subscribe or renew your subscription to *Quaker Religious Thought*. A steady subscriber base helps make this possible.

— *Howard R. Macy*
Editor