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QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

Primitive Christianity Revived—The Original Quaker Vision.....	5
<i>Paul Anderson</i>	
Robert Barclay’s Christology.....	25
<i>Madeleine Ward</i>	
Christian AND Universalist?: Charting Liberal Quaker Theological Developments through the Swarthmore Lectures.....	33
<i>DanChristy Randazzo</i>	
Response to Anderson, Ward, and Randazzo	43
<i>Jeffrey Dudiak</i>	
Book Review: T. Vail Palmer Jr., <i>A Long Road: How Quakers Made Sense of God and the Bible</i>	48
<i>Isaac Barnes May</i>	
Book Reviews: Paul Buckley, <i>Primitive Christianity Revived: Translated into Modern English</i> and <i>Primitive Quakerism Revived: Living as Friends in the Twenty-First Century</i>.....	54
<i>Paul Anderson</i>	

**Cumulative No. 131
September 2018**

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

The four articles in this issue were delivered at the November 2017 Quaker Theological Discussion Group sessions in Boston, Massachusetts. The session title that encompassed these articles was “History and Interpretation of Quakerism” and, indeed, in this issue I am pleased to include these lucid and original presentations of key ideas in Quaker history.

Paul Anderson argues that William Penn’s concept of “Primitive Christianity Revived” coheres with the vision of the first generation of Quakers and provides a helpful way for contemporary Quakers to return to the “root and trunk” of Quakerism.

Madeleine Ward delves deep into Robert Barclay’s Christology and, in doing so, unleashes Barclay from earlier misunderstandings. Ward argues that Barclay’s Christology changed over time and she provides the most helpful understanding of Barclay’s concept of “*Vehiculum Dei*” to date.

DanChristy Randazzo traces themes of Christianity and Universalism through the Swarthmore Lectures of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The Swarthmore Lecture is a prestigious, annual lecture in Britain Yearly Meeting. In the lectures, Randazzo finds a tug-and-pull between an explicitly Christian Quaker identity and a Universalist identity that has somewhat-settled into a type of “Christian Universalism.”

Jeffrey Dudiak offers his response to these papers by noting that all three wrestle with the notion of what it means to be faithful to the Quaker tradition, a helpful endeavor.

We then have two book reviews. Isaac Barnes May reviews T. Vail Palmer’s *A Long Road: How Quakers Made Sense of God and the Bible*. In the second review, Paul Anderson reviews two books by Paul Buckley on Penn’s notion of “Primitive Christianity Revived;” in one of these books Buckley applies the idea to contemporary Friends.

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— Jon R. Kershmer

Editor