

## **Quaker Religious Thought**

Volume 131 Article 1

9-2018

# Frontmatter, Quaker Religious Thought no.131

Jon R. Kershner Pacific Lutheran University

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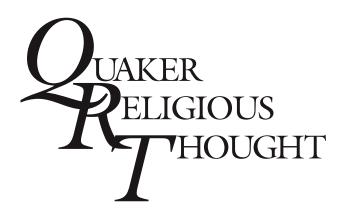
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Kershner, Jon R. (2018) "Frontmatter, Quaker Religious Thought no.131," Quaker Religious Thought. Vol. 131, Article 1.

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## QUAKER RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

### Cumulative Number 131 September 2018

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.

Jon R. Kershner, Editor (jon.kershner@gmail.com)
Paul Anderson, Associate Editor (panderso@georgefox.edu)
David Johns, Associate Editor (djohns@ferrum.edu)
Gayle Beebe, Associate Editor (gbeebe@westmont.edu)
Phil Smith, Business Manager (psmith@georgefox.edu)
C. Wess Daniels, Website Manager (cwdaniels@gmail.com)

Advisory Council: Carole Spencer, Ben Pink Dandelion, Ruth Pitman, Max Carter, Stephen Angell, Jeffrey Dudiak, Corwin Beals, and Susan Jeffers

Address editorial correspondence only to: Jon R. Kershner, 15020 134th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98058

Quaker Religious Thought is published two times each year; the Volume numbers were discontinued after Vol. 30 in 2002, continuing with the issue # system only since 2003, beginning with #s 99 & 100.

Send all business and subscription matters to:

\*Quaker Religious Thought c/o Phil Smith,

George Fox University, 414 N. Meridian St. #6042, Newberg, OR 97132

Subscription rates as of January, 2016:
Individuals/meetings — per year \$20, two years \$35
Students — per year \$15; Institutional libraries — per year \$40
Single back issue \$6; Multiple back issues \$4 each
Complete set \$150
Lifetime subscription \$300-500

Back issues of QRT are available online at http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/qrt

European distribution: Friends Book Centre, Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ, England International Standard Serial Number 0033-5088

### 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. Kershner

Editor