

# Our Quaker History, Our Faith and Our Practice: An Annotated Bibliography for Gwynedd

compiled and annotated by Mickey Edgerton under auspices of Worship and Ministry Committee

Most of these books are written by Quakers; some are not but are useful additions to an understanding of our liberal theology.

## **Abbott, Marjorie**

### • *An Experiment in Faith...*

#### *Quaker Women Transcending Differences*

Marge Abbott grew up as a Philadelphia Quaker, Germantown Meeting and Friends School. Most of her adult life has been in Portland, OR as clerk of North Pacific Yearly Meeting. She helped to organize an ongoing group meeting of liberal and evangelical Friends women. This Pamphlet is an account of the exploration of their contrasting and comparable theologies, the friendships and conferences that ensued. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 323, Wallingford, PA, 1995*

## **Barbour, Hugh and Frost, J. William**

### • *The Quakers*

An excellent Quaker history, Barbour taught for many years at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion, Frost at Swarthmore. *New York, Greenwood Press, 1988*

## **Birkel, Michael L.**

### • *Engaging Scripture—Reading the Bible with Early Friends*

This book is a very accessible guide to bible study for modern Friends. Michael teaches at Earlham College and leads Bible workshops at Pendle Hill. *Friends United Press, Earlham Press, Richmond Indiana, 2005*

## **Borg, Marcus J.**

### • *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*

Borg is not a Quaker but his Progressive Christianity provides us easy access to his thinking. This book is a very helpful treatment of Jesus's life: pre Easter and post Easter—an alternate view from Orthodox Christianity. *Harper Collins, New York, 1994*

### • *The Heart of Christianity*

Rediscovering a life of faith—how we can be passionate believers today. A deconstruction of Orthodox, creedal theology, providing a pathway to contemporary Christian belief for liberal Universalist Quakers. *Harper Collins, New York, 2003*

### • *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*

Taking the Bible seriously but not literally. Opens up the Scriptures to some of us who had closed them down. *Harper Collins, New York, 2001*

## **Brinton, Howard**

### • *Friends for 350 Years, ed. Margaret Hope Bacon*

A Quaker classic, an easy reading history. Frequently

given out to new or prospective members. *Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA, 1952/ed. 2002*

### • *Quakerism and Other Religions*

A helpful survey of where we fit into the religious mosaic. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 93, Wallingford, PA, 1957*

## **Cronk, Sandra**

### • *Dark Night Journey*

Inward repatterning toward a life centered in God. A seminal work on the spiritual journey and the intrinsic value of the dark night experience. Sandra Cronk is one of the spiritual giants of our time, we are fortunate to have her writings to continue to teach us after her untimely death in May of 2000. *Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA, 1991*

### • *Gospel Order: a Quaker Understanding of Faithful Church Community*

This Pamphlet is a response to concerns of local Meetings and students at Pendle Hill to find ways of upbuilding the meeting community and to explore what it means to belong to a community of commitment, to truly build a community of Faith. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 297, Wallingford, PA, 1991*

### • *Peace be With You*

A Study of the Spiritual basis of the peace testimony. Particularly helpful at this time of re-examination of that testimony. Peace and Social Order committees may be particularly interested. *Tract Association of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1515 Cherry, Philadelphia, PA 19102*

## **Clement, Daphne**

### • *Group Spiritual Direction*

This Pamphlet is a resource for the many Meetings who are offering opportunities for group and individual spiritual direction to the meeting community and sometimes to other seekers in their area. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 373, Wallingford, PA, 2004*

## **Cooper, Wilmer**

### • *A Living Faith*

An excellent history of Quakerism, formatted to serve as a teaching resource with discussion questions at the end of each chapter. Cooper founded the Earlham School of Religion in 1960 and taught there for many years thereafter. *Friends United Press, Richmond, IN, 1990*

### • *The Testimony of Integrity in the Society of Friends*

One of the best explications of Quaker Testimonies in print, showing how all the rest of our Testimonies are based in and grow out of the principle of integrity. An excellent teaching tool. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 296, Wallingford, PA, 1991*

• **Daily Readings From Quaker Writings Ancient and Modern**

Ed. Linda Hill Renter

Daily Readings for devotional use—a Quaker lectionary. *Serenity Press, Grants Pass, OR 1988 (Available from Pendle Hill)*

**Ehrman, Bart D.**

• **Misquoting Jesus**

The story behind who changed the Bible and why. A description of the process of translating the many manuscripts available and the factors that influenced the choices made between conflicting versions of the same stories. This is not Quaker book as such, but holds much interest for those of us still struggling to incorporate Bible accounts into our living experiences of Jesus in our lives. A good accompaniment to Borg's Reading the Bible Again for the First Time. *Harper Collins, New York, 2005*

**Faith and Life Movement**

• **Quaker Understanding of Christ and Authority**

One of the pamphlets published by this organization that dealt with the theological issues being explored at that time. A very helpful resource for discussions with other denominations as to Quaker theology. *Faith and Life Movement, Philadelphia, PA, 1973*

**Fager, Chuck**

• **A Quaker Declaration of War**

Fager takes the ancient Quaker term the Lamb's War and explains it in modern terms as an approach to our peace testimony of today. He is particularly concerned that we get serious about that testimony and rely on our tradition to teach us how to be more effective by being more faithful.

Adapted from a presentation at Illinois Yearly Meeting of Friends 7th Month 30, 2003 *Reprinted by the WIDER QUAKER FELLOWSHIP, a program of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Philadelphia, PA, 2004*

• **Without Apology: The Heroes, the Heritage and the Hope of Liberal Quakerism**

This self-published book describes the key issues facing vital religious movements on the brink of the new millennium and shows how liberal Quakerism is particularly equipped to meet them. Most Quakers of today have not read Barclay's *Apology*, The seminal Quaker Theology from the 17th century, and Fager's modern day treatment lays out the liberal connection to that treatise by lifting up the liberal content of the original *Apology*. His method is to tell stories about ways the various yearly meetings have dealt with the issues that divide modern day Quakerism. *(Available from Pendle Hill)*

**Freiday, Dean, Ed.**

• **Barclay's Apology in Modern English**

The seminal Quaker theology resource. A must-read if you really want to understand how it (Quakerism) all began and what the basic beliefs were...and are. 1967 *(Available from Friends Bookstore or Amazon.com)*

**Gates, Thomas**

• **Members One Of Another**

The dynamics of membership in Quaker Meeting. An earlier version of this Pamphlet was presented as a project for the Spiritual Nurture Program of the School of the Spirit. Tom Gates examines the many aspects of membership and obligations it may impose upon us, individually and as a faith family. This Pamphlet can be a great help to Care and Counsel committees as they do the clearness work for attenders interested in becoming members of the Meeting. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 371, Wallingford PA, 2004*

**Griswold, Robert**

• **Creeds and Quakers: What's Belief Got to Do With It?**

This Pamphlet is a useful resource for discussions with other Christians who are curious about our distinctive Quaker practices. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 377, Wallingford, PA, 2004*

**Grundy, Martha**

• **Tall Poppies**

Supporting gifts of ministry and elderring in the Monthly Meetings. It deals with the issue of jealousy and competition as pitfalls in identifying and supporting gifts of members and attenders in our Meetings and lifts up a tendency to resent authority in our Quaker structures. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 347, Wallingford, PA, 2001*

**Gully, Philip and Mulholland, James**

• **If God is Love**

Rediscovering Grace in an ungracious world. *Harper Collins, New York, 2005*

• **If Grace Is True**

Mulholland and Gully are Quaker pastors in Indiana. "These two books describe two very different forms of Christianity; the first fear based, emphasizing threat, requirement, righteousness and reward. The second is grace filled and emphasizes relationship, transformation, love and justice. These books are especially helpful for those making the transition from the first to the second. (Quote from the back of the book by Marcus Borg). *Harper Collins, USA, 2003*

**Hoare, Edward**

• **Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting**

It is possible that if there were a Quaker Pope, she would decree that every member of every Worship and Ministry committee everywhere at every level of Quaker organization must have a profound familiarity with this Pamphlet and the willingness and ability to practice its information, advices, and inspiration whenever it would be useful. Just one quote is a welcome reminder of one of the most important aspects of Quaker faith and practice: "Quaker Spirituality is a corporate spirituality, for Friends maintain that it is not the case that each of us has a different Light within, but that it is the one true Light that is in all. To be called into this power, to be convinced, is to be called into a powerful community. The Quaker meeting

for worship is not a place for individual meditation, it is A COMMUNITY IN WHICH TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER TO WAIT ON THE PRESENCE IN THE MIDST WHICH LINKS US ALL." This Pamphlet can help us to answer questions from new attenders as to how it is that we are distinctive in our worship and how it provides the root of our social justice work. *Friends General Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 1995*

**Kelly, Thomas**

• ***A Testament of Devotion***

A Quaker classic, as quoted on the back cover: "A Testament of Devotion is the ideal companion to the highest of all the human arts, the lifelong conversation between God and God's creatures." His description of the Blessed Community is a great inspiration for the work of any Worship and Ministry Committee. *Harper & Row, New York, 1941*

**Kline, Florence Ruth, Ed.**

***Companions Along the Way: Spiritual Formation Within the Quaker Tradition—  
A Resource for Adult Religious Education.***

In June of 1996, a weekend conference was held at the George School in Bucks County. This book is an account of the proceedings. It contains accounts of the plenary and workshop sessions and is an invaluable resource for the Spiritual support for Meeting members and attenders. *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2000*

**Lacey, Paul**

• ***Leading and Being Led***

A helpful guide to the committee who is mandated to assist Meeting members in their spiritual growth. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 264, 1985*

• ***The Authority of our Meeting is the Power of God***

The issue of authority is a focus for important teaching for new members as well as long time Quakers. Lacey's Pamphlet is a forthright addressing of this controversial concept. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 365, 2003*

**Loring, Patricia**

• ***Listening Spirituality Volume I,  
Personal Spiritual Practices Among Friends***

This has served as a workbook for many spirituality workshops, retreats and Spiritual Formation programs. It can serve as an ongoing guide to one's spiritual journey. *Openings Press, Washington, DC, 1997*

• ***Spiritual Discernment:  
the Context and Goal of Clearness Committees.***

Spiritual discernment is such a crucial aspect of Quaker practice that this Pamphlet is an invaluable tool in that quest. Clearness committees are such valuable means to assisting our members to explore readiness to become members, prepare for marriage, as well as to get assistance from the Meeting in dealing with any number of life changes. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 305, Wallingford, PA, 1992*

**Morley, Barry**

• ***Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting***

Is it too late for Friends to recover a gift intended for them? That gift is a sense of meeting in a meeting for business. That gift IS NOT CONSENSUS! Barry Morley discusses three essential components in discovering a sense of meeting: release, long focus, and transition to Light, all of which are nurtured by worship. Rich stories of life experience illustrate the process in this Pamphlet that offers a true gift back to Friends. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 307, Wallingford, PA, 1993*

**Merrill, Nan C.**

• ***Psalms for Praying:***

***An Invitation to Wholeness Continuum***

This Quaker writer has reworded many of the Psalms to remove terms of violence and vengeance. Walter Wink says "Merrill allows the Psalms to be something new, fresh, contemporary and yet themselves." *International Publishing Group, New York, NY, 2007*

**Punshon, John**

• ***Encounter With Silence:***

***Reflections from the Quaker Tradition***

John Punshon is a Quaker Educator who has taught at Earlham School of Religion, Pendle Hill and Woodbrooke, a Quaker study centre in Birmingham, England. Alan Kolp comments on the back cover "John Punshon offers simple but exceptionally powerful thoughts on silence, prayer, discernment, and worship. His resource is the Quaker unprogrammed meeting, but his appeal will be to all who want to move beyond a spiritual superficiality." I have used this very usefully as the focus of a spiritual growth and study group. *Friends United Press, Richmond, IN 1987*

• ***Portrait in Grey A Short History of the Quakers***

This book charts the rise of Quakerism, the development of its distinctive way of life, its expansion overseas and the contributions made by many Friends to intellectual, business and social life. It seeks to draw a portrait of the Quakers and discerns that in the grey clothing they used to wear as a testimony of their simplicity, there was a prominent thread of gold. Quaker Home Service, London, England 1984

**Rasor, Paul**

• ***Faith Without Certainty***

***Liberal theology in the 21st century.***

Paul Rasor is a Unitarian Universalist Minister, taught at Pendle Hill for several years. This book deals with the inevitability of doubt as part of the faith experience and provides a lifeline to discover the unexpected twists and turns in the path of faith. *Skinner House, Boston MA, 2005*

**Sheeran, Michael**

• ***Beyond Majority Rule :***

***Voteless decisions in the Religious Society of Friends***

Michael J. Sheeran is a Jesuit priest who became interested in the Religious Society of Friends in 1968 when he

was studying religious communities which practice communal discernment, a decision making process which the Jesuit Order also utilized when it was founded in 1540 but lost within a generation. During doctoral work at Princeton University, he returned to the topic, spending two years conducting interviews, reading and participant observation focused on the communal discernment tradition as it is exemplified in the voteless decisions of Quakers in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. This book is the result of the doctoral dissertation which followed his research. It offers fresh eyes with which to view our beloved if difficult practice of decision making by sense of the meeting. *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 1983*

**White, Zoe**

• ***A Quaker Theology of Pastoral Care The Art of the Everyday***

Zoe White is a British Friend who studied at Woodbrooke in England and Pendle Hill and Earlham School of Religion here in the States. This Pamphlet emerged as a result of studies and experience during her years of study at ESR. Zoe is particularly concerned to explore a theological basis which provides the foundation for pastoral care. Examination of the theological foundations for pastoral care can help ensure that the work of caring for one another is grounded firmly in assumptions and understandings which are consistent with the context of the Society of Friends. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 281, Wallingford, PA, 1988*

**Wilson, Lloyd Lee**

• ***Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order***

Gospel Order is a term used by Friends who are knowledgeable about traditional Quaker terminology and concepts, but is not widely understood by our current membership. It is so basic to our ability to carry on our business meeting practices as well as relating to one another in our Blessed Community that familiarity with this book is a gift not to be missed. The statement on the back cover sums it up nicely: "Gospel Order and the search for it, has shaped the Quaker experience since George Fox. In this series of essays, Wilson explore the concept of Gospel Order as understood by early Quakers. Each essay addresses a facet of the faith and practice of Friends, articulating the ways in which Friends' vision of Gospel Order has shaped their beliefs as well as their outward lives. Both seasoned Friends and readers new to Quakers will find these essays helpful to their understanding of this 'peculiar people'." *Celo Valley Books, Burnsville, NC, 1993*

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