

THE ABCs & COVER DRAWING

This pamphlet conveys a message of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) which still, after 350 years, is a meaningful religion for today's world. Each letter of the alphabet introduces an explanatory phrase about Quakerism. The same ABC phrases also appear in stitchery. The cover drawing shows the title panel of four beautiful 2'4" x 5' counted cross stitch panels.

The words were written by Sally Rickerman, a member of Mill Creek Meeting (DE). Agnes Pennock of Hockessin Meeting (DE), a life long and inveterate stitcher, suggested "writing" the words of the pamphlet in counted cross stitch. Each panel took a year of devoted stitching to complete.

Hockessin Meeting was supportive of the project and generously funded the expenses of materials and preparing the finished work for framing. Ted and Ned Pennock, husband and son of Agnes, made the cherry frames.

These panels were given to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting to reside at Arch Street Meetinghouse's East Room's Quaker Display. For details, any group which wishes to borrow these panels for a special occasion may contact: Director, Arch Street Meetinghouse, 320 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA 19106. 215-627-2667. email: helenf@pym.org

For further information on Quakers, their conference centers, libraries, or bookstores contact:

Friends General Conference
1216 Arch Street – 2B
Philadelphia PA 19107
215-561-1700
www.fgcquaker.org

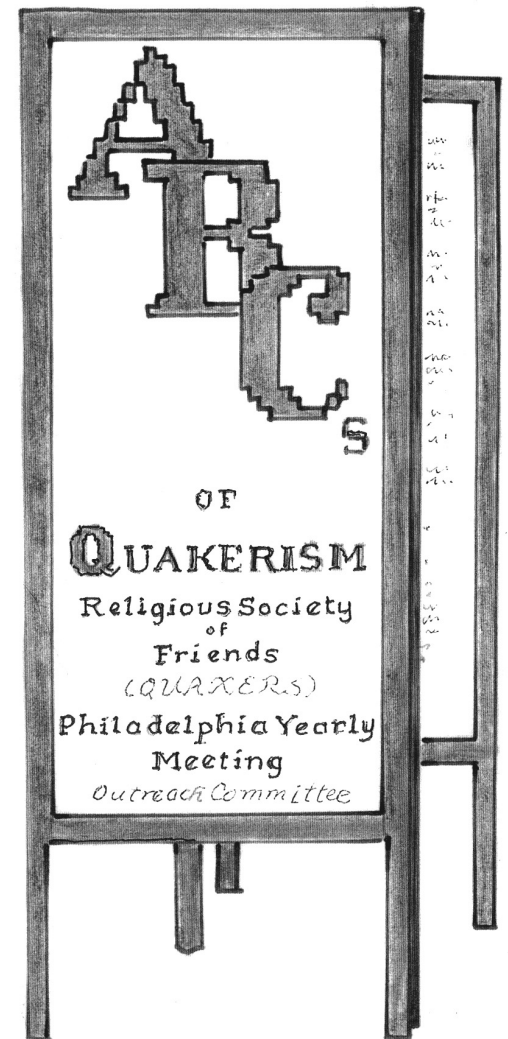
Quaker Information Center
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia PA 19102
215-241-7024
www.quakerinfo.org

For the place of the Meeting for Worship nearest to you, visit:

www.QuakerFinder.org
or
www.quaker.org

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The ABCs of Quakerism

*Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)*

The ABCs of Quakerism

ANTICIPATING communion with the Divine is celebrated by Quakers not through special outward ceremony, but is to be found by all in their daily lives.

BELIEF in the equality of all has helped Friends, from the early days of Quakerism onward, to be sensitive to the evils of slavery and the “inferior” position of women.

CHRISTIAN, non-Christian and occasionally even agnostics are found among Quakers, but despite differing theology they unite in the belief that each has an aspect which most Friends call the Divine or God.

DEVIL and doomsday are words and concepts which are not of concern to Quakers, since belief in the intrinsic goodness of humankind, not its depravity, undergirds all Quakerism.

EACH and every participant in Quakerism is a minister. The abolished positions are those of the lay persons.

FAIRNESS to and equality for others is striven for by Friends since they believe that all persons have that of God within.

GATHERING together, without human leadership, and waiting through silence to hear that still small voice of God, is the way Quakers, or Friends, join together in worship.

HIERARCHY is foreign to the Quaker method of organization. Friends follow their understandings of spiritual leadings. These leadings are tested by and through the local members. Decrees handed down by a “superior” person or group are not accepted.

INNER LIGHT – that of God in each – is recognized by most Quakers as their basic belief.

JUSTICE for all is necessary before all peoples truly can remove conflict from their families, their local environment and the whole wide world.

KIN to Quakers means all persons in the world despite real or perceived differences in their religion, race, sex or ethnic background.

LOVE thy Lord, thy God and thy neighbor as thyself is the teaching which, as well as the example of the life of Jesus, Quakers try to follow.

MEETING for Worship is the center of Quakerism and the center of spiritual focus and renewal for Friends.

NEW and continuous and divine revelations may and do come to those who are open to them. They did not cease with the last period in the Book of Revelations.

OATHS are not sworn for Quakers do not believe in a double standard of truth. Affirmation is used, not the swearing of oaths.

PEACE with others, and within the self is the desired result of religious experience which Quakers join with all others in pursuing.

QUAKING at the word of God was the reason a judge gave Friends what he thought was a derisive nickname of Quaker which, today, is worn proudly.

RELIGIOUS Society of Friends is the official name for Quakerism. It is taken from Jesus’ comment found in *John 15:15* “...but I have called you friends; for all things I have heard of my Father, I have made known unto you.”

SIMPLICITY is a principal testimony of Friends who have adopted Mother Elizabeth Seaton’s statement, “Live simply so others may simply live” as their guide.

TESTIMONIES, not the holding of creeds, are the accepted precepts of Quakers. Those of Equality, Integrity, Peace and Simplicity are primary.

UNITY is reached before Friends move forward in making decisions in their Meetings for Worship in which business takes place. Quakers do not demand or expect unanimity in thought or action from their members.

VISITATION from the Spirit is always striven for during Meetings for Worship, but does not invariably occur.

WAITING upon Divine guidance is the relationship with God which Quakers endeavor to have. The presumption that a single understanding given to a person or a group is the only way is not acceptable to most Quakers.

XENOPHOBIA is only one of the many phobias which Friends work against, for phobias about others ignore that of God in each and prejudge groups.

YIELDING the self as center, moving to another center and working towards becoming God centered is the commitment of Friends.

ZEAL for living and zest for causes characterize Quakers at their best.

Explanatory phrases by Sally Rickerman express her understanding of unprogrammed Quakerism. She is a Friend both by nature and nurture, a member of Mill Creek Meeting (DE), Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and has served on many Quaker Committees from the local to the national level.