



BERKELEY FRIENDS CHURCH PRESENTS:

# Quaker Heritage Day 2015

Saturday, February 21

***“My faith, in spite of everything,  
keeps straining up to God”—***

**Reading Helen Morgan Brooks  
and Howard Thurman after Ferguson**  
with **Steve Angell**, Professor of Quaker Studies,  
Earlham School of Religion

**Stephen W. Angell** is (along with Hal Weaver and Paul Kriese) an editor of *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*; the author of *Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and African-American Religion in the South*; and co-author of three other books. He has also written numerous journal articles and book chapters in the areas of Quaker Studies and of Africana Religions. He is the past co-chair of the Afro-American Religious History Group of the American Academy of Religion. He taught religious studies at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee (where his most frequently offered course was “Black Religion in America”), and now teaches Quaker Studies at the Earlham School of Religion. He is a member of Oxford Monthly Meeting in Ohio Valley YM, and lives in Richmond, Indiana, with his wife, Sandra Ward-Angell, and two cats, Rosie and Pippin.

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY:**

- 9:00 am** Sign in, enjoy the breakfast buffet, and browse the book table
- 9:30** **Session 1: Intro to Brooks's & Thurman's Writings**
- 10:45** Break
- 11:00** **Session 2: More on Brooks & Thurman/Small Groups**
- 12:30 pm** Lunch
- 1:45** **Session 3: Sharing Insights & Concluding Thoughts**
- 3:15** Closing Worship

Berkeley Friends Church  
1600 Sacramento St  
Berkeley, CA 94702

[www.berkeleyfriendschurch.org/qhd](http://www.berkeleyfriendschurch.org/qhd)

**Helen Morgan Brooks (1904-1989)** was a poet, home economist and dietitian, a convinced Friend (member of a meeting in Philadelphia), and a member of the board of Pendle Hill and of the boards of many other Quaker organizations. **Howard Thurman (1899-1981)**, a member of the Wider Quaker Fellowship and student of Rufus Jones, was pastor of the Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples in San Francisco, a noted author, professor, and university chaplain and a frequent speaker at Quaker conferences. Both were intensely interested in movements for justice in the United States and worldwide.

On this occasion, we will have an opportunity to read from their poetry and prose, as anthologized in *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*. In Steve Angell's talk and in our small groups, we will consider these questions: How did Thurman and Brooks minister to people in their time, especially on issues of justice? In the aftermath of Ferguson, what can Brooks and Thurman teach us or remind Friends, as we seek to engage with the current struggle for justice? What lessons might we draw from them that can assist us in strengthening, building, and healing our communities?

## RESOURCES FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

Listed below are books that may spark further thought and discussion. Those prefixed with a **section mark (§)** will be available at the book table in limited quantities.

Dixie, Quinton Hosford, and Peter R. Eisenstadt. *Visions of a Better World: Howard Thurman's Pilgrimage to India and the Origins of African American Nonviolence*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2011.

§ Jackson Issa, Kai, and Arthur L. Dawson. *Howard Thurman's Great Hope*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2008. (Primary-school age children's book)

§ McDaniel, Donna, and Vanessa Julye. *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*. Philadelphia, Pa: Quaker Press of Friends General Conference, 2009.

§ Thurman, Howard. *The Search for Common Ground: An Inquiry into the Basis of Man's Experience of Community*. Richmond: Friends United Press, 1986.

Thurman, Howard, Walter E. Fluker, and Catherine Tumber. *A Strange Freedom: The Best of Howard Thurman on Religious Experience and Public Life*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1998.

§ Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.

§ Thurman, Howard. *Disciplines of the Spirit*. Richmond, Ind: Friends United Press, 2003.

Thurman, Howard. *With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981.

§ Weaver, Harold D., Paul Kriese and Stephen Angell. *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*. Philadelphia, PA: Quaker Press of Friends General Conference, 2011.

To see an online version of this list with links to availability in local libraries, see <https://www.worldcat.org/profiles/splaestro/lists/3528537>