

BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER invites you to:



**Come As You Are:
Reading the Bible with Friends
Led by Stephen Matchett
March 30- April 1**

"[W]e cannot . . . make [Bible] authority to depend upon any virtue or power that is in the writings themselves; but we desire to ascribe all to that Spirit from which they proceeded."

~Robert Barclay, Apology for the True Christian Divinity.

Learn why the Bible has been and is so important to Friends; how the Quaker conception of the place of Scripture in our devotional life differs from what some may think of as the “required” Christian view.

Experience the spiritual synergy of group Bible reading, that moment when the text opens up and reveals a fresh illumination of the Spirit. Each of us will bring a unique perspective to whatever passages we choose to read, and together there can emerge something new, stirring, surprising and even inspired, whether from an ambiguous parable of Jesus, a troubling tale or challenging admonition from the prophets, or a beloved chestnut you thought you knew backwards and forwards. Expect the unexpected.

We will spend time in worship; Bible reading and reflection in large and small groups; and many opportunities to learn from one another and from the Spirit that animates the texts. We are hoping for a whole range of people: those new to Friends, curious about Quaker views on the Bible; people looking for a “way in” to reading the Bible, or who struggle with their relationship to Scripture; people with substantial acquaintance and love for the Bible, who relish engaging with others over the texts in an open and non-didactic framework; in short, anyone who seeks an open encounter with the Bible in a setting that encourages listening for what the Spirit has to say to us through its words today. Bring a Bible if you have one, in any translation; pen and paper for journaling or other writing; and an open spirit.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP LEADER:

Stephen Matchett is a Quaker by birth and by conviction, and a nearly 30-year member of San Francisco Monthly Meeting. Once an appellate criminal defense lawyer, he now spends much of his time facilitating conflict resolution workshops in prisons and in the community with the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). In recent years he has had an active traveling ministry among unprogrammed Friends, offering presentations on reading early Quaker writers and on Friends' beliefs, and following a call to support and encourage contemporary Quakers' (re)acquaintance and engagement with the Bible. In recent years he has been convening early morning Bible study at College Park Quarterly and Pacific Yearly Meetings, and the growing number of Friends finding meaning in those sessions has led him to offer the present program.



Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

I/we plan to pay \$ _____/person on the \$160-\$240/person sliding scale. (More on this below)

Dietary needs: _____

Accommodation needs: : _____

Check here to receive Quaker Center announcements solely by e-mail.

----- Detach Here and Return -----

TO REGISTER, fill out the form above and send it to the address below.

Check in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the program concludes about 2:30 PM on Sunday after final cleanup. We no longer require a deposit with your registration. We trust that you will "let your yay be yay" and join us for this program if you register. If you absolutely must cancel, please do so in ample time to save Quaker Center any loss for food costs or having to turn away another participant.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR SLIDING SCALE:

Comprehensive rate: The top of our scale covers all our costs. **(\$240/person).**

Standard rate: We hope most people will pay at least this amount. **(\$200/person)**

Special reduced rate: The bottom to our scale **(\$160/person).** No one is ever refused access to our programs because of lack of funds. Scholarship support is available; please ask if you are in need.

- ✓ **Schedule:** Check in will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the program concludes about 2:30 PM on Sunday after final cleanup. The weekend's schedule will include time for relaxation, reflection, walking the labyrinth, or hiking through Quaker Center's redwood forest.
- ✓ **Accommodations, things to bring, and food:** Sleeping accommodations will be in the Orchard Lodge (semi-private rooms). Bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillowcase, towel, soap, flashlight, and slippers. Linens may be rented for a modest fee. **No pets, other than certified service animals.** All meals at Quaker Center are vegetarian. Participants take turns with meal prep, dishes, and cleaning chores at the end of the program. **Please tell us in advance if you must leave early** so that we can sign you up for a chore that can be done before you go.
- ✓ **Transportation:** See our website, <http://www.quakercenter.org/directions/> for directions. If you are arriving on the bus let us know and we will provide a shuttle from Ben Lomond or Scotts Valley.

DRIVING DISTANCES FROM:

- Los Angeles: 365 miles, 6.5 hours
- Sacramento: 150 miles, 2 hours, 45 minutes
- San Francisco: 90 miles, 2 hrs and 15 minutes
- San Jose Intl Airport: 35 miles, 50 minutes
- Santa Cruz, 12 miles, 25 minutes

PUBLIC TRANSIT:

- **Amtrak:** Take the train to the San Jose Diridon Station
- **From the San Jose Diridon Station:** Take the 17 Express bus to the Cavallaro Transit Station in Scotts Valley.
- **From the Scotts Valley or Santa Cruz:** Take the 35 or 35A bus to Ben Lomond.
- **In Ben Lomond:** Get off at Highway 9 and Main Street and walk or call for a ride.

QUAKER CENTER

Box 686, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

www.quakercenter.org

(831) 336-8333

mail@quakercenter.org