



FERN FRIEND NEWSLETTER

a non-profit Nursing Home for Christian Scientists
accredited by the Department of Care of The Mother Church

APRIL 1978

(415) 886-2448

Dear Fern Friends:

We hope you will be able to attend our Annual Meeting. Mr. Clem W. Collins, C.S.B., our Annual Meeting Speaker, was Publisher's Agent in Boston for eleven years. He recently finished a three-year term as First Reader of The Mother Church. Mr. Collins began his practice locally in Los Altos, California.

Fern Lodge operates a 29-bed Nursing Home for Christian Scientists charging modest rates and maintaining 98% occupancy. Two-thirds of our patients, mostly of advanced age, no longer have their own funds and must have state aid (Medi-Cal). Along with the nursing care which they all need, we provide a sense of home and family for them. That this is a need in our Christian Science community today we are assured, because our waiting list continues to remain long and importunate. From the Fern Lodge support group in Walnut Creek comes word that procedures have been set in motion to establish a sheltered care and nursing facility in that area. What a great idea and how much it is needed! Anyone interested in helping, please call HAZEL SNEDDEN (415) 935-2394, or COLLEEN ENGSTROM, (415) 939-7268.

Progress at Fern Lodge continues! Thanks to your constant generous metaphysical support opportunities for growth have been met with vigor and success. During recent storms, heavy rainfall caused slippage of the hill behind the Annex building. At first thought to be an emergency situation, tests by a professional soils engineering firm resulted in a workable plan to correct the existing situation and to forestall future problems. Repair work will begin shortly at a cost of slightly over \$10,000. At the same time, improved drainage and a smoother concrete walking area for the Main House patio will be constructed including a connecting strip to the Annex ramp. Since our operating revenues do not provide for any needed improvements of the facility continuing support from the field is vital.

Beside the funds which you so generously continue to give us, and for which we are always grateful, our greatest continuing need is for Christian Scientists to hear the Father's call into Christian Science nursing as a career, thereby blessing themselves and many former church members including some who have been practitioners and nurses.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Eugene DeBolt, Danville; Vice President: Elizabeth S. Dempsey, Castro Valley; Secretary-Treasurer: Hazel Wilson, Hayward; Directors: E. Alfaretta Ballou, Oakland; Arthur W. Brandenburg, Hayward; Bernice Bryan Brown, Berkeley; Muriel Chisholm, Castro Valley; Harriett Eagerblade, Castro Valley; Frances Griffeth, Walnut Creek; Robert H. Griffin, San Leandro; Ronald Macdonald, Oakland; Herbert H. Mitchell, Berkeley; Marion D. Nawman, Piedmont. Administrator: Emily M. Valentine, Castro Valley.

METAPHYSICAL TALKS

"STAFF OF LIFE" TO THE STAFF AND BOARD AT FERN LODGE, ARE THE QUARTERLY METAPHYSICAL TALKS. HERE ARE SOME RANDOM NOTES ON A FEW OF THE TOPICS COVERED BY TWO OF THE RECENT SPEAKERS.

JACK E. HUBBELL, C.S.B. of Palo Alto, stated that seeing is not believing but actually believing is seeing. What we see is indicative of what is in our consciousness. The world we look out upon is the world of our own thought. The human consciousness is the control tower that determines our human experience. Hence, it is imperative that we accept the Christ into our consciousness and thereby improve our human experience. Mrs. Eddy speaks of Christian Science as divine Science applied to humanity. We are not responsible for all the ills of the world, but we are responsible for what we accept into consciousness.

He also spoke about income, emphasizing that many problems boil down to a variation of the theme of lack. Also, that income is not from our job or the government, but that God, good, is the source and man is always at the standpoint of receiving. Hence our occupation is not our income but our outgo.

Concerning age, Mr. Hubbell pointed out that God is ageless, and that principles don't grow older. For instance, $2 + 2$ doesn't become less with time. The problem is not a mortal, aging man, nor is it a spiritual man with a belief of aging. The problem is a belief calling itself an aging man. We must refute the belief. The goal is not to be young or old but to demonstrate the eternality of ageless being.

DUANE GUNNISON, C.S.B. of Walnut Creek told the nurses, "When you are weary with fatigue, you may wonder why you chose Christian Science Nursing as a career. You didn't choose it. God chose you!" He explained that they are precious to God, called of God into care work, just as Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy were called of God to do their work. He said, "Be as sure of your calling as they were. Know God loves you. Don't let the stupification of matter crush the divine destiny out of your careers.

"The work seems to become burdensome and difficult when unwarily you think other people's thoughts. Even Elijah had to learn not to be influenced by other's thoughts. When Jezebel threatened his life he prayed that he might die, but this was not his thinking. Mind declares unto you what is your thought, you can't be brainwashed by mortal mind. You gain strength from above as you take 'deep draughts from the fount of divine Love'. (Mis. IX:17)

"Challenge fatigue, weariness and discouragement, which are not your thinking at all. They are just the elements of mortal mind being thrown at you, which Mrs. Eddy describes as stubborn will, callous breast, self-righteousness and earth's stupid rest. (Christian Science Hymn No. 304) Don't come down to that level. When your lamps are trimmed and burning you are not subject to simple dulling and weariness. Spend more time praying for yourselves."

To stress the importance of being wise in what they are doing, he told the nurses the story of a man having trouble sawing wood with a dull saw. When asked "Why don't you sharpen it?" he replied, "I don't have time to sharpen it, I have all this wood to cut!" Mr. Gunnison went on to assure them that their job is to keep their thinking clear, see what evil would try to do, and handle "the error that is damning men", (My 11:1) since depletion of energy and fatigue do not appear when they keep a sense of dominion over their affairs.

WEDNESDAY AT THE LODGE



Every afternoon something "happens" at Fern Lodge, but Wednesday is undoubtedly the favorite.

At 1:00, the weekly Testimony Meeting begins. Pictured at the left is the regular organist, Elizabeth Bloom, a practitioner from Fremont.



One of the Readers, Ione Smythe (shown standing in insert) of First Church, Hayward, has just handed the microphone to one of the congregation.

Almost everyone of the small group has something to contribute.

If you would enjoy reading on Wednesday, please call Betty Fraser at (415) 376-3508.



Many of the residents then wait expectantly until 2:45 p.m. when Pat Perry (pictured at the left) arrives, courtesy of the Castro Valley Adult Education, to lead the group in exercises and balloon-toss.

"FAMILY" DOINGS



Working together over the months and years has made us a family in caring about one another as well as for our residents. And it isn't all work!

(ABOVE) A radiant Stella Howze, a five-year worker at the Lodge, is congratulated by (left to right) Housekeeper Barbara Myers, Nurse's Aide Orlene Beckley, former Board member Arliss Harmon and her husband Ted, and Graduate Nurse Dorothy Farquhar — all at the reception after the wedding of Stella's daughter Cathy, who occasionally helps out at Fern Lodge.

(RIGHT) As if Zelpha Eatherton didn't have her hands full conducting her weekly cooking class, she now takes it upon herself to come an added day to pretty-up our ladies with attractive hairdos.



(LEFT) Assistant Administrator Bob McVey and wife Anna Lisa introduce you to new family member Rachel, shown at 3 months. Next to her is her older brother Gabriel. Every once in a while Bob's family visits with guests & staff, all part of the "family."

VOLUNTEER NEWS

NEW VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR

As many of you know, our permanent Volunteer Director is MRS. MURIEL CHISHOLM at (415) 538-7215. After spending most of her life in the Boston area where she worked directly under Frances Carlson in the service department of the Publisher's Agent, she moved here three years ago to be near her daughter's family. Long-time supporters of Fern Lodge, the Richard Mack family introduced Mrs. Chisholm to our activities. Less than a year ago she was elected to the Board and has assumed the responsibility of scheduling and training volunteers.

VOLUNTEER BOOK

Available now to Fern Friends is a Volunteer booklet. A guide to who-what-when-where-and-why, it gives specific dos and don'ts as well as general information on volunteer activities at and for Fern Lodge. It is available through Volunteer Director Muriel Chisholm.



(LEFT) Hayward First Church member Robert Pottol fills in for gardener and handyman Bob Honeycutt while Bob was away for several months. During that time he put in new curbing along our exit driveway which protects a drainage pipe.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Members of our three out-lying support groups in Rossmoor, Walnut Creek and Berkeley continue their very good work.

Each month they've covered these special areas of metaphysical work, assigned by the Administrator: Freedom, Divine nature, Progress, Harmony and Faithfulness.

Since our last Newsletter in November, they've made and contributed dozens of nighties, bibs, napkins, terry towels, cookies, afghans, seven velvet frogs, plus \$30 towards last Christmas. All of these are very welcome and much needed. Each member donates one dollar per meeting that pays for materials.

Held once a month, the meetings last an hour and no refreshments are served.

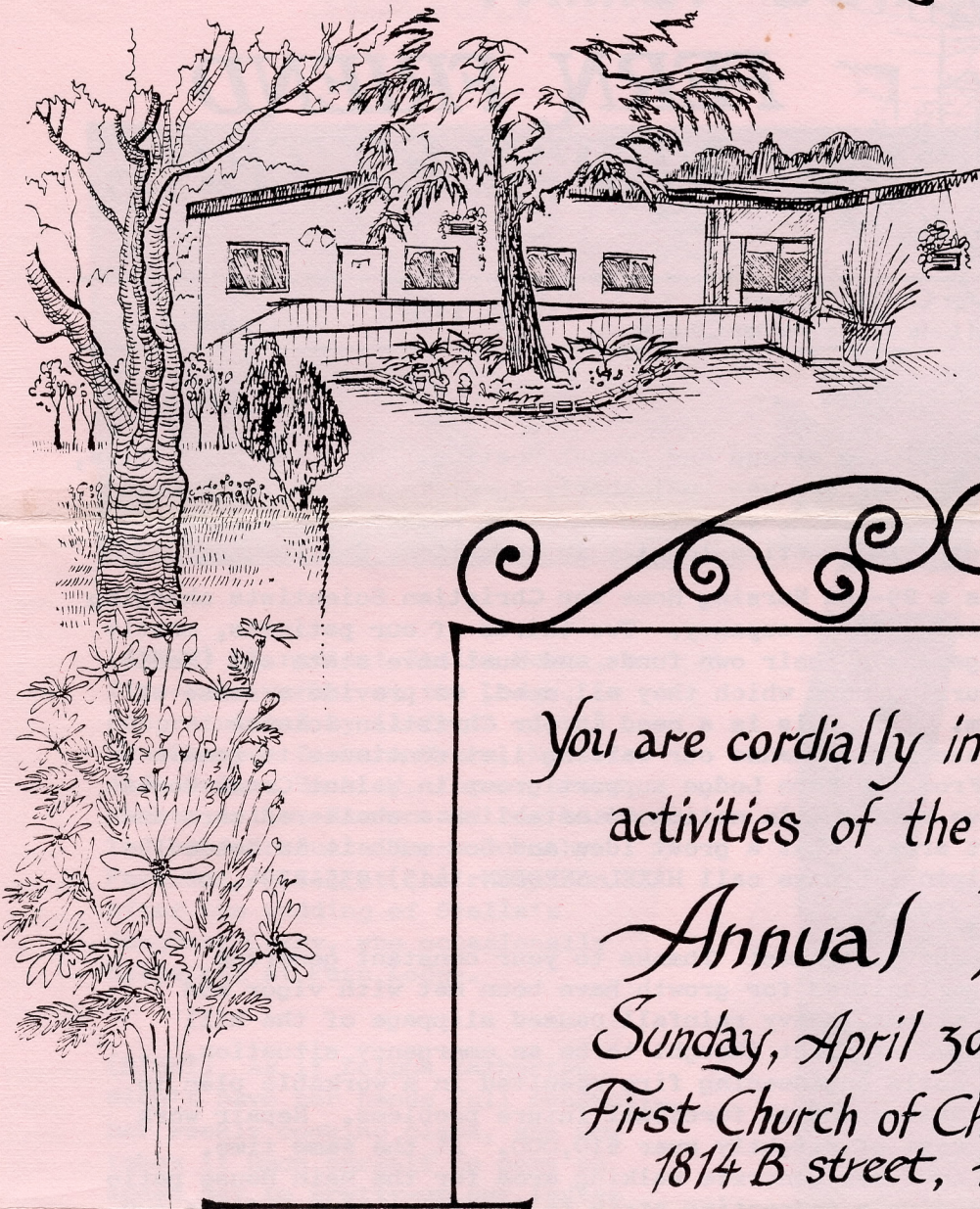
If you would like to start a group in your area, call DIRECTOR FRANCES GRIFFETH at (415) 937-8461. It only takes two to begin. Requirements are Branch or Mother Church membership and an interest in supporting the work of Fern Lodge.



(LEFT) Introduced by her daughter to the joys of working at the Lodge, Velma Bryant has come every Saturday to read to the guests in the Main House living room.

ORGANISTS and PIANISTS are very much needed to play for 11:10 a.m. Sunday Services at the Lodge. If enough volunteers are on the list, one person will need to play only once every five or six weeks. Please call DIRECTOR ART BRANDENBURG at (415) 538-8990.

FERN LODGE, Inc.



*You are cordially invited to join in the
activities of the Fern Lodge*

Annual Meeting

*Sunday, April 30, at 2:30 p.m.
First Church of Christ Scientist
1814 B street, Hayward*

*Following the
Annual
Meeting ~
Refreshments
at the Lodge*

to hear

*Clem W. Collins, C.S.B.
of Boston, Massachusetts*

"Your Family Needs You"

18457 Madison Avenue, Castro Valley, California, 94546