



*Fern Lodge Focus – April 2007*

**You are invited to our Annual Meeting  
April 29, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.**

**First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hayward**

**The featured talk will be**

**“Mary Baker Eddy, Her Character and Mission”**

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED — MARY KUHL, FERN LODGE BOARD PRESIDENT

Over the past five years, we've heard serious questions about the purpose of Christian Science nursing, fund raising, and education at Fern Lodge. I'd like to take this opportunity to answer some of them.

1. *Do Christian Scientists go to Fern Lodge for healing, or just to be taken care of for the rest of their lives?*

The purpose of Fern Lodge is to heal. We are about demonstrating life that bears witness to Life! Each month at our board meetings we hear a report of healings taking place at our facility. Please see the letter of thanks from a patient on the next page. Often we accept patients who have had to leave other Christian Science facilities because either they have spent all their assets and cannot pay for their care anymore, or because they are considered a disturbance. We have seen cases in which confusion and disturbing behavior were healed quickly, and the patients have been happy and grateful in the joyous atmosphere of Fern Lodge. Sometimes a patient may become discouraged and give up hope for healing, but that is part of the error to be addressed metaphysically by the practitioner, as well as by our nursing staff. Some patients, because of the mental nature of disease, seem not to be able to pray for themselves and so might give the impression that they are just waiting to die at Fern Lodge. But our nursing staff does not take that view nor do the Christian Science practitioners who are giving them daily Christian Science treatment. Those working at Fern Lodge expect healing!

2. *Why is Fern Lodge always asking for money?*

Your donations to Fern Lodge are used to supply the benevolence we give to those who are unable to pay for their care. Without your generosity, many of your fellow Christian Scientists would find themselves in hospitals or medical nursing homes. We have no property to sell when money is needed, and no large endowment other than God's daily grace. Rather than refuse admittance to a Christian Scientist who cannot pay, or ask a patient to leave when his money has run out, we offer some degree of benevolence. If all patients could pay their bills we would not ask for financial help, except to pay for unusual facility repairs and building improvements.

3. *Is the Christian Science nurse education offered at Fern Lodge thorough and complete, or must a Christian Scientist go elsewhere for a full education and training experience?*

The quality of our Christian Science Nurse Education Program is excellent, as thorough and spiritually focused as is available anywhere. And it's innovative, to boot! Instruction takes place at our facility and in the field. Sharon Strong is our Director of Christian Science Nursing and Education. She leads a team of well-qualified instructors and mentors on our staff and in our community, who contribute to our overall program of instruction and guided work experience. Our classroom is not limited to our facility, but instructors commute to those students who cannot easily get to Fern Lodge. Please see the next page for a note from one of our students. Our instructors and mentors bring many years of expertise, skill, and inspiration to their nursing practices. Students often come from other countries for training at Fern Lodge. Carlos Ley is an experienced *Journal*-listed nurse with a background in bilingual instruction. He teaches English/Spanish classes for Christian Scientists whose first language is Spanish. We now have three Spanish-speaking students, and we have applicants in other countries who are waiting to come for Christian Science nursing instruction.

Now that you know the facts, you can help others to understand the answers to these questions.

Mary Kuhl, President  
Fern Lodge Board of Directors

## FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING — SUNDAY APRIL 29 AT 2:30 P.M.

Our Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday afternoon, April 29 at 2:30**, at **First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1814 B Street, Hayward**. Ample parking and childcare are available. In addition to reports of progress from Fern Lodge you will hear a talk on the topic, "**MARY BAKER EDDY, HER CHARACTER AND MISSION**," given by Brad Stock, who is uniquely qualified to speak at the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting, and on our topic.

### ABOUT BRAD STOCK

Brad graduated from Principia College and earned a PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He has worked on the staff at *The Christian Science Monitor* and taught at Principia College. He served at The Mother Church as Manager of the Church History Department and as a Special Researcher in the Office of the Christian Science Board of Directors. He and his family now live in Columbus, Ohio, where Brad serves as Administrator and member of the Board of Trustees at Glenmont, a Christian Science nursing facility. We are sure you will enjoy and be inspired by the glimpse of Mary Baker Eddy's character Brad will share with us.

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### THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT CARE

"I'm going home today. I am very grateful there was room for me when my need was great. When I first arrived it took two nurses to lift me. The nurses were very loving, and they expressed their love in their attention to my needs. I enjoyed my room with the large glass sliding doors looking out to a garden. I also enjoyed very much the excellent home-cooked meals and relaxed, homey environment which Fern Lodge offers. It was also very pleasant to have easy access to the patio on warm sunny days to eat a meal or sit and read and just enjoy the surroundings. I hadn't realized that Fern Lodge took in so many elderly patients who need complete care. This is a wonderful place for them. Where else would they go, as they deserve to be well cared for?"

"I feel my whole experience here has contributed to my healing."

—from a former patient at Fern Lodge

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### A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING EDUCATION

"As my home nursing practice grows, so does my appreciation of the ongoing training I've received from Fern Lodge over the past three years. Fern Lodge has been wonderfully flexible in terms of scheduling — I could not have otherwise taken the classes — but the program itself has been quite structured. Each course followed the pattern of delving deep into the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings with each new concept, followed by classroom teaching and discussion, and then moving to practical applications and practice. I gained a strong grounding in nursing skills as well as the principles behind them, excellent and supportive mentoring as I stepped onto the nursing floor, and an example of nursing from my instructor of the tenderness that transforms the mundane into the holy. Also, because a good part of the training took place in a home setting, I've been readily able to adapt the nursing principles taught in the classroom to the unique environments in which I find myself on cases.

"The patient, nurturing support I received from the instructor, the administrator and other staff, as well as classmates has helped me grow in my relationship to God, grow as an individual, and most definitely grow in this profession. Now I'm so grateful to know that I can fulfill the *Manual* by-law 'Christian Science Nurse,' and that I can ably respond to needs for nursing care in my community."

—Jennifer Babcock, Christian Science Nurse

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## April Showers In February???

In February a pipe carrying water for the automatic fire sprinkler system broke under the building and flooded a section of the facility. The staff was quite surprised to see water rising around them, but since they did not hear a voice telling them to build an ark and fill it two by two, they simply vacated the nurses' kitchen and break rooms, along with several patient rooms, and turned off the water line feeding the sprinkler system. We immediately called for assistance with clean-up and repairs, and we are glad to say that our fire protection system is again fully functional.

We are grateful for the quick response that kept the damage confined to a small area. However, our insurance company will not pay for repairs to the pipe that broke under the building. The cost of replacing the pipe will total about \$20,000. This is where the old saying "April showers brings May flowers" comes into play. We would be grateful for any "bouquets" that you might be able to send to help with the cost of the repairs.

In addition to the immediate repairs to our plumbing, we need to replace the carpet in our dining area and office, repair several double-pane windows and doors, and build a new patient shower room. The cost of these building repairs will come to about \$50,000. Your contribution at this time will help us to maintain the beauty and grace, as well as the safety and efficiency, of our facility buildings. We thank you in advance for your kindness and care.

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Castro Valley, CA 94546

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