

FERN LODGE FOCUS — APRIL 2011

“LIVING ETERNAL LIFE” — OUR ANNUAL MEETING TOPIC

We asked guests at Fern Lodge if they would like to share ideas about “LIVING ETERNAL LIFE.” They replied: Eternal Life

- ...is our true consciousness.
- ...is living in the grace of God’s consciousness.
- ...is infinite good appearing in one’s life and as one’s life because of our focus on God’s ever-present good as the only reality.
- ...is being exclusively conscious of omnipotent good in the present moment. One experiences infinite good when one holds to the truth and claims the presence of the allness of God’s infinite goodness.



CONSTRUCTION NEWS

The drawing on the left shows the architect’s rendition of the new Fern Lodge entrance. Through the extended periods of heavy rain, we have kept this drawing close at hand to remind us of the goal we are working toward. The other two photos below show the present state of the entrance, with work postponed due to rain, and the new concrete pad with drainage that was required before we could proceed with the original remodeling plan.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Work on the new Fern Lodge entryway and reception area is progressing, though more slowly than expected. A major delay, and significant additional expense, resulted when we learned that we were required to provide a drainage system for the area where our garbage and recycling dumpsters are kept. That system soon will be in place, and we are ready to work on the original project, the new reception area and Fern Lodge entrance.



Former entrance—first steps of remodeling

The delay may well have been a blessing in disguise when the timing is considered. If we had begun work on the entrance as scheduled, it is likely that part of the roof would have been removed during the recent extended periods of heavy rain. This was a time of earnest prayer, hard work, and trust in divine protection. We are grateful for God’s constant care and impeccable timing. Up-to-date information about this project is in the blog on our website, <http://fernlodge.org>.



ADDITIONAL COST OF THE PROJECT — \$25,000

Pictured at left is the concrete slab and footing for the enclosure we were required to build for our trash and recycling bins. Walls and doors are still to be finished, as well as paving to repair the driveway that was removed to install the drainage system. We ask for your financial assistance with this project. The cost of the drainage system came to about \$25,000, which is in addition to the \$200,000 cost of the entrance and reception area.

Fern Lodge • 18457 Madison Avenue • Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510.886.2448 • fernlodge.org

TWO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES — NEWLY LISTED IN *THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE JOURNAL*

We are grateful to share with you the wonderful news that two of the Fern Lodge Christian Science nurses recently were approved to advertise their services in *The Christian Science Journal*. This was especially joyous for us because both of these loving and inspired individuals came to Fern Lodge from Peru in order to complete our Christian Science Nursing Education Program. If you or anyone you know has the tender yet spiritually strong qualities needed in Christian Science nursing and would like to learn more about our education program, please contact Sharon Strong, Director of Christian Science Nursing, at info@fernlodge.org or 510-886-2448.



Margarita Ley shared the following ideas with us:

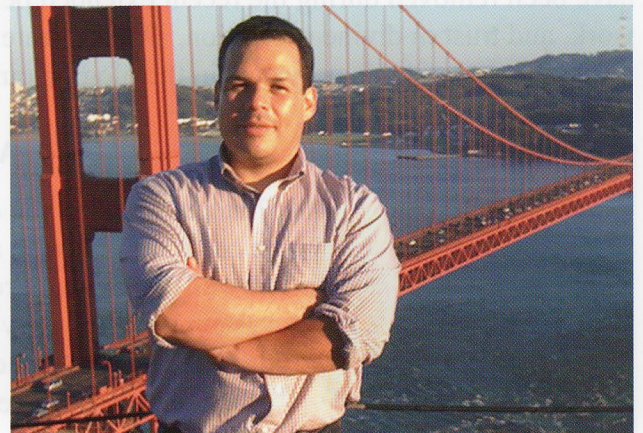
“Our leader Mary Baker Eddy says in her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* that, “An ill-tempered, complaining, or deceitful person should not be a nurse. The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, —receptive to Truth and Love” (395:17-20). Pondering her words, —seeing that being receptive to Truth means listening carefully to the Christ, and that being attentive to Love means always obeying our Father-Mother God— helped me greatly to become listed in *The Christian Science Journal* as a Christian Science nurse. I always count on the unconditional help of all my beloved family members and

friends at Fern Lodge. They give me the support I need in order for me to love God above all things, and they help me to help my neighbor by loving him or her as myself, as our Master, Jesus Christ, taught us when he said that these two commandments were the ones needed to reach eternal life.”



Alvaro La Rosa wrote while he was visiting family in Peru. He said, “I am glad to share with you a little bit about my progress as a Christian Science nurse since my name was listed in *The Christian Science Journal*. This was a very important step for me. It reinforced my feeling that it is necessary as a Christian Science nurse for me to be responsible in everything I do. I turn to God to be sure I make the right decisions and show the kindness and healing love that I’m able to express as I assist patients. I recognize more than ever the importance of being spiritually prepared before I visit a patient. And I am thankful to have the opportunity to demonstrate the divine power of God.

“Advertising in the *Journal* opened the way for me to serve as a visiting Christian Science nurse. In this position it is very important to realize that I am the responsible individual on a case when I am there, while in a facility there always is somebody to give me a hand. It is necessary to remember that it is my constant connection with God that will enable me to make sound decisions. In addition, my daily work is not scheduled, and my plans might change at any time, so I need to be alert all the time. I am amazed how much I get from God when I open my heart to let divine Love govern there.”



This year's Fern Lodge annual meeting will consider the topic, "Living Eternal Life." We invite our readers to prayerfully consider this idea with us. At the conclusion of the Passover meal, Jesus lifted up his eyes in prayer towards heaven and said, "And this is **life eternal**, that they might **know** thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" [John 17:3, emphasis added].

Jesus said this knowing that soon he must pass through the experience that humanity called death. But in the midst of human betrayal and tragedy came this clear message of the eternality of life. Here Jesus links eternal life with the idea of *knowing* God and Jesus Christ. The 1913 version of Webster says that to "know" is "to perceive or apprehend clearly and certainly; to understand; to have full information of; as, to know one's duty." To understand our eternal Life, we must actively "know" God.

As Christian Scientists we have six tenets that are primary to our understanding of God and Jesus Christ (see *Science and Health* page 497). The fifth tenet states: "We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to **understand eternal Life**, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter" [emphasis added].

As we approach the Easter season, it is great to recall that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus were to uplift our faith. It is a joyous time for us to perceive the eternality of life as was proven by Christ Jesus' demonstration over the grave at the morning meal with his disciples. We can perceive the understanding of Life daily in our experience. But merely continuing existence in matter does not lead to eternal Life, which the material senses never can behold. God's eternal demand on His creation is to understand Life and the infinite manifestation of His Being. We can perceive this manifestation of Life in acts of compassion, or a new perception of truth, or a flower. We invite you to consider with us this passage from *Miscellaneous Writings*, page 179:

**WE CAN PERCEIVE THE UNDERSTANDING
OF LIFE DAILY IN OUR EXPERIENCE.**

"What is it that seems a stone between us and the resurrection morning?

"It is the belief of mind in matter. We can only come into the spiritual resurrection by quitting the old consciousness of Soul in sense."

"In 1866, when God revealed to me this risen Christ, this Life that knows no death, that saith, 'Because he lives, I live,' I awoke from the dream of Spirit in the flesh so far as to take the side of Spirit, and strive to cease my warfare."

— Brian Stock

MORE IDEAS FROM FERN LODGE GUESTS

Eternal Life

- ...is expressing the perfection of God. It is the freedom to Love, because one knows only Love.
- ...is dwelling wholly in a good thought until that thought becomes an active presence in one's life.
- ...is that place of salvation where we are no longer experiencing the effects of false beliefs of a limited, mortal mind, because we are communing with God and having only His thoughts.
- ...is being alive to the understanding that man is like God, and taking note of this present spiritual good, one experiences the fullness and glory of it.

FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING — “LIVING ETERNAL LIFE”

SUNDAY, MAY 15, AT 2:30 P.M.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

2164 CENTRAL AVENUE • ALAMEDA, CA



Susan Breuer, C.S.

“Living Eternal Life” will be the topic of a talk given by Susan Breuer, a Christian Science practitioner from San Mateo, CA, who has been listed in *The Christian Science Journal* since 2005. Before devoting herself to the full-time healing practice of Christian Science, she earned a Master’s degree from Stanford University. Her earlier work experience includes musical performance and several years teaching violin, both in schools and privately.

Her deep respect for and understanding of Christian Science nursing come from her own experience. Her testimony of healing was printed in the pamphlet “To Be A Christian Science Nurse” and also in the special October 5, 2005 issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*, titled “What is a Christian Science Nurse?” Mrs. Breuer was featured in a front-page article, including

a picture, in a December 2009 story on Christian Science that appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. That same year she was also featured in a newspaper article titled “San Mateo Resident Attests to the Healing Power of Prayer,” which was carried in five local Bay Area newspapers. An interview with her was included in a video prepared by The Mother Church titled “Christian Scientists and Medical Issues.”

Mrs. Breuer has held all the various positions in the Christian Science branch churches where she has been a member, and she recently finished a term as First Reader. Her inspirational talks at Arden Wood and for the Peninsula Visiting Nurse Service have been very well received.

The annual meeting also will include reports from the Fern Lodge board and staff. Child care will be available.

Fern Lodge Focus — April 2011

18457 Madison Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546

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