



FERN LODGE OPEN HOUSE — MAY 20 2017

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!

This year, 2017, marks the 50th year of Fern Lodge's incorporation as a Christian Science care facility, devoted to demonstrating Christian Science healing. Much has changed in 50 years, and through all those changes Fern Lodge has been growing, and today it is stronger than ever.

Why celebrate 50 years?

It is a great opportunity to “**gather in the good,**” to remember blessings and healings, honor workers, appreciate growth, gain perspective, and continue moving forward! It's like opening a drawer full of treasures—some hard-won, some messy, some glowing, some exquisite, some weighty—which collectively express Fern Lodge's unique character. Pausing to recall the challenges and the victories, we are glad that “All the good the past hath had remains to make our own time glad” (Hymn 238).

How will we celebrate?

- We are gathering written **recollections, reflections, impressions & healings** shared by some of our long time and more recent friends.
- We are assembling a **history of Fern Lodge** in stories and pictures.
- We will hold an **Open House on May 20** — come anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for a tour and to share in a day of music, food, & friends.

We would love to hear how Fern Lodge has touched your experience. It can be a long or short statement about a healing you had or witnessed, a lesson learned, a person you remember, an insight gained, or an experience you wish to share. We will add your contribution to our display.

Please email your contribution to info@fernlodge.org

We hope to see you at our Open House on May 20!

ANNUAL MEETING IN THE FALL

Our Annual Meeting this year is planned for October 25. It will be an extension of our 50th year celebration. We will focus on fresh inspiration based on our years of experience in Christian Science nursing. Look for more information in our summer **FERN LODGE FOCUS**.

With love, and appreciation for all your support,

THE FERN LODGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TOM PORT

ANNA LISA KRONMAN

JOEL CARICO

JENNY PRATT

TRINKA WASIK

BETSY ANUMU

GEORGE STRONG

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES TRAINING NEWS

- **Do you love to help people?**
- **Do you express tender, caring qualities, such as gentleness, compassion for others' challenges, and a desire to look beyond appearances to see the individual of God's creating?**
- **Do you have a growing understanding of Christian Science practice? Does your heart yearn to be part of Christian Science healing and joy in seeing the power of God in action?**
- **Are you committed to Church and its worldwide healing ministry?**

If you answered "yes" to the questions above, and you are a member of The Mother Church and a branch church, society or CSO, you may be eligible to begin training to be a Christian Science nurse. Fern Lodge welcomes individuals from all over the US and Canada, and also from countries in Europe, South America, Africa, and Asia.

Before you begin training, you should have an understanding of how to heal in Christian Science and a desire to develop and improve your understanding and practice of Christian Science. You also should be able to study independently and accept correction graciously. You will need to be able to read and write in English. Classes are given in Spanish in countries where it is the official language.

A full range of courses is available in four levels to help those wishing to be Christian Science nurses. These courses may be taken during four-week periods with other students, or over the course of a few months to accommodate a work schedule. All training begins in a classroom setting where the metaphysical foundation is established.

During classes you will learn concepts of care and ethics that are in consonance with the teachings of Christian Science. Nursing skills are discussed and practiced in the classroom, followed by opportunities to observe those skills and ethics with patients.

Level 1 provides an overview of Christian Science nursing, and covers topics such as personal care and bathing; assistance with standing, walking, using mobility aids, such as wheelchairs and other assistive devices; dressing and undressing; tray service, food preparation, and assistance with meals; reading aloud; ethics; and public relations.

Levels 2 and 3 move into more advanced skills such as bed care; cleansing and bandaging of wounds; care in sudden or unusual situations; and care in home settings. Experience in home settings is available under the observation of spiritually inspired and experienced *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses. Class Instruction is required before entering this level.

Level 4 includes review of all practical skills and ethics plus Christian Science nursing care for mother and infant at the birth of a child; supervision; teaching Christian Science nurses ways to teach and mentor other Christian Science nurses; and camp and school Christian Science nursing.

Christian Science nurses who desire to refresh their skills and ethics, and learn about new products and procedures, may attend a several-day course tailored to their needs. Practical experience on our Christian Science nursing floor is also available. For those not able to come to Fern Lodge, training in certain courses may be available through Skype or other computer based programs.

With the experience you've gained, you may want to list your name in *The Christian Science Journal* to advertise your availability to the public. Your loving service is needed the world over, in Christian Science nursing facilities, private homes of Christian Scientists, visiting Christian Science nursing services, and at schools and camps for Christian Science children. A list of Christian Science organizations may be found at the website, <http://www.aocsn.org>.

NATIONAL FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

A new nationwide benevolence fund is available to assist in paying for Christian Science nursing care. If you need financial assistance for Christian Science nursing care, you can apply to the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing (NFCSN) for a grant. The fund will open in April.

You can read more at nfcsn.org.

NFCSN grants can help you with care costs at any Christian Science nursing facility. They can also help you pay for private duty nursing in your home. While the NFCSN may not be able to cover all your costs, it can be an aid to you while you work to demonstrate healing as practiced in Christian Science.

The NFCSN has received donations from The Mother Church, individuals, and foundations that have enabled them to launch the fund this year. This fund is administered by The Principle Foundation—a nonprofit that has been offering financial support to students of Christian Science for over fifty years.

The metaphysical theme for the fund's opening is a quote from Mrs. Eddy: "When we are willing to help and to be helped, divine aid is near" (My 166:19). What a joy it is to receive help from a Christian Science nurse who is affirming your present wholeness and health.

To apply to NFCSN for a grant, fill out an online application at nfcsn.org or call 1-816-759-5450 or 1-800-873-2843.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES TRAINING NEWS, CONTINUED

There is tuition for each level of training, and costs associated with staying at Fern Lodge during the classroom and training periods. Financial assistance is available for those who need it.

Call, write or email Sharon Strong at 510-886-2448, ext. 222, or sharonstrong.fern lodge@gmail.com for more information about classes and for an application.

So, if you are looking for something meaningful to do for your fellowman—if you have raised a family, had a career, or are out of school and eager to share your experience and love, we are waiting for you!

With love and joyous anticipation,
Sharon Strong
Director of Christian Science Nurses Training



Rosa and Elza take a break from studies

WHAT TO DO AND DO NOT — “CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTICE”

I so appreciate the amazing and earnest work that is quietly going on in this place, day in and day out, at all hours of the day and night. Thank you for the love, care, joy, strength, and inspiration you each bring to your daily tasks. Today, along with a grateful appreciation for the good already practiced, we are going to look for direction on how we might improve. We are going to identify some specific passages in the chapter “Christian Science Practice” in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy. Like professional athletes or concert pianists who practice long hours to improve their performance, we are committed to deepening our practice of what we love, paying attention to the smallest details. And then we’ll do it better.

What is the value of noticing DO and DO NOT statements? Here is what Mrs. Eddy instructed

LIKE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES OR PIANISTS...WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEEPENING OUR PRACTICE OF WHAT WE LOVE, PAYING ATTENTION TO THE SMALLEST DETAILS.

in *Science and Health* on the topic: “He, who understands in a sufficient degree the Principle of Mind-healing, points out to his student error as well as truth, the wrong as well as the right practice” (page 454). Trusting *Science and Health* as a dependable guide, we want to note the right and wrong paths, and take heed.

When I was a Christian Science nursing student, and later working as a Christian Science nurse, I thought that the directions in *Science and Health* given about physicians, doctors, or even healers, didn’t apply to me really, unless it said Christian Scientist or nurse. In my prayer and ponderings on this, Love clarified it for me, letting me know I was not off the hook, just because it didn’t specify “nurse”! I came to see that all those directions actually all apply to Christian Science nurses, especially the physician passages. Let’s look at one at bottom of page 368.

“Once let the mental physician believe in the reality of matter, and he is liable to admit also the reality of all discordant conditions, and this hinders his destroying them.” I see this as DO NOT “admit the reality of matter.” Note on page 376: “To fear and admit the power of disease, is to paralyze mental and scientific demonstration.” Clearly, another DO NOT do this.

Let’s focus on four pages in this remarkable chapter that are rich in action verbs telling us what we should do, need to do, and can do. Others tell plainly what we should not do—the right and the wrong practice. I recommend that we read those four pages as Love itself telling us what to do and how to do it. Here are a few of those great DO statements:

“...dispute the testimony of the material senses with divine Science. Let your higher sense of justice destroy the false process of mortal opinions...”; “Blot out the images of mortal thought and its beliefs in sickness and sin”; “Mentally contradict every complaint from the body and rise to the true consciousness of Life as Love...”; “Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good”; “...speak to disease as one having authority over it, leaving Soul to master the false evidences of the corporeal senses and assert its claims over mortality and disease.”

Now here we are on page 395, and we find another very familiar passage: the most substantive specific paragraph on nurses, right here in the chapter Christian Science Practice. How interesting that it falls right after these vigorous pages of rise, stand porter, insist vehemently, etc. It begins with a DO NOT: “An ill tempered, complaining, or deceitful person should not be a nurse.” And it concludes with a DO: “The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, —receptive to Truth and Love.” As Christian Science nurses, we are grateful for such clear guidance!

Now let's look at what *Science and Health* says just below that passage about nurses, something super-important, I feel, for all of us. "It is mental quackery to make disease a reality—to hold it as something seen and felt—and then to attempt its cure through Mind. It is no less erroneous to believe in the real existence of a tumor, a cancer, or decayed lungs, while you argue against their reality, than it is for your patient to feel these ills in physical belief. Mental practice, which holds disease as a reality, fastens disease on the patient, and it may appear in a more alarming form."

What is the directive here? It's telling us what not to do. This is something we need to be very alert to here as we go about our work, when things can begin to look very real and scary, even overwhelming. We absolutely do not wish to "fasten disease on any patient" by holding disease, confusion, illness, or accident as some kind of legitimate reality. So, let's renew our resolve NOT to do that. Let's commit to practice the best Christian Science nursing and the best Christian service we are capable of, in every department, by daily, hourly, moment by moment, putting our hand in God's, and asking, "What are you seeing, dear Father?"

Help me to see that,
and not be taken in by
these 3-D Halloween
pictures." In your day-to-
day-walk, refuse to see
evil, error of any kind

as a troubling reality. It is correct practice to be very vigorous with yourself in refuting these aggressive, noisy, bossy claims as powerless suggestions instead of disturbing and nagging conditions or realities. Do what we have been talking about. DISMISS those claims and suggestions! Let Love establish the truth. This is steadfastly clarifying your own awareness.

When we see something that frightens us because it seems so convincing, so terrible, or long-lasting; or there is petulance, strife, or even hatred popping up in relationships; or discouragement, hopelessness, or lack of inspiration are sapping our day, I invite

us to remember that these things have no actual power. They are not God-created, thus without law, foundation, or activity. Affirming truths and rejecting errors, we are able to be the best actual help to any patient, whatever the need. In proportion that we acknowledge all power belongs to God and see that all the drama of human experience is just an imposition, completely powerless to hinder or rearrange Love's benevolent government, Truth's action, Mind's determination, or Principle's control, we will be unimpressed. Then we will find we are able to lovingly help where needed.

How does Mrs. Eddy put it? "It is well to be calm in sickness; to be hopeful is still better; but to understand that sickness is not real and that Truth can destroy its seeming reality, is best of all, for this understanding is the universal and perfect remedy" (page 393).

What is the chapter called again? "Christian Science Practice." I invite us all to do a little of that practice together. We all are able to pray. That is the practice I am inviting us all to do together.

LET'S COMMIT OURSELVES TO PRACTICE THE BEST CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING...PUTTING OUR HAND IN GOD'S, ASKING "WHAT ARE YOU SEEING, DEAR FATHER?"

So, let's pray together, first for our community here at Fern Lodge. This is a vital place, not just for the folks who live and work here, but as a public expression of grace and a courageous utterance of God's love, its blessings have no boundaries. Let's pray to not be divided. Let's pray to love every single fellow worker. If you feel you have been wronged by someone, pray especially to love them. Let's embrace our cooks, our housekeepers, our office staff, our maintenance and grounds people, our Christian Science nurses, our practitioners, our patients, and their families. Let's listen to what God has to say and cherish this dear place as forever and permanently in God's hands.

WHAT TO DO AND DO NOT (CONTINUED) — ANNA LISA KRONMAN, C.S

Now, let's widen our prayer-tent to include all of California in it—its churches, mosques, children, teachers, waitresses, highway patrolmen, janitors, doctors, farm workers—whoever comes to mind. Let's actively bless all we can think of, and let's claim Love's government for all.

Now, for our precious nation. Let's embrace its people as loved, loving, and lovable, incapable of being mesmerized or taken in by fear, anger, or violence. Let us strive to see everyone as God's children, naturally kind, intelligent, and good. Let's listen to what Love has to say right now, and acknowledge that God's reign is supreme, here and now, and cannot be overruled.

The very most important communication that has happened today, or will ever take place, is what God, Mind, communicates directly to you. That is yours. It may look like it came from an idea someone shared, a sudden insight into familiar text, a new glimpse into possibilities. Treasure these angels! They are Love feeding you, speaking to you, cherishing you, giving you joy, vision, strength, and purpose. And they are ongoing, showing you what to DO and NOT DO, where to go and not go, and how to safely eliminate what is not good. They lighten up your practice. Thank you for listening to those angels! God bless you and keep you!

Anna Lisa Kronman, C.S.

SIMPLICITY, SWEETNESS, AND GRACE — FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY KEN GOURLEY



These two beautiful arrangements are just a sample of the loving work of Ken Gourley. Ken has served Fern Lodge in several capacities through the years, as a cook, receptionist, gardener, and floral arranger. For a long time he has been a steadfast supporter of Christian Science nursing, working for a time as a Christian Science nurse.

An upcoming *FOCUS* will include more photos of Ken's work, along with some of his thoughtful insights on flower arranging—bringing the grace and beauty of God's creation into our home for the joy and inspiration of us all.

A LETTER OF GRATITUDE AND GRACE FROM A LONG TIME STAFF MEMBER

I always have been grateful the many blessings I have received here, and for the deep way I feel God's grace at work on a daily basis, but recently I was touched by Spirit in a whole new way. I was blown away by what I experienced when one of my family members was taken in by the Fern Lodge family. I have seen a lot of healing over the years, the activity of the Christ manifest as movement of all sorts,—walking again after a fall, character issues healed, anger turn to love,—I have been touched, in some way, by the intelligence and love of every individual with whom I have interacted.

To walk through this experience of grace with my family member shattered walls in my heart. I felt the awe of God's love expressed right where it has always been, even though I had not recognized it. The love this family member received was enormous. And it was very special to me because she was able to accept that love in a way I have never seen her be able to before. That love opened up avenues for her to express her own love for others—her natural helpfulness and her service to God. She was brought into this circle of love—divine Love—which she accepted in a new way, and she began to glow from the renewed sense that blossomed within her. Stagnation opened to usefulness and purpose expressed; and isolation opened to sharing with people who are loving, kind, accepting and knowledgeable.

I was a bit concerned because she is new to Christian Science, about 8 months along now, many years after a brief stint in the Christian Science Sunday School. But the whole Fern Lodge staff looked on her heart, and this family member's identity in Christ was opened in a way I had not seen previously. Everyone made the effort to connect with the good, the true and real aspects of her being, and there was a light of God's love shining from her countenance on the day I took her home. And my siblings saw the light and love resting on her and were astounded, as they had never seen her in that light before.

The light of the Christ had touched her life in a brand new way that was tangible. I was delighted to feel her joy of living return and I was grateful for how clearly she was speaking again. What's more, I was able to assist her at home because her needs and communication style were so markedly changed. More importantly, I got a renewed sense of hope, because helping her became less of a burden as we both began expressing more light and love in our interactions. I began again to feel more completely the hope of a full healing rather than just barely making it from one day to the next, being overwhelmed at my experience. Both our experiences changed for the better. The walls in my heart cracked open at the overflowing expression of love and grace at Fern Lodge, and that helped renew my own sense of what it means to love.

Although this grace happens every day at Fern Lodge—I see it over and over—to experience these changes in one of my family members in only a week made me appreciate anew what I get to be a part of everyday. It led me to recognize the value of God's love sought out in each other and to realize that I have underestimated the prosperity that comes with loving and serving on a daily basis. Every day, through our study and practice of Christian Science, we touch the hem of Christ's robe and express those exalted views in practical footsteps that touch the lives of others. It makes a very big difference, not only to those we share it with, but we, too, are touched in ways we can never really preconceive. I thank all the dedicated Christian Science nurses, cooks, housekeepers and management team who are faithful to a common goal,—to love more. It means so much that my family member was included. This love has changed my life.

This family member gave a testimony at one of the Fern Lodge Church meetings. She said, "Thank you, all of you, for helping me to blossom." And I too want to thank everyone at Fern Lodge dearly for everything they do.

Fern Lodge Focus — April 2017

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Castro Valley, CA 94546**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

***“A GRATEFUL HEART A GARDEN IS, WHERE THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM
FOR EVERY LOVELY, GOD-LIKE GRACE TO COME TO PERFECT BLOOM.” — Hymn 3***

Two dear Christian Science nurses on the Fern Lodge staff, Rachel and Mark McClintick, have donated their time to prepare a lovely grace-full garden for the enjoyment of patients. Soon it will be overflowing with vegetables, fruits and flowers. The first garden beds should be finished and planted in time for our May 20 open house

We could use your help. As you can see in the bottom right photo, the raised beds need retaining walls to keep them stable, and a path needs to be paved for wheelchair access. The cost of materials will be \$5,000. A generous donor has offered to match gifts to pay for this project for up to half the total amount. We will hold a garden party soon to build the planting beds.

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

Grateful Heart Garden sign
Rachel with Joel Carico, Fern Lodge Board member
Raised beds ready for retaining walls
Fruit trees waiting to be planted
Mark by the garden gate

