

# THIS YEAR THE FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING

will be held

**Sunday afternoon**  
**May 1, 2005 at 2:30 P.M.**

The meeting will be at

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**2 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek**

**Jack Hubbell, C.S.B.**

from Palo Alto, California

will share ideas on the topic

## ***UNITY DEMONSTRATED***

It seems that wherever we look we see evidence of division — developed and third world nations, Muslims and Christians, Arabs and Jews, red states and blue states, families with divorced parents, contentious issues in religious denominations.

Christian Science nursing fosters harmony and unity, based on acknowledgment of one universal God, good. We are grateful to share a message we trust will promote unity and healing in our community and our world.

Jack Hubbell is well qualified to speak on the topic of unity. He is a Christian Science practitioner and teacher. He is active in church, and for 17 years he served on the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Mr. Hubbell and his wife live in Palo Alto, California and have three children.

**Parking is available at the church, and child care will be provided.**

# EVIDENCE, EXPECTATION, EXPERIENCE...

A recent note from a family member of a patient at Fern Lodge said, "...in remembering all the love and gentleness and patience and joy that I have seen at Fern Lodge...I humbly thank each one of you for your individual expression of the glory of God." We are grateful to God for His grace, which allows us to express love, gentleness, patience and joy, because we accept only true evidence and expect only good.

## Evidence?

One morning not long ago I woke up and started to get ready for my day at Fern Lodge. But within moments I felt awful; I felt all the symptoms of flu, and I knew this because those symptoms had been described everywhere, in the news and in advertisements, over the previous weeks.

A nurse comes on duty and looks at her schedule for the day. As she begins to plan for her shift, she learns that one of the nurses who is scheduled to work that shift is not able to come that day, so each remaining nurse will be asked to do a little more.

Our Board and administration are discussing a budget for the next year. They set the daily rate to cover the cost of providing care, and the charges are fair. But they know from experience that 80% of those who apply for nursing will not be able to afford it.

The photograph on this page illustrates these situations. What if the picture on this page is on my desk with a note clipped to it saying that it shows a serious problem affecting our gardens? Something is amiss. What should we do, study the photo to determine what's wrong with the garden? Of course not. This photo obviously does not represent any garden, and if you look at the photo on the next page of this article, you'll see a lovely camellia now in bloom in the patio garden at Fern Lodge.

## Expectation?

It may surprise you to learn that these two photos are exactly the same, except for one factor. The first is not in focus, while the second is. Which one is correct? The one in focus, of course! And if we

reject the obviously incorrect photograph and look at the photo in focus, we won't waste time worrying about how to fix the garden. A key to making the right decision has to do with expectation. If, based on the evidence presented in the out-of-focus photo, we expect to have a lot of work to do in the garden, we might feel burdened, and for no reason.

We can refuse to accept out-of-focus pictures, and save ourselves and others a lot of burden and suffering. Mary Baker Eddy gives this assurance in *Science and Health*, 297:12-15, "Change the evidence, and that disappears which before seemed real to this false belief, and the human consciousness rises higher." Change the evidence! When I first read this I questioned its validity. I thought of witnesses in a trial, and asked, what right do I have to change the evidence given by a witness? Well, if the witness is lying we have the God-given right to refuse to believe the false evidence presented and accept only the true facts. The material senses are lying witnesses, and so we can change their evidence. How? Just by correcting the focus.

In the situations described earlier, false evidence was presented: illness, too much work to do, lack of needed resources. The evidence was all obtained in matter and was given by the testimony of the physical senses. I love the idea Laurance

Doyle shared at the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting last year, that we can think of material appearances as out-of-focus spiritual facts. This is another way of putting the statement in *Science and Health*, 476:32-2, "Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals." We don't have to look somewhere else to find true evidence, but we do have to focus, and focusing involves gaining evidence from spiritual sense instead of the physical senses.

## Experience!

That's just what I did that morning I began to feel ill. I changed the evidence by looking through the lens of Science instead of the material senses. I identified the symptoms as untrue testimony based on incorrect information from news reports of sickness and advertising for medicines. At that



very same time, in that very same place, spiritual sense, Soul-sense, gave me true evidence of my identity as the image and likeness of God, Spirit, Soul. Immediately the symptoms of illness disappeared, and they did not return.

Patients at Fern Lodge work to change evidence offered by matter. Focusing through Soul-sense, they have been healed of sickness and sin, including healings of the following false evidences: being bedridden and unable to move; effects of a fall; inability to eat normally; impaired vision; agitation, fear and confusion; cold and flu symptoms; and unloving character traits. We thank God that all out-of-focus evidence will change when we look with the lens of Science and gain evidence from Soul sense.

In the same way, Christian Science nurses refuse to accept evidence from physical senses, whether it concerns their schedule or the appearance of sickness, age, confusion, even death. Nurses at Fern Lodge can tell of times when their work demonstrated God's grace and authority in spite of circumstances, and they say with the apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Nurses are grateful that spiritual sense gives evidence of the presence of God and man in His likeness.

The Fern Lodge Board and administration are also called on to change the evidence of limited, material testimony and to adjust their focus when considering the mission of this facility. Mrs. Eddy's statement is helpful: "The lens of Science magnifies the divine power to human sight; and we then see the supremacy of Spirit and the nothingness of matter" (Mis. 194:16). The supremacy of Spirit, Soul, brings to human thought and experience an awareness of the infinite resources God supplies to bless mankind (see page 60 in *Science and Health*).

We are grateful to have seen abundant evidence of Soul's resources over many years. Through continued focus through the lens of Science we have given Christian Science nursing—the loving, healing demonstration of God's care for man—for many dedicated people who rely on God and prayer in

Christian Science for healing, spiritual growth and salvation. Fern Lodge has been able to offer this aid without consideration of an individual's ability to pay the full cost of the care. We've helped the 80% who seem to lack funds.

#### Gratitude and a request for support

Every year Fern Lodge gives substantial benevolent assistance; \$830,000 was granted in 2004. We are so grateful! Our gratitude extends first to God for the infinite resources He provides, and for Science which offers us the lens through which we perceive the supremacy of Spirit and are able to reject the false testimony of limited, physical senses. And then we extend heartfelt thanks to the many

branch churches, students' associations, and especially loving individuals who have given donations and bequests in support of our mission. You make our work possible, and we are grateful to you beyond measure.

Right now we can use your help with our current work. Our benevolence continues, and your donations will ensure that dedicated Christian Scientists can receive the nursing care they need.

Our newer wing at Fern Lodge is already 16 years old, and it is in need of repair and renewal. Evaporative coolers were installed last summer at a cost of

\$15,000. We are now repainting and redecorating the facility, and this project will make a big difference at relatively little expense. At this time we are asking for donations for two projects:

- Nurse call/communication system \$30,000
- Beds for patient rooms \$28,000

Thank you for the metaphysical, volunteer and financial support you give, now as well as in the past and in years to come. We love you and hope to greet you at our Annual Meeting in May so we can tell you face to face, heart to heart.

George Strong  
Administrator



**Saturday, April 9, 2005 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 P.M.**

The seminar will be given by

**MARY JANE CHAPIN CHAIGNOT**

on the topic

***THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PAUL IN ACTS***

This benefit program is sponsored by and will be held at  
**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**661 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301**

Admission is a minimum donation of \$50. All proceeds will  
benefit Fern Lodge.

Several neighborhood restaurants are open for lunch, or  
sandwiches are available for \$10; please order in advance.

To register for this program, please send your name and address, along with your  
check for \$50 for each person who will attend and \$10 for each lunch, to

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**661 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301**

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***FERN LODGE FOCUS* — March 2005**

**18457 Madison Avenue**  
**Castro Valley, CA 94546**

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