



## FERN LODGE FOCUS — MAY 2018

Last year Fern Lodge celebrated 50 years of service as a Christian Science nursing facility. What's next? The vista above is less than 10 minutes from us, and I go there regularly just to rejoice in the fulness of God's creation and ponder the progress of Fern Lodge. Right now the hills are overflowing with newness of life, and we all love Spring's reminder of freshness and promise.

Fern Lodge, too, is active with renewal, freshness, and promise. Late last year, as we announced at our Annual Meeting, Lin Watts took the position of Executive Director at Broadview, our sister Christian Science nursing facility in Los Angeles. After much prayer among our board and staff, we were glad to welcome Deanna Proctor as Director of Christian Science Nursing. Deanna has been with us for a couple of months, and we are deeply grateful for her devotion to Christian Science nursing, her cherishing of patients and staff, and her genuine affection for Fern Lodge.

For seven years, Fern Lodge has participated in the federal Medicare and state Medi-Cal programs. Although both of these government programs have provided significant funding to pay the cost of Christian Science nursing, we always have been aware of compromises to the pure practice of Christian Science that are required for our facility to be reimbursed. We are grateful to announce that we have begun the process of withdrawal from these programs.

On the back page you'll find information about the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing. This Fund will provide financial assistance for patients who receive Christian Science nursing at Fern Lodge, and this aid will be helpful as we move away from participation in government programs.

Good news! Christian Science nursing facilities around the world are planning to celebrate Christian Science Nursing on the weekend of September 29&30. Each organization will present a program to help share with our communities the good news—the gospel message that Christian Science nursing is a vital healing activity of the public practice of Christian Science. We will share more about what Fern Lodge offer to its community in the the coming months.

More good news!! In support of our healing mission and our progressive steps, the Fern Lodge staff will join in reading *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*. We will share ideas we find that uphold and encourage us. We invite you to join us.

With gratitude and affection,



George Strong  
Administrator



April at Fern Lodge—wisteria in full bloom outside the Living Room.

We are so grateful for another year of spiritual witnessing of the healing Christ at work in our consciousness and lives! We have permission to share the following inspiring experiences that demonstrate the grace of God, the power of prayer, and the efficacy of Christian Science nursing.

1) A patient arrived having great difficulty breathing. She was healed and able to go home a few weeks later. Here is her account of the healing:

“For the important role that Fern Lodge has played in my life over the past several years, during some very physically challenging times, it would be impossible for me not to respond with deepest gratitude, and I feel a debt that I can never fully repay.

“Fern Lodge has provided the spiritual environment that has saved me when I felt on the very edge of life. Totally dedicated and consecrated [Christian Science] nurses with calm courage and spiritual intuition supported me, gave me reassurance and care, and assuaged fears (sometimes silently with their presence) during dark hours until some relief was realized through the efforts of my practitioner and the prayers of others aware of the great need of the hour. To me this was demonstrating the highest expression of Love.

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### **“When I came here, I told them I did not come here to die—I came here to heal!”**

“This Christian Science community of staff and [Christian Science] nurses has rallied around me, very often going beyond the call of duty and going more than the extra mile.

“Each time that it was necessary for me to be admitted for the physical and spiritual care that was needed, Fern Lodge’s prompt response and immediate provision to make ‘room in the inn,’ even at times when this didn’t seem feasibly possible, is commendable.

“I extend my sincere appreciation and love to all associated with Fern Lodge and my wish is, ‘The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and deliverereth them’” (Ps. 34:7).

2) A patient arrived from out of state needing a chest dressing and two leg and ankle dressings. He was not able to walk due to pain. He was very disoriented at times, and would yell loudly and curse while in pain or when confused about where his wife was and what she might be doing. During his five-month stay, he regained his mental clarity and calmness, and the wounds closed. He walked out of Fern Lodge “clothed and in his right mind,” and made the long drive home with his wife. Subsequent contact confirmed that his thought remains clear and he continues to progress. He and his wife expressed tremendous gratitude for this healing.

3) We often find one dear woman quietly praying to support Fern Lodge when she is aware of challenges with other patients. Here’s her account of her progress:

“When I came here, I told them I did not come here to die—I came here to heal! When I arrived I was barely aware of my surroundings, and needed to be lifted from the bed to a chair [by mechanical means].

My first major step of progress was to be able to move myself around the facility on my own in a manual wheelchair. Now I am able to walk everywhere with the assistance of a walker. I am grateful for this progress made, and for learning some hard lessons along the way. “

It has been utter joy to see this individual make this progress! We are also deeply grateful for the contributions she makes as a consecrated student of Christian Science. You see, she was in a neighboring room to the gentleman in the previous testimony. She heard his sporadic yelling, cursing and crying during the day, and often in the middle of the



## WELCOME DEANNA PROCTOR, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

Christian Science nursing is a calling, an unfoldment of love. And, it often begins without realizing one is providing Christian Science nursing care. At one point or another many of us fulfill this role caring for someone we love in our family, in our church; helping a friend or someone in our community. That is how my journey began and it wasn't until many years later that I realized that my first Christian Science nursing case was during the last two years of high school companioning and caring for a family member with special needs. And, answering the call to help enriches and blesses each and every one of us.

Mary Baker Eddy's Poem, "Christ My Refuge" provides my long and short term goal, "My prayer, some daily good to do To Thine, for Thee; An offering pure of Love, whereto God leadeth me." (Po. 13:5). It was this prayer that lead me to accepting private duty cases when receiving a call for help; to work at Desert View in Scottsdale, Arizona; to become a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse; to being the Director of Christian Science Nursing at the Village in Arkansas; to providing Christian Science nursing care in my home and leading me to Fern Lodge in the Fall of 2016.

I'd visited Fern Lodge with a friend years ago, but Wow! Walking in to Fern Lodge for the first time as a contract Christian Science nurse was amazing.

What a blessing to join everyone at Fern Lodge supporting its vision and mission caring for those in need and witnessing continual healing and demonstrating in practical daily work Mrs. Eddy's statement in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, "In the scientific relation of God to man, we find that whatever blesses one blesses all, as Jesus showed with the loaves and the fishes,—Spirit, not matter, being the source of supply" (*Sc&H* 206:15).



Deanna, smiling beside her mother—a picture of love.

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING, ITS HEALING INFLUENCE (CONTINUED)

night. When asked if the noise was too much or bothersome, or if she wished to move to a different room, she always replied, No, that it gave her an opportunity to pray about something besides herself. This selfless willingness to support everyone's healing led to the formation of our Patient Prayer Committee, which began in support of our 50th year celebration and was featured in the October edition of the *FOCUS*. Every Friday morning for 30 minutes before the hymn sing, patients meet, prepare readings, and share what they are learning. This is yet one more proof of Mrs. Eddy's words, "...whatever blesses one, blesses all."

We are truly blessed by our patients as well as the loving staff who care for them, from our cooks, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, activities, volunteers, and office staff as well as our inspired and creative Christian Science nurses. We need each aspect of the facility to make the fabric of healing whole, without seams or rips.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." And, as Mary Baker Eddy puts it, "When we are willing to help and to be helped, divine aid is near."

— 2 Samuel 7:12 and *Miscellany* 166.

## NEWS AND PLANS — ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Our mission is to heal! Ten years ago the Fern Lodge board and staff affirmed in this mission statement that Christian Science healing is our sole purpose. All of our activities are intended to heal. Fern Lodge identifies closely with The Mother Church, which is "...designed to be built on the Rock, Christ; even the understanding and demonstration of divine Truth, Life, and Love, healing and saving the world from sin and death..." *Manual*, p. 19.

The work of Christian Science nurses includes giving practical assistance that springs from and demonstrates the present understanding of man as the spiritual image and likeness of God. Much of our daily work appears to be meeting physical and mental challenges with the confidence inspired by divine Truth, the assurance of divine Principle, and the tenderness of divine Love. This work is an invaluable aid in sickness, and it includes much more than appears.

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### THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES SPRINGS FROM AND DEMONSTRATES THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAN IN GOD'S LIKENESS.

We strive to overcome all claims of limitation, including any apparent lack of resources to pay for needed Christian Science nursing. Throughout its history, Fern Lodge has maintained the policy of helping individuals who need Christian Science nursing without regard for the nature of the need, the duration of time nursing is needed, or an individual's ability to pay the cost of their care.

Looking back at the past 10 years. I thought fondly of the delightful, hard-working Christian Scientists we have served and the healings we have witnessed. If you visit Fern Lodge, you will see a board with testimonies that mention a few of these healings.

I also looked at the financial picture of those ten years. From day to day, the finances of Fern Lodge may appear irregular, uncertain, even frightening at times. However, taking a longer, more expansive view, it is clear that we have trusted, we have demonstrated, and we have experienced the ever-present harmony of Soul, the abundance of Spirit. Through those ten years our income from all sources is stable and sufficient to pay all of our costs, leaving us ready and able to accept any patient, without thinking about whether or not they have financial resources to pay the cost. Here's what that means.

In the last ten years Fern Lodge has given a total of \$6.25 million in benevolence.

Let me be perfectly clear. Fern Lodge has not had invested or saved funds on hand to give much financial assistance to patients. But you have provided! Donations, bequests and grants from individuals, branch churches, Christian Science

pupils associations, and foundations have supplied all of the money needed to enable us to give over 6 million dollars in benevolence through ten years.

We are in humble awe of the gifts we have been entrusted with that enable us to care for the patients at Fern Lodge. These gifts are evidence of the most selfless, earnest, and confident philanthropy in the hearts and lives of each giver and everyone who has prayed in support of Fern Lodge.

Philanthropy is amazing!!! It is so much more than just providing funds to help others. Through the years we at Fern Lodge have lived in close touch with a brief article by Mary Baker Eddy that is a tribute to Baron and Baroness de Hirsch. An article on Clara de Hirsch notes that, "she spent most of her time in the poor districts of [a] city, and...distributed more than \$125,000 among needy families, without distinction of their background." That would be about \$2.75 million today. Clearly Mrs. Eddy

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR, GEORGE STRONG



**New artwork graces the Fern Lodge hallway,  
“My Father and I,” by Anna-Zoë Dorette Herr**

endorsed such giving. When a monument was to be erected to honor the de Hirsch family, she contributed \$500 (\$11,000 today), and as so often is the case, she took the opportunity to share a much larger life lesson. She wrote about the broad accomplishments of philanthropy:

“Philanthropy is loving, ameliorative, revolutionary; it wakens lofty desires, new possibilities, achievements, and energies; it lays the axe at the root of the tree that bringeth not forth good fruit; it touches thought to spiritual issues, systematizes action, and insures success; it starts the wheels of right reason, revelation, justice, and mercy; it unselfs men and pushes on the ages.” And in the same article our Leader writes, “Love for mankind is the elevator of the human race; it demonstrates Truth and reflects divine Love” (*Miscellany* 287:19).

We are grateful to share some good news, for the Christian Science movement and for mankind. In 2017 the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing was established and now provides significant help to anyone who is receiving Christian Science nursing and needs financial assistance to pay the cost. Aid is available to those who are cared for at home, and also those in Christian Science nursing facilities, such as Fern Lodge.

This scientific, Christian demonstration of kindness and care will set an example for mankind and has the potential for lifting the means and methods of funding healthcare in the country above the models we now have. We are inspired by the philanthropy of Baron de Hirsch, who said, “In relieving human suffering I never ask whether the cry of necessity comes from a being who belongs to my faith or not.”

At Fern Lodge the Fund will be helpful to many patients. It will not, however, eliminate our need for donations to maintain our benevolence policy. Individuals who previously received aid through government programs will receive a little more financial help through the Fund, but these deserving Christian Scientists still are in need of contributions to help them pay the full cost of their care.

Fern Lodge always has looked for how to bless the Christian Science community and all mankind. And through the years we continue to be spiritually focused and inspired by the practice of Christian Science, remembering, “Our Mission is to Heal.”



**The Lighthouse Singers Gospel Choir contributed their inspired harmony and their love  
for God and man to make our meeting a time of rejoicing!**

## A SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT — WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Fern Lodge is withdrawing from participation in the Federal Medicare and State Medi-Cal programs. This step will not affect the Christian Science nursing care we give for all patients. Gratefully most of the patients now at Fern Lodge, as well as those who come to us in the future, will be eligible for financial assistance, if they need it, through the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing. The Fund will reimburse Fern Lodge at a higher rate than either government program, and we are deeply grateful to have this blessing available. Please contact Clovese Hughes, Bookkeeper, or George Strong, Administrator, for further information or to begin the Fund application process.

Christian Scientists understand that God provides for His children. As Mary Baker Eddy put it, “Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.” Our spiritual growth involves increasing understanding of the spiritual nature of true care and of the resources our Father-Mother God provides to meet each need. Fern Lodge’s withdrawal from Medicare and Medi-Cal is a step on our path of understanding God’s loving and bountiful provision.

Fern Lodge has been a Medicare and Medi-Cal provider because we wished to offer Christian Science nursing for all who would benefit from this care in a facility setting. While we are grateful for the financial assistance patients have received through government programs, we have been troubled by program requirements that require us to identify Christian Science nursing as a secular activity, describe in some degree the physical conditions of patients, and identify Fern Lodge as a long-term care facility and Medi-Cal recipients as needing long-term care. The ideas of observing and recording the conditions of disease, or of planning for on-going care, are not consistent with our expectation of progress and healing, day-by-day, as a result of Christian Science treatment, which denies the claims of matter as unreal at all times.

We strive to remove every obstacle in thought that may have an adverse effect on each patient’s prayer and expectancy of healing. This is especially apparent to us when we consider Mrs. Eddy’s observation in *Science and Health*, 146:2-5, “The ancient Christians were healers. Why has this element of Christianity been lost? Because our systems of religion are governed more or less by our systems of medicine.”

Please be assured that the services we give will not change. Throughout our history we have given benevolence, and we will continue as before. We are deeply grateful for payments from patients and their families and from the Fund, and also for donations and bequests given by individual Christian Scientists, gifts from branch churches and Christian Science pupil’s associations, and grants given for the financial assistance we give.

Our Master, Christ Jesus, prayed, “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always,” (John 11:41, 42). We pray for the spirit of our Master and the conviction that our Father hears and answers every sincere prayer. We are indebted to Christ Jesus and to Mary Baker Eddy for their examples, which strengthen our trust in God to meet the needs of everyone at Fern Lodge.

Thank you for working with us in the holy ministry of Christian Science nursing. If you have any comments or questions, please write or call any time.





## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES TRAINING — AN ACTIVE MINISTRY

Christian Science nurses training at Fern Lodge has been both active and inspiring this year! I've taught 9 Christian Science nursing classes, with 17 different students. Four were from the Fern Lodge staff, and others became staff after taking classes. One student from the Midwest joined over Skype for classes in Reading Aloud and a Cleansing and Bandaging Review, and another took a course in Home and Visiting Christian Science Nursing. One student was a summer intern from Principia College. Another student came from Spain with her husband for three weeks to learn bed care plus Level 3, which includes care of sudden needs, and cleansing and bandaging. She is caring for a relative back in Spain.

In October 2016, I was invited to attend the first Canadian Christian Science Nurses Conference in Victoria, BC, to share alternate ways of training Christian Science nurses. There I met three Christian Science nurses living in Canada but who were natives of Mexico, Guatemala and Bolivia. We formed a committee which included Bonnie Castroman, Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church, to develop, plan, and conduct a workshop in Mexico City in late July. This five day Workshop on Care and Christian Science Nursing had about 25 attendees every day, and 30 on the last day. In fact 13 members from the church in Puebla drove 3 hours to attend that day.

Each participant was eager to learn about becoming a Christian Science nurse. One special activity was foot washing. After being shown the technique, they paired up and washed each other's feet. We heard lots of laughter, but after it was all over I spotted one woman weeping. I asked if everything was alright. She said Yes, and that it was the most moving thing she had experienced in many years. Other skills shared were ways to lift and position, washing and bathing techniques, and how to use a wheel chair. Discussions on the foundation and ethics of Christian Science nursing were woven throughout.

Several in the group were bilingual and expressed interest in opening their homes for both Christian Science nurses training and caring for patients. We are planning trips in the future to provide Christian Science nurses training there.

And we've corresponded with two gentlemen in Cuba who are eager to have Christian Science nurses training in the near future.

The good news of Christian Science nursing is reaching across the globe. We are so humbled to be part of this unfolding adventure!

Sharon Strong  
Director of Christian Science Nurses Training



With gratitude and gladness we celebrated with  
Robin Barben and Sam Kolakaluri,  
who recently were listed in  
*The Christian Science Journal*.

# ***Fern Lodge Focus* — May 2018**

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## **NATIONAL FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING**

A brochure from the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing is now available for anyone who is interested. If you would like a copy, contact Fern Lodge or go directly to the Fund website: [nfcsn.org](http://nfcsn.org). Below are brief excerpts from the brochure.



### **What is the NFCSN?**

- A fund for individuals seeking financial help for Christian Science nursing care at home or in a facility and related Christian Science practitioner treatments.
- A support to those who are practicing the high standard of Christian Science nursing in accord with the Manual By-Law, "Christian Science Nurse."
- A gathering place for organizations, churches, and individuals to contribute to a benevolence fund that support the greater availability of Christian Science nursing.

The NFCSN is administered by The Principle Foundation, a nonprofit that has been offering financial support to students of Christian Science for over fifty years.

### **Where can I find out more information?**

At our website, [nfcsn.org](http://nfcsn.org), you will find a more detailed explanation of our current policies. In addition, you can subscribe to our emails, which will notify you of significant changes and updates.