

FERN FRIEND NEWSLETTER

THANKSGIVING 1977

Dear Fern Friends:

We all have a great deal of gratitude for the good which is being expressed at Fern Lodge. At this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to share some of the blessings which have developed during the past year.

1. All are enjoying the expanded and redecorated living room and deck area. This delightful room provides a charming area for Sunday church services, Wednesday testimony meetings and a score of special musical presentations.
2. Just recently completed has been the reroofing of the Main House. This was mainly a maintenance function, but because we were required to install Class A fire-retardant shingles, we also gained this added protection.
3. New Support Groups have been organized providing additional metaphysical work and delightful extras for our guests.
4. Mostly, we would like to acknowledge the continued support of YOU, our loyal Fern Friends! Your contributions have been very generous and are greatly appreciated.

Fern Lodge is the only accredited nursing facility for Christian Scientists in northern California which admits a substantial number of guests who are on welfare (Medi-Cal) because their funds have run out. We thank you for your continued financial support that helps to provide the benevolence necessary to allow this service. All donations and bequests are tax deductible.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Board of Directors,
Fern Lodge, Inc.

FERN LODGE, Inc. a non-profit Nursing Home for Christian Scientists
accredited by the Department of Care of The Mother Church
18457 Madison Avenue, Castro Valley, California, 94546 (415) 886-2448

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"MY FATHER WORKETH ... AND I WORK"

by Carl J. Welz, C.S.B.

Excerpts from his talk given at our Annual Meeting Sunday afternoon,
May 1, 1977, at First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Hayward.

"Jesus was the most absolute of all Christian Science practitioners. But it was he, who, responding to Peter's desire to walk on the water, said, 'come.' And when Peter became afraid and began to sink, Jesus reached out and caught him, and saved him. Isn't that what each of us is doing when we support this, or any other authorized nursing facility? We are expressing the absolute nature of the Christ in terms used by the Master himself.

"Often we hear the question concerning a difficult problem, 'Can I be healed?' There is one clear answer, always: Jesus' words, 'With men it is impossible. With God, all things are possible.'

"As we become conscious of God's work, we become conscious of God's law healing whatever needs to be healed. Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mrs. Eddy, each of us, we all have our place, and that place becomes clear as we become conscious of what God is and what He does and then do what an idea of God does.

"What we need to do is make an appointment every day with God. He is our physician. Let Him examine us. What do we have in us that He can see? Is what He sees in us the same as what we see in ourselves? If not, what do we do? Deny whatever God does not find in us. It is unreal.

"When we can identify ourselves with God as Life, Principle, Love — we being God's reflection or idea — the consciousness of ourselves embodying His qualities obliterates the causes and symptoms of disease. But there is something we too often do that gets in our way as we try to do this. It is simply that we treat errors as realities.

"What should we do? Become conscious of God and what He is doing, and become

conscious of man as God's reflection, then face the diseased condition, and any other condition that presents itself, with that consciousness. Then instead of telling someone he will not be healed until he stops dominating, or resenting, or whatever, we can separate these false qualities from him. We can bear witness to God's power making the tendency to dominate unreal, resentment unreal, self-will and so forth unreal. Then it is easy to see the disease these false thoughts may seem to have caused as unreal, too.

"How do we gain the consciousness of God and what He is doing, that we, like Jesus, may say, 'My Father worketh... and I work'? Let's take a look at three words that can guide us at least part of the way: desire, discipline, and love. First, desire. Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health, 'Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from trusting God with our desires, that they may be molded and exalted before they take form in words and in deeds.' If we are only seeking a healing of a disease or of a discordant human condition, we will search Mrs. Eddy's writings for a statement that we think will do the job. But if we desire truth, we will search her writings for Truth itself, and this is actually a quicker way to get the healing.

"Discipline: Are we persistently denying the influence of the world's belief about what motivates man, what governs him, what constitutes his health, what causes man to hate or to love, to be good or to commit a crime? Are we realizing consistently that God is the only cause? Do we demand of ourselves original thoughts, or are we content to seek and to maintain sameness in the things we do? If God is Principle, thoughts emanating from Him are original. There is a unique idea, an idea just

"MY FATHER WORKETH...AND I WORK", continued

emanating from divine Principle, which is available to meet every error and to heal. It requires discipline to deny unoriginality in our lives and to recognize the everappearing originality, newness, of God's ideas. Try, for example, demanding of yourself that you find on every page you read in Science and Health a new idea — one you've never thought of before. It's there.

"Love: In order to have that consciousness which reflects divine Love, we need to be so filled with love, so conscious of the divine source of our love, that we know God is expressing Himself, and the fear and the danger, even the disease, are loved out of existence. They are loved out of the only existence they had, which was illusion. Why do we deny pain? Because we think that is a way to get God to stop the pain? Or because pain is a lie about God and so, a lie about man? Do we love God enough to forget self in the face of pain or disease or personal discords or lack or world upheavals to deny them as lies about Him — because we love Him and His idea, man. More love for God and His creation will show us how to love the love that heals. His love reflected in us is our Father working, and we work. 'Love never faileth'.

"As we recognize what the Father is doing, and as we do what we must do because we recognize it, we find our lives individually expressing the spiritual idea, the Christ. Then, instead of sitting as mortals with some understanding of the Science that heals, waiting for something to heal — or perhaps hoping we can avoid having something to heal — we discover ourselves taking our place in the Father's work today. Then it is no accident or coincidence that we face a problem today. The problem is ours to solve. If we are ready to help someone else solve his problems, the patient and the practitioner arrive at the same point at the same time. The Father's work — the work of infinite Mind — has appeared through the Christ, Truth in our experience as our work today. And when we do the work with this understanding, we have the power of God to accomplish it.

"Our lives, then, do not go from crisis to crisis, but from Glory to Glory. And we can all say with the Master, 'My Father worketh... and I work!'"



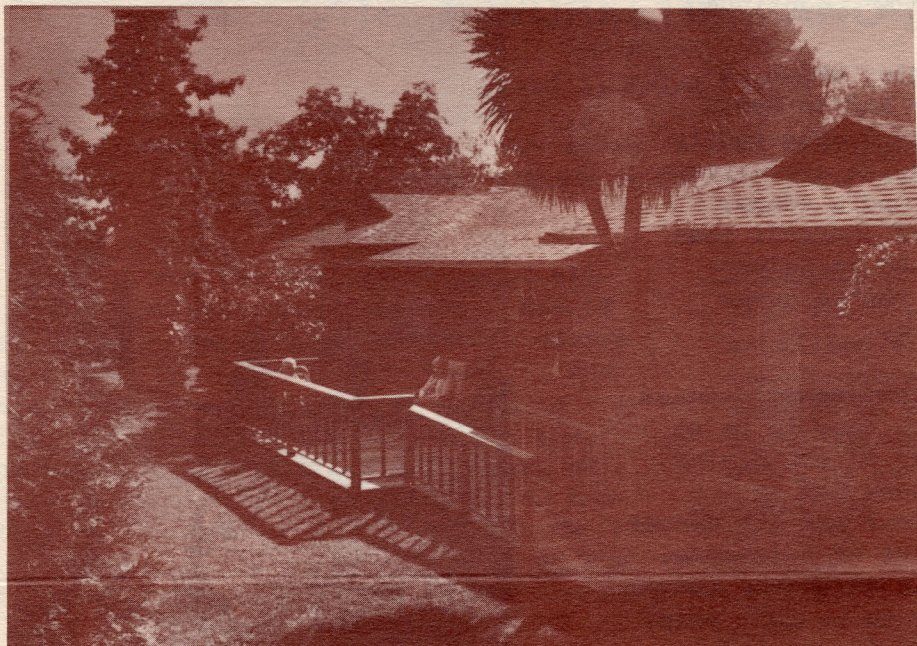
FLAG

The guests and staff watched with pride as Administrator Emily Valentine and her husband Don raised the United States flag for the first time over Fern Lodge, just following our Annual Meeting.

Originally presented to the wife of our first Board President, Henry Curran, Jeanette Curran has lovingly given it to Fern Lodge along with the fiberglass pole from which it now flies.

To us, it symbolizes the standard of excellence and love Henry set for all of us during the formative years of our work here at Fern Lodge. And, no less, the continuing support and encouragement of Jeanette Curran.

As one patient put it, sometime later, "Each day I see the flag fluttering there, I mentally salute it, and thank God for the country where the atmosphere of freedom allowed Christian Science to be presented."



RIGHT: If you didn't get to our Annual Meeting and Open House, here's a look at the stained glass window made especially for the Main House living room by Verdant Vales seniors Steven Wood and Jennifer Gordon. Teacher Gail Rodman (far right) helped them design, cut, and lead the lovely piece. Done in yellow, green and orange, the window has become a focus of interest and beauty for guests and visitors. Our thanks and appreciation to Verdant Vales School.

SCENE AROUND THE

ABOVE: The approaching view from the entrance lane presents this picture of the new made with Class A fire-rated fiberglass impregnated shingles, fulfilling county code paid for this lovely multi-toned rustic brown colored roof which blends in nicely with

BELOW: Once again the wallpaper chore was taken on by Pam DeBolt, wife of new Board sitting room. Matching cornices cover the bay window and carry the yellow, green and New orange tweed random-patterned carpeting covers both floors. Sorry these pictures you should see. Note the double doors. That's an oversized phone booth that lends



NEW PRESIDENT

With the beginning of Fern Lodge's fiscal year on July 1, 1977, a new President of the Board, Eugene DeBolt, took over the reins from Herbert Mitchell.

A charter member of the Board, Herbert Mitchell has acted as its president since 1972 when he succeeded our first president, Henry Curran. It was to be a one-year job, but, because his guidance was greatly needed, he was persuaded to keep the post.

A sound metaphysician with keen business sense and organization, he helped us form a clear view of our goals. With a kind, firm hand and a watchful eye on the budget he has kept us running in the black — which is unusual in the care facility field.

His work here, plus earlier years on the Board of Harmony Haven in Berkeley and Grand View in St. Helena, led to an invitation to sit on the first Arden Wood Board during its reorganization plans.

He also has served as First Reader and President of Second Church, Berkeley. Fortunately for us, he will remain as an active member of our Board.

A year's stint as vice president and three years as a Board member, qualify Eugene DeBolt for his new task as President.

"Gene" also chairs the Board of Shepherd School where his own two children attend, is a past First Reader of the Fremont Church and finished out a term as First Reader at the Danville Church, on whose Board he now serves.

He and his wife, Pam, were Adventure/Unlimited Chapter Advisors while living in southern Alameda county.

Now running his own civil engineering firm in Danville, he supervised Fern Lodge's remodeling program last year.



ODGE

wood deck and new asbestos shingle roof requirements. \$4,680.00 of your donations the rest of the building.

President Eugene DeBolt. This time in the range color scheme into the living room. aren't in living color. It's something vacancy even to wheel chair patients.





ABOVE: Guests participated by peeling apples for this tasty apple cobbler!



COOKING CLASS

Remember when you used to play Round Robin? Well, our guests have found a brand new version of the old game at a weekly Round Robin Cooking Class.

Everyone literally gets a finger in the pie — or brownies, ice cream, oatmeal candy, peanut brittle, apple cobbler, cheese fondue, or even taffy.

Probably the most popular was the taffy pull. Bits and pieces of the sticky stuff turned up under wheel chair pads, on sleeves, shoes and plants. And more than one denture ended up in the wad rather than the mouth.

Our Castro Valley Adult Education teacher, Mrs. Zelpha Eatherton, not only brings along an electric skillet and small electric oven, but also her accordion. While waiting for the goodies to cook, she leads the group in singing old familiar songs. By the time the "done" bell rings, everyone's ready for a sample of her own cooking.

FAR AWAY SRI LANKA (CEYLON) SEEMED COMFORTABLY CLOSE

Jean Immerwahr, Emily Valentine's sister, while on a recent visit home to the United States, wore a typical costume to Fern Lodge and read from her book: "Your's Obeidently", a look into life in India through amusing experiences with her houseboy and his family. One of the chapters, "A Bride in the House" appeared on the Home Forum page of The Christian Science Monitor. Mrs. Immerwahr has spent the past eight years in India and Sri Lanka with her husband who is a demographer.

OUR VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR

MRS. MURIEL CHISHOLM

(415) 538-7215

SUPPORT GROUPS



ABOVE: Support group member Josephine Buchanan shows Frances Griffeth the afghan she's making

Since the announcement in the last newsletter of the formation of support groups in the outlying areas, three groups have been formed and three more have expressed a desire to begin.

Basic to the support of any Christian Science facility is specific metaphysical work, and groups in Berkeley, Walnut Creek and Rossmoor have already covered these monthly subjects, assigned by our Administrator: Patience, Attitudes, Fearlessness and Self-examination.

Brought to the meetings, too, are homemade items to be delivered to the Lodge. To date, our patients are the grateful recipients of 6 dozen table napkins, 6 dozen bibs, 6 afghans (with more in the making), 5 large velvet frogs (for door stops), nightgowns, dozens of boxes of cookies and several boxes of jars of jellies and jams. Four of the Walnut Creek group have come afternoons to make individual visits with the guests.

If you and your friends, anywhere in northern California, wish to form a support group, please call Board member Frances Griffeth at (415) 937-8461.

These groups meet once a month and are open to anyone interested in furthering the work of Fern Lodge, whether or not a church member.



ABOVE: Mabel Bartholomew shows delight at receiving a colorful lap afghan



Who's going to win?