



## FERN LODGE FOCUS — OCTOBER 2016

As we look forward to the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting, I am reminded of Mary Baker Eddy's 1896 message to the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church (*Mis.* page 127). In that message of encouragement and counsel, Mrs. Eddy includes her observation, "Hitherto, I have observed that in proportion as this church has smiled on His 'little ones,' He has blessed her. Throughout my entire connection with The Mother Church, I have seen, that in the ratio of her love for others, hath His love been bestowed upon her; watering her waste places, and enlarging her borders."

Through the years, our experiences have been similar, and we can testify to the truth of that relationship, "...in the ratio of [our] love for others, hath His love been bestowed upon [us]." As we humbly acknowledge that Christian Science nursing must be an expression of divine Love, shown and felt in the love of our staff, board, volunteers, patients, and donors, we see the waste places of our facility put into good repair and the borders of our service to the Christian Science community enlarged.

With Summer over, the joyous sounds of FLOCK activities no longer are part of our days. This childcare program completed its third year, and it is clear to us that it would be a blessing if Fern Lodge could include the FLOCK program throughout the year. We need enlarged accommodations to fulfill this vision, and we may need to purchase all or part of the property next door in order to do so. We will keep you informed of our progress, and we look forward to any insights or ideas you have to share.

The Fern Lodge Workshops on Care continue to be given for Christian Science branch churches. Our most recent program was given in September in Anchorage, AK, and it was attended by 32 Christian

Scientists from a broad area of southern Alaska. The next Workshop will be a shorter version that will be held after our Annual Meeting on October 29 at the Christian Science church in Hayward. We hope you will join us.

Coming soon, Fern Lodge will host a meeting to explain the options available to pay for Christian Science nursing care. The program will be held at Fern Lodge, and will include discussion of Medicare, Medi-Cal, health insurance, and benevolence; there will be ample time for questions. We will be able to accommodate 15 to 20 people at a time, and we will repeat the program as often as needed to ensure that all who are interested will have a chance to participate. Look for an announcement soon.

Our Leader's 1896 message quoted above also includes the following assurance, which gives us fond hope and eager expectations: "When a hungry heart petitions the divine Father-Mother God for bread, it is not given a stone,—but more grace, obedience, and love. If this heart, humble and trustful, faithfully asks divine Love to feed it with the bread of heaven, health, holiness, it will be conformed to a fitness to receive the answer to its desire; then will flow into it the "river of His pleasure," the tributary of divine Love, and great growth in Christian Science will follow,—even that joy which finds one's own in another's good."

Lovingly,

George Strong  
Administrator



## THE TENDER WORD — LIN WATTS

When I came to work this morning, I saw a precious scene. A little girl, the daughter of one of our staff members, was sitting at the breakfast table with two patients, helping one of them to eat breakfast. The staff member said, “Look, you have a new nurse!” As I watched this dear child tenderly encourage the patient, I saw love in the patient’s eyes. She said to the little girl, “Look at the sunlight. Isn’t it a beautiful day!”

I was reminded of how wonderful it is to see patients, who come to Fern Lodge in need of Christian Science nursing, overcome even the most aggressive challenges. This same patient, some time ago, had come to Fern Lodge, in part, because she was dealing with the suggestion that she did not want to live. She told us she couldn’t understand why she was alive and she was unhappy about it. The first few weeks she was here, she would try to leave the facility. Many times her family and our loving staff, with the steadfast support of her practitioner, lovingly persuaded her to stay. Each time they assured her that she is a loved and valued member of the Fern Lodge community. Even in those first weeks, there were glimmers of who she really was. She wrote poetry and would gladly read it to the other patients and to our staff. She was a wonderful reader. Each day, I heard our staff tell her that she is loved. I heard other patients express love to her.

One day, at breakfast time, as I was sitting in my office, I heard five different staff members tell her “We love you!” I have seen them gently and tenderly help her to eat, to walk, to bathe, to read, and to find enjoyment in life. Their actions were genuine and heartfelt expressions of their love for her. I have seen the effect of this outpouring of love on this dear lady. Over time, she has become more grateful and appreciative. One day recently, she came back to Fern Lodge from a trip to the redwoods, beaming. She said, for the first time, “This is my home.” It was as if the outpouring of love our staff gave her was like a purifying river, washing away her fears and healing her unhappiness.

The Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, writes (p. 367), “The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love.” I have seen this tender word heal many times and I saw it again today.

Thank you for your loving support of our healing mission.

Lin Watts, Director of Christian Science Nursing



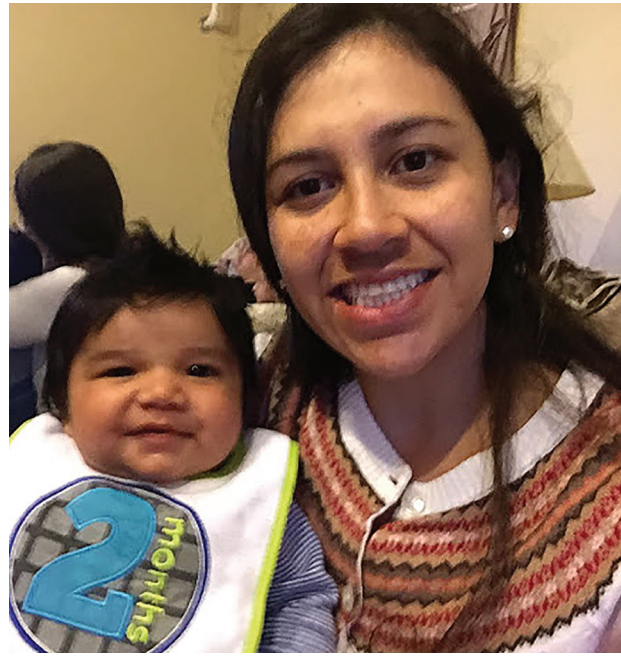
Baking, painting, picking fruit...just a few of the activities that make FLOCK so fulfilling and rewarding.

## FLOCK 2016 — ELYS RENATA CARVALHO

When I started working with FLOCK (Fern Lodge Ongoing Creative Kinship) this summer I did not know how I would manage a group of children by myself. I decided to start my days establishing that God is in control. My favorite idea was that God is taking care of everyone—especially the little ones.

One morning, while I was doing my metaphysical study, this passage from the Bible came to me: “Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein” (Luke 18:16-17). After spending a lot of time with the little ones throughout this summer, this idea began to make more sense to me. It was rewarding to feel that even though the kids were not Christian Scientists, they were open to the Truth—divine Love. For instance, on one of our field trips to the lake, one child said she was concerned about being sick. I gently reassured her, “you do not need to get sick.” I did not add anything else, but I was praying and affirming the truth about her as a child of God. I knew in my heart that she had the right to enjoy the trip without fear. We had an amazing time, and this girl was happy and was helpful, controlling the boat and caring for the younger kids. For me, this was a demonstration of how children are so open to the Truth. It is inspiring to see how ready they are to receive the kingdom of God.

The kids had so much energy, but whenever the temptation to feel stressed seemed real, I stopped and remembered the divine qualities that each child expresses. One day, I decided to think about each child and all the qualities I had seen them expressing, such as creativity, innocence, curiosity, and many others. The quality they expressed that touched me the most was the deep care for their families, the staff and the patients at Fern Lodge. Another quality that stood out was their ability to trust goodness. It was amazing to see how kids have so much trust and feel sure that they will be provided for. This innocent thought taught me a huge lesson. I started noticing



**Elys with one of her new friends**

that we, as adults, need to be more like a child and trust that our dear Father is providing us with all the goodness, affection and love that we need.

One day, when they were playing outside, a little boy disappeared from sight. I looked for him everywhere, and I finally found him in a patient's room. The little boy was talking and hugging this patient, expressing so much affection, love and care. Seeing that little boy interacting with the patient made me realize how the innocence and sincerity of those kids brought healing and joy to our facility.

Although working with a large group of little and energetic children seemed quite challenging at times, I felt that every single day brought me a new opportunity to learn more about God because of their presence. This experience gave me the chance to ponder more deeply the qualities expressed by children, such as innocence, care, joy and especially love. I am certain that those qualities brought a lot of healing to Fern Lodge. I do not have words to describe the blessing I experienced in my working here. I am so grateful for being part of the Fern Lodge family.

***Fern Lodge Focus — October 2016***  
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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LECTURE AND THE 2016 FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING**

***MARY BAKER EDDY: A LIFE OF DISCOVERY***

A FREE LECTURE BY  
**CHET MANCHESTER**

**SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 29, AT 10:00 A.M.**  
**First Church of Christ, Scientist • 1814 B Street • Hayward, CA**

**This talk is sponsored by the Hayward Christian Science church, in cooperation with Fern Lodge. A one-hour Workshop on Care will be given by Christian Science nurses immediately following Chet's talk.**



We all have the capacity for helping others, and the mission of Fern Lodge includes sharing the joy that comes with Christian service. This year the **Fern Lodge Annual Meeting** will be held in conjunction with Chet Manchester's lecture on Mary Baker Eddy's life of discovery, healing, and service to mankind. What



a perfect way to introduce listeners to the ideas and qualities expressed in Christian Science nursing!

Chet, a Christian Science practitioner and teacher, says of his own experience: *"So, what is your heart beating for?" was a question I faced in my late twenties. On my mental knees in prayer, I opened to a passage in Mary Baker Eddy's writings that instantly got my attention: "The heart that beats mostly for self is seldom alight with love."\* I realized that the function of the heart is to beat for God; it's a reflection of divine Love itself. This glimpse of the Christ—the pure love of God embracing humanity—transformed my life and my health. From that day to this, I've been doing everything I can to share the healing message of Christian Science with the world.*

*\*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany, p.160*