



FERN LODGE FOCUS — OCTOBER 2018

It's been a wonderful summer, and we have much to tell you! First, I just want to reaffirm with you our dedication to the healing truths of Christian Science. Once again the Fern Lodge staff will be reading *Science and Health* together. We earnestly seek to gain and share with each other the truths that help us to realize that our individual Christian Science nursing practice is the daily, effortless expression of the love of divine Love, which embraces and enfolds each dear child of Her care.

Since school is back in session, we miss the joyous sounds of children every day at Fern Lodge. Our FLOCK summer childcare program always is a blessing for our staff members, their children, and the patients we serve.

We are so glad to let you know about Fern Lodge's current cooperation with Redwood Community in Santa Rosa. Our two organizations are in the process of merging, with the outcome of reopening the Redwood Community facility to offer Christian Science nursing services in northwestern California. The facility will be able to provide places for up to five Christian Scientists who need assistance while they pray for a demonstration of home and for healing in Christian Science.

Save these dates. The Fern Lodge Annual Meeting is fast approaching. It will be held on **Saturday, November 17, in Santa Rosa**, in support of the cooperative mission to reopen Redwood Community. Then, on **Saturday, February 2, 2019**, we will offer an inspiring program on the topic, *THE VITAL ROLE OF TESTIMONIES IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH*. Dr. Joan Bradley, former professor at Principia College, will conduct this workshop. More information on both of these events is on the back page.

Fern Lodge is grateful to welcome Brian Stock back. For the past two years he has been working with The Principle Foundation to launch the National Fund for Christian Science Nursing, which has helped many who have received Christian Science nursing care at Fern Lodge, and also from Christian Science nurses in homes and facilities across the country. Brian has taken on additional responsibilities as Operations Manager, and he is leading our work with Redwood Community. We also are happy to have Brian's wife, Jamie, back with us, helping to implement many special projects, including reorganizing the artwork in our hallways.

With gratitude and affection,

George Strong
Administrator



FLOCK VISITS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE? — SHARON STRONG

Sharon Strong, Director of Christian Science Nurses Training, recently participated in a meeting where four Christian Science nurses answered a number of questions. We think that Sharon's answer to one of these questions will be of interest to you.

HAVE YOU OR ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS CONSIDERED GOING INTO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING?

Even if your first response is, “Nope, it’s not for me or anyone I know,” I hope you will think about this question with an open heart and open thought. I’ll share a story to illustrate.

One of my Sunday School teachers was the bookkeeper at my hometown Christian Science nursing facility. She urged me to apply to work as a nurse’s aide. My first day of work was at 6 a.m. on a Saturday morning. Mid-morning I cheerfully resolved, “I’m never coming back.” The work day began too early, and the duties were too foreign. But near the end of the day I served juice to a gentleman

Every Christian Science nursing facility would be happy to have you visit as a volunteer, and that’s a great way see Christian Science nursing in action. If you live near Fern Lodge, we will welcome you with open arms. You also could take an introductory course in Christian Science nursing or attend a care workshop in your branch church. These programs are great ways to get a sense of the ministry of this work. And you will take home a few skills you can use if a church or family member has a need. If you are interested, please give us a call.

If it seems to you that Christian Science nursing is a ministry you would like to follow, Fern Lodge offers a complete course in Christian Science nurses training, consisting of classroom teaching and discussion, followed by mentored work with patients. Through this program, we help individuals fulfill two of the elements of the Church Manual By-Law, Christian Science Nurse: having “the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room,” and being able to “take proper care of the sick.”

CARING FOR OTHERS IS NATURAL, AND IT DEMONSTRATES OUR UNDERSTANDING OF DIVINE LOVE. “WE MEASURE OUR LOVE FOR GOD BY OUR LOVE FOR MAN.”

who I soon realized couldn’t drink by himself. I helped him. That moment of tender service and his deep gratitude, awakened a feeling of purpose and worth within me, and I worked Saturdays and summers for several years in that capacity. In my third year of college, I missed working with those dear patients, and so I traveled across the country to continue my training at Chestnut Hill. Learning more about Christian Science nursing was an inspiring journey for me. I went from the idea of giving simple, kind service to a fuller recognition of being a healing presence and witnessing the Christ in action wherever there was a need.

If you love God, enjoy working with people, and have experienced the healing power of Christian Science for yourself, and if you feel you want to give back and support others, you, too, might be ready!

Christian Scientists who feel accomplished in their overall abilities, may apply to be listed in *The Christian Science Journal*, which will enable them to

advertise their readiness to give loving, practical, healing Christian Science nursing care. But not everyone needs to advertise in *The Journal*. You can still be of great service locally to church members without making yourself available to the entire world! Your prayers are needed to support all of these vital healing activities. If your heart is ready, God will guide you!

Caring for others is natural, and it demonstrates our understanding of divine Love. “We measure our love for God by our love for man,” our Leader tells us (Mis 12:28). Nursing demonstrates the tender care that is needed so much in the world today. Christian Science nurses give mankind a precious view of the Motherhood of God. Christian Science nursing expresses the heart of Mary, the hands of Martha, and the Mind of Christ.

GOOD NEWS FROM REDWOOD COMMUNITY AND FERN LODGE

Fern Lodge is grateful to announce that we are merging the Christian Science nursing services of our organization and those of Redwood Community, which has maintained a Christian Science facility in Santa Rosa for 25 years.

Here is a brief history of Redwood Community: *In the early 1990s, members from the Sonoma County Christian Science churches began prayerfully considering how to meet care and nursing needs of a growing number of church members in our area. A Journal-listed practitioner in Santa Rosa made improvements to half of her home, a duplex, and rented it to a Christian Science nurse for a nursing home. After about a year, that Christian Science nurse left the facility, which at the time was providing a home for two Christian Scientists. The practitioner encouraged two additional individuals to move in, one of whom needed nursing. A Christian Science nurse and a cook were hired, and Redwood Community began.*

Step by step, we incorporated, gained our non-profit status, and became licensed by the State of California. Agnes Buttle, C.S., the Christian Science practitioner who made her home

available to us initially, passed on in 2005, leaving her duplex to Redwood Community, free and clear. We provide 24/7 care by Christian Science nurses and care givers who are trained to provide the highest care in a home-like setting.

Fern Lodge is deeply grateful to have had support from Agnes Buttle, C.S. through many years, and we were glad to work with her to encourage the founding and growth of Redwood Community. Through the years, Redwood and Fern Lodge have cooperated to ensure that Christian Science nursing has been available to all in our communities who would benefit from the healing services of Christian Science nurses.

Earlier this year, Redwood Community and Fern Lodge agreed that it would be more efficient and effective to operate as one organization, and we are in the process of merging. The two facilities will continue to operate as they have in the past, Fern Lodge in Castro Valley and Redwood Community in Santa Rosa, but the scheduling, bookkeeping, government filing, and other organizational operations will be handled in the Fern Lodge office.



THE REDWOOD COMMUNITY, LOCATED AT 916 SILVA AVENUE, PROVIDES AN ATTRACTIVE, GRACIOUS HOME IN A QUIET AND CONVENIENT SANTA ROSA NEIGHBORHOOD.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE COME FOR A VISIT, PLEASE CONTACT FERN LODGE.

Fern Lodge Focus — October 2018

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Castro Valley, CA 94546**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THESE TWO PROGRAMS

Saturday, November 17, 2018

at 2:00 P.M.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

330 Hope Street • Santa Rosa, CA

JAN HOLDEN, C.S.

will speak on the topic

“...CHANGE THE NOTION OF CHANCE...”

(see Science and Health, 424:5)

Harmony—mankind yearns for it. We learn in Christian Science that to bring out harmony in our lives, “...we must leave the mortal basis of belief... in order to change the notion of chance to the proper sense of God’s unerring direction.”

The Fern Lodge Board and Administration will share reports of progress and plans for reopening Redwood Community, a Christian Science nusing home in Santa Rosa, in the near future.

Saturday, February 2, 2019

An interactive workshop by

JOAN BERNARD BRADLEY, ED.D.

***THE VITAL ROLE OF TESTIMONIES
IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH***

This researched-based presentation shows how the mid-week meetings evolved over an 18 year period from parlor lectures, into the current order of service for Wednesday testimony meetings.

Participants will discuss directives from Mary Baker Eddy that guided the development of Wednesday meetings, and how lessons learned apply to us now.

Dr. Bradley writes for the *Christian Science Sentinel* and the Monitor’s religious perspective. Her doctoral degree is in educational leadership.

Look for more information in an upcoming ***Focus***.