

# Open House at Fern Lodge — Annual Meeting 2000

The Christian Science nursing ministry is vital to the healing mission of Christian Science. Nursing is an individual nurse's practice of Christian Science, and the nurse's work has much in common with the public healing ministry of Christian Science practitioners. Practitioners and nurses both work from the standpoint of seeing man as God's likeness, expressing the divine qualities of wholeness, purity, freedom. It is not surprising that several individuals who now are listed in *The Christian Science Journal* as practitioners, formerly advertised as nurses.

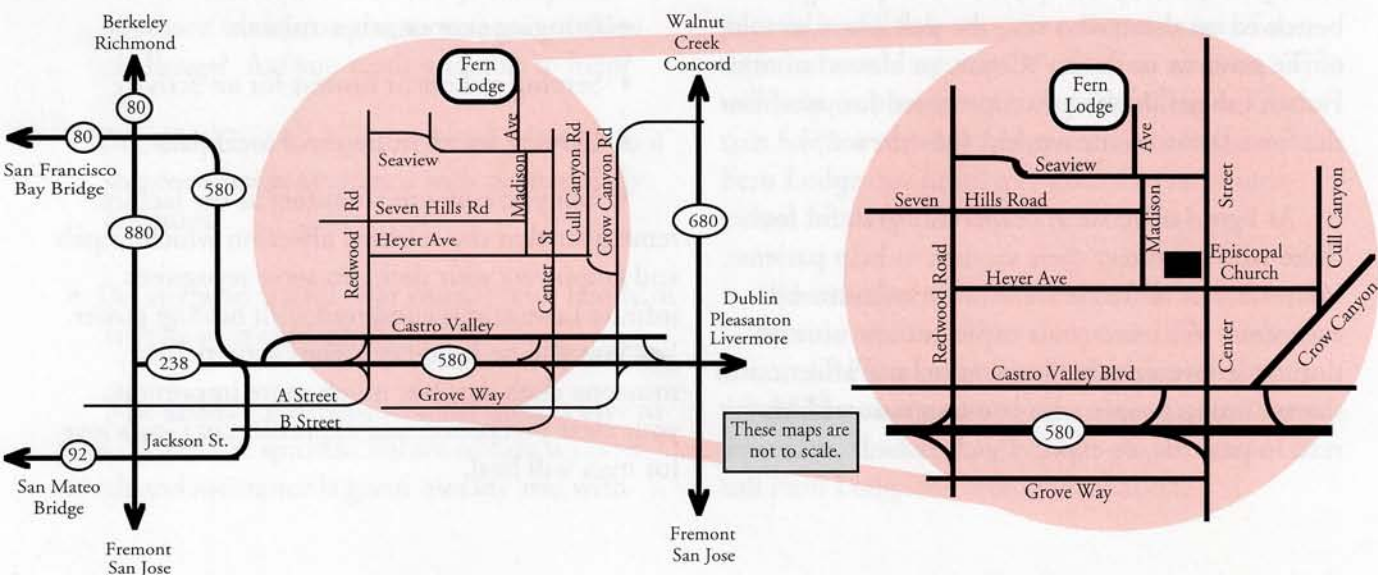
**T**his year's Annual Meeting will feature the close connection between the practice of Christian Science as demonstrated in both nursing and healing. Our guest speaker will be Jan Holden, C.S., of Sacramento, CA. Jan is a dear friend of many years, and she is well known to those who have been involved with Christian Science nursing. Jan first worked as a

Christian Science nurse during summers when she attended Principia College. Later she worked as a private duty nurse, visiting nurse and also in facilities. She recently served as a Christian Science nursing instructor for many years.

**D**uring her tenure as a nursing instructor she began receiving calls for healing treatment as well as for nursing care. Her consecrated prayer and listening for God's guidance led her to the understanding that every call for help, whether for nursing or for healing, was really a call for her to bear witness to God's presence and power to bring harmony to all human situations. Her continuing work along these lines led her to the full time public practice of Christian Science healing. We look forward to hearing her message which will help us understand more clearly the nurse's role in healing.

We are holding this Annual Meeting at Fern Lodge so you can have the opportunity to see recent improvements we have made at the facility. You'll see our refurbished kitchen, new dining room and study room for nurses, and temporary staff apartments. Guided tours will be given before and after the talks, and you will also be free to wander on your own. Refreshments will be served.

Parking at Fern Lodge is very limited, so we ask that you not come up the narrow portion of Madison Avenue to the facility. Some parking is available on nearby streets, and the Episcopal Church at the corner of Center and Heyer Streets has graciously agreed to let us park in their lot. Shuttle vans will run frequently between the parking lot and Fern Lodge. This map will help you find the parking area and Fern Lodge.



# Volunteers needed

Through prayer, study and striving to put what we learn into practice we have come to realize that the understanding of God's care for His creation is essential to the practice of Christian Science. One of the great blessings of Christian Science nursing is that this work requires a Christian Scientist to seek and find the spiritual basis for helping another who is working and praying for healing in Christian Science.

In *Science and Health*, page 366, Mrs. Eddy speaks of spiritual affection in connection with faith in the divine Mind and "that recognition of infinite Love which alone confers the healing power." Spiritual affection impels the demonstration of care in our lives. This affection motivates individuals to help others in a wide variety of ways. When Christian Science nurses are inspired by spiritual affection, their work is infused with healing power and demonstrates God's care, "a very present help in trouble."

You don't have to be a nurse to help patients at Fern Lodge. You just have to have a desire to put your affection for God and man into practice. Visiting the sick, expressing spiritual affection for those seeking healing, is a Christian service to God and man. Christ Jesus spoke of the blessing bestowed on those who visit the sick when he told of the promise to them, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," (Matthew 25).

At Fern Lodge we are especially grateful for those who volunteer their services to help patients. Volunteers of all kinds are warmly welcome by everyone. Whatever your experience or occupation, you have valuable inspiration and affection to share. Young people who come to visit with or read to patients are especially cherished.

What are some of the ways in which you can volunteer at Fern Lodge and be of practical assistance? We will be glad to welcome anyone who is willing to serve in the following areas:

- Reading at Sunday services—either at 11:15 in the morning or 2:00 in the afternoon
- Reading for testimony meetings on Thursday mornings or afternoons
- Conducting a news discussion based on *The Christian Science Monitor*
- Reading Christian Science books and periodicals or other inspirational literature to individuals or small groups

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## *Visiting the sick expresses spiritual affection and is a Christian service to God and man.*

- Writing letters for patients
- Entertaining with a program of music or art
- Sharing videos, slide shows, travel experiences, etc., serving popcorn and punch
- Displaying art work on the facility walls and bulletin boards
- Bringing pets or other animals
- Serving as host or hostess for an activity
- Driving for an outing to a local park

When you come to volunteer at the facility, remember that the spiritual affection which impels and empowers your desire to serve recognizes infinite Love and is conferred with healing power. Yes, you will be bringing joyous activity into someone else's day, but much more important, your clear perception and expression of God's love for man will heal.

# *Nursing Seminars for Branch Churches*

As we announced in our last Focus, Fern Lodge is offering seminars on practical Christian Science nursing. We love nursing and cherish its contribution to individual salvation and healing. Spiritual strength, inspiration and joy come with helping others who rely on prayer for healing.

Most nursing work is relatively simple, and every practicing Christian Scientist can quickly learn how to assist others in ways that make a real difference in someone's life. Our purpose is to share perceptions of how God's love for His children is expressed in our care for each other, and to show simple ways to meet another's need for comfort and care.

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*Every Christian Scientist can quickly learn to assist others in ways that make a difference.*

Recently we have heard of experiences in Christian Science branch churches which pointed out to us how important it can be for Christian Scientists to understand at least a little about how to give simple nursing assistance for others. We have asked ourselves these questions:

- Are the ushers in church ready to respond if someone in the congregation faces a sudden challenge? Are you ready and able to help?
- Does the Care Committee know what to do if someone needs assistance with normal daily activities?
- Do any who attend your church have family or friends who need care?

The assistance needed in most cases is easy to give. When the spiritual nature of care is understood, and assistance is given quickly and with

assurance, it provides valuable support for one who is praying in Christian Science. This support can help prevent what may appear to be a more serious situation.

During our seminars experienced Christian Science nurses will present the idea that God gives us the ability to help each other. They will show some simple ways in which to help and also tell of the scope of assistance available under the broad umbrella of Christian Science nursing care.

In addition to learning simple ways in which to help others, you also will have an opportunity to discuss ideas which are important to all who are interested in Christian Science. Participants will consider together the role nursing plays in the healing mission of Christian Science.

An increased understanding of the nature of Christian Science nursing will help church members deal more effectively with some of the issues which are of concern in our communities, issues such as how to ensure that proper, safe, and affordable care is readily available, especially for children and the elderly.

These seminars will be an opportunity for us, too. The inspiration, experiences, and perceptions you share will help us gain a clearer sense of the different needs we may be called on to meet. This will help us broaden our understanding of Christian Science nursing and to see more fully how Fern Lodge can fulfill its mission to meet individual needs for Christian Science nursing.

Branch churches in the northern and central California region will receive more information about the Fern Lodge nursing seminars. If you would like to attend or help sponsor a seminar in your area, contact your branch church board or call Fern Lodge for more information.

# *Open House at Fern Lodge!*

You are invited to come to Fern Lodge for our

## *Annual Meeting 2000*

*Sunday, October 15, at 2:00 in the afternoon*

Tours of the facility and refreshments will be available before and after the reports of progress at Fern Lodge and an inspirational talk by our guest speaker

*Jan Holden, C.S. of Sacramento, CA*

who will share ideas on the topic

*“The efficacy of mental methods”*

Parking will be at the Episcopal Church on the corner of Center and Heyer Streets.

Shuttle vans will run frequently from the parking lot to Fern Lodge.

Please see the map inside for more information.

*Fern Lodge Focus — September 2000*

*18457 Madison Avenue*

*Castro Valley, CA 94546*

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