

*We hope you will join us at the
Fern Lodge Annual Meeting and Open House*

Sunday afternoon

September 29, 2002 at 2:30 in the afternoon

The meeting will be at

*First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hayward
1814 B Street*

Morris Trevithick, C.S.B. from Los Gatos, CA

will share ideas on the topic

Speculation or Science?

Morris Trevithick was introduced to Christian Science as a college student in his native New Zealand. He has a Ph.D. in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh, PA, and degrees in economics, architecture and urban planning. He was chief economist for Canada's national housing corporation, and later established his own company as a management consultant.

Morris worked as a Christian Science prison chaplain in Boston and here in the Bay Area serving on the State Institutional Committee. He also served for nine years on the Board of Trustees of Arden Wood, San Francisco.

In 1977 he entered the public practice of Christian Science, became a member of the Board of Lectureship in 1983 and a teacher of Christian Science in 1991.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, who is also in the full-time practice, are members of the Los Gatos church. At the last count they had 13 grandchildren.

After the meeting you're invited to an open house at Fern Lodge.

You may take a tour or just wander around the grounds.

We'll serve cookies and punch.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you! The Fern Lodge Board of Directors, staff and patients, want you all to know how grateful we are for the generous response to our recent urgent appeal for funds. The outpouring of metaphysical support, loving encouragement and financial contributions in the past months has touched our hearts. Along with the gratitude we feel for each one who offered loving support, we also feel a deep and abiding sense of responsibility. The true expression of gratitude is not in words, but in deeds. The only way we can really let you know how thankful we are is to be sure that we fulfill our promise to give the best quality Christian Science nursing care we are capable of, and to offer that care for all who seek our help as they rely on Christian Science for healing.

Fern Lodge is more than just a small nursing facility on a secluded lane in Castro Valley. It is a practical expression of Church in action, providing nursing care that is guided and disciplined by the bylaw in the *Manual of The Mother Church*, Article VIII, Section 31. It is an organization dedicated to Christian benevolence and individual salvation. It offers our community a higher model for care. Fern Lodge is the result of the hard work and prayers of many individuals, in the Bay Area and far beyond, who see the need for Christian Science nursing in a facility setting.

The Fern Lodge facility is a place where people in need of nursing can come and be free from the demands and concerns of maintaining a home. This freedom enables them to study, work and pray in a mental atmosphere supportive of spiritual growth and Christian Science healing, overcoming sin as well as sickness, and challenging the claim of death with the affirmation of eternal life. We offer a refuge from the aggressive, intrusive beliefs and diagnoses of a material model of health and care. We provide a harmonious setting, along

with nutritious meals and housekeeping services, where a number of Christian Science nurses are able to care for more people than would be possible in individual homes.

Fern Lodge operates a business, and we must use means and methods that assure those we serve and those from whom we seek support that we are sincere, trustworthy and dedicated to Principle. As a business, we are unique. We work in support of a ministry, the practice of Christian Science nursing. Nurses and patients rely wholeheartedly on God to meet all their needs, for comfort, strength, health and supply. It is important that we operate Fern Lodge with the same trust in God that characterizes those we employ and those we serve.

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We take Mrs. Eddy's reminder of God's requirement seriously, "God requires wisdom, economy, and brotherly love to characterize all the proceedings of the members of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist," *Manual* Article XXIV, Section 5. We regularly assess our use of funds, the purchases we make and the staff we employ, to see that our expenses are reasonable. We set our charges to cover the cost of operation, and we ask those we serve to pay for the care they receive. Because many individuals who come to us lack the funds needed to pay the full cost of their care, we receive requests for substantial benevolence each month. We rely on donations to support the vital, healing activity at Fern Lodge.

Christian Science nursing at Fern Lodge is worthy of support. The nursing care we provide flows from the devotion to God and affection for mankind of our staff and our board, from their individual understanding and demonstration of divine Love. The money we receive, whether in payment for nursing services or as donations, is spent to fulfill our healing mission. Fern Lodge's

...a letter from the Fern Lodge Board and Administrator

mission is to see that Christian Science nursing is available for those who need it. This mission is twofold in nature.

First, because we operate a Christian Science nursing facility, our work is focused on God's care for His children and our demonstration of this care. God is Spirit, and His care must be the spiritual expression of divine Love, not merely a human expression of kindness or concern. The effectiveness, the healing influence, of our Christian Science nursing work, our demonstration of God's care for man, is proportional to our spiritual understanding of the true nature of care. We work and pray for increased understanding, expressed in better, more spiritually inspired care.

Ultimately the healing influence of Christian Science nursing is related to the understanding of care expressed by nurses, patients, practitioners, family and friends. So the second aspect of our mission includes working to raise the understanding of the true nature of care among Christian Scientists everywhere.

To help ensure that Christian Science nursing is available for those in need we offer educational opportunities for Christian Scientists. We have available a wide range of classes, training and experience for those who wish to learn Christian Science nursing. We also offer a care workshop for branch churches where members can learn simple ways to care for each other or for family or friends.

To help us grow in our understanding of God's care, this year our staff is working on a special project. We are reading *Science and Health* together. A growing grasp of the ideas in our textbook, and the willingness to put these ideas into practice, will make us better Christians, as well as nurses and healers. There is no better way to

further the mission of Fern Lodge. We are reading 100 pages a month, and every few weeks we meet together to share insights gleaned from the book. Our reading and sharing are focused by this question, "How can I apply the ideas I find to the work I do at Fern Lodge?" As I write this, we are looking forward to our third meeting. There were so many inspiring thoughts at the first two meetings, I can only give a hint here.

Staff members shared these ideas: the importance of quietness; the need for correct thinking and the corresponding need to shut up useless talk and shut out the suggestions of sin; the understanding that the earnest struggle to do the best we can is taking up the cross, and it's the short way to liberation and salvation; the struggle to be free from a false, personal sense of one's self and others is prayer, so it is supported by God and cannot fail; chastity includes freedom from coarseness or roughness; chastity is individual integrity, faithfulness to the true idea of man. One nurse said, "I welcome the suffering brought on by the dawning of Christ in consciousness."

*We work and
pray for
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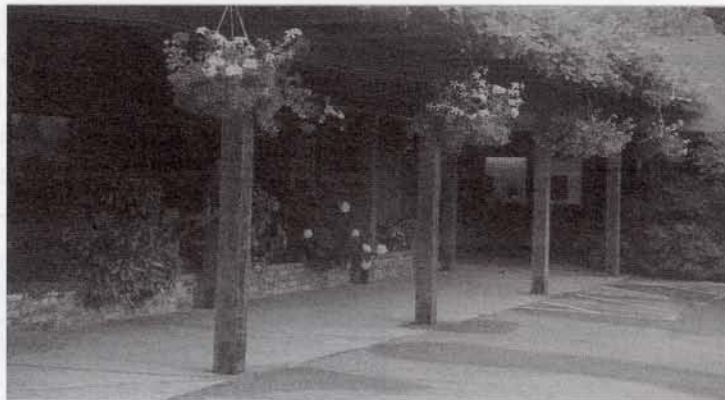
Christian Science nursing is an essential element of the practice of Christian Science. We are glad to serve in this vital Church activity and to fulfill the mission of nursing at Fern Lodge. Once again, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who contributes to Christian Science nursing, reaching out to meet mankind's need for comfort, care and healing. Each contribution is precious to us and to those deserving Christian Scientists without funds who are able to receive needed nursing care. On behalf of the Board of Directors, and everyone at Fern Lodge, Thank you!

George Strong
Administrator

Come to the Open House after our Annual Meeting

Have you seen Fern Lodge recently? We hope you will pay us a visit and take a tour of the facility after our Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 29. When you visit please ask about how you can be active in support of our Christian Science nursing activities. Volunteers offer so much to enrich the experience of patients at Fern Lodge, and we appreciate each one.

There are many things to do here, and your talents are sure to find an outlet. Perhaps you like to read to individuals or groups. You may have pictures to show and stories to tell, or maybe you love to garden. We will be happy to have you share your inspiration and your skills. Right now we need readers to conduct Sunday services and Thursday testimony



meetings. These meetings are special times for the readers, as well as for patients and staff. Please consider coming to conduct a regular service at Fern Lodge.

Directions to Fern Lodge and parking instructions will be given out at the Annual Meeting.

The Fern Lodge Board of Directors thanks you for your support!

President: Art Sprague, Castro Valley
Vice President: Mary Kuhl, San Ramon
Secretary: Hazel Wilson, Hayward
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Fern Lodge Focus — September 2002

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