

## FERN LODGE FOCUS — MARCH 2021

Persistence in prayer! What a useful idea for us all as we continue to navigate these unusual times. We have continued our day-to-day operations of loving in a practical manner all those who come to us, and we are glad to be doing this obediently, safely, and creatively, for patients and staff. We are most grateful for the Christian Science nurses who continue to cheerfully step up to whatever demands come. Their skillful, comforting, joyous, and loving care, empowered by Love's allness, given every day, around the clock, blesses not only our facility, but the world. Those essential Christian Science nursing qualities, wherever expressed, are a light for mankind.

"Persistence in Prayer" was the theme of our Fern Lodge Annual Meeting, held via Zoom last September. You can find it on our website under "News." The keynote address was given by Christian Science nurse Vanessa Campbell, and is included in its entirety as a gift to all. This newsletter includes a shorter version of that same address.

One of the ways Fern Lodge supports our nurses and staff is with daily prayer for the facility by Christian Science practitioners. Each month, our house practitioner gives an inspiring talk, which they share with the staff. You can listen to them at [fernlobby.org/talks](https://fernlobby.org/talks) as another gift to you.

We are grateful for your continued prayers in support of Fern Lodge. We are all being compelled to discover more fully, "Space is no separator of hearts" (Mary Baker Eddy, Mis. 150:10). Though many of us are physically separated during this time period, we are finding that there is no deterrent to loving and being loved, and filling our role in our community and Church. Thank you for your on-going part in being a persistent pray-er!

With gratitude and affection,



Anna Lisa Kronman, CS  
Fern Lodge Board Member



**Kayleigh Ebenrick**  
*Mountain Sunrise*  
Acrylic on canvas

The above landscape hangs in our office. In the entryway of our facility, we have three cross and crown paintings also by Kayleigh Ebenrick, painted in her unique prismatic style. Kayleigh is an artist and a Christian Science nurse who works part-time at The Leaves in Dallas, TX. Kayleigh recently shared with us some ideas about her art that we thought were very inspiring. (See page 7)

## DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES TRAINING — SHARON STRONG

2020 was a year full of activity! Due to restrictions on travel, much was accomplished using electronic means such as Zoom for conducting classes. This enabled us to fulfil Mrs. Eddy's recommendation that "... students stay within their own fields of labor, to work for the race; they are lights that cannot be hid, and need only to shine from their home summits to be sought and found as healers physical and moral" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 302:32).

In October 2019, I traveled to another facility to instruct a Level 1 student who had been a surgeon in another country. Her mentor audited the class to better support her during on-job training.

In November 2019, a Level 1 class was taught at Fern Lodge with four students—two from Uganda, one from Kenya, plus one working at Twelveacres. Each has an inspired thought, a loving heart, skillful hands, and a joyous, helpful spirit. All patients and staff love them!



In January 2020, George and I traveled to Anchorage, Alaska (yes, brrr!!) to give a class specifically designed to help church members care for each other in home settings, which are often in remote areas. Students came from Anchorage, Palmer,

Wasilla, Fairbanks, Homer, and Kodiak. Richard, our gracious host, lodged us in his home which dazzled us with exquisite views of the surrounding Kenai mountains. Class convened in a spacious, scenic breezeway where we reviewed ethics and care principles of Christian Science nursing with seven women. In a large bedroom, we practiced a wide range of skills and products needed in

bed care, such as slide sheets, proper positioning, pillow arrangements, bed shampoos, mechanical lifters, review of walkers and wheelchairs, and an introduction to cleansing and bandaging. Most attendees had taken several Christian Science nursing workshops given by Fern Lodge and Sunrise Haven in the past three years, so the daily inspiration and skills built on these concepts and ethics.



Three Christian Science practitioners (one of which was a Committee on Publication) took that class. We were so impressed that they also wanted to learn skills that would enable them to provide practical assistance to fellow church members. The character of these hardy Alaskans is awe-inspiring: they are self-sufficient, innovative, industrious—sturdy survivors of hardship, cold, and, in summer, I'm told, mosquitoes! The local Christian Science teacher gave a talk, and then he and, George discussed how the roles of Christian Science nurse and practitioner work together harmoniously on each case. I am in touch with these students, providing guidance by phone, Zoom, or text, on any cases they take. One is continuing classes via Zoom and already has helped a number of church members with her healing, skillful presence.

In February, a Level 1 class of four students plus the administrator was taught in another facility. We practiced skills immediately on the Christian Science

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nursing floor, where the staff and patients appreciated the influx of fresh inspiration and willing helpers.

Here are some of the ways we “shine[d] from [our] home summit” after stay-at-home orders were issued due to the pandemic: A Level 2 class was postponed to provide more support for our Christian Science nursing floor in mid-March, and we began sewing masks for the staff. When we taught that class in June, it had grown from 3 students to 8! Three were from Fern Lodge, and five were over Zoom—two from New York (plus their Director of Christian Science Nursing), two from Florida (plus their mentor), and one who had attended the Anchorage class in January. That clever student made a life-size doll so she could practice the Level 2 bed care skills. A Level 3 class for three Fern Lodge students convened in August. We continue to teach all four levels as requests come from the field and from our staff.

Our program could not be successful without the support George gives for the program; the tuition assistance provided by the Albert Baker Fund; the scheduling creativity from our Director of Christian Science Nursing, Deanna Proctor; the students, who often need to take turns working a few hours on the Christian Science nursing floor before coming to class for 5-6 hours; our wonderful staff for picking up any slack while the students are in classes; and, for our dearly loved mentor, Deb Messmer, who selflessly gives a high standard of care and guidance with cheerfulness, intelligence, gentleness and respect, which students and staff value immensely.



## HAVING FUN AT HARVEST FESTIVAL



Photo Credit:  
Robin Barben

## GRATITUDE

Cherishing and nurturing our Christian Science nursing ministry affords so many opportunities to witness God's healing presence. In a time when the world seems full of fear and uncertainty, and while we are sheltering in place and practicing social distancing, we also are witnessing people coming together in new ways. Thanks to the technology, families and friends are staying in touch. We are able to host inspirational talks, church services, and hymn sings online. We are learning, recognizing, and demonstrating that love can be felt and can comfort without a physical touch.

One family has been delightfully innovative. They come well-prepared, cheerfully visiting, and eating outside no matter if the weather is cold or rainy. After dinner, they watch a movie together through the patio door. They come back the next morning for breakfast and enjoy lunch before heading back home.

Gratitude and love are healing, and they radiate out from the involved individuals, like rays from the sun, to shine on those we see and those we think about. Let us all go forward and shine like the lights God made us to be for all those to see.

— Director of Christian Science Nursing

As a patient here at Fern Lodge, I am very appreciative of the transparent, open, and clear communication with staff. I am grateful for the Christian Science nurses. They are always willing to listen and cooperate with my individual needs, which may be very different from other patients. The atmosphere and attitudes are refreshing and supportive, and I am very, very grateful for the love you can depend on at Fern Lodge.

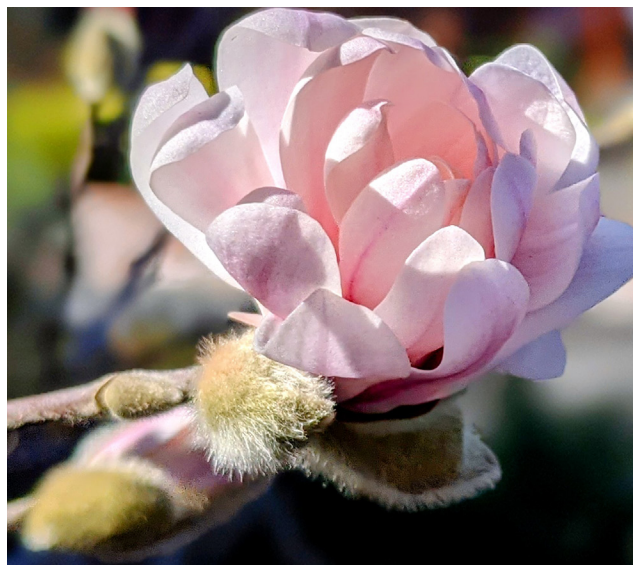
— Patient at Fern Lodge

I cut myself working in the kitchen the other day. Seeing that this required some attention, I sought out management immediately to see what was best to do. Two Christian Science nurses arrived promptly and started providing care. Their kindness, genuine concern for my comfort, and professionalism was care I've not been provided by others. This allowed me to continue serving the guests at Fern Lodge. Another Christian Science nurse arrived later and checked on my finger and provided additional care to the wound with the same love, care, compassion, and professionalism. They even followed up one more time with me later in the afternoon. The entire nursing staff has gone above and beyond any care I have received in the past. God bless Christian Science nursing and God bless Fern Lodge.

— Kitchen staff at Fern Lodge

I am grateful to be God's servant, giving my whole heart while working at Fern Lodge. I am also grateful to have a wonderful sense of home at the staff housing with the other individuals that live there.

— Christian Science Nurse at Fern Lodge



Star Magnolia blooming at Fern Lodge



## SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND NURSING — ROBIN BARBEN

I have loved working at Fern Lodge for the past 22 years. Excellent nurses training was given by Sharon Strong, Director of Christian Science Nurse Training. Through these nursing classes and my CS nursing practice, a strong platform was built, where the truths learned in Christian Science could come to life. The spiritual ideas shared have become a cherished part of my own spiritual consciousness.

The art of Nursing has become more universal to me as I have learned, over the years, to share the comfort of the Christ. We can nurse our world in many ways. For example, I nursed the downtrodden thought of a prisoner serving a life sentence without parole. He gained the comfort of knowing his real identity and his life sentence was overturned. I also was able to nurse the thought of a homeless man who read the Bible so many times but felt he was missing something. I tenderly gave examples about the spiritual aspect of the Bible stories. Later that week, he showed me his scratched cornea. I asked if we could pray together. We did. A few days later he pushed his shopping cart all the way to Fern Lodge. His eye had healed and he wanted to know more. He accepted some homemade cookies and milk and a *Science and Health*, which he held to his chest like he would never part with it.

What is especially dear to me is the metaphysics of giving care and comfort that Sharon so lovingly taught. I learned to see what God is expressing spiritually right where a human concept seemed to be — releasing the finite sense for the spiritual idea and acknowledging the very presence of the One expressing that true idea. For instance, placing a blanket over a patient represents warmth and comfort, but it also reminds me that the Comforter is actually right here, right now. The reality of God's Love and comfort is present and felt, embracing both the patient and myself.

I applied this to an experience when my dad, who is not a Christian Scientist, was in the hospital and the doctors predicted a 5% chance of recovery from an operation. As I sat with him, I suddenly looked at the light switch and thought about the light of God's love

shining on us exactly as we both needed it. I prayed until I fully felt God's presence of comfort and love. I went through every object in that room and prayed to see each thing (bed, cords, machines, nurses) pointing to some spiritual idea and then feeling a present sense of God's loving care that was perfect for both of us. I finally saw that everything was reflecting God's love in a way my dad could understand. A sense of God's very presence replaced my fear. Instead of those being his last days, we had nine more months together.

From the beginning, Fern Lodge revealed to me that the true consciousness of Life is Love and needs to be lived. Sharon and George Strong have been such wonderful mentors and examples, showing God's Love to me and staff members in countless practical ways. By God's grace, I am gaining strength and courage to turn more fully to divine Love to handle and reverse the mortal ambiguities that I find everyday in my own thought. You'd think 22 years is enough time to become proficient, but I remind myself that God's Love is infinite and ever unfolding. I will always be learning, and I have a whole world of material objects and concepts to understand spiritually.

I have had moments when one pure moment of divine consciousness healed. One day, just as a patient was passing on, I walked into her room. The spiritualization of thought, leading to the consciousness of God's presence, was instantaneous. The woman woke up from her belief in death and she began to eat, talk, and walk again. I love working daily to experience moments like that.

*Robin serves as our Activity Director and also as a staff Christian Science nurse.*



## OUR LATEST NEWS

### REDWOOD COMMUNITY OPEN AND BUSY



Redwood Community opened a year ago in 2020, just before the California shelter-in-place order. In 2019, Redwood Community had a significant remodel, including a redone kitchen and ADA compliant bathrooms, to help serve future patients better. Redwood Community now has five patients, which is close to its full capacity. Fern Lodge continues to help Redwood Community by providing administrative services as well as some staff. Late in 2020, Redwood Community and Fern Lodge reorganized their board members, so that Redwood Community board would have good representation from the local community in Santa Rosa, California. It has been a blessing for both organizations to see this Christian Science nursing home resume operations and bless people in the North Bay area.

### ZOOMING

During this time period, patients have been grateful to continue to see family and attend church services over tablets and TVs using Zoom. We are grateful that this technology has allowed families to continue to see their loved ones even when they were unable to travel.



### READING *SCIENCE AND HEALTH*



The staff of Fern Lodge have been getting together to share inspiration from reading *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Every few weeks we read a chapter, and then we gather together to see how the chapter applies to our work together at Fern Lodge. This is helping to keep our focus on core ideas of Christian Science and healing.

### STAFF HOUSING PROJECT



Fern Lodge has purchased an empty lot a few doors up the road from our facility to build staff housing that is walking distance to our facility. This will be of great benefit to the staff of Fern Lodge, as the housing prices in the San Francisco Bay Area consistently rank among the most expensive in the United States. Our current plan is to build 2-4 small houses, depending on county regulations.





## “PRISM AND PRAISE” – ARTWORK WITH KAYLEIGH EBERNICK

It's very important for an artist to know WHY he or she bothers to make art in the first place. The reason I paint is to make the world a better place. I believe things improve when people turn to God. So, I make beautiful art that inspires and uplifts thought away from matter into Spirit. To me, making art is not so much a process of creating, as a revelation of what God, the true Creator, has already made. This is great because all the glory comes from and goes to God, so there is no pressure of personal performance, and instead just the realization of supply as spiritual reflection.

I am inspired by Mary Baker Eddy's statement: "To mortal sense Science seems at first obscure, abstract, and dark; but a bright promise crowns its brow. When understood, it is Truth's prism and praise" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p.558). I love the idea of taking a familiar idea and fracturing it (cubist style) to show new dimensions of the idea, like refracting light in a prism or facets of a gemstone. This stained glass effect is not only beautiful and dynamic, but shows that there is so



**Cross & Crown 1**

When I paint, I strive to paint with qualities. Let me explain. Think about color in terms of the seven synonyms for God. The seven colors of the rainbow (ROYGBIV) line up beautifully with the synonyms for God:

### **Red** - Mind:

The Almighty's confident understanding of Herself (Truth) and the expression of divine intelligence, which demonstrates total dominion; all-power.

### **Orange** - Spirit:

Vibrant, immortal, spiritual substance as the only actual existence. All joy, confidence, and zeal harmoniously, intelligently governed.

**Yellow** - Soul: Beauty, identity, individuality. The individualized expression of Mind. "The sun is a metaphorical representation of Soul outside the body, giving existence and intelligence to the universe" (SH 510:16–18).

**Green** - Life: The tree of life and the green of the grass and the "herb yielding seed" on the third day of Genesis is when life appears. Rebirth, renewal, vibrance, and spiritual growth. The vitality of abundant / infinite good, health, and supply.

**Blue** - Truth: The absolute fact of reality seen in Scripture as the water of the Word. Christ, Truth's message to mankind of his inseparable relationship from God as Father and son (expressed and reflected). The unlimited depth and power of the Christ, vast as the ocean.



Kayleigh is also a Christian Science nurse who works at The Leaves, a Christian Science nursing facility in Dallas, TX. "I've learned so much about steadfastness, patience, and compassion through this holy work."

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# *Fern Lodge Focus* — March 2021

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**Cross & Crown 6**



**Cross & Crown 7**

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**Indigo** - Love: Impersonal, incorporeal, universal, infinite divine Love always meeting every human need. To me, this is how Truth governs (expresses Principle): through Love. “Jesus’ teaching and practice of Truth involved such a sacrifice as makes us admit its Principle to be Love” (SH 26:21–23). Love as infinite as the night sky.

**Violet** - Principle: God’s infallible, intelligent government and law, demonstrated as universal and complete. The permanent rule of divine law. The reign of harmony demonstrating the Kingdom of Heaven as the foundation of divine Science.

So, when the light of understanding shines through the prism of understanding (Truth), we see God more clearly and we can relate more closely to Him (breaks down mortal mind’s self-imposed delusions that would try to hide His beauty and relevance from us). Every color can make us think of God and His reflection.

*You can see more of Kayleigh’s artwork at [ebenrickart.com](http://ebenrickart.com).*