

May 2023

Fern Lodge

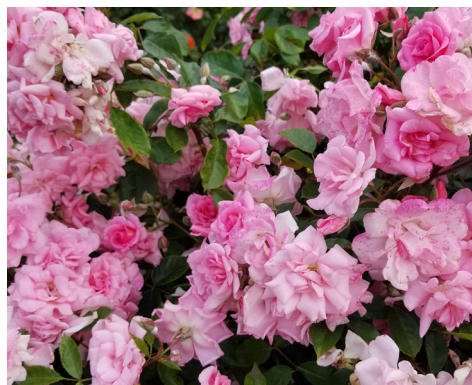
F O C U S



Welcome

Please Come In!

These last few months have been exciting ones for Fern Lodge. On New Year's Eve, we experienced a heavy storm, which spurred us (and the local community) into action. Since then, we've had renovations, celebrations, and inspired education. Look inside for details of all that has been happening at Fern Lodge amidst the rains!



Come say hi!

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“powerful storm brought drenching rain” - CBS

“The California Highway Patrol announced closures” - KRON4

“surpassing a record from Jan. 29, 1881” - ABC7

“historic flooding” - ABC7

and after the fire a

Still Small Voice - 1 Kings 19:12

Our New Year Adventure

On New Year’s Eve, it was quickly becoming apparent that the storm was growing stronger than we had come to expect in sunny California. As Fern Lodge’s safeguards against the runoff and the rising creek looked to fail, George called the fire department and they agreed it was time to evacuate. The fire department helped transport the patients to the facility’s emergency rendezvous, the nearby Hayward Christian Science church, while the staff gathered mattresses, bedding, and supplies. Pretty soon the Sunday school, childcare, and board room were transformed into a temporary home for patients.

While the day had been different and exciting, as night fell the Christian Science nurses still continued as normal, albeit in a very different setting. Fern Lodge staff and church members turned out to help. Sharon ensured everything was still running smoothly and everyone had a place to sleep. Anna picked up and delivered food for everyone. Many others contributed to ensuring orderly harmony.

As the dawn broke on a new year, the storm temporarily subsiding, Fern Lodge looked to how we could be prepared to get the patients home permanently and as quickly as possible. The Sunday Service that morning, which several patients were able to attend, relevantly focused on Elijah on the mountain, with the wind, the earthquake, the fire, and, more importantly, the still small voice. Throughout the entire journey, all involved were listening for that still small voice for how to proceed.



With the second rainiest day on record in San Francisco—over 5 inches of rain in a matter of hours—the damage could have been far worse. As it was, the creek had risen to the point that the runoff from neighboring hills couldn’t drain properly and instead seeped into the facility. The patients’ rooms had water-resistant tile and water hadn’t risen to the point of damaging equipment, furniture, or records, but much of the flooring in other rooms was beyond repair and the grounds were covered in silt and mud from the creek. There was a lot of work to do before the facility was habitable again and another projected storm on the horizon.

Fern Lodge dug in, several staff members cutting vacations short and coming in on their days off, but we looked up and found that we were not alone! Before they could be asked, the community poured in with supplies and support. The family of Rosa, our head of housekeeping, came out to move furniture and clean floors. After the service, church member changed and drove out to help in any way they could. Neighbors checked in on us, one bringing out his tractor to break through the layers of mud in the parking lot. Jack Craig from Broadview, a facility in southern California, came up and spent an entire week helping us clean and repair. We are so grateful for everyone who provided care, time, and support and for the opportunity to see a display of community and warmth inherent in the everpresence of Love.

As soon as Monday the patients were able to return back to their rooms. What could have been many days of displacement became merely a rather eventful weekend. Patients described the event as a wonderful time to witness love and harmony being expressed. And as winter storms continued to roll through with all their excitement, we have not been required to evacuate again.

Even with the patients back in their rooms, mud removed, and sandbags in place, there was a lot to be done, both to repair the damage and to prevent more. Ben, his maintenance team, and our trusted construction contacts got to work. Carpeting had to be ripped up and replaced with either new carpet or vinyl plank flooring. The drainage channel on the edge of the property had to be rebuilt, stronger and deeper. Foundations were fortified, bridges reinforced, and retaining walls constructed. While there are many projects, each day we get see the growth and steadfastness of Fern Lodge as they are completed one step at a time.



Infinite Love



While it’s been a long time, this is not the first time Fern Lodge has felt the effects of a large storm. In every time of need, we have been surrounded by the warmth of everpresent love and support, and even now we feel the effects of that love from days past. That which was built after past storms helped mitigate the effects of this storm years later and we hope that in the future, if such an event strikes again, people will look warmly back at the work we are doing now.



While this emergency added a lot of work and cost that we weren't expecting, it also provided an opportunity! Several rooms, including the reception area, all five living rooms, the office, and the Christian Science nurses' breakroom, are now revamped and ready for staff and patients to use. We are so excited to have these spaces brightened up to allow for a better working and living situation.

Valentine House, our housing up the street for Christian Science nurses, also faced some effects of the storm and the rising creek. The foundations of both bridges from the street to the property were damaged and water had soaked into two garages. In order to avoid further harm, both in the face of a stormy winter and with frequent use of the bridges, action was taken. The bridges were reinforced and we installed a sump tank and a French drain to create a path for future rains.

The biggest project Fern Lodge undertook in light of this storm was strengthening the creek banks. Two creeks join and run along Madison Avenue. They were overgrown with ivy, trees, and brush and not prepared for the kinds of rains we experienced. As such, Fern Lodge paid to have the creek cleared out and lowered, not only in front of Fern Lodge but stretching up past many neighboring properties and all the way down to the cross street, Seaview Avenue. This cost us around 15,000 dollars; it was a large expense, but an important one long-term. The neighborhood has been very appreciative and we cherish their kind words.



From George's Desk,

We've had an unusual winter at Fern Lodge. For only the second time in our history, the creek in front of the facility overflowed its banks. This, combined with the runoff from the neighboring hills, flooded the parking lot with muddy water, which came into the buildings, and spread everywhere. We had to evacuate the buildings and take patients to the Hayward Christian Science church for two nights. We are so deeply grateful to the local Fire Department and Sheriff's Department for their prompt and capable assistance in transporting both the patients and their mattresses from Fern Lodge to the church and helping us get settled.

Moving back to Fern Lodge two days later was much easier. We were able to return and resume as normal, thanks to the dedicated and capable assistance of our staff, with their families and friends.

We had to remove and replace the flooring in several rooms. We are still paying for some of the needed work, and the cost of the evacuation, the extra work, and the needed facility repairs will come to nearly \$100,000.

Of course, everyone at Fern Lodge will deeply appreciate any assistance—prayerful, of course, as well as financial—you are able to give. Thank you.

Letter from our Administrator

Christian Science Nursing Education

Through the past couple of years, Fern Lodge has not been free to visit Christian Science branch churches and share our love for and dedication to Christian Science nursing. We are well aware that Christ Jesus told his disciples—a message for us in our time as well as for them in their time—that simple Christian Science nursing acts done for others in their times of need are the keys to living in the kingdom of heaven.

Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you...I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me (Matt 25:35, 36).

Fern Lodge is here to give loving and skilled Christian Science nursing care from fellow Christian Scientists to those who need it in their own Christian Science practice, but Fern Lodge is also here to share the blessings of Christian Science nursing with our fellow Christian Scientists. Soon, once again, we will be offering seminars and workshops for Christian Scientists in some of the more remote communities in our broad service area.

We love the work and the promise of Christian Science nursing and we are certain that as more and more Christian Scientists practice simple, helpful Christian Science nursing in their homes, churches, and communities, these loving individuals will be blessed and Christian Science will be better seen and understood as the healing, caring practice it is today.

In later newsletters, as well as in flyers and announcements to branch churches, Fern Lodge will announce the workshops and seminars, which will give the opportunity to learn more about this healing work to all Christian Scientists in our widespread community.

With gratitude and affection,

George Strong,
Administrator



Cause for Celebration



We are expecting to grow our Fern Lodge family and we are so pleased at the prospect! In honor of this upcoming excitement, we threw a Winnie the Pooh themed baby shower. Staff members ordered balloons, made flyers, and constructed a balloon arch. The baby shower was enjoyed by all and it was so lovely to have the opportunity to celebrate this much-appreciated staff member and her family!

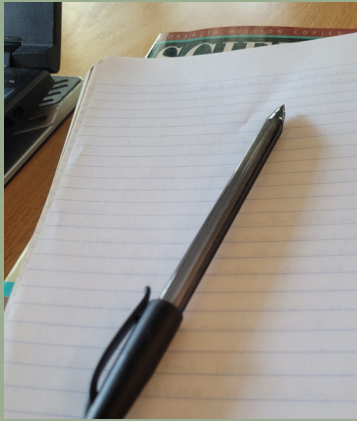
Springtime at Fern Lodge

We are so blessed to experience such beauty at Fern Lodge. Years of tender care and warmth allow for us to be surrounded by wonderful architecture, beautiful flowers, and stunning smiles. We're so happy to be sharing them with you.



True Education

The entire purpose of true education is to make one not only know the truth but live it — to make one enjoy doing right, make one not work in the sunshine and run away in the storm, but work midst clouds of wrong, injustice, envy, hate (The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany, Mary Baker Eddy, p. 252:10–14)



After teaching and helping students of Principia flourish for many years, as well as working in support of multiple Christian Science nursing facilities and for The Mother Church, Dr. Brad Stock offered a new opportunity to Christian Science nurses, facility staff, and trustees. In 2022, he began teaching a series of courses on the history of Christian Science nursing, with the goal to “strengthen our individual inspiration and our collective commitment to Christian Science nursing by seeing more clearly how our understanding of Christian Science nursing has evolved over the generations, both in terms of individual ministries and organizational contexts.” Several Christian Science nurses and members of Fern Lodge staff took advantage of the course over the months of September to February as a test run. The virtual classroom contained an impressive roster, from longtime Christian Science nurses to authors of some of the Christian Science *Journal* and *Sentinel* articles that were required reading for the course. They all came together to learn and discuss and they found the class to be full of spiritual growth and insight.

“Christian Science Nursing moves with a heart and regards everyone thoughtfully. But it’s not about exhausting resources humanly. Letting the Christ carry you through sends clarity and renewed strength. The willingness to receive it is our individual responsibility.” - **Marjorie Dala, participant**

Brad Stock knew of the growth in practical application and metaphysical understanding that comes from studying the history of the movement in relation to Christian nursing, because he had already witnessed it. Originally, the course was developed for a Principia student who had a keen interest in pursuing Christian Science nursing, and then was reprised for several students over the years. He scoured through the Christian Science *Journal*, *Sentinel*, and *Monitor* for articles on Christian Science nursing to better understand the evolution of the movement’s metaphysical idea of what Christian Science nursing is and how it should be applied. Later the idea came to him that this course could grant a deeper understanding within Christian Science nursing facilities, which would support their efforts and care. He explains, “The heart and soul of Christian Science nursing is in spiritual witnessing and in reflecting the radiance of divine Love. All of us can gain a deeper, more practical awareness of this Christian ministry”

We at Fern Lodge truly appreciated our experiences with this course and wish Brad Stock the best in all future efforts with it!





Fern Lodge

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