

Summer 2024

Fern Lodge

F O C U S

The Bible teaches transformation of
the body by the renewal of Spirit.

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, Mary Baker Eddy



FernLodgeCS



FernLodgeCSN

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Our Focus This Summer:

Renewal

In this issue, we bring you news from Fern Lodge about our plans for the rest of this year, spiritual insight from one of our Christian Science student nurses, and photos of the beautiful flowers blooming this summer. We hope you will join us in our revitalization efforts.

Donations

To support our care and upcoming projects, you can donate via mail, online at fernlodge.org/donation, or by scanning this Q.R. code with your phone's camera. We appreciate each and every donation. Thank you!



Letter from our Administrator



Renewal

“Behold, I will do a new thing. . .” (Is. 43:19)

“Behold, I make all things new. . .” (Rev. 21:5)

We are entering a season of renewal at Fern Lodge as we prepare for the next chapter of progress. We are renewing our spirit, programs, and facility. More importantly, we are renewing our commitment to joy, peace, and healing as we strive to demonstrate the genuine love of Christian community, embracing the spirit of Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25.

God asks each of us to bring all our tithes into His storehouse — to do all we can to demonstrate His care for us as we care for each other. As we do this, the prophet says, God will “open . . . the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” (Mal. 3:10).

Our true tithes are, of course, wholly spiritual. As Christ Jesus says, they are “judgment, mercy, and faith” (Matt. 23:23). Or as Micah says, “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Mic. 6:8)

This is the standard at Fern Lodge: we are here to serve all our brothers and sisters in their time of need, if they are willing to rely wholly on Christian Science for healing, regardless of their ability to pay, regardless of their length of stay. This is the Christian standard demanded of us by Christ in Matthew 25.

At this time, we need your support for upgrades that will prepare us for the next decade, enabling us to better serve our brothers and sisters who seek healing in Christian Science. The costs for the following projects are approximate:

- Update our oldest wing:
 - Remodel three 1960s bathrooms; add showers = \$40,000 each (\$120,000 total)
 - Bring in the light = add patio doors to six patient rooms + landscaping = \$7,000 each (\$42,000 total)
 - Remodel the old nurses station (dampness remediation) = \$20,000
 - Update 8 patient rooms = \$32,000
- New vehicles:
 - A new wheelchair van = \$70,000
 - A good used car = \$25,000
 - A good used truck (for maintenance staff) = \$25,000
- Upgrade the nurse call system = \$30,000
- Replace old exterior doors; add electric openers for patients' use = \$41,000
- Add mini-splits and partial air conditioning (due to higher-than-normal temperatures) = awaiting bids

(cont.)

As Mrs. Eddy says, “The divinity of the Christ was made manifest in the humanity of Jesus” (*Science and Health* 25), and it is incumbent upon us to express the humanity of Jesus in our dealings with each other, especially the most vulnerable among us. This is the standard of Christ, and nothing less should be acceptable in Christian Science, especially in dealings between Christian Scientists. And as George Strong says, “We actually become more humane to the degree that we understand ourselves to be divinely Christlike.”

Today, we are actively seeking God’s blessing on everyone at Fern Lodge, staff and patients alike. We hope you will join us in seeking this blessing and will feel His blessing resting upon you. Thank you, dear friends, for your ongoing, loving efforts to support Fern Lodge’s ministry.



Brad Stock

Save the Date: Benefit Concert

On October 5, 2024, at 3 P.M., renowned opera singer Kenneth Kellogg will sing a benefit concert for Fern Lodge at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Oakland, California. Katy Stephan will accompany him on piano, and Noah Griffin will be the M.C. If you are in the area, we’d love for you to come and bring your friends!



If you would like to support this event, you can contribute ahead of time at fernlobby.org/donation or with the enclosed envelope.

Welcome, Lorna Cose!

Welcome to our new Assistant Director of Christian Science Nursing, Lorna Cose! Lorna is helping oversee the myriad duties related to managing a full staff of Christian Science nurses. She has 30 years of experience in Christian Science nursing, including previously working in this position at Fern Lodge. Her competence and kindness make her an important addition to our team. We appreciate her return to support the care we provide.



New Activities Director

We are also pleased to announce that Donna Hermansen has taken on the role of Activities Director. Donna has worked at Fern Lodge and supported activities and administration for 11 years. She also worked as Activities Coordinator at Peace Haven. Her role keeps the days interesting and varied for our patients, and she is already looking at expanding the activities we offer them. Thank you, Donna!

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for new ways to enrich our patients’ daily lives and strengthen our connection with the community. If you would like to volunteer (in person or remotely), please contact Donna: donna.hermansen@fernlobby.org.

Our Ministry:

An interview with Cybill, a student Christian Science nurse

The following extracts are from a conversation Brad Stock had with Cybill, one of our student Christian Science nurses (level 4). We want you to see how the renewal of the ranks of Christian Science nurses is progressing here at Fern Lodge, thanks in large part to the efforts of Sharon Strong. We are so grateful for the new Christian Science nurses who are bringing a sense of renewal to Fern Lodge, to our patients, and to the movement as a whole.

Q: Cybill, why do you think that Christian Science nursing is important?

Christian Science nursing is a ministry that upholds Mrs. Eddy's movement. The crux of her movement is healing, and the Christian Science nursing ministry is an extension of this healing work. Christian Science nurses are the soldiers at the front line, who keep up the good work that Mrs. Eddy started.

Q: What is the bigger picture of what you as a Christian Science nurse do?

The Christian Science nurse fosters an environment that helps a patient put Christian Science metaphysical ideas into practice and facilitates healing. Fern Lodge is an extension of Church. It is not simply for people with physical challenges. It is for those who turn to divine Principle and metaphysics for healing in a community of like-minded individuals. Our work as Christian Science nurses helps to remove obstacles to healing. It facilitates and creates comfort. It fosters an environment that removes distractions so right thoughts can take root.

Q: And that results in healing! What are you individually gaining from your work as a Christian Science nurse?

A sense of community. Christian Science nursing is people-focused. Lots of patients are lifelong Christian Scientists, some are practitioners or Christian Science nurses. They have given to the ministry in their youth, and now the younger people are giving back. This is a meeting of the generations — giving back to people who have given much to the movement and the world.

Fern Lodge is a refuge for Christian Scientists, a place where it is safe to practice our faith without judgment. This community of Christian Scientists supports us as individuals. Being here has helped me mature, and I have learned new skills, such as negotiation, learning to handle conflict instead of running away from it. I am learning interpersonal skills and gaining confidence in myself when making decisions. Christian Science nursing has built up my self-esteem and helped me develop good judgment. Christian Science nursing is a team job. We see people's strengths and their appropriate roles. We learn to serve. Through Christian Science nursing, we can all grow as an individual.

Q: Are there any other key points you have learned in your work here as a Christian Science nurse?

Christian Science nursing is a ministry, but Fern Lodge is also a workplace. Christian Science nursing is a legitimate career path for the living of qualities. We're doing real work as we care for people. Some may take this work for granted, but we are learning skills that are applicable everywhere. This is a real job for serious workers. Yes, it is religious, but above all it is about serving people. We must not discredit this work, but value it — it is worthy of our time. In fact, our work is much more than a job; it is a calling. Above all, I am very happy and grateful to be a witness to people's healings.



Summer at Fern Lodge





Fern Lodge[™]

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Change Service Requested



In love and healing ministry
Show forth the Truth that makes men free.

Christian Science Hymnal, No. 12



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