

Summer 2025

Fern Lodge

F O C U S

Knowledge that we can accomplish the good
we hope for, stimulates the system to act in the
direction which Mind points out.

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



FernLodgeCS



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Our Focus this Summer: *Education*

True Benevolence

Excerpts from a talk at Fern Lodge's Christian Science nurses graduation
by Brad Stock, Administrator
February 26, 2025

We are here to demonstrate the power of divine Love. This Love is the heart and soul of Christian Science, and it is expressed through active *benevolence*.

Mary Baker Eddy makes it clear that *benevolence* is every Christian Scientist's job description: "A Christian Scientist is a humanitarian; he is benevolent, forgiving, long-suffering, and seeks to overcome evil with good" (*Manual* 46–47).

The dictionary defines *benevolence* as "the disposition to do good; good will; kindness; charitableness; the love of mankind." Benevolence includes affection and compassion, but it goes far beyond mere human qualities. Divine Love meeting the human need is God's active benevolence. We express His benevolence and reflect it back to Him and to each other. This benevolence is the impulse of God's spirit moving in our hearts. In that sense, benevolence is so much more than financial assistance. Prayer is true benevolence. Christian Science nursing and healing are active expressions of true benevolence.

Mrs. Eddy sets forth two laws that help us demonstrate true benevolence and have special application to Christian Science nursing. First: "If we turn away from the poor, we are not ready to receive the reward of Him who blesses the poor" (*Science and Health* 8). Second: "Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us" (79). These twin laws are practical. They transform, renew, heal, and enable us to live fuller lives devoted to Christian service. Violating these laws truncates our demonstration, mission, and ministry.

Think of Peter, John, and the lame man at the gate. "Silver and gold have I none," says Peter, "but such as I have, give I thee" (Acts 3:6). And the lame man walks. This is benevolence. Think of how Paul describes charity in I Corinthians 13: "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, . . . and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." Paul says Christian charity or benevolence is patient, kind; free of envy or pride; thinks no evil; rejoices in the truth; endures, believes, hopes always—charity (or benevolence) never fails.

Is Paul's benevolence *too spiritual to be practical*? Too ethereal to be any earthly good? Or is Paul describing the fundamental logic of how God governs His universe? As John puts it: "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand" (John 3:35). This is the universal nature of God's benevolence, and it is our ability to reflect His benevolence that impels us to lead lives of Christian service.

In 1908, Mrs. Eddy was impelled to give us two new expressions of benevolence: *The Christian Science Monitor* and Christian Science nursing.

Initially, opposition to the *Monitor* was intense inside the movement. Key workers thought Mrs. Eddy's plan was too ambitious, too expensive, too soon, too religious. Despite this opposition, Mrs. Eddy gave the world a news organization that would "spread undivided the Science that operates unspent" and would "injure no man, but bless all mankind" (*Miscellany* 353). In other words, *The Christian Science Monitor* was founded on a mission of pure benevolence.

Also in 1908, Mrs. Eddy wrote a by-law setting forth *her complete standard for Christian Science nursing*. A year later, she wrote another by-law requiring The Mother Church to build and run a nursing facility. Again, her plan was opposed as being too difficult, too costly, too benevolent. In this case, Mrs. Eddy allowed The Mother Church to postpone the facility project. However, in 1916 the Directors complied with our Leader's request and built The Christian Science Benevolent Association at Chestnut Hill.

As we ponder the nature of the *Monitor* and Christian Science nursing, are we ever tempted to believe that the work is too difficult, too expensive, too human in its ways and means, too benevolent? Or do we see that these twin vehicles for good embody the transformative, renewing power of true benevolence? Do we believe Mrs. Eddy: "The spiritual power of a scientific, right thought, without a direct effort, an audible or even a mental argument, has oftentimes healed inveterate diseases" (*Rudimental Divine Science* 9)? Isn't that the natural effect of all Christlike benevolence? Isn't that the fuller potential of a Christian Science nursing that goes far beyond human caregiving?

In two places in *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mrs. Eddy urges us to recognize the transformative power of unselfed love or benevolence:

The human affections need to be changed from self to benevolence and love for God and man; changed to having but *one* God and loving Him supremely, and helping our brother man. This change of heart is essential to Christianity, and will have its effect physically as well as spiritually, healing disease. (50)

The reformer has no time to give in defense of his own life's incentive, since no sacrifice is too great for the silent endurance of his love. What has not unselfed love achieved for the race? All that ever was accomplished, and more than history has yet recorded. . . . Who should care for everybody? It is enough, say they, to care for a few. Yet the good done, and the love that foresees more to do, stimulate philanthropy and are an ever-present reward. Let one's life answer well these questions, and it already hath a benediction:

Have you renounced self? Are you faithful? Do you love? (238)



Overview of Education Offerings

Fern Lodge has a rich history of educating Christian Science nurses. Many well-trained *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurses have begun and developed their ministries here.

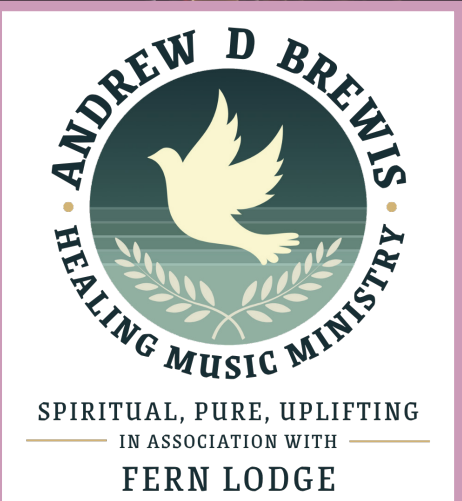
Currently, Fern Lodge’s education program is focused on mentoring, workshops, and in-service training at the facility. Staff who pursue additional coursework usually attend classes at sister facilities with whom we have an established collaborative educational relationship, most recently Tenacre. We also offer mentoring to students from sister facilities, and we are collaborating with facilities such as Broadview on curriculum.

Occasionally, classes are offered at Fern Lodge by a guest educator. For example, Levels 1 and 4 were taught on site by a guest educator in the summer 2024. A Level 3 class drawing from Glenmont’s curriculum will be taught here in August–September 2025. We anticipate offering a Level 1 class for new staff in 2026. Staff from all Christian Science nursing facilities are welcome to apply for any classes we offer at Fern Lodge or for cross-mentoring.

Excellence in mentoring with patients in the facility is currently a primary focus of our educational program. After the classwork, intensive mentoring continues on an individualized basis, pairing each student with a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse who is well versed in the metaphysics of Christian Science nursing and in the ethics, practical skills, wisdom, and judgment necessary for proper care of the sick and for representing oneself as a Christian Science nurse in accordance with the *Manual of The Mother Church* (Article VIII, Section 31).

For more information about the courses and to apply, please contact Lorna Cose, the Assistant Director of Christian Science Nursing and Education Coordinator at 510-886-2448, ext. 212, or lorna.cose@fernlobby.org.

Summer at Fern Lodge



Christian Science Music Ministry

London-based composer and performer Andrew Brewis has joined us as the new Director of Christian Science Music Ministry. For several weeks each year, Andrew will share his music across America—giving live performances and offering educational sessions to deepen our understanding of how music can support spiritual uplift and healing. “The more I write,” Andrew explains, “the more I discover how music can spiritually prod and poke us: stirring, awakening, and ultimately healing. It brings me blessings every day, and I love few things more than being able to share these melodies, harmonies, and healing messages with anyone who will listen.”

Reflecting on his time with us in May, he shares, “‘Brood o’er us with Thy shel’tring wing’ came very much to thought while visiting Fern Lodge . . . I was struck by the overwhelming sense of brotherly love—and Love in the wider sense. Speaking with one nurse, I asked, ‘Why are you a Christian Science nurse?’ His reply: ‘I love it!’ Looking forward to sharing and extending that brotherly love across the U.S.A. as I share the same calm, clear sense of God’s loving arms—through my music and healing ministry—as a natural extension of Christian Science care. It’s an honor and a joy to be part of this.”

So far this spring, Andrew has given about a dozen concerts at Christian Science churches and Christian Science nursing facilities across the western and northeastern states. Workshop topics include the role of music in healing, the role of Christian Science nursing and its integral connection with Christian Science music, and writing your own healing song.

During December, Andrew will offer a special Christmas event for us all and our communities: *Christ Be in Your Christmas*, featuring exclusively the lyrics of Jill Gooding, C.S.B. This special concert will delve into and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas through song and poetry. There may be opportunities for Sunday School students and church members to participate, too!

For more information about scheduling an event with Andrew, inquire online at fernlobby.org/christian-science-music-ministry.





Patient and Staff Testimonies

I arrived at a campground by myself after dark and suddenly needed assistance with mobility. I could not walk or get out of my car. I had food, water, and a warm sleeping bag, so I arranged myself for the night and prayed about the unassailable perfection established and maintained by God’s law. This quote from *Rudimental Divine Science* inspired me: “You must feel and know that God alone governs man; that His government is harmonious; that He is too pure to behold iniquity, and divides His power with nothing evil or material; that material laws are only human beliefs, which govern mortals wrongfully” (10).

I was blessed with cell service at my camping spot, and early the next morning, I was able to reach a dear friend who is a Christian Science practitioner. My mental focus sharpened, and the material picture ceased to be overwhelming. My perspective shifted to see this as a spiritual opportunity to be cherished and that progress would result. My friend assisted with contacting Fern Lodge. Within an hour, two Christian Science nurses jumped in a car, drove three hours to meet me at the campground, and drove me and my car to Fern Lodge.

My prayerful study was supported by the unwavering conviction held by the staff at Fern Lodge that perfection is already present. At the end of the week, I could walk, and I drove off knowing the lessons I learned were now a permanent part of my life.

I was experiencing tension with another individual. I was praying about the situation and had asked a Christian Science practitioner to provide support. One day the individual visited me and asked for forgiveness in tears. I felt the spirit of receptivity and Church coming together to recognize God, Love. Pain in my back also vanished. I have so much gratitude for Fern Lodge and its mission to help those in need.

I was asked to prepare a reading about unity for a meeting at Fern Lodge. It was my first day back from vacation. All kinds of issues were happening all at once and I didn’t know what to do. The thought came to me: “I don’t think I can do this.”

Suddenly, my left shoulder felt numb and I began to lose the ability to grip my hand. I was led to read this in *Miscellany*: “Unity is spiritual cooperation, heart to heart, the bond of blessedness such as my beloved Christian Scientists all over the field, and the dear Sunday School children, have demonstrated in gifts to me of about eighty thousand dollars, to be applied to building, embellishing, and furnishing our church edifice in Concord, N. H.” (162).

I had the opportunity to share this idea with other Christian Science nurses and patients that day, and it brought us all comfort and a reassuring reliance on ongoing good. I was healed of the belief of losing control and gained dominion to overcome a sense of self with the prayerful support of a Christian Science practitioner.

Matching Grant Fundraiser

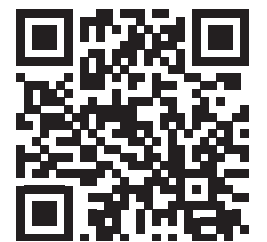
Fern Lodge continues to improve and revitalize our programs, facility, and spirit. We remain committed to the vision and practice of Christian healing through spiritual witnessing, which is the essence of Christian Science nursing.

Recently, a loving donor offered a matching grant of \$20,000. Until July 31, every donation will be matched 1:1 (meaning that if you give \$10, Fern Lodge receives \$20 total). Your donation will support three key areas:

- Patient benevolence: Most of our patients receive some financial assistance. Most donations go to support the care our patients need and so richly deserve.
- Christian Science nurse education: Donations also support quality coursework and mentoring for our eight active Christian Science nurse students, as well as mentoring in leadership roles for our two recent graduates.
- Renewal projects: Donations also make it possible for us to sustain the pace of ongoing renovations, making the facility more comfortable, safe, and beautiful. This renewal is maintaining grace!

You can donate via mail or online. If you are interested in expanding the matching grant to create a multiplier grant, please be in touch with the front office.

Thank you for joining us in caring for our brothers and sisters in need—our brothers and sisters in Christ.



<https://fernlodge.org/donation>

“ . . . Mind is the multiplier, and Mind’s infinite idea, man and the universe, is the product.”

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





Fern Lodge™

18457 Madison Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Change Service Requested

Summer 2025



We asked our students,
**“Why is Christian Science nursing education
at Fern Lodge important to you?”**

“It means growth in every aspect of my life.”

“Here, I experience daily the essence of Christian Science nursing—recognizing in patients, and in my fellow Christian Science nurses, ‘the real man, the fellow-saint of a holy household,’ that beloved child of God (*Retrospection and Introspection* 86).”

“I have been able to understand qualities of good ethics such as honesty, charity, compassion, love, humility, obeying the Ten Commandments, consistency, reliability, and trustworthiness. I have learned that if you show divine love to the patients, they feel the presence of God. The law of love is doing good to all.”



Save the date: September 28, 2025
Joint Annual Meeting with Twelveacres