

Fall 2025

# Fern Lodge

F O C U S

This spiritual meeting with our Lord in the  
dawn of a new light is the morning meal which  
Christian Scientists commemorate.

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



FernLodgeCS



FernLodgeCSN

18457 Madison Avenue, Castro Valley, CA

fernlobby.org (510) 886-2448 info@fernlobby.org

## From the Fern Lodge Board:

Fern Lodge would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to outgoing Administrator, Brad Stock. During his tenure, Brad was instrumental in enhancing the organizational structure of Fern Lodge, in creating invaluable new systems, and in kicking off our recent program of renewal. We are all so appreciative of everything that Brad has done and wish him well in his future endeavors.



Photo by Kristin Palkoner



We would also like to welcome our new Administrator, Amy Baker. Amy came to us earlier this year from the East Coast, and she brings to Fern Lodge a wide range of professional experience — in writing, in management, and in interior design. We have already felt the blessings of Amy's varied background of skills, which have positively influenced our staff culture as well as our facility design. We are very grateful to have her.



## Letter from our Administrator

"There's just something about Fern Lodge." I heard this again and again last year when I came to Fern Lodge for my first visit — from almost everyone I met. And I have to admit that it intrigued me. What did they mean?

In all honesty, I had never heard of Fern Lodge before that visit. I hadn't ever lived in the San Francisco Bay Area and I hadn't worked in the field of Christian Science nursing. So there was really no reason for me to be aware of a facility that more than one person has called "a hidden gem."

It was clear that these fans of Fern Lodge weren't just talking about its setting, although the unassuming beauty of its surroundings is noteworthy: the tranquility of a California bungalow nestled beside a creek and surrounded by flowering plants and fruit trees. What makes Fern Lodge truly special has nothing to do with its location or architecture. It has much more to do with the quality of thought of those who work here.

After a few months of observing the Christian Science nursing staff at Fern Lodge, one word popped

into my head: grace. This quality — which Mary Baker Eddy says should be expressed in "patience, meekness, love, and good deeds" (*Science and Health*, p. 4) — seems to be at the heart of everything that our Christian Science nurses do.

It's inspiring to see the patience, meekness, and love they express on a daily basis to the patients who come to Fern Lodge for healing. And it's inspiring to know that the Christian Science nursing students in our education program are being trained by mentors who teach and model such grace so consistently.

But what has struck me even more about Fern Lodge is that the expression of grace is not limited to our Christian Science nursing staff. It is demonstrated by individuals throughout the organization. By the support staff managers who have worked here for decades. By the cooks in our kitchen and the dedicated workers in our Activities Department, the housekeepers and maintenance staff and Business Office personnel.

All these members of our community offer grace on a daily basis, not only to our patients and their families, but also to each other. They seem to naturally look for opportunities to extend gentle, loving support to anyone who steps foot on the premises — from patients, to co-workers, to the repairman who comes to fix the oven.

In that way, nursing at Fern Lodge isn't limited to the Christian Science nurses who provide care for our patients. It is the essence of everything we do here, of who we are and how we go

about our day. It is our unified team of staff members, endeavoring to fulfil our mission of providing care to anyone who needs it with hearts deeply rooted in grace. And it is this atmosphere of thought that promotes healing for everyone it touches — for patients, for staff members, and for anyone who visits the property. This is the "something" about Fern Lodge that makes it so special.

I am very grateful to be a part of this inspiring organization — to be giving and receiving grace every day with this remarkable group of people. And I am very grateful for you and your ongoing support of our healing mission.

I think often of Mrs. Eddy's phrase, "where heart meets heart reciprocally blest" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 207), knowing that blessings must always be reciprocal when our actions are motivated by a heartfelt desire to express the love of God to everyone we meet. May you continue to experience the blessings that are sure to come from your continued support of this very special place, Fern Lodge.

With much appreciation for you all,



Amy Baker  
Administrator





## Annual Meeting 2025

This fall brought a new experience for all of us at Fern Lodge: A first-ever joint Annual Meeting with Twelveacres, our neighbor organization in the Bay Area serving individuals with special needs who wish to rely on Christian Science for healing and progress.

The inspiration for this event was many years in the making. For some time, Fern Lodge and Twelveacres have been part of an increasing effort by Christian Science care facilities in the region to work more closely together.



Amy Hellyer, Program Director at Twelveacres, and Marjorie Dala, Fern Lodge's Director of Christian Science Nursing

Photo by Kristin Palkoner

For example:

- We are both members of the West Coast Christian Science Care Cooperative, through which the leaders of organizations from Arizona to Alaska meet regularly to collaborate, share ideas, and support each other in our service to the community.
- We have shared administrative resources, like HR and legal services, operational tools, and suppliers — connecting each other to trusted sources as needs arise.
- We share staff members. During this past year, for example, three Christian Science nurses working at Fern Lodge have also worked part-time at Twelveacres. All three have expressed appreciation for the ability to have a more diverse experience, and for the opportunity to learn and grow in new ways.
- We've shared training. Some Twelveacres staff have found it helpful to take an introductory Christian Science nursing class through Fern Lodge. Twelveacres has reciprocated by conducting training for Christian Science nurses (and some other staff members) from Fern Lodge on serving individuals with special needs.
- And when, from time to time, Twelveacres residents find themselves in need of skilled nursing care, it has been natural for Fern Lodge to provide assistance.

Given this history of cooperation, it seemed natural for us to collaborate on our Annual

Meeting, as well.

While Fern Lodge and Twelveacres will always have their own separate and distinct missions, we are committed to an ongoing demonstration of unity through cooperation and collaboration. After all, unity is a core concept in Christian Science, which views all of creation as “one Father with His universal family, held in the gospel of Love” (*Science and Health*, p. 576).

We invite you to watch a replay of the Annual Meeting on our website, and hope you find inspiration in the featured talk on “Tangible Angels” by Kate Dearborn, C.S. Our expectation is for this meeting to be just one of many ongoing opportunities to work together as part of God’s harmonious, unified family, manifesting his gospel of Love.





# Autumn at Fern Lodge



Photos by Tiffani Hale

## Opportunities to Contribute

As we continue to move forward with our Renewal Program, we encourage you to consider contributing to one of the following projects. Every gift, large or small, is helpful, and will aid us in meeting these goals:

- Upgrade the home theater system in our main living room, including a new TV and speakers to enable higher quality Zoom meetings and presentations
- New paint and furniture for our four smaller living rooms
- Add a sidewalk to our back garden, allowing easier access by patients and visitors
- Replace the roof and repair water damage in the dining room
- Install new flooring in our hallways
- Update the emergency generator system
- Make necessary upgrades to our patios



## Donations

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







Fern Lodge

18457 Madison Ave.  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

**Change Service Requested**

Each successive stage of experience unfolds  
new views of divine goodness and love.

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

