

LYNN HOUSE Letter

A Haven for Spiritual Healing, Rest & Renewal

“WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THE HOUSE?”

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the familiar Bible story from II Kings, a certain widow comes to Elisha and starts lamenting her situation – her husband is dead, she owes money to creditors and her sons are going to be taken as slaves to pay the debt. In coming to Elisha, she is pleading for some kind of help. What she gets is more than she could have imagined or planned for herself. Elisha asks her that inspired question, “What do you have in the house?” (NKJV) She answers that she has “...nothing in the house, but a jar of oil.” She had nothing ... nothing but that simple oil ... the oil that just poured and poured until her need was met!

Elisha’s question was given to the staff at Lynn House to prayerfully ponder. There was discussion of the significance of the oil, which Mary Baker Eddy defined as “consecration; charity; gentleness; prayer; heavenly inspiration” (*Science and Health*, p. 592). These are qualities that we cherish at Lynn House, with our staff consecrated to loving others, caring for them gently and depending on heavenly inspiration to do so.

Thinking about this story also led us to some deep questions about the spiritual nature of sustainability



Lynn House courtyard on a snowy day.

and supply. Questions included: Are we dwelling in a sense of limitation, as the widow — or are we seeing spiritually, as the prophet Elisha? Are we allowing God’s thoughts to fill our house (our consciousness)? The story shows the healing that occurs when, instead of harboring a sorrowful sense of lack, we turn to the inexhaustible supply God is giving us.

Ideas were shared about our “house” and how it is a refuge; a place of safety to demonstrate Truth’s healing power. It is filled with divine Love,

ever-present and ever-operative. There was also discussion of how Mary Baker Eddy’s definition of prophet relates to the role of the Christian Science nurse in seeing the “disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth” (*Science and Health*, p.593). Just as the prophet, we need to maintain this spiritual view. As the limitless source of all good is seen with spiritual vision, it is manifested in our churches, homes and facilities. In working from the spiritual foundation — “the structure of Truth and Love” (*Science and Health*, p. 583) — we grow in our understanding of God, and we have access to God’s infinite resources.

Supply may appear to take different forms — a kind deed or a generous contribution — but, in fact, it is the visible expression of God’s already infinite abundance. In *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy states, “God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies” (p. 307). As we pour out the oil of consecration, God will continue sustaining us and meeting every need.

Carolyn E. Hill
Executive Director

“DISCOVERING THE COMFORTER WITHIN”

WORKSHOPS FOR BRANCH CHURCHES



At a workshop, Lori Hartman shows mobility aids available for loan.

Would your church be interested in hosting the special workshop on “Discovering the Comforter Within” currently being offered by Lynn House? A participant at a recent workshop described it as “a wonderful blend of practical ideas on how we can help one another and inspirational discussion about the nursing qualities that are inherent in each one of us.”

A range of topics is explored, including: the role of the Christian Science nurse, the services offered at Lynn House, practical ideas for assisting with mobility, and safety at home. However, we can tailor the workshop to meet the needs and interests of your individual branch church.

If you might be interested in holding a workshop, please call Carolyn Hill or Lori Hartman.

GRATITUDE FOR HEALING AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to Lynn House. A few years ago, I was faced with a challenge where I found myself unable to walk, retain any food, or care for myself. A family member tried to take care of me, but soon realized that I needed Christian Science nursing care to support the prayerful work of the practitioner.

It is hard to put into words the love and relief I instantly felt upon arriving at Lynn House. The staff's expression of love and confidence in the truth quickly quieted my fears and that of my family member.

Lynn House was truly a refuge for me. The healing wasn't quick, but the love and care provided by the staff supported both me and my family member through some trying days ahead. Looking back I realize how the nurses also had a role in supporting my spiritual growth.

When I doubted or felt frustrated about my progress, the nurse walking through the door was just the opposite. She or he would acknowledge the presence of good in something about the day or the meal or just in general. When I would be afraid, the nurse reflected a sweet confidence that lifted me up too. When I would be impatient with myself, the nurse was the living example of patience. Regardless of the time, day or night, I felt the staff's love, compassion, and steadfast reliance on the Christ.

The "light" that each nurse brought was unique to them and to the need at the moment. Even a brief

encounter would be sufficient to "reset" my mental direction. It wasn't personality or a scholastic knowledge of C.S., but their love and trust that dismissed my dark and gloomy thoughts.

An example of this was when I was so tired of not seeing physical progress, and one nurse offered to give me a pedicure. Earlier, I had asked if the hair salon gave pedicures. It just popped into my head. This dear one came back toward the end of her busy shift to give me my pedicure. It was like having a sister or mother take the time to do something special because they care so much. It brought me to tears of gratitude, because I thought of the Bible scene of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. What tender love was expressed to them during a dark time.

I am so grateful for the spiritual growth that occurred during my stay at Lynn House.

~ Mary Samardzija

REST AND STUDY SPECIAL

Two Nights for the Price of One
\$50 per night, including meals,
for up to four nights

Runs through February 1st

A wonderful opportunity to
retreat from the world and
have a quiet place for prayer
and spiritual renewal.

Please call 703-379-6000
for reservations.

THE RESIDENCES

Whether reading by the fireplace or engaging in heartfelt conversation over a meal, our residents appreciate the warm, supportive environment of our small residential/assisted living community. One resident recently commented:

“When I thought about giving up my own house to move here, I assumed that it would take a while to adjust—but it turned out that I felt at home very quickly. Everything is so comfortable, and there is a wonderful sense of family. I am grateful to be free of the concerns of caring for a house, grocery shopping, and other chores—and to have more time for prayer and study.”

If you or a family member might be interested in joining our residential community, please contact Lynne Darnell at 703-379-6000.



A resident and C.S. nurse enjoying conversation in the library.

EXCERPTS OF NOTES FROM RECENT PATIENTS

“I was very grateful to be in such a loving atmosphere. I could tell that each person that I interacted with was there to bless and care for me. Thank you for the joy and patience that you shared with me.”

~ ~ ~

“My stay at Lynn House was inspiring, uplifting and healing. I have so much to be grateful for! The loving attention the CS nurses gave—kind and considerate, yet giving me encouragement to do all I could for myself—was so helpful! I loved having people come from nearby churches to read the Bible Lesson Sermon to us! Lynn House is certainly a blessing to the Christian Science movement. God bless you all!”

IN LOVING MEMORY

INTRODUCTION TO C.S. NURSING CLASS

Have you considered Christian Science nursing as a possible next step on your spiritual journey?

Learn more about this ministry through our **Introduction to Christian Science Nursing class** offered three times each year.

This ten-week course includes two weeks of classroom instruction followed by on-the-job training under the supervision of a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse.

You may also take just the two-week classroom portion, which could be especially helpful if you are serving on your church care committee, providing help to a family member, or simply interested in learning more about the *Manual*-provision for the Christian Science nurse.

For more information about the class and upcoming dates, please call Mary Ladson, Director of Christian Science Nursing, at 703-379-6000.

Cassie Coston, our Director of Field Communications and Development, touched many with her warm and generous spirit. Though she is no longer with us, we know that “space is no separator of hearts.”

(Miscellaneous Writings 150: 10)

WAYS TO GIVE

In order to ensure that our services are available to all Christian Scientists in a time of need, we do not charge our true operating costs, but instead depend on contributions to help close our budget gap. On behalf of all who use our services, we are most grateful for the loving support of our donors.

\$100,000 Matching Challenge (now through December 31st)— Thanks to our generous sponsors, every gift we receive through the end of the year will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000, meaning that a successful challenge will provide \$200,000 of support. To make a gift, please use the enclosed remittance envelope — or visit our website at www.lynnhouse.org to give online.

Facility Restoration Drive— As our building and grounds are due for some significant maintenance and repair work, this summer we began a two-year Facility Restoration Drive, with the aim of raising \$650,000. To date we have raised \$44,000, which we used to help cover part of the cost of replacing our leaking roof. It is wonderful to no longer have to get out the buckets during a rainstorm!

Sustainer Program— Modest monthly giving can translate into a substantial contribution over the course of the year. Pledging \$20 per month means a gift of \$240 for the year — and \$83 per month is a gift of almost \$1000. For monthly giving by credit card, please provide your information on the enclosed remittance envelope. Gifts can also be made by automatic withdrawal from your bank account or by check. To sign up for these options, please contact our Office Manager, Susan Orttung.

United Way/Combined Federal Campaign— For the United Way of the National Capital Area Campaign our code is 8495, and for the Combined Federal Campaign our code is 69892.



VOLUNTEERING AT LYNN HOUSE

How thankful we are to the members of area churches who lovingly come to Lynn House to lead our Sunday services and Thursday evening testimony meetings. We are also grateful for the volunteers who come to read the Bible lesson for our weekday 11:00 am service — and we would love to have a few more volunteers join them. If you might be able to come (even just once a month or every-other-month) please contact our Administrative Coordinator, Nancy Fulton. Also, our Activities Coordinator, Allison Jones, would love to hear from you if you have a special talent or interest to share!



LYNN HOUSE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING & VISITING C.S. NURSE SERVICE

*You are welcome to call
24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

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Lynn House offers a variety of services: Christian Science nursing care within the facility, respite care, rest & study, outpatient care, and a Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service. Please do not hesitate to call and explore how we might be able to help!

4400 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22304-1010 • phone (703) 379-6000 • (800) 283-4325
fax (703) 671-8897 • mail@lynnhouse.org • www.lynnhouse.org

A Christian Science nursing facility supporting Christian Science healing and accredited by
The Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc.