

OUR HEALING PURPOSE AT THE HOLIDAYS

A LETTER TO LYNN HOUSE

Last year we were invited to join a friend at Lynn House for Thanksgiving dinner. My nephew was invited as well. When I picked my nephew up, I was shocked by the change in his appearance. He looked like he had not been sleeping and he had lost a great deal of weight. His clothes looked shabby. As we drove to Lynn House, I prayed not to be impressed by this change, but I was very worried. My nephew is a veteran of the Iraq War, a private person, and I didn't want to pry. I turned to God for comfort and support, but I had trouble keeping my thought from wondering what was wrong.

When we arrived, I was concerned what the Christian Science nurses would think of the situation. The Director of Christian Science Nursing warmly greeted us as we went into the cheerful dining area where the staff, patients, residents and family members were gathering together. Before the meal started, we were asked to pray together. In that happy atmosphere, my prayer was to see my nephew as the Christian Science nurses were seeing him, a child of God, perfect, complete and beloved.

On the way home, I asked my nephew if there was anything I could do to help him. He declined any help, but did accept an invitation to have Christmas dinner with us at Lynn House. During the holiday season, I kept praying about the situation. I remembered how the Christian Science nurses at Lynn House had not been impressed with the picture that I was seeing.

On Christmas day, he looked as scruffy as before. My heart sank in discouragement, but once we arrived, he cheered up and enjoyed the delicious dinner served. The staff loaded up a plate for him to

take home. Again, it was clear to me that they were seeing him as he truly was ... a perfect child of God.

As we were driving home, I had a heart to heart with my nephew. I asked him how I could help him. He shared with me that he was having a physical challenge and was deeply discouraged. We talked about options for care and he reminded me that he had grown up in the Christian Science Sunday School. I was well aware of that as I drove him there each Sunday. He asked if I would meet with him each week to help him think

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HOLIDAYS - A TIME FOR HEALING

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through how to work through this challenge. I readily agreed.

It's now a year later and so much has changed in my nephew's life! The physical challenge was met and he looks like a new person. Recently at our weekly meeting, we were discussing a new job prospect

...thank you even more for the spiritual inspiration that embraced everyone who came.

for him. As we reviewed the training he will be required to take, he pointed out that there was only one day that would interfere with the training. I asked him which day that was. He said, "Thanksgiving. Aren't we going to go to Lynn House together?"

Thank you, Lynn House, for that delicious holiday meal. But thank you even more for the spiritual inspiration that embraced everyone who came. It blessed our family more than you will know!

~ With love from a friend of Lynn House

PURPOSE AND FULFILLMENT

A message from Kathryn L. Fish, Executive Board Chairman



Every idea has purpose. Each of us is the expression of God's being. The infinite variety of God provides for the unique and whole expression for each of us. We each have something to contribute to mankind as a result of our apprehension of our spiritual oneness with God. We also learn to recognize and cherish the uniqueness and purpose of every idea around us.

Over several years I have been cherishing the infinite expression of church and particularly how Christian Science nursing supports the purpose of church. One purpose of church is to rouse the dormant understanding and in doing so provide proof of its utility and elevate the race. We each contribute to this purpose through continually seeking a better understanding of God and our relationship to Him.

The by-laws of the Church Manual, including the one establishing Christian Science nursing, give us "...dutiful and sufficient occupation for all its members." (Art. VIII, section 15). We can pray to see the purpose, identity, and form of each activity, duty, position, role that is part of the church based activity of Christian Science nursing. As we cherish the purpose of each activity of the Christian Science church movement, we will also see the fulfillment of that purpose. And each of these activities has place and unique fulfillment. One does not compete with another. It is our duty to pray each day to see a clear view of that purpose and fulfillment.

As Lynn House and Christian Science nursing continues to grow in this field and around the globe, it will assume the form best designed for its purpose in the time and space it is needed. And as we support and pray for the unfoldment of the form of God's purpose, we will see the fulfillment of the purpose.



Thanks to our dedicated Corporate Members! Everyone pictured here attended the November 2015 Corporate Meeting at Lynn House. They come as far away as Charlottesville, VA and bring news of healings to their churches.

A MUSICAL CHAPTER AT LYNN HOUSE

Pondering the theme for this newsletter, I turned to our beloved dictionaries to find out more. Webster defines purpose as “the resolve to proceed to a destination.” Macmillan states it as “putting resolve into action.” Looking further I found some insightful references in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy: “When the destination is desirable, expectation speeds our progress” (426:8). Also by Mrs. Eddy: “Spirit, God, gathers unformed thoughts into their proper channels, and unfolds these thoughts, even as He opens the petals of a holy purpose in order that the purpose may appear (506: 18-21).”

Then the experience of being in the Lynn House choir a couple years ago filled my thought. One of the ideas that motivated this joyful endeavor was a quote by John Wesley: “Do all the good you can, / By all the means you can, / In all the ways you can, / To all the people you can, / As long as ever you can.” Our choir strived individually and collectively to fulfill this goal by attending every rehearsal.

The choir director was devoted to perfection which required deep humility and a willingness to correct and perfect our choir parts – soprano, alto, and tenor – to achieve total harmony with each other. Some of the choir members had no previous musical background nor had they been in a choir before. Rehearsing 2-3 times each week, often after an 8-hour shift, meant persistence, patience and perseverance. Some scores were sung without piano accompaniment and we learned the importance of listening



to each other, while still singing our own part. We felt the harmony of being in and moving with the one Spirit – “doing all the good we could in all the ways we could.”

The entire choir learned and proved that all things are possible with God, for the many rehearsals resulted in beautiful, inspiring concerts for all

who attended. Although the choir director is no longer on staff, the concerts he directed remain a monument to him for all who heard them. The performances were a holy experience, a purpose fulfilled, glorifying God and never to be forgotten.

~ Fay Joyner
CS Nurse

LYNN HOUSE CALENDAR

REST AND STUDY SPECIAL

December 27, 2015 through February 14, 2016

Rest and renew at our house! Give yourself a treat and leave the cooking and housekeeping to us!

Two nights for the price of one!

\$50/night, including meals, for up to four nights.

Please call 703-379-6000 for reservations.

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING COURSE

April 2016, date TBD.

See www.lynnhouse.org/training for more information.

FULFILLING MY PURPOSE!

HOW ALLISON WAS LED TO BE THE ACTIVITY COORDINATOR

Sometimes there is an event early in your life that is an indicator of the road one takes later on. When I was nine years old, one of our neighbors, Ms. Perkins, asked me to work for her. She was so positive that I could help her and said she saw something good about me that made her call. “What?” I said, “I’m only nine years old!”



Allison Jones decorating for the holidays!

I asked my mother. She said Ms. Perkins worked at a “Christian Care Assisted Living Residence” that was operated by a local Pastor and his wife. My mom said she knew the individuals and they were very loving and caring folks. So, she gave me permission. I did things like grocery shopping, making beds, and tidying. The residents and workers were so kind and nice to me. It was the Christ guiding me, though I did not know it then.

As the years passed by, my family moved from that community, but I always kept in touch with Ms. Perkins and continued to nurse for her individually until she passed on. Eventually I left nursing and moved on to other work assignments.

Then one day, I received that call again. I was serving in the Christian Science Reading Room and the thought came to me that I should be nursing. I thought, “Oh, no, that was an old assignment that I had many years ago and I no longer need to do that anymore.” But I kept hearing that still, small voice calling me and saying I should be nursing. The Christ was calling on me to fulfill my purpose.

I called Lynn House and asked when I could take the Introduction to Christian Science Nursing course. The Director scheduled me for a June class, and that is when I started to work again as a nurse—a Christian Science nurse. I am grateful that I was listening to the still small voice, because I am now fulfilling my purpose for God’s will to be done. My Christian Science nurses training led me to our Activities program, and I am thankful to Lynn House for being there for me.

~Allison Jones,
Activity Coordinator

VISIT OUR COMMUNITY

If you would like to come for a tour of our residential community, please call
Lynne Darnell,
Assisted Living
Facility Administrator
at 703-379-6000.

We’d love to show you around!

WITH GRATITUDE



Lynn House is very grateful to Mark Sheehan for his seven dedicated years of service on the Executive Board. We welcome in Consuela Allen, from Sixth Church, DC, and John Cochran from the Salisbury, MD, Christian Science Society. Please see the new Executive Board officers listed on the back page.

BLESSINGS AND GOOD NEWS!

Lynn House has received a full three-year unrestricted accreditation from The Commission for the Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations and Facilities after their inspection this June.

Related to that, we also passed all our Health Department and Department of Social Services inspections with zero violations.

FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE – LIFE NOT DEATH

Admission to a Christian Science nursing facility depends on a person's reliance on Christian Science treatment – on their dedication to healing results by gaining understanding of God's loving, divine government. When calls come in requesting Christian Science nursing, the need is spiritually discerned and the proper arrangements are made. Why, then, are Christian Science nursing facilities sometimes viewed as places where people go to die? All those involved with Christian Science nursing know of many situations where living longer, happier, more purposeful lives, resulted despite the sad expectations of the patient or the family.

We'd like to share one example of such a healing that happened at Lynn House recently. As usual, the Director of Christian Science Nursing took the admission call. The patient was greatly incapacitated, of advanced years, and was not expected to live much longer (based on a medical diagnosis requested by some family members). Despite that prediction, the Director sensed a hope and inner desire to live.

The family had been caring for the patient for many weeks before this, as the patient had not been able to do anything for herself. At Lynn House, the Christian Science nurses continued this loving care and surrounded the patient with the healing atmosphere impelled by divine Love. The Christian Science practitioner engaged on the case was giving daily Christian

Science treatments. After a week or so it was evident that the patient was responding. The care instructions began to change and the patient was encouraged to do more for herself – even to the point that by giving her a few pages of large print from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* she was able to study somewhat on her own. The claim of incapacitation did not give up easily. But inspired and loving encouragement from the CS nurses and the practitioner continued. Physical activity increased and healing was witnessed.

What was going on here? ...*God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.... [God] hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (II Timothy 1: 7, 9).* Christian Science nurses uphold their thought with the purpose they were called to perform – to expect quick and whole healing and rejoice over it.

This patient went home with a renewed sense of life. She had benefited from the spiritually-based care and loving atmosphere that embraced her at Lynn House. Through the work with the CS practitioner she joyfully discovered that healing is possible at any age. She has continued with a normal, active life and was even able to attend her association in another state. The family was also blessed by this experience.

NEWS

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW FINANCE MANAGER



Roger Harrison is retired from a successful career in corporate finance. A CPA, he worked as Director of Finance for the last ten years at a non-profit trade association. He has always enjoyed seeing Christian Science solve business and management problems. Working at Lynn House just two days per week will be a wonderful opportunity to practice that prayerful focus and still allow for spare time pursuits, like fly-fishing, photography, and spending time outdoors. Married with two grown sons, he lives in Fairfax City.

PURPOSEFUL GIVING MATCHING CHALLENGE

The donors who sponsored the 2015 Matching Campaign established a high goal to meet – \$135,000! There’s an awesome amount of love in this challenge and its fulfillment. The responses have been raining in with gifts from the heart. Donations received before December 31, 2015 will be matched. Thank you for giving so unselfishly!

- ♥ You sustain Lynn House with the ability to pay our bills – electricity, food, salaries – at a licensed and accredited facility.
- ♥ You promote Christian Science nursing by supporting the Introductory Courses and on-going mentoring Lynn House offers to CS nursing students.
- ♥ You improve Lynn House by supporting upgrades – redecorating the “old-fashioned” rooms, providing beauty for inspiration, new technology for efficiency.
- ♥ You invest in Lynn House by allowing our savings and endowments to grow for the future.

And most importantly your prayers help to be a fortress surrounding this haven of spiritual refreshment and renewal.

How close to the goal are we? As of December 7th we have received \$60,000. Please help us exceed the challenge and close the budget gap!

Giving at your workplace! The United Way of the National Capital Area code for Lynn House is **8495**. The code is **69892** for the Combined Federal Campaign.



FROM LYNN HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



KEEPING IN TOUCH... We happily receive changes of address, new emails, or requests to be removed from the mailing list. Please contact mail@lynnhouse.org or (703) 379-6000.

LYNN HOUSE OF POTOMAC VALLEY, INC.

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

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