

ACTIVE — SERVING AND PROGRESSING

“Be active, and, however slow, thy success is sure: toil is triumph; and—thou hast been faithful over a few things” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 340).

We are nothing if not active here at Lynn House. But, we trust, not in the “rushing around smartly” way that Mary Baker Eddy observes “is no proof of accomplishing much” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 230). Rather, we strive to be active in the God-directed way that bears the fruits of the Spirit.

We are grateful for much good that has appeared over the past months. There are the things mentioned in this newsletter – the Bible talk in March, the 2-day retreat for our Christian Science Nurses in April, the Youth Concert in May. But there are the smaller things as well that, though they may not merit a newsletter article, are still important signs of progress and forward momentum.

Examples include a recent tree removal at the request of a neighbor, repairs to our roof, and upgrades to our computer network to enhance the security of our IT system. New plantings in our front entrance island and in our courtyard are another lovely improvement, made



New plantings, a gift from a donor and sign of renewal

possible by a generous donor.

We have also benefited from the assistance of sister facilities who have shared their expertise and experience when we have called for help and advice.

We are grateful for every bit of right activity that increases our ability to more fully serve our field. But we are most grateful for the opportunities to support our fellow Christian Scientists on their own journeys Spiritward. Their comments speak for themselves.

From a family member of a patient

we helped at home (through our Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service):

“Thank you so very much for such a loving and comforting offer. Your offer (to move the patient to another setting) was a perfect example of divine Love’s care for us. It was a perfect unfoldment.”

From a recent patient at Lynn House:

“I have had a physical healing that would surprise anyone who read it. I am most grateful for the superb and loving care the [Christian Science] Nurses have given me. They are all angels in my view.”

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From a recent Rest & Study guest:
“Excellent atmosphere inside and outside with bursts of spring flowers. I came here with a poor appetite and could barely eat much of anything. When I left I was able to finish most everything. A very pleasant stay.”

From a Christian Science Practitioner:

“I deeply appreciate Lynn House, where patients are loved and beautifully cared for by a wonderful staff.”

From a Christian Science Nurse:

“The part of my work that I most enjoy is remembering that this is a ministry, and so I am grateful whenever I can help a patient feel closer to God. I love witnessing the healing power of God’s word and helping the patients to smile and find a sense of peace within themselves. Working with the other Christian Science Nurses is also a joy because each one brings . . . gifts and talents to this altar. I am blessed every day by the ideas they share and the level of commitment they express.”

So yes, we are active here at Lynn House. Active in service to God and to our fellow man. We are grateful for every evidence of God’s bountiful love as we strive ever to be, as the apostle Paul reminds us, what God loves, “a cheerful giver” (*II Corinthians 9:7*).

ADDITIONS TO OUR LIBRARY COLLECTION

We were delighted to receive some wonderful new books from two thoughtful donors. The first is an easy-to-use paperback version of *The Word: The New Testament from 26 Translations*, edited by Curtis Vaughn (1988). It has the complete King James Version text with significant insights from other translations placed immediately below the relevant verse. It is a handy resource for getting quick comparisons of the different translations for any given New Testament passage.



The second volume we received is a hardcover reprint of *The Prophets* by Abraham Heschel (1962). This classic work on the Old Testament prophets has been considered a seminal work on the subject for decades.

Finally, we received a copy of the recently published three-volume boxed set of a new translation of the complete Hebrew Bible by Robert Alter. These beautifully produced books represent, as *The Wall Street Journal* noted, “a colossal project now completed after almost 40 years” (3/15/2019).

We are most grateful for these significant additions to our library that will enhance and enrich the research and study of our guests and staff.

VOLUNTEERING

We are so grateful for our volunteers (including Cindy and Joy, who help with gardening) for sharing their time and talents with us. Volunteer opportunities include:



- Reading the Bible-Lesson for our 11:00 am gathering each weekday morning
- Leading an activity for our patients and residents – such as a sing-along or musical performance, sharing a favorite hobby, presenting a travelogue, etc.
- Gardening

For more information, please call Nancy Fulton, Administrative Coordinator, or Allison Jones, Activities Coordinator, at 703-379-6000.

STAFF RETREAT FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES

In April we held a special two-day retreat for our Christian Science nursing staff. With “Spring Training” as the theme, we focused on team-building and communication — incorporating games and improvisation exercises, as well as time for sharing metaphysical ideas. The retreat culminated in an afternoon visit to George Washington’s Mount Vernon home, where we learned more about a man who was not only a great leader, but also a thoughtful planner who cared for his army in battle. Overall, the retreat was a fruitful and inspiring time together, and we hope to make it an annual event.



Our Christian Science nurses on their visit to Mount Vernon.

YOUTH CONCERT

On Saturday, May 18, in conjunction with DiscoveryBound, we held our annual Youth Concert to showcase the musical talents of a number of young people from area Sunday Schools. We had over a dozen musicians (if you count the parents who assisted with duets) who played everything from classical to folk to rock. Most performers were pianists, but we also had two violinists and one ukulele player.

Afterward families were invited to stay for refreshments and an art activity – and we were treated to a visit by Pierce, a 4-week old kitten who stole the show and all our hearts as well.

Thank you to our talented young friends for sharing your musical skills with us!



May 2019 Youth Concert



Meeting Kitty Pierce

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

Would you like to explore the possibility of becoming a Christian Science nurse?

To learn more about this healing ministry, please visit our website or call

Cassia Schuck,
Director of Christian
Science Nursing,
at
703-379-6000

and ask about our next
Introduction to Christian
Science Nursing course.



SUPPORT FOR LYNN HOUSE

The apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that they were very dear to him and that “night and day we used to work at our trades that we might not burden any of you” (1 Thessalonians 2:9, *The New Testament from 26 Translations*).

You are all very dear to us, and it is a labor of love to work “night and day” to provide the services and resources that will help to bless our field. In turn, we are deeply appreciative of all the support that we receive in doing this work.

Every gift is an expression of Love. We are grateful for all the ways we feel love expressed toward Lynn House – including prayerful support, financial contributions and volunteering.

Prayerful support – Referring to unity in prayer, Mary Baker Eddy has written that as “the bonds of peace are cemented by spiritual understanding and Love, there will be unity of spirit, and the healing power of Christ will prevail” (*Pulpit and Press*, p. 22). Healing is at the heart of Christian Science nursing, an activity lovingly provided for in our Church Manual – and we thank you for prayerfully cherishing this ministry.

Financial contributions – To help close our annual \$1 million gap between operating costs and program revenue, we count on contributions, grants, and bequests. Contributions can be made by check, credit card, or stock. You may give online by visiting our website (lynnhouse.org), or you may use the enclosed remittance envelope.

Another way of giving is by making a monthly pledge through our **Sustainer program**. Modest monthly contributions can add up to significant support. You can join our Sustainer program by using the enclosed envelope or by visiting the “giving” page on our website.

We also ask you to consider including Lynn House in your **Estate Planning**. Over the years, we have been greatly blessed by bequests from individuals who have designated Lynn House as a beneficiary in their will or living trust. Their generosity has been a loving legacy that has strengthened Lynn House beyond measure.

For questions about these and other ways to give, please call Susan Orttung, Assistant Executive Director, at 703-379-6000. Every contribution is dearly valued and heartens us in this work.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

To let us know of an address change (or to be removed from our mailing list), please email us at mail@lynnhouse.org or call us at 703-379-6000.



LYNN HOUSE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

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

EXCERPTS FROM
“WAKEFUL SHEPHERD:” THE ROLE OF THE PROPHET IN ISRAEL

TALK FOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP MEETING
LYNN HOUSE, MARCH 16, 2019
BY DAVID SAND

At our Corporate meeting in March our Executive Director, David Sand, delivered a talk entitled “Wakeful Shepherd: The Role of the Prophet in Israel.” This 40-minute talk grew out of a shorter presentation he had prepared for our residents’ Bible study group. In this talk he briefly covered the lives of five prophets, Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. He stressed the point that genuine prophecy comes from direct spiritual experience of God and that this was the basis of the prophet’s authority. He explained, too, that Mary Baker Eddy can be placed directly in this prophetic line of thought. Below are a few other ideas shared in the talk.

Wakeful Shepherd

One definition of the root Hebrew word for prophet means “to cause to bubble up, hence to pour forth words abundantly as is done by those who speak with ardour or divine emotion of mind” (*Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Dictionary*). This definition implies a spring, i.e., pure rather than stagnant water. Divine rather than human thought.

When Jacob is blessing each of the tribes, he refers to the tribe of Joseph this way: “his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)” (*Genesis 49:24*).

Here is an interesting concept. Singling out the Shepherd as the stone of Israel. As if to say that the watchful are the cornerstone of this people. The good stewards, the careful, the conscientious, the faithful.

Loyal Opposition & The Holy Ghost

During the period of the monarchy, the prophets became a sort of loyal opposition party — the conscience of the nation. Their audience was the people as a whole and the ruling class in particular — the kings and the princes. Many were advisors to kings and their courts. Among them Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

But it is important to note this point made in *II Peter*: “no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (*II Peter 1: 20, 21*). Here the writer places the authority of the prophets’ message on the Holy Ghost — on direct spiritual experience.

Our first tenet reads: “We take the inspired [the prophetic] word of the Bible as our sufficient guide to eternal life” (*Church Manual*, p. 15). From where does the Bible derive its authority? From the Holy Ghost.

In this regard, an observation that Mary Baker Eddy made about books and teaching is worth noting:

Of this also rest assured, that books and teaching are but a ladder let down from the heaven of Truth and Love, upon which angelic thoughts ascend and descend, bearing on their pinions of light the Christ-spirit.

(*Retrospection and Introspection*, p. 85)

Mental Stance

Abraham Heschel, in his classic book on the prophets makes this observation regarding the careers of both Moses and Elijah:

Moses' "prophetic career may be traced back directly to spiritual curiosity. . . . Interest, then, is the factor which most truly portrays the nature of inspiration. . . . It is the persistent and intense interest in God and spiritual reality that moves the prophetic nature to secure results." Elijah's still, small voice was "clearly the result of original meditation. . . ." The prophet is simply a person of mental alertness and breadth, ethical depth and religious exaltation, who had a conscious intuition of truth.

(The Prophets, pp. 530-31)

Along the same line, Mary Baker Eddy has written: "He advances most in divine Science who meditates most on infinite spiritual substance and intelligence" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 309).

Major vs. Minor Prophets

As an aside, it is worth noting that the grouping of prophets into "major" or "minor" is a reference to the size of the book and often the length of the career. It is not a comment on the quality of the message. The 12 minor prophets should not be seen as any less inspired than the 5 major prophets.

Conclusion

Mary Baker Eddy's assertion concerning reformers is relevant: "We err in thinking the object of vital Christianity is only the bequeathing of itself to the coming centuries. The successive utterances of reformers are essential to its propagation" (*Message for 1901*, p. 30).

In other words, at all times, for genuine spiritual progress to appear, prophetic insight and its expression are requisite.

A well-known chess champion once observed that the only difference between a good player and a master was that the master saw patterns more quickly.

You could say that of the prophets. They were masters of seeing spiritual patterns. They were intent listeners for the inner voice of God. Deep thinkers. Really re-thinkers. They were rethinking the nature of God, the nature of true worship, the meaning of true safety and security.

They saw that intense commitment to spiritual experience was the only way to salvage desperate situations and save humanity from itself — indeed the only way to break the dream of a power opposed to God. Individual salvation was the building block. A righteous and just society was the outcome. They were true lovers of God and friends of humanity. (And you can't be one without the other.)

They invite each of us into the realm of direct spiritual experience which is the heart and soul of all true faith and religion.