

LYNN HOUSE OF POTOMAC VALLEY, INC.



June 2020



Executive Director's Message—

Greetings Friends

& Fellow Workers,

Back in March, when we took the first steps here at Lynn House to respond to the current pandemic, we set up an Inspiration Board and invited staff and residents to post thoughts and ideas that they were finding helpful during this period. Next to it, we also placed a binder

for sharing inspirational articles with one another. In a few weeks the board was so full of comments that we had to remove the first batch of offerings, and we are well on our way to filling it up again.

It has been heartening to see so many good, pure, deep thoughts flowing forth and being shared for the benefit of all. It made me think of a small spring constantly bubbling up with fresh water.

There was such a spring near a home where I once lived in rural Massachusetts. I remember the first winter I lived there how surprised I was to hear the sound of running water under the snow and to discover that, if you dug down, you could find fresh water flowing from that spring regardless of how cold it was.

Our Inspiration Board, though a small gesture in the scheme of things, is like that little spring flowing in all seasons. It represents the timeless truth that the out-flowing spirit of the Christ is constantly supplying us with inspiration and courage.

This spiritual truth is hidden to material sense. But, to spiritual sense, it is

real and tangible and its effects are felt.

This truth of the ever-present Christ points to the solid spiritual foundation of the First Commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." This divine law places all genuine government and authority on a spiritual basis. No claim of an opposing power can hide this grand truth.

Mary Baker Eddy writes:

"The central fact of the Bible is the superiority of spiritual over physical power."

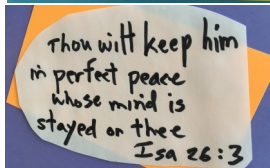
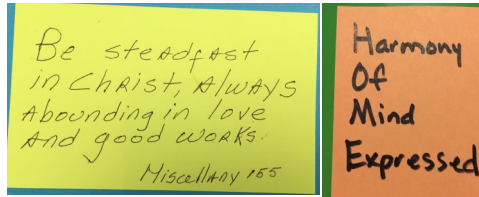
(Science & Health, p. 131)

It has been helpful, when taking needed steps to comply with the present health regulations, to hold to this central fact.

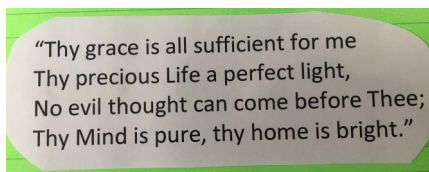
The enduring presence of the Christ-spirit is our priceless treasure. To acknowledge and yield to its influence is to become aware of its holy presence in all that we say and do. This is the spiritual light that illumines our work here at Lynn House, work that unites all of us in this grand spiritual warfare.

We are grateful to each one of you for all of your Christly prayers and support at this time.

With all blessings,
David Sand



Quotes from
Inspiration
Board



The Certainty of “Thy Will Be Done”

Recently our Board member, Amy Bordeaux, CS was asked to give an inspirational talk to our staff. We thought you would enjoy reading the following excerpts from her talk.

Are we living in uncertain times? In a world that seems to be reeling with uncertainty, we can remain certain about God. As part of the spiritual interpretation of the Lord’s Prayer, Mary Baker Eddy writes:

Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Enable us to know, — as in heaven, so on earth,
— God is omnipotent, supreme.
(*Science and Health*, p. 17)

This is a declaration of the certainty of God’s all-power and presence. We can silence human opinions, timetables, and suggestions of lack with the calm assurance of “Thy will be done.” We can be absolutely certain that Love is Principle-in-action, blessing all, down to the minute details. There can be no disruption, confusion, uncertainty or fear of future or past events. The will of God is always right and good, and His will (desire, action, purpose) alone is done.

Recently, after repeatedly hearing the refrain that “these are uncertain times” I decided to make a list of all the things that are certain. I started with: “God is All-in-all. God is Love. His laws are true for all mankind.”

Later that afternoon, I went out on a walk. It

was a beautiful day and the sky was deep blue and cloudless. As I walked reveling in the freshness of the air and birds singing, I noticed one small puffy cloud right in front of me, seeming to taint an otherwise perfectly blue sky. Then, as it came directly in front of me, it quickly evaporated. This poem came to mind:

“When from the lips of Truth one mighty breath
Shall, like a whirlwind scatter in its breeze
The whole dark pile of human mockeries;”
(*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 51)

A little later another small cloud appeared and then dissipated when directly in front of me — and this happened several more times in exactly the same way. It was enough that I knew this was Spirit demonstrating to me with these clouds that nothing can mar God’s perfect creation. I had to smile at this lesson from clouds and the Almighty breath of Spirit.

Once I was almost home, I noticed a big cloud appearing through the trees. I thought, “Oh no, this is no cute little cloud like the other ones. Can the same Almighty Spirit scatter a huge cloud like this one in mere seconds?” It seemed as if a voice came to me saying “Watch Me.” So I did. I went to where I could see the full sky with no trees blocking. I walked towards the big cloud ... and seconds later this huge cloud broke up into smaller clouds and as each one came overhead it evaporated into nothingness!

I walked home full of awe, appreciating this lesson. Nothing is too hard for Spirit. Whether small or large, Spirit can destroy any discord just as easily. I only have to see and acknowledge the Almightiness of Spirit, Truth.

That poem ends with this verse:

“Then shall the reign of Mind commence on earth,
And starting fresh, as from a second birth,
Man in the sunshine of the world’s new spring,
Shall walk transparent like some holy thing.”

We can turn our gaze upward and expect, with certainty, all good from God alone ... for ourselves and for all mankind.



Temporary Changes —

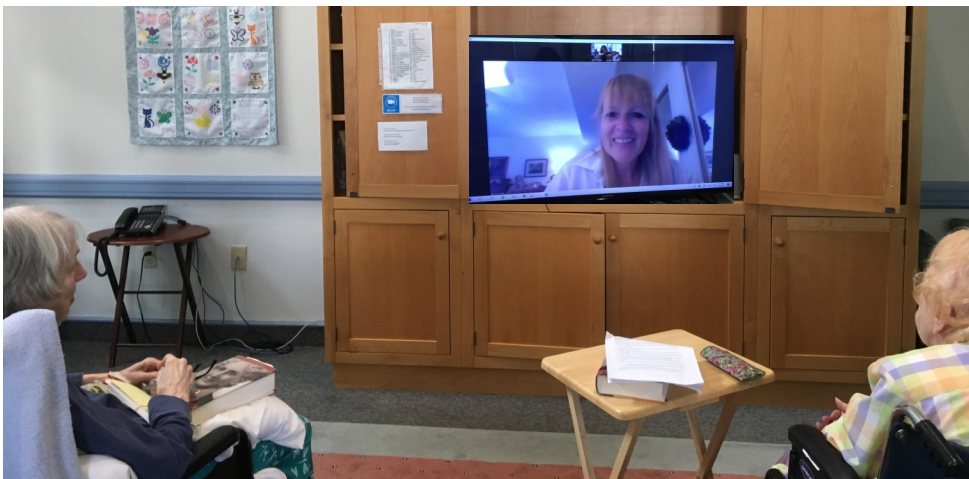
In some ways, the past few months have felt like a “wilderness” time, as Mary Baker Eddy has defined it in *Science and Health*:

“WILDERNESS. Loneliness; doubt; darkness. Spontaneity of thought and idea; the vestibule in which a material sense of things disappears, and spiritual sense unfolds the great facts of existence.”

In this wilderness, we have been forced to alter many of our usual routines. As we have faced difficult decisions and challenges, it has been a time for communing ever more closely with God.

Like all other Christian Science health care facilities in the nation, we have had to make some temporary changes to ensure that we are in compliance with government regulations and recommendations. For the time

The National Fund for Christian Science Nursing (NFCNS) is a benevolence fund that can assist individuals with costs of Christian Science nursing care. nfcns.org



Our residents enjoying a Zoom call with Louise Mills, one of our staff members who has been working from home.

being, we have put these procedures in place:

- We are currently not having any visitors. Normally we depend on the generosity of volunteers to read the Bible Lesson with our patients and residents each weekday morning and to lead Sunday church services and weekly testimony meetings. Since we have not been able to have our usual volunteers, our staff is lovingly taking on these additional responsibilities.
- Despite the “no visitors” rule, we are trying to help our patients and residents feel connected with family and friends through zoom calls and phone calls.

- We are following other regulations regarding physical distancing, wearing masks as required, and cleaning protocols.
- Some staff members have been furloughed (with pay), and we have been operating with minimal staff on-site.

While we are “rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s” we continue to “render unto God” what is His. (*Mark 12:17*) Truly, all creation is His, and His divine law is governing, keeping His beloved children safe forever. These are “the great facts of existence” coming ever more clearly into view during this “wilderness” time. (*Science and Health*, p. 597)

Continuing to meet the needs of our field—

Please continue to call us any time that you have a Christian Science nursing care need or question. Though our ability to admit new patients or outpatients is more limited than in normal times, we are still here as a resource 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. You can reach us at 703-379-6000.

Depending on the circumstances, we may be able to arrange for an in-person visit.

Often we can also provide assistance and guidance over the phone.

We are hopeful that a return to our full staff and services is imminent. In the meantime, we will continue to “hold fast to that which is good” and wait and watch patiently for divine guidance.

Furnishing a table in the wilderness—

“Divine Love waits and pleads to save mankind—and awaits with warrant and welcome, grace and glory, the earth-weary and heavy-laden who find and point the path to heaven.” (*Message to The Mother Church for 1902, p. 11*)

What true and reassuring words. Lynn House has been charting its course through a challenging time, secure in the knowledge that divine Love supports and sustains us.

During this time, an added challenge for Lynn House has been the financial picture. Typically we have a \$3 million annual budget, with \$2 million of revenue from services provided and \$1 million from contributions, grants, and bequests. As you can imagine, the restrictions on our ability to admit new patients has led to a drop in revenue. At the same time, our expenses have remained close to normal, since we felt it was important for furloughed staff to continue to receive their salary.

In the face of this challenging picture, we ask for your loving support, both prayerfully and financially.

Financial donations can be made by check, credit card, or securities. They can be given:

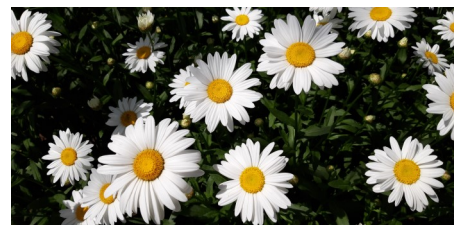
- through our website (lynnhouse.org)
- by mail (4400 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304) or
- over the phone (703-379-6000).

We also encourage you to consider joining our Sustainer program, by pledging to make a monthly contribution of any amount that is comfortable for you.

Including Lynn House in your estate plans is another way of giving support and leaving a lasting legacy. The loving bequests that Lynn House has received over the years have been a tremendous blessing.

Each day at 9:15 am and 4:15 pm our staff and residents are joining together for 10 minutes of quiet prayer in support of Lynn House, our community, and our world. We invite you to unite with us at this time.

Feel free to email us quotations and ideas that we can post on our inspiration board! Emails can be sent to us at mail@lynnhouse.org.



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