



Love Leads the way



When I got a new-to-me car a few years ago, I wanted to get a special license plate to make it easy to identify. If I was picking up someone at the airport, I would be able to say: "Look for the car with the license plate that reads ____." So I went on our state's DMV website to find a special plate.

The trouble was that every plate I tried to select was already taken. I tried various combinations, but none of them were available. When I started feeling that I was going in circles, I stopped. It was clear to me that — even with something as simple as choosing a license plate — rather than depending on my own wits, I needed to listen for divine inspiration.

A couple of days later, the idea "on our way" came to me as: "ON R W4Y." That plate was available, and it is now on my car.

More than being a useful identification, it is a message that has been helpful for me to contemplate. In not only a simple, but a profound sense, we are always "on our way" somewhere. What is our ultimate destination? (Is it to see ever more clearly our oneness with God? To recognize that the Kingdom of Heaven truly is at hand?) How do we get there? How are we interacting with those who are on the road with us?



*Come, gracious Spirit,
heavenly Love,
With light and comfort
from above;
Be Thou our guardian,
Thou our guide,
O'er every thought
and step preside.*

Christian Science Hymnal, #39

Mary Baker Eddy has written: "Your decisions will master you, whichever direction they take" (*Science and Health*, p. 392). Every thought and

every decision makes a difference in keeping us on course. We have to be alert to distractions or confusing situations. Yet, as we navigate through difficulties, we know that divine Love "inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way" (*Science and Health*, p. 454).

At Lynn House we are also "on our way," moving forward with divine Love as our shepherd.

Our guiding light is the *Church Manual* bylaw for the Christian Science Nurse, which states that a

Christian Science nurse "be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick."

We are grateful to all those who have answered the call to join this ministry and who tenderly and skillfully provide care in a time of need. In this newsletter, you'll see words of gratitude from those who have been blessed by our Christian Science nurses. We are also excited to share with you plans for a new cottage designed to support our Christian Science nurses in this ministry.

We are striving to let divine Love lead every step that we take.

With love to all,
Susan Orttung, Executive Director

Transitions in Leadership

Executive Director

After six years of dedicated service as Executive Director, David Sand retired at the end of May. We are indebted to him for all that he did to further our mission, with his wisdom, humor, grace, and spiritual-mindedness.

Susan Orttung, who had been serving as Assistant Executive Director, has moved into this new position. Prior to joining the Lynn House staff in 2007, Susan worked in the non-profit sector. She mentioned: "What initially brought me to Lynn House was a desire to support the Christian Science movement and the important provision that our church has made for Christian Science nursing. Over the years I have come to value this provision



David Sand, Susan Orttung, and Board member

Elly Uehling at David's retirement party

ever more dearly. I am so grateful for all those serving as Christian Science nurses, lovingly providing care while maintaining an expectancy of healing. It is a joy to support this ministry in whatever way I can."

Director of Christian Science Nursing

At the end of August, Cassia Schuck, our Director of Christian Science Nursing, and Jay Schuck, our Administrative Services Manager, will be leaving. Since joining our staff in fall 2018, they have blessed Lynn House in countless ways. Cassia's commitment to upholding the highest standard of Christian Science nursing and to strengthening our Christian Science nursing staff has been deeply appreciated. Likewise, Jay has provided invaluable support in moving Lynn House forward.



Rose Mudida, Cassia Schuck and Jay Schuck

We are grateful that Rose Mudida, our current Assistant Director of Christian Science Nursing, is willing to serve as our Interim Director of Christian Science Nursing. She is a long-time *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse who has a wealth of experience as well as a palpable joy and love for this ministry.

The Residences

In addition to our Christian Science nursing services, Lynn House has a small residential wing, called The Residences. It offers both Independent and Assisted Living in an environment wholly supportive of the practice of Christian Science. As you can see from this photo of some of our residents and staff, we have a lovely group here! We are blessed that they are part of our Lynn House family.



From the Executive Board

The Executive Board is happy to welcome Susan Orttung as the new Executive Director! Although Susan is new to this position, she certainly is not new to Lynn House! She has served Lynn House for 15 years in various capacities, and most recently as Assistant Executive Director. She and David Sand were a good team and this ensured a smooth transition when he left at the end of May, leaving the helm in Susan's capable hands.

Recently, someone asked me, "How is Lynn House doing since the shutdown?" I was able to answer with assurance that Lynn House is quietly achieving its mission on a daily basis. Those coming to Lynn House are going home healed. Although Lynn House is required by the Virginia Department of Health to continue masking, this hasn't slowed down or prevented healings from occurring!

Newness is the forward direction for Lynn House today. In recent years, it became apparent that Christian Science nurses' housing is a high priority. The board metaphysically worked on how to undertake this project while at the same time keeping our Christian Science nursing mission as the primary focus.

Inspired by the book of Nehemiah we asked ourselves: What are we building? What is the purpose? Who is giving us the authority for this action? How will we handle suggestions that might want to distract us? It all starts with listening to God. What is Mind leading us to do? Then we follow step by step.



The question arises, how will we pay for this new housing? It reminded us of Elisha asking the widow woman: "What hast thou in the house?" (II Kings 4: 1-7) As Christian Scientists we know this to mean: what do you have already in thought? Though the widow woman only had a small pot of oil, as she continued to pour, the supply became evident.

The purpose of this building project is to offer appropriate housing and training space for Christian Science nurses coming to support healing at Lynn House. Only right ideas will go forward. We are grateful to those who have already donated towards this idea as it is unfolding.

We are grateful for all of you—for our Corporate members, our dear Christian Science nurses, excellent staff, volunteers, donors, and those who support Lynn House in other ways. We couldn't do this without you!

It's onward and upward for Lynn House! "Beholding the infinite tasks of truth, we pause,—wait in God. Then we push onward, until boundless thought walks enraptured, and conception unconfined is winged to reach the divine glory" (*Science and Health*, p. 323).

Please contact me if you have questions, suggestions, or feedback! The Board is always listening for that still small voice that reaches over continent and globe. We are blessed to have it!

Lovingly,
Amy
Amy V. Bordeaux, C.S.,
Executive Board Chair



New Cottage

At the corner of our property is a cottage that was built in the 1940's (pre-dating Lynn House). We have been using it to provide temporary housing for Christian Science nurses. It has been a home-away-from-home for:

- Contract Christian Science nurses working at Lynn House on an interim basis
- Student Christian Science nurses coming for training and/or mentoring
- Newly-hired Christian Science nurses moving to the area and needing a place to stay before getting permanently settled

After many years of ongoing repairs, the cottage is now in need of replacement. In early 2020, we received a generous gift toward this project, and over the past couple of years, we have been working with an architect on a new design. It includes:

- Temporary living accommodations for at least four Christian Science nurses
- Flexible space that can be used for Christian Science nurses training classes

Now that we have developed the initial plans, we have been given an estimated cost for this project: \$2.5 million. We have set up a Building Project Fund and are on the verge of launching a Building Fund campaign. We are grateful to be moving forward on this important project. You'll hear more from us in the weeks to come!



Design for the new cottage

Notes of Gratitude

From a recent patient—

When I called, Lynn House responded immediately and helped transport me from my home to their facility, a place providing just the right type of support that I needed and the right mental atmosphere for healing. My first afternoon I heard a family of wrens outside my window, and then I watched two beautiful jays flit to a nearby bush. I enjoyed the activities that were offered – including sitting out on the patio in the sunshine for poetry reading and joining the residents and staff for a picnic. The food was amazing! Mostly, I enjoyed quiet solitude to study and listen to Christian Science audio books online. Lynn House is a quiet place to reinforce what I have learned in Christian Science while offering encouragement and comfort that has given me back my peace.

From family members—

We are grateful for the loving care you have provided our mom both through the Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service and during her recent stay at Lynn House. It is wonderful for her to be a part of your healing atmosphere.



Volunteering

Lynn House continues to follow state guidelines governing healthcare facilities – which means that volunteer opportunities are still limited. However, we welcome volunteers to help with our gardens. If you might be able to support us in this way, please contact Nathan Smith, Director of Operations, at 703-379-6000.

"...our sufficiency is of God..."

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.... (II Corinthians 3:5, 9:8)

At Lynn House we are grateful to see abundant evidence of God's grace — in beautiful healings on our Christian Science nursing floor, in kind words of appreciation and encouragement, in offers of assistance, in prayerful support, and in loving gifts. We know that we can trust God's promise of "all sufficiency" in order to carry out "every good work."

While recognizing that God is the true source of all supply, we want to keep you informed about the ongoing need for financial support of Lynn House. Each year we have close to a \$1 million gap between operating costs and program revenues, and we count on contributions, grants, and bequests to help make up the difference.

As noted inside this newsletter, we are also embarking on a special Building Project in support of our Christian Science nurses and their ministry, for which we have set up a special Building Project Fund.

Financial donations (to our General Fund, Building Project Fund, Benevolence Fund, and Endowment Fund) **can be made by check, credit card, stock, or IRA gifts.** 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).

Please consider becoming a Sustainer by pledging to make a monthly contribution of any amount that is comfortable for you. Sustainers play a special role in helping to bring stability to our operations.

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.

For questions about making a donation (or other questions about our activities), please call Susan Orttung, Executive Director, at 703-379-6000.

Every gift of support strengthens Lynn House and is deeply appreciated.



Would you like to explore the possibility of joining our Christian Science nursing ministry? If so, we would love to hear from you!



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- ◆ Inpatient and Outpatient Christian Science nursing care
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Your calls welcome 24/7

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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.