

# PLAINFIELD INDEPENDENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLAINFIELD CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH  
NUMBER 146 AUGUST 2012

## A Dedicatory Poem

As mentioned in the July 2012 CornerStone, what was to become the Christian Science Sentinel was first titled *The Christian Science Weekly*. The following poem appeared in the first issue in 1898. It is ideal for our prayers in support of the Plainfield Church publications.

### A DEDICATORY POEM

By MARY BAKER G. EDDY

Thou All in All, of every age,  
And rising, radiant sphere—  
Help us to write a deathless page  
Of truth—this waning year.

Help us to humbly seek and sow  
And reap Thy wise behest—  
Whate'er the boon, a joy, or woe—  
Knowing Thou knowest best.

Aid the soul-sense to soar and sing  
Above the tempest's glee;  
Give us the eagle's fearless wing,  
The dove's to mount to Thee.

All-Merciful, how faint, unfed,  
Is every hungry heart.  
Give us each day our daily bread,  
In knowing what Thou art.

PLEASANT VIEW, CONCORD, N.H., August, 1898.



## Letters of Appreciation

I am so grateful for this Church and all the wonderful and caring members. The latest CornerStone has a lot of new areas and really spoke to me. The story from *The Christian Science Weekly* about the child falling out of the window showed how clear the girl's thought was and how

she was directed by God. I really like the comment that I am not in my body. I have been working with that all week.

Also about two months ago, I had an employee of mine tell me she had a friend looking for a job. I told her we were not hiring, but to send us her resume. About a week later one of my employees found another job more in her area of expertise, and said she could only work part time for us. So we talked to the person who sent her resume, and we put her in our training program. She worked very hard, and we were able to get her up to speed within two weeks, and she is doing an excellent job for us. I really feel that only God could have done this. The change in staff blessed us all. I am so grateful for all the blessings I have received.

A friend of mine who volunteers at a local soup kitchen and works with their youth program is looking for material for his sermon about America. I told him about an article in a previous CornerStone, and he was interested and wants to see the article. I am going to give him a copy of the CornerStone when I see him.

*Rene Eady  
Ohio*

One of the calendar statements from Plainfield Church said, "When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. That's my religion. Abraham Lincoln."

When I read that, it made me think. When I give a testimony on Wednesday night, it makes me feel so good, but when I kind of sit back and think, well, I don't know what to say or I don't know if this will help somebody, and I don't give a testimony, then I feel miserable after the service.

I was thinking about all the testimonies I hear in these church services, and it doesn't matter what it is — it might be some little thing or some big thing — but it always gives me something

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helpful and uplifting to take away from that service and benefit from, and maybe share with somebody else.

I am so grateful for all the readings and testimonies, and for all that is shared. I have so much good in my life from turning to God and sticking with God and sharing His goodness with other people. We really do benefit by glorifying God and putting Him first.

*Dale Wallis  
Virginia*

Our church website is so rich with ideas on how to live Christian Science, and not just talk it. I am so very grateful. I just read the article on Promptness. It was a swift kick if I ever saw one! It's excellent.

I'm loving the watch as well in the Members section. I had read how the early workers did watches, but that was all I ever heard regarding this very essential and fundamental Christian duty before coming to Plainfield. Thank you.

*Shahidat Abbas  
Maryland*

Thank you for all the loving and strong work done in Plainfield for Independent Christian Science to be made available to the world. Anyone, from anywhere, can go online and find the website and instantly have a wealth of inspiration.

I found the Plainfield Church years ago when my mother gave me a copy of Healing Thoughts (now the CornerStone) magazine, and I began a journey that changed my life.

*Betty Simpson  
California*

## **CHURCH PROGRESS**

### **Plainfield Church Membership**

Membership in the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent has never been so full of opportunities to serve, whether in Plainfield, NJ, or whether on the other side of the USA, or even the other side of the world. The internet has enabled our church to truly be a "church without walls."

On our website, we have a new section exclusively for members, which is fully operational now. Just choose the Members menu option. Of course, you must first login (top left of page) in

order for the website to recognize you as a member.

So far, this new Members section includes an archive of Newsletters, a section called "A Tool in One Hand and a Weapon in the Other," that offers ways to help in our out-reach, and a "Watch Guidance" page that serves as a focal point for the watching work each member is encouraged to do. We take very seriously the following: "The scientific attitude of mind in a Christian Scientist, is to regard himself as a servant of God, because he is the custodian of the mental atmosphere of the world. Then his watching will bless all humanity." — Gilbert Carpenter

To date, our membership requirement has been merely a profession that Christian Science is the only way. Going forward, the purpose of membership is to actively serve, especially in watching. Mrs. Eddy urged her students to watch:

"You must rise to the point where you can destroy the belief in mesmerism, or you will have no Cause. It tried to overcome me for forty years and I withstood it all. . . . You must do it for yourselves, and unless it is done, the Cause will perish, and we will go along another nineteen hundred years, with the world sunk into the blackest night. Now will you rouse yourselves?"

The Watch Guidance will now take on a far more urgent and direct tone, now that only members can access it. So stay tuned, and be ready to be stirred!! "For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required." — Luke 12:48.

If you do not have internet access and wish to participate in the watches, please notify our Clerk, and we will begin mailing watch material to you.

*Andrew Kidd  
Plainfield*

### **Church Calendar**

At popular request, we're now working toward producing our church calendar for 2013. We're very grateful for the submissions we've received already; but around 150 more statements are still needed to fill it.

Over all the years we've been producing church calendars, Mrs. Evans always set the standard very high. She would say to ask our-

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selves, is that something you'd like to read in the morning? Will it inspire in some way? Will those who know nothing of Christian Science understand it? Is it fresh?

It's a challenge, but it's very rewarding, and also a wonderful way to spread the Truth to people who might not otherwise connect with our church. And remember that the purpose is to spread the truth as taught in Christian Science, so take care not to choose submissions from people who are tainted, or who represent other religions that are not what we have found is the purest Christliness. Also, it's not our purpose to promote religions that are offshoots of Christian Science. I remember hearing the story of a woman who studied Christian Science, but thought there must be more than this, and set out to find it. She traveled the world and studied many religions; and at the end of her life, returned to Mrs. Eddy and regretfully said, "You had it all, and I didn't see it!" This unquestionably is the "pearl of great price," and, thank God, we know it — and this is what we want to share with the world.

Look through the current calendar, and you'll see we also sprinkle in a few uplifting, and sometimes humorous, statements by the founding fathers of our country, and by others who clearly and humbly love God. They, too, help to keep the calendar fresh and unexpected.

So, have a wonderful adventure searching for statements! Please send whatever you find, either by e-mail to the Clerk or to your practitioner, or mail them to the church. We need to have all the statements by September 1, so we can put them in order and format them for the printing company. We really appreciate your support, and look forward to hearing from you!

*Carol Conroy  
Plainfield*

### **New Carpet**

One of the principles that has governed this church is that we should never waste God's money. Everything in the church is cleaned regularly, repaired whenever needed, and used until it falls apart. "Waste not, want not" has been the mantra. And it has served us very well for many years.

But even carpet has a finite life, and we dis-

covered that the carpet in the Sunday School and nursery has a life of about 38 years. That carpet has been cleaned regularly, shampooed occasionally, and re-glued often. It always looked good, until recently. This year, we finally replaced it with new carpet. It has been installed, and looks great. Furthermore, it is padded (the old carpet was not), so it's more comfortable, and is likely to last even longer. The look is fresh and very inviting. The nursery looks beautiful, as well, and now has new furniture. The room is awaiting some small visitors!

If this sounds like an invitation to come see us, it is! Members are always welcome to visit, and bring their children with them.

*Gary Singleterry  
Plainfield*

### **YouTube**

Plainfield has a YouTube Channel. It is an outreach for non-Christian Scientists on the internet.

Stop by YouTube.com and search for "PleasantViewToday" (last I saw, it was the second item on this search), and "see" what we are up to.

Tony is in need of beautiful digital photos for the YouTube channel productions. You may send landscape photos (from your yard, neighborhood, vacations, etc.) to [anthony@jobtopiallc.com](mailto:anthony@jobtopiallc.com). Do not include photos of people.



### **Living Stones**

**William P. McKenzie**

In I Peter, the disciple tells of the building of the temple, that the stones were cut so precisely in the quarries, that they only had to be set in place by the builders. It was said that one stone, rejected by the builders, became an obstacle and an annoyance until, at the very last, its place was found; hence the words of the psalm: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

Speaking of the graciousness of the Christ, Peter invites those with newborn desire for purity to come. "To whom coming," he says, "as

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unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house.”

The conception Christianity introduced was revolutionary, in that it taught that old things passed away. Not through catastrophe, but through enlightenment, did all things become new; and the change is well expressed by Paul when he says, “We should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”

When Peter speaks of redeemed men and women as living stones builded into an unseen temple, he certainly takes away the sense of human differences and grandeur, presenting a place for every one and a fitness for each one, without interference of one with another.

A stone in its proper place both supports and is supported. It is integral with the whole, which would be incomplete were there a vacancy where that stone should be; and yet individuality is preserved. So, likewise, in true life, the whole of good is manifest through many individual ideas, all dwelling together in unity. This is the temple of God, “an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

Christian Science has come to comfort, correct, heal, regenerate, and unify mankind by leading men, as it were, from sectarian tents and medical tabernacles, where they dwell in fear, back again to the house of God — to the simplicity and unity of primitive Christianity. Concerning this, Mrs. Eddy says, “The primitive privilege of Christianity was to make men better, to cast out error, and heal the sick. It was a proof, more than a profession thereof; a demonstration, more than a doctrine. It was the foundation of right thinking and right acting, and must be reestablished on its former basis. The stone which the builders rejected must again become the head of the corner. In proportion as the personal and material element stole into religion, it lost Christianity and the power to heal; and the qualities of God as a person, instead of the divine Principle that begets the quality, engrossed the attention of the ages.” (Hea.)

The stone roughly cut out of the quarry still

has attached to it much that is of no use in the building. The stonecutter lays upon it the measure and cuts it according to the plan, so that when it is put into its place, there need be no sound of hammer, but simply a discovery of its fitness to be where it belongs. The discovery has come that enables mankind to fit harmoniously into a new sense of life and joy. Is it too much to hope that the whole world will yet be benefited and blessed by this compassionate religion?

### “Be Worthy Such a Grace”

The preceding article “Living Stones” is a solemn reminder of how important each member individually is to the whole of our church. Everyone has a unique role to fill. You have been led to this church for a divine purpose, and God will fulfill His purpose through you when you are obedient to His voice and willing to unselfishly give of yourself.

As you have read in our Newsletters, there are a great many things to do here — giving live testimonies on Wednesday nights, writing for the periodicals, contributing to our lesson forum, which can be found on our website, writing a Lesson, participating in our Bible Class discussions on Saturday (or perhaps even leading one?), participating in our Sunday Roundtable discussions, sending in submissions for our church calendar, developing a totally new idea like the Plainfield YouTube channel, reading a testimony from the chapter on “Fruitage” during our Sunday service, sending in some beautiful pictures for our website, faithfully doing a “Watch,” tithing . . . have I missed anything? Most likely, as there is so much good to do in God’s service!

We are genuinely grateful for all of you who have become such active members — we are grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm. As the beautiful hymn #176 says:

“Living stones we, each in his place,  
May we be worthy such a grace,  
While Truth the wide earth enlightens.”

*Mary Beth Singleterry  
Plainfield*