

THE SOCIETY PAGES

January-February 2011

What do
we have
in the
house?

At a special-focus Metaphysical Workshop led by our Finance Team in December, we explored Mary Baker Eddy's definition of *tithing* as it is presented in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. This led to an in-depth discussion of our individual and collective commitment to church. Our goal was to continue our metaphysical underpinning of this year's financial planning for our church. We agreed that each of us would revisit our own sense of commitment to church and expand the possibilities of what that might be. This would be one way of taking inventory, seeing what our assets and resources are, as we move into a new year.

Because of the thoughtful responses from the many who submitted statements of renewal and recommitment, this edition of *The Society Pages* will be primarily devoted to sharing "what we have in the house" to support and fund our church. All submissions have been included, though some are condensed, with the focus and essence of each contribution retained. We encourage you to take time to appreciate what others in our church family are willing to contribute. In counting these blessings, it appears our assets are many and we are truly rich!

- "I have placed this statement from MBE on my desk and look at it every day in connection with commitment to church as a nudge to continually evaluate the depth of my commitment: 'We are all capable of more than we do.'"

- “I will increase my financial contribution to our Society by 20%. My plan is to put extra money aside for church every time I make an expenditure that is not a ‘necessity’—which means more frequent soul-searching about just what IS a necessity and really important...more important than supporting ‘the structure of Truth and Love’?”



- “I pledge to spend increased prayer time and devotion to looking for, and witnessing, the assets and value each one of our members and participants bring to church— recognizing the wealth we share.”

- “‘All is infinite Mind and its infinite (unlimited) manifestation’ can be applied to meeting our church financial challenges. My commitment will be to see each one in our congregation as embraced by the Scientific Statement of Being...to think about it upon entering church and to really consider its message for everyone in attendance as we repeat it together... not just routinely parroting the words. I would also like to be more active in serving the Reading Room and Host teams and others if requested. To me, individual commitment is *key* since it is different for each person, depending upon their circumstances and point in their spiritual journey. Each of these individual commitments blending becomes the collective commitment to our SJC CS Society.”



- “Perhaps the most important contribution I can make to the progress of my church is to work constantly to identify

it and its members as all inclusive with the divine source of our cause; to realize we are all held in the governance of Spirit, alone. If existence is the awareness of Truth, and ‘whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle’ is divine consciousness, then all things are spiritual and divinely mental, and church is a wholly subjective experience whose cause is individual and universal. This puts the quality and power of my church squarely in my lap!

“My commitment: to detach every claim of mortal belief from this church, especially from its individual members (my church family), and to eradicate those beliefs in my own thought until I can no longer see anything or anyone less than the perfect, pure, and permanent spiritual identities that they are, right now and forever. Yes... it’s a monumental goal, but step by step, staying focused and aware, sometimes failing but never giving up, such a goal can be accomplished...and it can become natural...and it must, because in doing so we are being *church*, or the unfoldment of Truth and Love. I have written these words on note cards and put them up where I cannot help but see them all the time: SEE ONLY GOOD...FEEL ONLY LOVE...KNOW ONLY PERFECTION...BE GOD’S REFLECTION.”

- “I have increased my financial giving to church by 10% though unemployed for a year and a half...I will continue to work with the Tithing Team and its obligations and meet with the Finance Team to help support solutions to meet our church’s financial obligations...will continue to serve as a Reader in services, attend and support our meetings and workshop, subscribe to the periodicals, acknowledge

others at church with love and patience... continue reading biographies of Mary Baker Eddy. I have always felt committed to church so this doesn't really add up to what I feel in my heart."

- "My heartfelt contributions to our Society: Be a Sunday Reader for an entire month this year...contribute to Sunday refreshments...help begin a Bible Study group for our Society...continue taking photos for the Society Pages...put together a photo scrapbook of the Society...teach a workshop in Artful Gratitude journaling to those interested...teach a group how to be tech connected with all the resources from spirituality.com, Sentinel Radio and the audio Bible Lessons."
- "I am committing myself to more consistent, daily prayerful support of our church and its activities. I am profoundly grateful to be a working member of this church and for the depth of devotion to the cause and Church and Christian Science that this church represents. As a result of the December metaphysical meeting, I plan to give more freely and fully of the talents I have...more active in serving in Reading Room, childcare, host and assistant teller and helping meet other needs as they arise. I am now committed to increasing my financial contribution by 10% ('tithing'), out of great gratitude for what this church stands for and does for others. Because outreach activities are one of the important reasons that drew me to join the CSS in SJC, I am planning to support them both monetarily and by volunteering where I am able."
- "I have dedicated myself to praying daily for SJCCSS membership/congregation with this focus: In Jesus' words to Peter, 'The gates of hell cannot prevail' against our unfolding expression of church. Those gates can be defined as fear, lack, resistance, discouragement, disunity, loss, disease, mental ruts, etc..

- . etc. I am praying daily to bring down/destroy those gates that limit our expression of church. Our house cannot be limited by any hellish thought or belief—it's hell-free!

"I'm also praying with the idea of substance abuse, an issue in our schools, homes and work-places. There is no substance abuse in Soul...the substance of Soul is solid Spirit and there is no abuse of substance in the allness of Soul. So....no abuse of finances, home, church, our earth...water ...air, our bodies, our food, our income, our outgo, no child abuse, spousal abuse, animal abuse...no emotional abuse or physical abuse...no abuse of power or abuse of government or abuse of position, no abuse of business. Soul's infinite resources are 'un-abused' and 'un-abusable.' They can only bless mankind, including the congregation of SJCCSS. Our house is Soul supplied, abundant progress, provision, prayer."

- "My contributions will include: testifying to the healing efficacy of Christian Science and daily prayer for God's universe...notice and welcome new visitors and greet new members...listen to others, inside and outside church, and respond with healing thoughts and words...serve as Wednesday evening host and Reader...continue to learn Spanish for future Spanish outreach...contribute financially to church activities...consider working in the prisons or instruct in our tutoring program."

- "My unique abilities lie in the fine arts field, helping to supply and decorate the church walls and incorporate design ideas which will bless certain tithing recipients such as Petals of Africa. I also have an interest in financial planning and could be of help in this area."

- "What I have in 'my house': Dignity, intelligence, perseverance, dedication and gratitude."

- "My commitment: to deeply and clearly support our spiritual work and growth! (Big time!)"

- “My commitment is to raise my monthly commitment from \$100 to \$150 and continue a monthly contribution to Petals of Africa school, to serve as Reader on either Wednesday or Sunday, and to continue my involvement serving on these teams: Reading Room, Tellers, Refreshments, Soldiers Project and Annual Meeting Event at our church.”
- “I will contribute \$150 a month, twice monthly payments coming out of my account BEFORE any other of my bills are paid! I also plan to propose that we form a Housekeeping Team that would handle our facility cleaning to commit to saving this cost, small though it may be.”
- “I pledge to write at least one testimony or article for the Christian Science periodicals this next year. I have volunteered as a Wednesday Reader for up to four services this year. I will pray for church at least one day each week. I am willing to lead or co-lead a metaphysical workshop during the year.”
- “The best gift I have to give is to commit more deeply to see the perfect church, as Jesus saw the perfect man, manifested as (and in) the

San Juan CS Society. That church of which Christ is the head, whole, complete, a spiritual idea of Mind, in fact, bountiful and fulfilling its mission to God, every moment. That means not seeing a human material organization striving to become, but acknowledging the presence of the perfect idea, here and now. I will continue to support the online community and the Program Team and shall try to serve as a Wednesday Reader, maybe in the Spring.”

- “One way I feel tangibly recommitted is that I went online to begin regular monthly deductions from my credit card...at a stretched amount...to the CSS in San Juan Capistrano.”
- “I have been praying about commitment. Since I have not been able to attend church as regularly as I used to, I would like to do something from home...telephoning members and stakeholders about up-coming meetings instead of relying on email. I recently received a call from the Finance Team regarding the December metaphysical meeting and really appreciated it. Not everyone has a computer or

checks email regularly. Perhaps a phone team....”

- “What I will commit to: Pray morning and evening, at least 15 minutes for church...serve as host regularly...re-read Acts and TMC Manual with an eye and mind to current purpose and activity regarding church...write and submit a testimony to CSPA for publication...be on guard to view every one in our church family in the right light ...’in the secret place of the Most High’...contribute financially every month, at least 1/100th of the amount needed to meet monthly expenses.”
- From our new Management Team: “The focus of the 2011 Management Team is on our commitment to the Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano, our church without walls. We are privileged to consider how we can best serve using our talents and love. Discovering these talents and interests served to develop our new Liaison Team list and the beginning of a solid focus on our foundation. We are united and committed as one team, with a desire to see only Mind, Love, goodness, abundance, and prosperity assured by GOD.”

- “What I have to share with our Society stems from these commitments: Love of God, His Christ, His church and His dear children are my first loves, my first commitments. Participating and serving in our services, preparing Wed Eve readings, participating in the Outreach Team, facilitating a Writing for the Periodicals Workshop, contributing financially, being active on the State and Orange County Institutional Committees.

“The greatest gift is praying on a regular basis for all mankind and this church. For me this includes study and prayerful application of our wondrous, ever-inspiring Bible Lessons and subscribing to and reading articles from the world-wide Christian Science community—the *Sentinel*, *Journal* and *Monitor*. This prepares us to be ready when there is a need expressed. We are opening up ourselves to accept new ideas that can benefit both our church and mankind. This year I would like to begin inviting those in the SJC community to learn more about our services and wonderful online services.”

- “Here are my assets freely offered to CSS of SJC this year: A contribution this year 50% greater than that of 2010...five independent write-ups of Christian Science healings...an offer to compile and edit contributions of healings for a package to be given to the Board of Directors...volunteer to help proofread our Society Pages...volunteer to serve as Reader for at least two Wed Eve meetings in 2011....commit to pray daily for The Mother Church, the Publishing Society, and SJC Society...contribute testimonies of healing on Wednesdays and contribute to Metaphysical Workshops and Growing Church Workshops in meaningful ways...regularly attend our services, prayerfully supporting the entire congregation from start to finish.”
- And in the spirit of inclusiveness, we share this one dissenting contribution: “I really think there is a better way than this suggestion. I suggest you go back to passing the collection bag that reminds everyone to start digging as it is about

to come *your* way. The yellow bowls are just too easy to pass by. Who knows if you gave or not?”

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”

Malachi 3:10



Mark your calendar...

Metaphysical Workshop

on Monday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.

Growing Church Workshop on Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

Second Sundays:

A monthly discussion group for 20–Some- things held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. New participants always welcome.

Special Event: Writing for the Periodicals Workshop on Sunday, January 30, 12:00 pm

See special flyer and email announcements for details. For planning purposes, please RSVP to **Cathryn Rathsam**.

Management Team Meetings:

Our Management Team, the communications hub of our church, welcomes your questions and topics for discussion and action. It meets at least once a month. Communication may be directed to any member of the team.

Getting to know you...

Meet new member, **Sherry Feldtz!** Sherry has been attending our services for quite some time and recently affirmed membership in our Society. A resident of Lake Forest, her introduction to our group came through Paul Garman, friend and fellow Sunday School student in Whittier, where Lenore Garman was one of her Sunday School teachers. “Paul kept me in the Society loop, so to speak, over the years. I would visit from time to time and after a while I knew I wanted to be a part of this church family. One of the things I enjoy so much about this Society is that it *is* like a family. It is safe, and people are warm, loving and supportive.

“I am a 4th generation Christian Scientist. My husband Bob and I have been married for 13 years. He was not raised in Science but enjoys attending and helping out at church. I have four grown daughters and one stepson, wonderful sons-in-law and a wonderful daughter-in-law. We all live within 15 minutes of each other and I love being so close to them and a part of their daily lives. I have 10 grandchildren ranging from 10 years old to three months. I’m a hands-on grandma and have a great relationship with all of them. I also have a large extended family all living within 45 minutes of each other, and we are a close-knit family. (Bob and I also have two cats, Tazz and Sammy, and a Scottish terrier named Paisley.)”

In her spare time? Sherry shares that she and Bob love to travel when they can. “I have been all over the world and will go anywhere I can get to. I love travel adventures! We love Scotland and learning about my Scottish heritage. I also like to hike, swim, garden and laugh.”

“Hopefully I will be able to add to this wonderful Christian Science Society.”

As many of you know, Sherry has been the tireless organizer of our Refreshment Team, providing food for after-church fellowship and many of our special events and meetings, rain or shine. Please introduce yourself to Sherry if you haven’t already had the joy of meeting her.

Welcome new members!

Please welcome our newest members: longtime friend **Francis Lambert** of Laguna Beach, **Carole Griggs** of San Diego (who attends regularly via teleconference), **Josef** and **Leona Merveille** of Laguna Hills, and **Kristin** and **Mark Palkoner** of Costa Mesa. Our friend **Peggy Webb** has withdrawn her membership.

Grateful hearts...

Special gratitude to those who worked in planning, presenting and staffing the recent **Church Alive** event in Pasadena: **Paul Garman, Debby Oliver, Alan Hess, Elena Shideler, Nan Hopfer, Cassidy Busch, Dick Smith, Milt Simon,** and former long-time member **Todd Herzer**. We were well represented at this inspiring celebration of church, with more than 50 members and regular participants of San Juan Capistrano CS Society attending throughout the weekend.

Thank you beyond words to **Diane Schnitzer** and **Alan Hess** for their recent term of service on our **Management Team**. You are appreciated!! **Many thanks** to **Joy Aldrich** for the new photo display in our Sunday School hallway. For planning and facilitating the recent **Met Workshop** on The Church Manual, thank you to **Wendy Winegar**. We are grateful, too, for the special **Met Workshop**—presented by the Finance Team and facilitated by **Paul Garman**—in which we considered Mrs. Eddy’s definition of *tithing* and our individual contributions to church.





Opportunities for giving, serving, learning, growing, praying!

If you are interested in supporting **Apoya**, our **Saturday tutoring program**, contact **Valerie Flynn** for more information on volunteer needs and opportunities. There is a current need for more tutors. **Family Assistance Ministries** continues to need non-perishable food items on a regular basis to support south Orange County families needing basic groceries each month. Please place your contributions in the designated container in our Community Room. Deliveries are made periodically to the FAM facility. A note from the **Refreshment Team**: "I would like to thank everyone who has helped feed the masses on Sundays. Everyone has done such a wonderful job. I would like to invite anyone who has not helped with food to try it at least once. I try to get two people for each Sunday. It's fun and everyone loves it! Thank you again. **Sherry Feldtz.**"

Tithing...

Our tithing recipient for January is **The Mother Church**, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts. Our prayerful support for the Christian Science movement and the important work of The Mother Church accompanies our monetary donation this month.



In the news and on the Internet...

Discovered in recent periodicals are inspiring contributions by some of our members: **Wendy Winegar's** piece "The Church Manual—our shepherd" in the January 17 *Sentinel* (note in the same issue a reference to phoning in to SJCCSS in the article "My church journey—beyond the bricks and mortar" by **Gloria Onyuru** in Turkey) and two items **Beverly Lyle**—a "humor" piece in the Thanksgiving week *Sentinel* and a letter to the editor in the December *Journal*, in which Bev shares her experience as an active member of our church without walls.

Sunday School Celebrations...



Recently in the spotlight on stage were **Kaily** and **Tate Johnson** performing in a children's theater production of "Alice and Wonderland"...**Isabelle** and **Arthur Erlanson** in featured roles in "The Nutcracker Ballet"...and **Bren Johnson** in a leading role of his high school's production of "Dames at Sea." And congratulations to **Makenna Johnson** for participating in this year's home building project for a deserving family in Mexico. A standing ovation for all!! (If you spot our Sunday School students shining their light somewhere, let us know!)



The Book Report...

Amish Peace: Simple Wisdom for a Complicated World by Suzanne Woods Fisher, Baker Publishing Group, 2009

Suzanne Woods' interest in the Amish culture and religion can be traced to her grandfather, who was raised in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the Dunkard Brethren Church colony, and who eventually became publisher of *Christianity Today* magazine.

The author reminds us that the Amish deeply touched hearts when they forgave the milkman who shot and killed children in an Amish school in Pennsylvania. They attended this man's funeral and set up a fund for his family and determined to "see to" his family in kind ways. Living the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount are daily goals for the Amish, and this book includes several heartwarming stories of brotherly love and forgiveness. Honesty, obedience, reverence, decency, discipline, humility, simplicity and hard work are corner stones of Amish living, and they deeply value moments of stillness, slowing down, and living uncluttered lives. According to Woods, Amish children are "loved but not adored, wanted but not made to feel special, provided for but not spoiled." Their children are schooled only through 8th grade, yet many Amish homes have extensive book collections and are frequent users of public libraries. At the core of Amish communities is the value of community and cooperation but not competition.

Here is a sampling of the "simple wisdom"—proverbs, sayings and traditions—passed down from generation to generation among the Amish: "Trusting God turns problems into opportunities." "It is the set of the sails and not the gales that determines the path you go." "*Silent* and *listen* are spelled with the same letters." "Do unto others as if you were the other." "Beware the man who knows the answers before he understands the question." "It is better to hold out a helping hand than to point a finger."

Yieldedness, humility, calmness, composure, meekness, tranquility, imperturbability, serenity, poise, letting go, a gentle spirit, submitting to God's will...this is *Gelassenheit*. "It is the union and agreement of the inner spirit with the outer response" and one of the guiding principles of the Amish community.

Amish Peace: Simple Wisdom for a Complicated World is highly recommended by **Beverly Lyle**, who contributed this month's Book Report.





Attending our church without walls...

- **Join us by conference call:** dial **1-605-475-6350** then punch in **ACCESS CODE 12111#**. You may begin calling in 15 minutes before any meeting or join any time after the service or meeting is in progress. If you announce your first name and town, a phone host will greet you and answer your questions, or you may just silently listen in. You're welcome to stay for fellowship with other callers afterwards.
- **Join us by Skype:** We are now using the Skype room of members Mark and Marilyn Mohlenbrock. They have generously donated this service to us in the past, and to help us defray operating expenses they have offered this free to us again.
- **Skype Instructions:** From your computer dial **+9900827047040344** or by phone dial **1-201-793-9022** then punch in **ACCESS CODE 7040344**. There is no charge for the Skype connection through your computer, but there is a regular phone charge if you call into the Skype number by phone. Call in a few minutes before the service or meeting is scheduled to begin. You need your own Skype account, which you can sign up for at Skype.com.

Your Management Team...



All of our Society members comprise the governing body of our Society, and our Management Team serves as the communications center, handling ongoing administrative and organizational tasks. Please note the new contact information as of January 2011:

Joy Aldrich President 949-579-071
joyaldrich@yahoo.com

LaRae Fast Vice President 949-496-5054
Lfast@cox.net

Derra Moyers Secretary 425-773-1925
Moyers@comcast.net

Cindy MacWhinney Treasurer 949-463-6172
Cindymac01@gmail.com

Karen Brown Member-at-large 949-858-1155
dbrown8310@cox.net

Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano

31897 Del Obispo, #120

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92677

Phone: 949-443-2537

Website: www.csinsanjuancapistrano.com

Email: admin@csinsanjuancapistrano.com

The Society Pages Team

Editor: **Bonnie MacDonald**

Contributing editor, proofreader: **Alan Hess**

Graphic Design and photography: **Joy Aldrich**

Photography: **Dee Gruenig**

Proofreader: **Susan Clay**

Press Boss Emeritus: **Todd Herzer**