

## **Canterbury Crest 2009 Annual Meeting Board Report**

Given April 19<sup>th</sup> by Steve Fredrick, Chairman

About 15 years ago, I received a distressing call at work from my wife. The tip of my young son's finger had been severed by a sliding glass door. By the time I got home, a Christian Science practitioner had already taken up the case, and we all drove straight to the Canterbury Crest facility. It was a struggle to collect my thoughts and resist the upwelling fears of parental concern.

As soon as we arrived, a nurse ushered me and my son into a quiet room. I remember very distinctly how utterly unperturbed the nurse was, and especially her unshakable mental focus even as she looked directly at the wound while gently cleansing and bandaging it. I felt the burden of fear lift completely, and this was a turning point in the healing. In a short period of time, the fingertip was completely restored through Christian Science treatment alone.

Christian Science nursing is not a mere human service organization, not just good people helping other good people who are struggling with physical difficulties. It is "divinity embracing humanity," and that's what I felt that day. It is a gift to each one of us from our dear Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, who established and authorized it in her Church Manual.

Three years ago, I received a letter inviting me to serve on the Board of Directors for Canterbury Crest. I accepted, and have found it an invigorating and worthwhile endeavor to work so closely with other like-minded individuals from various branch churches to support this wonderful activity. In addition, the growth I've experienced while working on this Board has been a great blessing to me.

It's an exciting time to be involved with Canterbury. Currently, we're examining the organization's effectiveness over the last four years, and thinking afresh Canterbury's direction. We have an immediate need for more Board members, so don't be shy when that invitation to serve arrives in your mailbox.

I've come to realize that it's not so much the human experience and expertise we bring to a task or assignment which benefits our movement, but rather what we leave behind: self-righteousness, willfulness, impatience, irritation, and so on. We must be willing to set aside our self-imposed limitations and preconceptions if we want to get the job done well. If we Christian Scientists won't do it, who will?

On behalf of the entire Board, our sincere thanks to all of you who have supported Canterbury over the years. Your generous support assures that Christian Science nursing will continue to be available in our area.