



Renewing Our Hearts for Service

by Sue Spotts, CS

Excerpts from a talk given at High Ridge House
Annual Meeting, November 9, 2013



Sue Spotts, CS

Sue Spotts relocated to Connecticut about three years ago and now resides in the historic New England town of Glastonbury. A lifelong Christian Scientist, she is an active member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hartford, where she is currently serving as First Reader. Sue has written extensively for our Church's periodicals and has published two articles in the *CS Journal* this year.

She became involved with High Ridge House when she was asked to serve as the House Practitioner earlier this year. Her insights into Christian Science nursing and serving others are the inspiring message High Ridge House wanted to provide as a gift to our community.

We were honored to have her present the keynote address for our Annual Meeting and to be able to share this excerpt with you.

Sue's talk began essentially as follows:

Probably one of the deepest yearnings of the human spirit is the yearning for a sense of purpose. We want the assurance that our lives are something other than ordinary and that our work is truly making a difference in the world

As Christian Scientists, we'd probably agree that we're given something so much more, something so much larger, than a routine ordinary sense of human experience, however "good enough" that might seem to us at times. We're given the very Science of being, which unfolds for us truly extraordinary opportunities to serve—in this "greatest and holiest of all causes," as our Leader termed the movement she founded. (Mis, p. 177:1-4)

This is what I want us to discuss here today: our heart's desire to serve God and this Cause, and having that desire renewed and reinvigorated.

Those of you who are privileged to be working at High Ridge House in any of its various capacities have taken on very specific roles of service. Your role is unique to you; it utilizes your particular capacities and talents; it expresses your individual desire to be of service.

I'd like to invite you to stop and remember when that role was brand new to you. And others of you who are here today, recall when you began down the path of meaningful work. It really did feel like a calling, didn't it? A God-given opportunity to be of service in the Father's vineyard. And my guess is that you yearned to fulfill your newly acquired duties with Christly humility. You longed to learn and grow spiritually, and to bring blessing and healing to others in the process. It was holy ground you were on, wasn't it?

I'm not suggesting that we all try very hard humanly to regain that original feeling of sacredness about our work so much as I am suggesting that we go to God, often, to renew its core, so to speak. Mrs. Eddy has a statement in Miscellaneous Writings that clarifies this point: "Though our first lessons are changed, modified, broadened, yet their core is constantly renewed; . . ." (p. 81:30)

The question of how to have renewal in our work is answered, I think, by this statement of our Leader's. We are to return often to the spiritual basis of true service. That is, we are to go to the Father for deepening of those first lessons, those primary lessons that we learned: that God is first in our lives, for example, because God in fact is our Life; that our love for humanity can only grow out from our increasing love for God; that our work is more that of witness to the Father's infinite grace and goodness and power than it is that of being a personal channel for that goodness.

So . . . we “rolled up our sleeves,” so to speak, and got down to the business of considering more deeply what it means to be of service within the broad channels of this great movement—as our Leader would have envisioned it for us, in a truly scientifically Christian sense. We revisited the core lessons of Christian service and considered, as well, how it is that we are protected by divine Love on this road of service to God.

Sue’s talk concluded:

My hope is that our time together today has caused us to revisit the blessings of Christian service and to refresh our spirits for this good work. The fact is, we are made for community and service. Our textbook reminds us of the spiritual fact: “Man is not . . . an isolated, solitary idea.” (S&H, p. 259:1) We are set by the Father in families—in conventional family settings, of course, but also in church families, organizational families, community families, and so on. Your calling within each of these expressions of family is uniquely your own, and you answer your call with a wisdom and radiance that is yours alone to impart.

Perhaps when next we settle in for some quiet prayer about this idea of renewing our hearts for service, we might remember the Old Testament writers who appealed often to God for renewal. When feeling low or depressed, they asked for renewing of the spirit. When feeling weak or inadequate in some way, they asked for renewed strength. When world-weary, they asked to have again the joy of salvation. Under stress of temptation, they asked for new understanding. Like them, we turn often in prayer and humility to our Father-Mother God, the source of our purpose and individuality, that our hearts might be renewed for Christly service.

Hymn 324 serves as something of a present-day petition to God for renewal. Why don’t we consider the words together as your annual meeting draws to a close today. Feel free to repeat the words with me if you recall them:

*Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.*

*Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my every thought, to use
In the way that Thou shalt choose.
Take my love; O Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
I am Thine and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

If you’d like to hear the complete talk, please visit our website at www.HighRidgeHouse.org. From the home page click on the banner for the Annual Meeting and choose this talk or any of the reports given that day. Photos are also posted in our photo gallery.