

Members of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship | July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

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Lecturers rotating off the Board of Lectureship as of June 30, 2025

Nate Frederick

Experiencing first-hand the healing power of Love is Nate's favorite thing. It's what makes him tick.

Nate studied religion and perennial philosophy at Hampshire College where he was introduced to Christian Science healing. Although he was enamored with the academic exploration of spirituality, what he truly desired most was to practice spirituality in a tangible way — he wanted to experience God and heal others.

After producing a documentary on miracles and traveling the world where he hiked extensively in the Himalayas, Nate came to Boston in 2008 to work for his church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist. Since then, he has served in many capacities, including launching and producing your Daily Lift podcast. Nate also helped pioneer the online Sunday School at The Mother Church; helped launch a branch church in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts; worked as a counselor and wilderness trip leader for six years at a camp for Christian Scientists; has shared the Good News at jails, rehab centers and interfaith-events. He's also composed, produced and performed a variety of spiritually inspired music.

Nate's many hobbies include adventuring in the outdoors, writing songs and cooking. But he says, "Without comparison, my greatest love, my greatest joy— my purpose — is to transform lives and heal the sick through Christianly Scientific prayer."

This deeper sense of purpose led Nate to become a full-time Christian Science practitioner, who helps others find healing. In his lectures, Nate enjoys sharing how, in his eyes, healing through prayer is life's greatest adventure.

Phillip Hockley

Although humble beginnings and hard knocks taught Phillip the value of being honest and hardworking, for oneself and others, that lesson did not last long into adult life. Rapid success in business and a hard-partying lifestyle led to an increasing sense of inner emptiness which in turn led to drinking and drugs.

In the early 1990s a fall that badly injured the spine started a seven-year, downward spiral of ill health. By 1999, after trying every alternative and spiritual healing method, without any cure, Phillip was registered as physically handicapped.

During those years of physical decline, he researched many religions and forms of spirituality, eventually focusing his time on mindfulness practices. These mental exercises helped Phillip be aware of pain in the body without reacting with fear. Thus, by remaining calm and composed, he could choose to be happy instead of fearful.

This attitude of “broken body—happy mind” was present when Phillip felt strongly attracted to attend his first ever Christian Science lecture—against his own best judgment at the time!

What happened to Phillip at that lecture was truly transformational. Not only was he healed of all his diseases at that event but also, more importantly, he was healed of his hardness towards the message of the Bible—telling us of God’s great love for each one of us. Christian Science explains the Bible promises so clearly. To him, the greatest of the promises is that we can all feel and live with this divine love, a heavenly love, here and now.

From that moment on he knew he had found something very special and could hardly wait to explain this experience to others—this ability to love and be loved by God.

Phillip had gone to the lecture with no expectations but, left with no limitations.

Since then, Phillip has shared God’s abundant love with others by becoming a full-time Christian Science practitioner, and through lecturing.

Mark McCurties

Ever since he was a little boy, Mark had a deep love for the Bible. When he read about men and women in the Bible overcoming hatred, famine, war, physical disease, and other hardships, their triumphs inspired him. It didn’t matter what the odds were, or what conditions they faced, individuals in the Bible seemed to flourish in adversity based on one common theme: their deep love for God.

Growing up in a Christian Science household, there was another book that Mark loved to read daily: *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* written by Mary Baker Eddy. The very purpose of her book is to help unlock and reveal the deeper divine meaning and inspiration of the Bible. Together the Bible and *Science and Health* point to the practical healing and saving power of God and its present availability for all mankind. Mark knew that someday he wanted to share that healing message with the world.

As he grew into adulthood, experiences in the field of education as a summer camp director, outdoor educator, athletics coach, and resident counselor all helped to develop his understanding and practice of Christian Science. While working with young people, Mark had

multiple opportunities to witness God's healing power. These examples proved to him that the healing power of the Christ is just as alive and relevant today as for the men and women of the Bible. In 2010, with a desire to focus solely on healing through prayer, Mark entered the full-time public practice of Christian Science.

Tom McElroy

Tom has always loved meeting new people and learning fresh and inspiring ideas. Through his study of Christian Science, he has found that a better understanding of God helps him connect with all kinds of people and to appreciate and enjoy the many diverse expressions of divine Life and Love which fill the globe.

Tom's interest in different cultures, people, and ideas that led him to study philosophy at university. During his university years, he was also able to participate in a few study-abroad programs which took him to France, Belize, Vietnam, China, and Tibet. He's now been to every continent but Antarctica. During these travels, he experienced many proofs of God's ever-present care for His global family.

After graduating from university, Tom obtained a position as the senior loan officer in charge of a mortgage company's most active branch. At the same time, he also worked with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department as a volunteer chaplain in men's, women's, and youth correctional facilities, giving Christian Science services and one-on-one interviews. These experiences gave him many opportunities to rely on and prove the power of God's laws of goodness and harmony, which govern all of creation and bring immeasurable benefits to all mankind, even in the most adverse situations.

Tom now devotes himself to the full-time [public healing ministry of Christian Science](#). While serving on the Board of Lectureship, Tom has spoken at probation facilities, universities, public schools, churches, and for public service groups — like those serving homeless and at risk youth — as well as in other general public venues. He gives lectures in English and French.

Lesley Pitts

It was during high school that the direction of Lesley's life changed. Although she was raised as a Christian Scientist, it wasn't until she experienced the joy of helping someone during a youth club outing that Lesley finally understood what it took to love unselfishly. This set her on a new path. She became aware that nursing qualities of willing service, patience, gentleness, and compassion were expressed all around her as she grew up and that she wanted to live them, too. They've woven themselves into every activity she has undertaken since then.

For example, Lesley served as a Christian Science nurse for more than 30 years, mostly in the United Kingdom. This work brought her to Boston in the United States to work in the Christian

Science Nursing Activities department. Later, she was part of the team that established The Mary Baker Eddy Library. Her nursing qualities were put to good use in organizing and caring for its collections--shared with the public for the first time. She served as Executive Manager and President of the Library for six years.

Working at the Library and becoming more familiar with Eddy's remarkable accomplishments as the founder of a religious movement increased Lesley's desire to better practice Christian Science in her own life and help others through her healing practice and lecturing.

Lesley believes that her unusual career path illustrates the idea that following God's lead is a more trustworthy foundation for living than relying on society's expectations or other people's opinions.

Patty Woodard

Patty discovered Christian Science as an adolescent and soon thereafter experienced the complete healing of a broken arm through Christian Science treatment, to the amazement of her mother, a registered nurse.

After working in New York City in the fashion business, Patty realized she wanted to help children learn how to learn. So she returned to school and earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching. This desire to help others and her love of Christian Science impelled her to set time aside to pray for others. While a mother of two children, she became a full-time Christian Science practitioner, and has pursued a lifelong career of learning about God, sharing Truth, and witnessing God's love for mankind.

Patty has lived in six states in the U.S. and twice in São Paulo, Brazil, where she became fluent in Portuguese. Each new culture and environment has taught her more about God, universal Love, and how God's goodness is reflected by all people. These new views have opened up wonderful opportunities to interact with people from a wide variety of cultural and economic backgrounds, faiths, and age groups. In Brazil, Patty helped start up an award-winning social program that taught mothers living in a favela (slum) how to make beautiful handmade quilts for resale, the income from which put shoes on their childrens' feet and gave these women a new sense of self-worth.

Underlying all of her experiences is the desire to bring healing to mankind, to show each individual their God-given freedom, their real heritage, their right to happiness and health, and their inherent ability to feel God's love.

Today, Patty resides in Dallas, Texas, where she nurtures her healing practice as well as an active in prison ministry. While serving on the Board of Lectureship, she has given lectures at food pantries, museums, libraries, community centers, churches, as well as at local, state, and federal prisons.