



## Divine Inspiration

Kim Schmidt is the manager of the Christian Science Reading Room.

### A BARRINGTON BOOKSTORE PROMOTES THE HEALING POWER OF PRAYER

**O**FTENTIMES, CUSTOMERS STEP INTO the Christian Science Reading Room and admit they have walked past it for years, always wondering what it was about, and finally deciding to come in to find out.

“They see the name of our store and are curious,” says Kim Schmidt, Manager of the Christian Science Reading Room, a Bible-based bookstore for adults, teens, parents and children at 125 E. Main Street in downtown Barrington. More of a spiritual resource center, the Reading Room can be a quiet, serene place for personal study or a lively setting for the community to gather for weekly Bible discussions and inspiring programs via the Internet.

Displayed on a prominent shelf inside the Reading Room is the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy’s primary work, “Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures”. This

book is the reason why the Reading Room is in existence: to make Eddy’s work available to everyone, bringing healing to all aspects of our lives and the world. First published in 1875, “Science and Health” is a bestseller, having sold more than 10 million copies in more than 17 languages. It’s also cited by the Women’s National Book Association as “One of the 75 books by women whose words have changed the world”.

#### TOPICS COMMON TO ALL

Schmidt describes “Science & Health” as a book for life that opens up the Bible for you. The book explores lessons from the scriptures applied to universal challenges such as marriage, childrearing, aging, and disease, to inspire readers through the healing power of prayer. “It is a daily source that keeps your thoughts uplifted and positive,” Schmidt said. The chapter titled “Fruitage” contains testimonies from



people who experienced healing after reading the book. “It gives you fresh ideas, when praying and facing challenges,” Schmidt says.

Eddy started her own church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, several years after publishing the book, to commemorate the word and works of our Master, “Reinstating primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing.” It resulted in the worldwide establishment of branch churches, including one in Barrington, located a few blocks east of the Reading Room.

Each Church of Christ, Scientist is asked to have a Reading Room to give the public access to Eddy writings. It also includes The Christian Science





The space is inviting with seating areas and a piano for guests.




Guest can gather at this large table for meetings and book reviews.

Monitor, an international daily newspaper founded in 1908, by Eddy, “To injure no man but to bless all mankind.”

“The Reading Room Staff is available to answer questions and share articles and websites to provide spiritual inspiration,” Schmidt says. Conveniently, the Reading Room has a monthly Christian Science Journal with a worldwide directory of churches, for people wishing to visit services, as well as a list of Christian Science practitioners, who assist those in need of healing through prayer.

#### ALL ARE WELCOME

Quick to dispel age-old myths about Christian Science, Schmidt says the Reading Room is a good place to clarify, when asked, that the church is not affiliated with Scientology or a cult. People coming in with heavy hearts, speaking with volunteers, taking home a book, magazine, or CD, and leaving with hope is the most satisfying part of Schmidt’s job. “It’s heartwarming for me to know that lives are blessed and touched. Our visitors and patrons are from all walks of life, faith and sects. We are all on a spiritual journey and want to continue that journey onward and upward; and through prayer, healing is possible.”

The Christian Science Reading Room is open Mondays through Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Closed Sundays. To learn more, call 847-381-0939, email: csrr1bar@gmail.com, and visit [www.jsh-online.com](http://www.jsh-online.com). 

*Melanie Kalmar is a freelance writer specializing in business and human-interest features. When she’s not writing, she enjoys spending time with her family.*



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