

HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE

March 2020

Welcome to Spring!

For many, springtime means spring cleaning. In neighborhoods across the country, people are cultivating gardens and holding garage sales. It's a time when dead leaves and clutter are swept away in the spirit of new beginnings.

We understand that the joy of undertaking these projects – and doing them well – comes only when we are willing to purge whatever is finally deemed undesirable in our lives. This purging process clears the way for growth, and not just for the growth of bright flowers, but for our inner growth as well – our spiritual growth. And doesn't such growth, whether we experience it or witness it in others, always give us a more profound feeling of the transforming character of grace?

As Christian Scientists, we think of grace as a quiet listening to God. It's a patient waiting on Love with the expectation of seeing more and more evidence of Love's transformative power. Such transforming Love assures each of us, and our fellow man, that there can be no separation from the good God bestows.

Growth and grace, patience and power are the qualities embodied in the theme we've chosen this year for the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service. Our theme isn't a single sentence. Rather, it is expressed by two New Testament verses and by a line from the spiritual interpretation of the Lord's Prayer:

- "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 3:20)
- "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:13)
- "Love is reflected in love" (Science and Health 17:7)



Photo: iStock

These passages are reminders that all of our daily conversations are in heaven. That we can expect spiritual things – spiritual reality – to spring forth, bud, and blossom in the good soil of our consciousness, like springtime flowers smile out from the earth. That letting in the light of Love, and naturally reflecting it, will warm, brighten the hopes of, and heal all mankind.

Advance Healthcare Directive Cards

Every Christian Scientist is entitled to have proof of their declared and protected status as a Christian Scientist. This proof is now available in the form of an Advance Healthcare Directive (AHD) card. The AHD card is a loving provision that informs and guides non-Christian Scientists about your wishes regarding healthcare. It is your legal voice to instruct family, medical providers, and/or first responders of your rights and your expressed desire to rely upon Christian Science for healing. The front of the AHD card shows two places for designation:



- The line MPOA is for your Medical Power of Attorney. This is the individual you designate to represent your wishes to medical authorities should circumstances demand, i.e., temporary incapacitation.
- The opposite line is for your HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) contact. This may be your Christian Science nurse or practitioner. Designating a HIPAA contact allows that individual to access and visit you at a hospital or other medical facility. The medical authorities, bound by confidentiality laws, may not even acknowledge to a Christian Science nurse or practitioner that an individual is a patient, much less allow a visit.

These AHD cards will soon be distributed to area churches. In addition, they will always be available at all HVCSNS functions and events. You can even ask our *Journal*-listed visiting Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen, who carries the cards with her at all times. For more information about Advance Directive and Medical Power of Attorney forms, please visit our website:

Houstonvcsns.org/Resources.

Volunteering: A Servant's Heart

There are Christian Scientists who, confined to their home, may be yearning for the caring, compassionate touch of Christly love. Their need is often met by something as simple as reading aloud the weekly Bible Lesson at their bedside or just by sitting with them silently for a little while. When we serve others in this way, we are serving God by following His servant-like Son, Christ Jesus. If you feel called to make a Christian Visit, as we call it, please contact our *Journal*-listed

visiting Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen. For Susie's contact information, please visit our website: Houstonvcsns.org/Contact.

Meet the Board

Dave Daniels, President – Ninth Church

Sue Merrill, Vice President – Bellaire Church

Linda Lindeman, Corresponding Secretary – Fourth Church

Susan Clay, Recording Secretary – Seventh Church

Salomon Ngalamulume, Treasurer – Seventh Church

Grace Duffy – Eighth Church

We would welcome a board presence from churches not currently represented.

Make a Donation

Our office is your home – providing care in the comfort of your residence.

Thank you for your support.

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our service is grateful for the financial support from area Christian Science churches and individuals. Their contributions help us pay for our contracted staff and operating expenses.

BANKING CONTRIBUTIONS: To set up recurring donations to be deducted electronically from your checking account, please call our service at (713) 304-8384 and leave your name and contact number. Our treasurer will return your call and will be happy to assist you or answer questions.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY MAIL: We welcome checks mailed to us at:
Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.
1834 Columbia Street, Houston, TX 77008-4348

“Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee”

Christian Science Hymn 324

