



# HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

October 2021

## HVCSNS Celebrates 50 Years of Service

On July 15, 1971, a modest group of dedicated Christian Scientists were led to envision, nurture, pursue, and ultimately form the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.

Today, 50 years and three months later, we, the HVCSNS board of directors, pause to commemorate the pure motives and divinely inspired actions of those intrepid pioneers.

One board member reminded us that 1971 was marked by another auspicious event: Starbucks was established. You might be asking: “Why relate Starbucks to Science?” Because doing so underscores the pitfalls of celebrating dates simply for the sake of recording personal milestones. If left unchallenged, such mortal mind musings and memorials open the door to a myriad of fears and woes that sneak into our consciousness and cause havoc. One such musing is that the now-worldwide coffeehouse chain is better known to many Christian Scientists than is the existence of—and practical services tenderly performed by—visiting Christian Science nurses! That troubling suggestion can be disproven by everyone who honestly acknowledges and earnestly demonstrates the healing efficacy of skilled Christian Science nursing care. After all, what could be more attractive, more winning, than the Comforter? (For more details about services a Christian Science nurse provides, [click here](#).)

Speaking of “winning,” I’m reminded of a fable my third grade teacher read to our class. A weary traveler trudged along a dirt road in a heavy coat on a late-November afternoon. On either side of him were trees that held a few straggling leaves. The autumn sky was dark and foreboding. Our ears perked up when the story introduced Old North Wind and Sun. Wind proposed having a contest with Sun: Whichever of them first forced the coat off the weary man would win. Sun’s answer: stillness. So, rushing to be the first to try, Old North Wind blew with gale force, stripping and swirling the last remaining leaves, whipping the bare branches to and fro—and causing the cold traveler to lean into the blast and clutch his coat more tightly to his chest.

After an hour of high-speed huffing and puffing, Old North Wind was no closer to his goal of

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removing the coat. He paused to catch his breath. Sun chose that moment to poke through the clouds, flooding the overcast skies with light. Instantly warmer, the traveler unbuttoned his coat. In the last scene, we see him striding home happily, the coat draped over his arm.

For me, this simple story holds spiritual import. Among its lessons: Even when we face numbingly cold circumstances, even when we cling to our great coat of fear, even when we remain wrapped up in troubles, even when we walk through a seemingly lifeless material landscape, our Father-Mother's soft warmth and gentle light always reveal themselves. Always prevail over hardship. Always bring joy, contentment, peace to weary ones. Always win! As Genesis 1 confirms, man—the only real, spiritual man—*does* have God-given dominion over all woes and foes, over all errors and terrors.



Photo by simonbradfield on iStock

We are today's scientific, sturdy pioneers, tracing the way of Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, yet forging ever-new spiritual paths. Emulating our Master and our Leader, we are learning "to hew the tall oak and to cut the rough granite" (*Science and Health* vii:24). One trailblazer fitting this description is our consecrated *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse, Susie Petersen, who serves her clients at divine Principle's direction and under divine Love's protection. (To learn about resources available to Christian Scientists, [click here](#).)

## Meet the HVCSNS Board

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Thank you for your support.

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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.

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“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee”  
*Christian Science Hymn 324*