

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.

Our mission is to heal through practical, operative Christian Science.

Christian Science nursing, as a provision of The Manual of The Mother Church, safeguards, supports, dignifies, and defends the ministry of Christian Science healing.

The Houston Visiting Christian Science nurse provides care for those relying on Christian Science for healing and having treatment from a Christian Science practitioner. The Christian Science nurse provides care consistent with the teachings of Christian Science and Christian Science nurse training. Christian Science nursing is not medical care; it is practical care supporting the spiritual healing truths learned in the study of Christian Science.

Church membership is not required. There is no charge for services. We are grateful for all donations to support the continuity of our work. The Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service is here to support your healing.

Contact information:

Those interested in our service may contact us for care requests or a conversation and home visit to explain what we do.

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.
Christian Science Nurse: Mary Roadman
Phone: 713-304-8384.
Email: hvcsns@comcast.net.
Mailing address: 1834 Columbia Street, Houston, TX 77008

What is a Christian Science nurse and what do they do?

The Christian Science nurse provides non-medical physical care for those relying on Christian Science for healing and having treatment from a Christian Science practitioner. The Christian Science nurse assists the family to maintain a spiritual atmosphere conducive to immediate and complete healing. This Christian Science nursing care includes bathing, cleaning and bandaging wounds, nourishment, assistance with mobility, and newborn and new mother care and support.

If you or your loved one receives care from our service, you can expect the following:

- care that respects and supports the client's religious beliefs
- appropriate care and light lifting in accord with Christian Science nurses' training.
- no diagnosis of conditions or offering of services outside the scope of practice for a Christian Science nurse
- contact with out of town family members as requested by the client and family

Is your Christian Science nurse trained?

Our Christian Science nurse, Mary Roadman, trained for 3 years at Tenacre Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey. Her experience includes working in Christian Science nursing facilities, visiting nurse services, as well as one-on-one private duty Christian Science nursing.

How long does the Christian Science nurse stay?

The length of the visit may be flexible when meeting an immediate need, but most calls do not exceed two hours. In emergencies situations, overnight care can be provided. We have one contracted Christian Science nurse at this time covering a large area. If longer service is requested and home care remains appropriate, the Christian Science nurse may assist in arranging for a private duty Christian Science nurse or aide or will provide information about Christian Science nursing facilities that might be better options.

What if I need equipment to help me while I'm at home working on healing?

We keep a small but important supply of equipment for Christian Scientists to use free of charge, for up to two months. Equipment is quickly available by calling the service number. Available equipment includes a wheelchair, walker, portable bedside commode, or cane.

What if I don't want anyone to know I have a Christian Science nurse helping me?

All visits, phone calls, and emails are kept confidential. The Christian Science nurse does not share client names with Board members or anyone unless it is another Christian Science nurse assisting the client at that time. Families may let church members know support is being provided, but the Christian Science nurse maintains confidentiality regarding client care.

Would your branch church like to have a brief informational meeting with our Christian Science nurse?

Our Christian Science nurse can speak with branch church care committees about visiting those needing special attention. Usher committee members might like a meeting to learn how to best assist those using a wheelchair or walker. Branch church board members might be interested in having the Christian Science nurse address questions about Christian Science nursing and the Houston Visiting Christian Science Service during a church business meeting. Please contact the service to make arrangements.

From our treasurer, Richard Baum:

"Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need." (SH 494:10-11) Christian Science practitioners lovingly provide prayerful support to our service work each month, and we are very grateful. We are also so grateful for the loving service that our full time Christian Science nurse gives each month to our greater Houston Christian Science community. Mary receives a monthly salary from HVCSNS, and all service expenses are covered. Donations from branch churches subsidize about half of our annual operating costs. The rest of our costs are covered by individual donations and gifts from grateful clients and family members. We are grateful for all the prayerful, spiritual, and financial support our area Christian Science churches – and all of you – generously give to the service. Love is indeed reflected in love.

A Note from Mary Roadman, Christian Science Nurse

What's in My Bag You Ask?

At a recent conference I enjoyed sharing with other visiting Christian Science nurses what supplies we always have in our cars. When preparing to leave for my home visits, I quietly consider what I need to take. I must take my faith and confidence that God will guide me each step of the way. I want to always bring joy and a happy expectation of progress. From the

practical side, I need to find certain items in my supply closet, or review what I have in my bags kept in my vehicle. If I don't have a specific item, I can improvise or purchase it.

The main bag I carry into the home is one shaped like a “carpet bag”. In it I keep paperwork, my books, Day Planner along with my bandaging kit. The bandaging kit contains an expanding file folder to organize my bandaging tools and a variety bandages in different materials and sizes. My largest bag has extra bandaging materials along with a simple night gown and even a pair of socks. I have sets of wash "bowls"- large and small for bed baths, along with sets of bowls for cleansing and cleansers. I travel with the Christian Science periodicals in the car at all times. I think our periodicals are like love letters we receive, and read with friends, rejoicing together at the good news.

Each Christian Science nurse must have on hand a growing understanding of God and God’s care for man – the best first aid kit. For me this insight lifts me up when I am tempted by fear or sorrow and shows me I am never alone; God is leading me and the family. This Christian Science nursing care includes everyone involved in the visit. Healing is the continuous revealing of God's perfection and can't be hidden from us. Our Leader said it best in Miscellaneous Writings: “God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies. Never ask for tomorrow: it is enough that divine Love is an ever-present help; and if you wait, never doubting, you will have all you need every moment.” So our bags are complete and ready to go. Thank you, Father!

Comments and Testimonies:

A client called our Service for Christian Science nursing care early in the week. They had fallen repeatedly and needed home care. A Christian Science practitioner was working and our Christian Science nurse was quickly at the home with a wheel chair, walker, and other supplies. The client was unable to walk, or keep food down and the practitioner was quickly given an update. Injuries to the arms and knees were properly cleansed and bandaged. As the day progressed, the client progressed quickly and naturally. Soon the slurred speech faded away as the strong stand for Christian Science healing was acknowledged and fear was removed from thought. The second day the client did not need to be lifted but took their own weight and walked around their home with assistance. Meals were enjoyed and dizziness was being replaced by calm. The regular routine of the Bible Lesson with breakfast continued with additional study and prayer. Our Christian Science nurse stayed most daylight hours with the client and we arranged for a church member to be at the home while the client slept at night. Special arrangements were made to provide watchful care and our Christian Science nurse provided the practical care and the inspired help church members can expect. Neighbors and family called to offer their support and were glad to hear that someone was taking good care of their loved one. After a full week of individual care this client was walking freely and driving their car. Our visiting Christian Science nurse came for a few more days to change the bandages, but soon this was not needed.

Shared with permission.

Comments from a care committee chairman:

“We had a great time at the care committee meeting. Everyone loved hearing from you and listening to the video. It was especially helpful for everyone to hear the requirements for using a CS [Christian Science] nurse -- especially for those of us who are going to be spreading the word around. Also, I hope we can include you in some friendly visits we are going to be having with

our members in coming months. One thing I think impressed everyone is the idea that each member should be dealt with individually, let love show us the way to handle each member in need. We went through our church list and different ideas came to us as to how to deal with each situation. Thanks again for coming and making yourself available to our committee!”

Board Members from the Greater Houston Area:

President:

Vice-President/Secretary: Missy Edgerton, First Church, The Woodlands

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Lindeman, Fourth Church, Houston

Treasurer: Richard Baum, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston

Board Member: Susan Clay, Seventh Church, Houston

Board Member: Dave Daniels, First Church, The Woodlands

Board Member: Charlese Zilar, First Church, Bellaire

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