

**Christian Science Nurse Service of New Hampshire**  
**Christian Science Nurse's Report**  
**Annual Meeting 2021**

Last year's theme was from James 3:17 "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." I relate this to calling on the "practical wisdom necessary in a sick room..." which comes from Article 8 Section 31, defining the qualifications of the Christian Science nurse (page 49 of The Manual of The Mother Church). And I hope you do find it easy to be entreated – please don't be reluctant to call for aid, even if you're not entirely sure you need the help of a Christian Science nurse – if your Christian Science practitioner has suggested or it has occurred to you to call, do so. We'll talk and figure out together whether you need the reassurance of some simple advice, or a visit and some direct assistance. The experience is guaranteed to be full of "mercy and good fruits!"

Currently, I may be the most frequently seen "face" of the Christian Science Nurse Service of New Hampshire, but I'm definitely not unsupported in this work. The Service's Board of Directors represent the "everlasting arms of Love,... beneath, around, above," supporting this holy healing work, with financial and functional management of the organization, and solid metaphysical work in support of the mission, especially as an on-call metaphysical resource for the Christian Science nurse on duty, and I am grateful for all that they do.

Many Christian Science nurses have provided relief support over the years. In 2020, a year when all previously scheduled day off and vacation plans went out the window as lockdown continued through the spring into summer, I was grateful to have an unexpected break in the fall. Danielle Puduski, who lives in the Midwest but was working at Tallwood House for several weeks during the summer, made plans to be available to provide me two whole weeks of vacation. After the lockdowns curtailed Tallwood House taking outpatient visits, regular days off became irregular and few. The Service was very active 7 days a week with multiple patients visited each day from March through mid-December. The Tallwood House managers Kerry Reed and Arta Stewart arranged their staff schedules to free Sally Carruth's time to cover some weekend days and if I had a day off, it was because of the good hearts of Sally and of Arta who both went out on behalf of the Service.

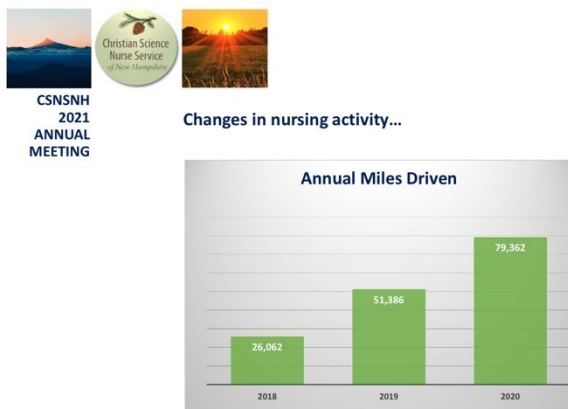
I cannot pass by this opportunity to express continuing gratitude for all that Kerry Reed did for me and for the Service. When I started in 2016, she had been covering all the patient visits for the Service while simultaneously managing Tallwood House for 6 or 7 months, so she came with me and introduced me to those patients. That began our working relationship, which included her covering weekends initially. Often, we consulted each other on innovative ways to improve care we gave our respective patients. A vibrantly unique

individual always metaphysically attuned to Spirit’s guiding, deeply insightful, incredibly practical. I’d say her advice and counsel will be missed; but I keep recognizing situations where I still feel prompted to ask, “Hmm, what would Kerry do?” as opportunities for me to listen more closely and receive the angel messages confirming my intuitions. Sometimes they even sound like the echo of Kerry’s voice, as she so often told me “Yes, you do know what you need to do!” I’m deeply grateful for all that she has done for the practice of Christian Science and Christian Science nursing in New Hampshire.

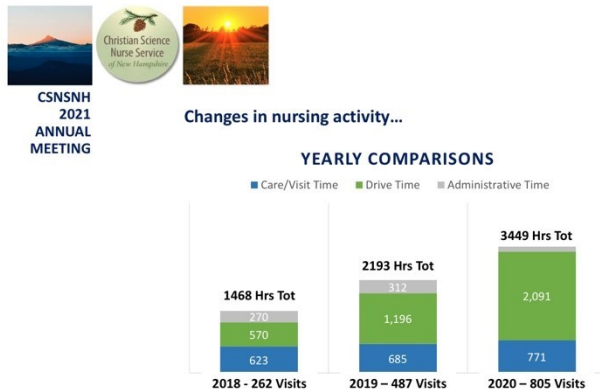
We have before us always, a tremendous opportunity to support with Christian Science nursing care those relying on Christian Science for healing. The number of visits made, hours worked, and mileage driven have all steadily increased as people have become more aware of the blessing of Christian Science nursing and the availability of the Service.



In the last three years, the number of visits increased 62% -- we made 805 individual patient visits in 2020.



Our total of 79,362 miles in 2020 is a 67% increase from 2018.



The total time worked for 2020 was 3,449 hours. That is a 57% increase from 2018 – and an average of nearly 10 hours a day 7 days a week. The travel time portion represents a 72% increase.

We track our Christian Science nurses' time in three basic buckets –Christian Science nursing time, administrative time, and travel time. The nature of the patients' care needs dictates the nursing time on each case, and the number of simultaneous active cases also plays a role. We'll refer another Christian Science nurse to a case that needs more than a couple of hours at a time, unless our own schedule is pretty light. How much time is reasonably available after all the day's visits are finished, governs how much is spent on administrative activities. In other words, when I'm super busy going out on cases, I do a bare minimum of office work to complete billing and keep care supplies in stock. Devoting any time to administrative improvement projects gets set aside.)

You can see the time distribution between those categories varies year to year, so I'll just highlight here that historically car time exceeds care time. That is simply the nature of providing care in patients' homes in a large rural territory, as opposed to within a facility setting. In a facility setting, a Christian Science nurse with 3 patients assigned might not sit down much more than their meal break during their entire 8-hour shift, and their travel between cases is measurable in steps. Whereas, a visiting Christian Science nurse working 3 cases a day, might find themselves giving care for only 3 to 4 hours, with driving segments between them totaling 5 or 6 hours depending on locations, traffic and weather conditions. The car is a wonderful place to listen to Christian Science lectures, the eBibleLesson and articles from the periodicals via JSH-online! And you just might spot me out on the side of the road running a couple circles around the car to stretch my legs now and then!

When we last met in June of 2020, we'd been freshly tossed into the whirlwind of continually changing public health recommendations and requirements, from governmental agencies large and small. We talked about how these changes really didn't move the standpoint from which Christian Science nursing springs, so they don't change Christian Science nursing.

The lockdowns of congregate senior living settings prevented us making many friendly visits – no-charge visits we make as schedule permits to individuals who are not in frequent contact with other Christian Scientists to visit and read the Bible Lesson and the periodicals.

Different travel and quarantine requirements prevented our traveling to the bordering towns in Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts. We anticipate these restrictions being lightened and lifted and will stay abreast of these developments. As the recommendations and requirements for masking and social distancing when in the company of others in the public sphere increased, we graciously complied with these policies and require that patients and any family members in the home comply as well. It's done in the spirit of quelling fear in the community, and in support of the dignity and defense of the cause. We need not fear what cannot harm us.

When I first started thinking about Christian Science nursing long before I started on the path towards training as one, it seemed a contradiction of the expectation of instantaneous healing. In addition to the Christian Science Nurse bylaw, and the qualities of a nurse on page 395 of Science and Health ("cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith – receptive to Truth and Love"), I found the reference in Science and Health on page 364 about "the careless doctor, the nurse, the cook and the brusque business visitor" planting thorns in the pillow of the sick, has the marginal heading of "compassion requisite." On page 115 in the Second Degree of the Scientific Translation of Mortal Mind Mrs. Eddy includes compassion identified as one of the transitional qualities. I see it as a steppingstone on the path to complete spiritual understanding, an aid in moving from the convincingly real but illusory false mortal experience to the wholly spiritual reality of our coexistence with Divine Spirit. And if that doesn't happen to take the form of an instantaneous healing, Christian Science nursing can be the compassionate support that's needed. It's a help for the patient; and anyone who's had Christian Science nursing care probably has something to say in support of this notion. But it's also helpful for those around the patient -- family, friends, work colleagues, neighbors, particularly if they are not Christian Scientists themselves. To anyone used to having medical care for physical problems, what Christian Scientists are doing often looks like a whole lot of nothing. We've got our nose in a book and appear to be "in denial" and "ignoring" the problem, and our loved ones are afraid the result of that approach will be very bad. Two things happen when a Christian Science Practitioner and a Christian Science nurse are employed on the case – first, the Christian Science treatment work which includes focus on complete harmony in the atmosphere around the patient, begins to allay fear -- the patient's and their family's – and second, when family and friends know a Christian Science nurse is on the case they can appreciate that someone is coming regularly. I've had many family members express gratitude knowing that their loved ones are cared for because they themselves "don't know what to do for him/her." Neighbors, instead of merely noticing their friend hasn't been outside in a while and wondering whether offering help might be an intrusion, may

observe that they're receiving visits from people who care about them. Fear and speculation decrease markedly. It is both a kindness to these good-hearted folks to give them peace of mind, and a protection to Christian Science in quelling mortal mind's gossipy court of human opinion. In a sense, we are proactively "correcting in a Christian manner impositions on the public in regard to Christian Science" (Article 10 of The Manual of The Mother Church, Committee on Publication) through our quiet presence.

Being present in the role of a Christian Science nurse is a continual opportunity to see that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Christian Science nurses acknowledge this sense of holiness in patient rooms – sometimes actually pausing at the door to acknowledge that the Christ goes before us. I have found it helpful to recognize, given the drive time that precedes my entry, that the Christ is always already there with the patient, and that my arrival does not bring the sense of calm and healing but simply recognizes the Christ. "Shepherd, show me how to go.... How to gather, how to sow, how to feed Thy sheep," {our new theme} often serves as my simple acknowledgement that I'm standing on holy ground, waiting and ready to be sent where I'm needed, knowing all I need to know.