

Fall 2022  
Newsletter



# Olive Glen

**A Christian Science  
Nursing Community**

**OLIVE GLEN'S  
ANNUAL MEETING**

Join Us Online  
Sunday, November 6  
2PM PT

Emilio Castroman, CS  
Guest Speaker



# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING NEWS



## Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service

This past year Olive Glen put in place a Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service (VCSNS) that serves the greater Sacramento area and some locations beyond that. Most visits are one to two hours in length, but the duration of the stay is flexible, depending on the need.

Sometimes it's an over-the-phone visit with a Christian Science nurse that is needed. Olive Glen makes available Christian Science nurses who can offer assistance over the phone regarding issues related to care. Olive Glen can also put you in touch with other Christian Science nursing facilities as well as Christian Science nurses who provide in-home care for extended periods of time.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions, or if you or someone you know is desiring Christian Science nursing care. We're also available for in-person and Zoom presentations to groups who would like to know more about our Visiting Christian Science Nursing service.

## Contact Emily Mattson at:

[oliveglenvcsn@gmail.com](mailto:oliveglenvcsn@gmail.com) or

916-426-6997 or

[www.theoliveglen.com/visiting-christian-science-nursing-service](http://www.theoliveglen.com/visiting-christian-science-nursing-service)

## Christian Science Nurses' Training

Have you ever thought about a career in the healing ministry of Christian Science nursing? Many think of it as a calling. And those who take it up, come to it from many different walks of life, from many different parts of the world, and at different times in their experience---some early on in their career life, some after retirement. But, no matter where they come from or when they come, what they have in common is a love for Christian Science and a desire to help others find healing through the practice of Christian Science.

If you're interested in knowing more about Olive Glen's Christian Science Nurses' Training Program or employment as a Christian Science nurse please contact Kate Chapman at 916-486-1161 or [katechapmancsn@gmail.com](mailto:katechapmancsn@gmail.com).

# A Christian Science Nurse's Story

"Order is heaven's first law" wrote Alexander Pope. Several mishaps had severely curtailed the lives of family members. Seeing an orderly, loving God was far from my thought. Chaos, chance and random evil painted a more accurate picture of how I felt the universe must operate. Imagine my delight at discovering Mary Baker Eddy's textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" and learning that divine Principle is a synonym for God in Christian Science!

The light came when I was at the bottom of the barrel. With nowhere to turn, I recalled my parents teaching me the Lord's Prayer. It was given by Jesus to his disciples and I earnestly wanted to feel the Father's kingdom come to my heart. I was subsequently led to a local Christian Science church. There, members taught me how to study and practice, and I became an avid student. (See article Christian Science Journal June 2000, *Delivered from Temptation*).


The Psalmist sang: "Order my steps in thy word and let not iniquity have dominion over me". (Ps 119:133)." I found the sense of order and principle governing more and more. Improved self-esteem, new activities, new freedom of expression entered my life and I became happier.

"Learning about Divine Law Brings Peace and Meaningful Activity"

"Let there be light is the perpetual demand of Truth and Love, changing chaos into order and discord into the music of the spheres" writes Eddy, (SH p.255). I was loving the music!

As I went forward, I noticed the serenity and calm demeanor of the Christian Science nurses I met and I wanted to know what made them so peaceful. I took a class in that field of work. The more I learned, the more I discovered the same sense of order and divine Principle that impelled me to study Christian Science originally. Rather than delving first into physical aspects of care





as one might expect of a nursing course, the instruction began with rigorous divine metaphysical assignments, requiring reading, writing, word studies, Biblical research, and strong spiritual and moral reasoning. How gratifying to experience that, first and foremost, the focus was to be consistently mentally maintaining the high standard of "perfect God and perfect man", a cornerstone of Christian Science practice. Christ healing was absolutely the expectation in every aspect of the training. Then the practical aspects of caring for the patient's physical needs were thoroughly taught and each student fully tested in all aspects of the skills.

I continued the study and became listed in the Christian Science Journal in 2011. I have never regretted learning and practicing the Christian Science nursing arts. From what I have seen, a patient accepting the services of a Christian Science nurse in conjunction with the enlistment of a Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner has hold of the most exquisite way on the globe and in heaven to experience full recovery from whatever claims to be. The formidable triad of a receptive earnest patient, an accessible full-time practitioner and a thoroughly trained Christian Science nurse should never be underestimated in the eradication of error and the proclamation of triumphant Truth, demonstrated.

**Ellen Clark Anderson**  
Folsom, California



# Meet

## Olive Glen's Director of Christian Science Nursing Education

a conversation with Lisa Vollnogle

**Lisa, can you talk a bit about Christian Science Nursing? How would you describe it?**

Sure. I like to think of Christian Science nursing as Christian care --- care that's based in great part on the example of Christ Jesus. The Bible, which describes Christ Jesus' healings and his instructions to students, is really an invaluable resource when it comes to learning about care.

That's why *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, is the textbook for Christian Science Nursing. It explains how Jesus healed the sick, as well as what he taught those who wanted to help others as he did.

**The idea of "Christian care" is lovely. So, Christ Jesus' practice informs the practice of Christian Science nursing?**

Absolutely. . . especially how the Christian Science nurse views a patient. There's a statement in *Science and Health* that many Christian Science nurses find helpful.

"Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick. Thus Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is intact, universal, and that man is pure and holy."

(*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy, pp. 476:28–5)

**So Christian Science nursing has a lot to do with seeing things from a spiritual perspective?**

Actually, it's at the heart of what Christian Science nursing is all about. It's normal practice for a Christian Science nurse to turn to God for spiritual insight and for a sense of conviction that what God knows to be true about a patient is the only truth about that patient. . . which is why Christian Science Nurses' training focuses on the practice of seeing a patient as God does, even when the human picture is not consistent with spiritual reality.

**And, the Christian Science nurse is not alone in doing this.**

That's right. The patient, who has chosen Christian Science care, is also endeavoring to view the situation from a spiritual perspective. And, in almost all cases, the patient has engaged a Christian Science practitioner whose prayers for the patient are specifically based on applying the laws of God that were evident in Christ Jesus' ministry. This type of prayer is known as Christian Science treatment.

When I talk with students in the training

program, I often share an image that has helped me understand what's going on when someone is being cared for by a Christian Science nurse. The image is a pretty simple one --- a three-legged stool. I imagine that one leg represents the patient, one leg the Christian Science practitioner, and one leg the Christian Science nurse. As in the case of the stool, all three are equally important and with a common purpose in mind. Each is working individually to behold "in Science the perfect man" --- to drop the false claim that the patient is a flawed mortal seeking healing, for the spiritual truth that the patient has never for a moment been anything less than God's perfect idea, man. I love thinking of God encompassing all three under the umbrella of Divine Love.

### **Lisa, what about caring for the physical needs of a patient?**

That's another core component included in Christian Science nursing curriculum. Students are taught how to provide appropriate care for patients who need help going about their day.

That help might include assistance with any number of things including, bathing, getting in and out of bed, moving about, eating. And again, a key aspect of this assistance is how the Christian Science nurse views it. What is the spiritual idea behind, for example, moving or walking or eating? And, what spiritual qualities are being expressed? Christian Science nurses strive to look at what they are doing and what they are seeing through a spiritual lens . . . which helps them to feel the presence and power of Divine Love right where there seems to be a claim that the body is not working as it should.

This effort to perceive things spiritually is also important when it comes to one other very key aspect of Christian Science nursing: the ability to assess the needs of patients at any given moment, even if a patient is not aware of those needs or able to communicate them. Spiritual perception enters into most everything that a Christian

Science nurse is called on to do, because Christian Science care looks to the spiritual model Christ Jesus left us as recounted in the Bible.

### **Can you recall an experience in your own your career as a Christian Science nurse, that taught you something important about Christian Science nursing?**

There have been many, but one that comes to mind happened many years ago. I was caring for a patient who was struggling with what appeared to be a developmental challenge. The patient was quite upset and acting out that upset feeling. The picture was quite aggressive. I remember reaching out to God and listening for some guidance. Within moments I found myself leaning in and saying to this young patient "I'm not impressed." I realized in that moment that I was declaring out loud something that I needed to hear, namely, that I was not going to be impressed no matter what the human picture. And for me, that also meant I was not going to be afraid.

Within moments things completely quieted down. This experience taught me, early on, the importance of not being taken in, not being impressed with the human picture.

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And, it showed me the power of that --- the power of seeing --- understanding --- the unreality of something that has nothing to do with what God is knowing or doing. It was a big lesson, an important lesson that has stood me in good stead all these years.

## EMPLOYMENT AT OLIVE GLEN

At the current time there are employment opportunities available at Olive Glen in these areas of care:

**Christian Science Nursing**  
**Maintenance and Landscape**  
**Office Assistance**

Hope you'll consider being part of the Olive Glen team. If you would like to know more about current openings, contact Kate Chapman (for CSN positions) or Cari LaZansky at 916-486-1161.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN OLIVE GLEN VOLUNTEER?

Since the founding of Olive Glen in 1987, volunteers have been nothing short of a blessing. What do they do? They come and share their talents with us. For example, there are volunteers who read the Bible Lesson Sermon or hymns or articles from the Christian Science periodicals to residents. There are volunteers who fill the air with the sound of beautiful piano music. Over the past year it was a volunteer who installed new wall paneling in the common area of Hilltop. It was volunteers who did extra pruning and weeding in the garden. It was a volunteer who bought flowers for every resident on every holiday. It was a volunteer who helped paint. It was a volunteer who managed the



"In my Father's house  
are many mansions"

John 14:2

installation of a new exterior ramp. It would be hard to imagine Olive Glen without these wonderful people who ever so quietly appear, and then give of themselves in some way that makes life at Olive Glen just that much better.

We hope you'll think about joining this "mighty little band". You can volunteer once a week, once a month, once a year --- whatever works for you! Call Cari LaZansky at 916-486-1161 if you would like to explore the possibilities.

## **UPDATE**

### **COURTYARD BUILDING PROJECT**

Our initial "fact-finding mission" for Courtyard building is moving along nicely! Inspection reports are now completed and are being reviewed and evaluated. We continue to move ahead step-by-step with plans for this important rebuild of our assisted living building, cherishing each step as it unfolds. If you would like to support this important investment, you may donate through our website or by mail.

Donations may be sent to Olive Glen at 3025 Becerra Way, Sacramento, CA 95821. Please designate "Courtyard" for your gift.

### **A WISH LIST**

Once in a while we're asked if we have a "Wish List"--- if there are particular items that we have not yet been able to purchase, but would find most helpful. So, at the urging of some of our supporters, we've included below a few items from that list.

Maybe you'll see something you would like to help sponsor.

- **Pedestrian gate keypad lock**  
**\$1,500**
- **Resident head-sets for watching TV**  
**\$300**
- **Bookcases for a new Christian Science Library that has been compiled**  
**\$1,500**
- **Reupholstering donated wingback chairs that residents find comfortable**  
**\$800**
- **Sit-to-Stand patient lifter**  
**\$2,500**

Contact Cari LaZansky if you have questions about our Wish List.

### **OLIVE GLEN**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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