

THANKSGIVING

Newsletter Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano

How grateful we are for another year of progress at the Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano. We began the year by participating in the Southern California Church Alive Summit held in January in Pasadena, with half of our members attending the two-day conference along with over 1000 other Christian Scientists. Two of our members were active in the planning the event in support of The Mother Church's theme of "Church Alive" for Annual Meeting 2011.

Sing unto the Lord with Thanksgiving

A year of Church building....

Armed with fresh inspiration, we decided to adopt "Feeling Church" as our theme for the year and the focus of our monthly metaphysical workshops. We began from the bottom up, laying the foundation, addressing these questions: What are we building? An edifice? An organization? What is the rock we should build on? How can we express more engagement in the process of building church?

We took the definition of Church and worked with it: "elevating the race, rousing the dormant understanding". We "decorated" our church and then we "moved in", leaving behind the old stuff we might have been storing, hauling around or carrying with us. We spent time discussing the qualities we wanted to include in our newly refurbished "structure of Truth and Love" and reaffirmed our commitment to our founding purpose: "to promote spiritual growth, unconditional love and healing based on the teachings of the Bible and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy."

Our year-end Met Workshop will focus on "opening the roof to let those in need of healing to have a way to come in." We'll address general beliefs that would keep us from being a healing church. We are grateful for the spiritual foundation and impetus this year-long church building has given us and look forward to more fruitage in the years to come.

We asked our membership to share what church has meant to them this past year, and how it has helped their growth. This is our true sense of supply, for truly *our gratitude is riches* (Hymn 249)

--We lift our hearts in grateful song

- We are so very grateful for Christian Science and to have found San Juan Capistrano Society. We always feel so loved and supported by our church family, and we love sharing services and other expressions of Love with all of you. We are so grateful to our Father for all of our blessings and for what we are learning in Christian Science every day! You all are the biggest blessing to us!!
- Our Society is a beautifully uplifting constant in my life, whether at home or away. I am grateful for everyone who prays, sings, reads, hosts, directs conference-calls and Skype, provides food, creates programs, teaches Sunday School, and a host of other activities that make our SJC Society so special! Our Society is vibrant and forward moving thanks to the prayers and dedication of each of you.
- I was looking for church...taking time each day to pray specifically about church. Before I began my daily study of the Bible Lesson I would focus on Mrs. Eddy's definition of Church: "The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle." I would pause and think about the Divine Principle that heals mentally. Working with that and understanding the thought of perfect God and perfect man, the SJC Society appeared.

Tithing...

Our tithing recipients for this year have included: *The Mother Church, Family Assistance Ministries, Christian Science Troop Support Fund, CREER, Christian Science Nursing Care Endowment, Christian Science Committee on Institutional Work in California, Boys and Girls Club of Capistrano Valley, Karen Freedom Fighters in Burma, Ngochoni Petals of Africa School, Christian Science Joint Media of Southern California and Loving Hugs.* We have been blessed to have speakers from several of these organizations enlighten us about their activities and share some of the challenges we can address metaphysically.

Writing for the periodicals...

We held a workshop on *Writing for the Periodicals* early in the year and are grateful to report several of our members have had articles published in the *Christian Science Sentinel* and *Christian Science Journal* during this year.

Outreach to our Spanish speaking community....

August brought another visit from Christian Science lecturer, Jose Rodriguez Pelaez from Spain. He spoke with members of our community partner, CREER, in a well-attended meeting where many first-time visitors took home Christian Science literature we provided. He was also the guest of the Spanish Evangelical Bible group that meets weekly in our building.



Many attending were learning about CS healing for the first time and eagerly took literature. The weekend concluded with a joint meeting with Laguna Niguel church where local CS churches were invited to attend. Jose “Pepe” spoke of his coming into Christian Science after a career as a Roman Catholic priest and the current growth of Christian Science in Spain and the desire to have Christian Science nurses training available there. Inspired by his sharing, our Society has opened a fund to support *Christian Science nursing training in Spain* and from contributions have donated \$1000 towards this endeavor.



New inspiration....Newsong!

Another joint project with Laguna Niguel church and other local Christian Science churches was the September concert by the *Newsong Group* from Great Britain.

It was beyond my wildest imagination that I would find church in the way I have and that it is nearly 3000 miles away! I phone into church from Georgia and am very active in this church and feel completely included. I have been a phone host and have a wealth of new, dear friends through our “phone family” from all over the world. I am so grateful and happy with my new church!

- I’m so grateful for our church. It is a place of joy, a place of blessed inspiration. Its’ people radiate joy across the world through the telephone wires, airwaves and through the channels of consciousness. I don’t always announce myself because I teach a class right up to the last minute before church, but I’m there and with you all, heart and soul. Thank you for all you give to the world!
- How grateful I am for this amazing group that diligently practices unconditional love---the love of Love! Whether I’m attending in person or on-line, I’m always inspired and encouraged. When personal challenges seem to throw boulders in my path on this spiritual journey, the wisdom shared by my church family helps me implement the truths that come from daily study and prayer. It is such a joy to be part of our San Juan Capistrano Christian Science Society.
- This year has brought such a tremendous sense of gratitude for my church and church family. I owe my life to the diligent, persistent battalion of Christian soldiers fighting for the Truth to be known about me and my Life. A simple prayer request during a Sunday service put them at the ready to support me and mine during a medical procedure. Their loving support brought me back to life when the doctors thought they had lost me. How can I express that amount of gratitude in this small paragraph? This is my home, family and most of all, my sanctuary. I enjoy and am so grateful for all of my experiences and involvement in this wonderful Society filled with such diligent soldiers of Christ, loving and holding each of us together in Love.
- I am so grateful to have “discovered” the San Juan Capistrano Society on Skype. It was there, waiting for me, when our Christian Science Group closed in Valencia, California. I’ve gotten tremendous



The overflow audience loved the fresh renditions of many CS hymn favorites along with some new songs. Earlier that day our congregation was treated to a service filled with inspiration provided by the *Newsong Group*. They have recently released a new CD, "Upbeats, Songs with Spirit", available in our Reading Room.

Outreach to children...near and far....

Last spring we participated in the *Day of the Child* festival in a local park sponsored by our community partner, CREER. Colorful balloons announced *God is Love* from our very active booth where young readers picked up literature in both English and Spanish with many requesting a copy of our textbook as well.



Throughout the year our tutoring project, *Apoya*, (support in Spanish) continues to meet a need for Hispanic children in our community each Saturday. And each week we make our facility available for music lessons for local youth who have shared their musical talents with us and will be part of our community Thanksgiving service this month.

Our ongoing support for *Ngochoni Petals of Africa School* in Kenya has brought many blessings as the school continues to test among the top ranking schools in the country. The strong Christian Science foundation laid by the founder and teachers is evidenced in the CS Society holding services and Sunday School classes at the school. Many students are being introduced to Christian Science and an understanding of the unlimited possibilities their future holds.

Music

Music continues to play an active part in our church and we have been blessed this year to have a number of wonderful musicians share their talents, including our young exchange student from Germany, Anton Moshhammer, who played the piano and trumpet for several services and orchestrated a farewell musical offering as he headed home to Germany.



Our "Twenty Something" discussion forum continues to meet once a month and is providing a wonderful opportunity for young-adult Christian Scientists and their friends to share ideas and inspiration.



inspiration from all the services, including the workshops and meetings. I love the "Church Without Walls" concept that has expanded my concept of the world by focusing my thoughts on God. My husband and I have made appreciable progress since I started "attending". We've had many healings in matters of health, finance, grief, and employment. One of my favorite parts of the Sunday service is when the children say the Scientific Statement of Being and I John at the close. It's a joy to hear their innocence and know that they are receiving a strong foundation in do Christian Science. Thank you for all the good you for our membership, the community and the world.

- I am so very grateful to be a member of this Society where the membership is so spiritually awake. This spiritualized thinking reaches out so abundantly to our community and the world. It has been so inspiring to the over-coming of obstacles in our church growth by the membership working spiritually together, in the few years I have been a member.
- If religion binds us together, it's a church that unifies you. *Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* (Matt 18:20) *Spirit gathers unformed thoughts into their proper channels and unfolds these thoughts, even as He opens the petals of a holy purpose in order that the purpose may appear.* (S&H 506:18)

What we can do alone, separately, we can do so much better, collectively. I'm thankful to all of you in the San Juan Society for including all of us beyond your church building, and making the effort on the ground that makes it possible to participate in your community. Thank you for sharing the Love and joy that helps us all grow in grace.

- With every passing year I become more aware and grateful for the motes-and-beams Biblical principle. In 2011, I'm happy to report, I ditched several prominent beams that were interfering with my spiritual vision at church. Sure, I still see some motes out there (oh, you mean to tell me they're in here?) But at least the beams are fewer and dimmer. And they'll continue to retreat the more my thankfulness and love for each and every congregant of SJC church expands. Someday the beams will all be gone!



- What church has meant to me this year: Above all, gratitude for the love and interest given me. Church has influenced and directed my life. It has helped me grow. And being with like-minded and loving people has reinforced that growth. Recently I read, “God’s footstool is Earth.” Church has been both a footstool and a stepping-stone. I always leave church services with a feeling of satisfaction and the joy of seeing Love in action.



- My wife and I experience a great amount of joy when attending our Society. Though the *Church Manual* is strictly adhered to, there are opportunities to instill fresh ideas. There is always expected unconditional brotherly love in church services and its many activities. Individual spiritual growth is a major striving. This fresh model has provided church experiences that we eagerly look forward to attending and we are grateful for healings, spiritual growth and for the God expressed talent of the many members. This is a church that is growing and demonstrating its merit as Mrs. Eddy would require.



- When I think of our church, I don’t think of the building, but of the strong love, the outreach and support, the inspiration of our services, the healing music and the heart-felt testimonies of transformation, which *continue* to transform others. This year I am especially grateful for the incredible outpouring of love and prayerful support during a time of family tragedy. In varied ways, through cards, emails, attendance at the celebration of my son’s life, and the celebration of eternal life and healing at our services, I have been blessed with much healing comfort. The joy and peace of the Christ is so beautifully present in this Christian group. Thank you all so much!

- It just means a lot to me to know that I am a member of a “church without walls”, one that looks outward and is engaged in its community and is actively praying and sharing with the wide world.

- I think of church as my life...ALL that I do. The activity of the Christ...being loving, giving, sharing. Church has become a VERB.

Studying the daily Bible Lesson (that daily preparation of the heart) and then all coming together on Sunday (by phone, Skype, or in person) to stand as the wise men, shepherds, donkey and lamb to support this cherished babe and drink in this active healing service. Being part

of Church is to be with those likeminded. Loving each other, the greater good and all mankind, no walls, no borders...just pure love. Healing the sick, raising thought, instilling hope, and reaching out to ALL humanity. Bless you SJC Society!

- From a couple of your intra-planetary members: Soooo.... grateful that San Juan Society encompasses the globe with the understanding that God, good, is everywhere---universal---no matter what the local geographic or religious thought believes. Our services have held us together as a family when separated by thousands of miles. Through understanding this unlimited and universal Love our healings this year have been a permanent healing of painful spots, correction of a vision aberration, a softening of the heart, and a greater sense of tenderness for all mankind.

- I am so grateful to be able to call into services from across the country and surrender to the love and caring. Wednesday nights are pretty late for me but one night I was awake and called in and though I may have dozed at times, the warmth and joy of the service was so palpable. I am taking a few Sentinels down to the Laundromat in my little town every week, and looking forward to the fruitage. The warmth of the online greeters has been a joy also. Thank you all so dearly and for all your prayers and the healing progress over this last year.

- How great it is to be a part of this “Church without walls”. To be here has helped, so much, expand... broaden...develop my ability to love unconditionally. My vision has improved, better enabling me to see everyone as the perfect child of God. We carry a more beautiful picture of the world and, in return, receive an unlimited quantity of Love. “Love never faileth.”



- I am grateful for the love expressed, the fellowship, and the beautiful music in this church, but a life-changing experience happened when I filled out the affirmation form. As I remember there were just a few questions: name, address, etc...do you study the Bible and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy... but the question that gave me pause was “Do you



affirm that you will be non-judgmental?" I had to think about that. I asked myself, "Can you do it?" I answered "yes", and I have been grateful ever since.

- Mary Baker Eddy's church, which is blessing the world, continues to be my cause for heartfelt gratitude. To paraphrase what Mrs. Eddy has written in Miscellany (p. 165)---*Being an active portion of one stupendous whole, where goodness identifies me, and all, with universal good* could not bring me more happiness, joy and gratitude. *Goodness makes life a blessing.*
- In hymn 249 it says, *Our gratitude is riches, complaint is poverty....* When I look around all I see is abundance of good being expressed in church, family and the world around us. I am grateful for these expressions of good that I see everywhere. Truly there is no lack for God fulfills our every need. This year has seen its challenges, but God has been with us each step of the way. I am truly thankful for this Society and to my family for their loving support.
- There is no end to my gratitude for the loving kindnesses extended to me and my family this year.
- This year has brought tremendous spiritual growth as well as many opportunities to serve the Society. I'm finding myself more willing to express myself, even if I think my thoughts and ideas may be different from other members or participants. I have had the privilege of meeting and mentoring other phone and Skype members, both in person and on line. I'm grateful for the richness expressed spiritually by each participant as well as for the sincerity and love that is evidenced daily.
- I am truly grateful for this church family in its fulfillment of the definition of Church in *Science and Health*. I do believe this family is showing *proof of its utility* and is *rousing the dormant understanding*. Thus, I have been inspired to express these spiritual instructions in my daily relationships and activities.
- I am so thankful for the structure of Truth and Love that this church without walls represents. I just listened to this Sunday's service on the phone, and I am so thankful for every part of it...the music was a real treat!
- This passage "God is all there is" has been a delightful inspiration in my prayers and gratitude for church. Substituting the seven synonyms, I have discovered the following: *Principle* is all there is at church; we are law-to-law with Principle. *Mind* is all there is at church; we are thought-to-thought with Mind. *Soul* is all there is at church; we are song-to-song with Soul. *Spirit* is all there is at church; we are breath-to-breath with Spirit. *Life* is all there is at church; we are face-to-face with Life. *Truth* is all there is at church; we are fact-to-fact with Truth. *Love* is all there is at church; we are heart-to-heart with Love. Remembering the Sabbath is remembering this "all-there-is-ness" of God. And that's a lot to be grateful for!
- I am grateful for a harmonious world. I love to go to church...to do what's right to do...and to listen for guidance.
- Our Society is a representation of the wonderful ideas that God is thinking of. In this Society I have met dear individuals who are my friends. They support my spiritual growth with love and enrich my life with scientific thoughts and writings, past and present, of hundreds of "faithful servants" of Christian Science. I am grateful for the spiritual qualities they express in obedience to what our Society represents: unconditional love.
- It is always a joy to return to our church from our travels. It is indeed a lot like coming home. The warm greetings, joyful faces and the inspiring music and readings from the *Bible and Science and Health* send us on our way with rejoicing. How grateful we are for this church family that extends its reach all around the world. We are indeed privileged to join in the wonderful joyous expression of a church without walls.
- I'm always impressed by the way that Church leads me in unexpected directions. Just when I think I know the way that's "right", my Church presents a new way that deepens and hallows my thought. I've learned that several times this year, and am always amazed by how powerful a force Church is.
- Praise our Lord with much gratitude and thanksgiving for the gift of being introduced this year, 2011, to Christian Science and the privilege to experience the joy of class instruction that give us the foundation for a powerful spiritual and inspired life.
- Our Society has offered me and my family a framework for growth. Sometimes we disagree and follow the one Divine Principle (Rule of

God) as we understand it---yet we strive to respect each other's right to do so.

- This has been a year in which we have had to “lean on the sustaining infinite” in daily life, family, career, neighborhood. As a result, we have become more God-centered. This centeredness is a platform from which we can spring. Church membership is one of those aids in getting right amount of bounce as we move forward. Even though events have kept us from regular church attendance, we have been “attending” in thought and on the telephone. The provision for phone-in participation has been a key element in lifting thinking about the usual to the inspirational. We lift our hearts in joy today...knowing the Society is a few blocks away from our front door. Happy Thanksgiving, church family!



- Traveling the 405 freeway when drivers not used to rain got frustrated on a Sunday morning, my Bluetooth connected me at the beginning of the musical prelude. The truth of the lesson along with the incredible music, were magnificent guides. It wasn't long before any thought of being among anyone, confused and frustrated on this journey was changed through my awakening to the reality of our true heritage, which includes harmony. I noticed drivers ease up and traffic begin to flow naturally. How grateful I am for this “church without walls” which I can take with me anywhere. It is not there but always right here. And, I am able to attend regularly enough to picture my beloved church friends reading, performing the solos, sitting with the congregation in SJC, and hosting those on the phone from their post in another state. I know faces and voices from my church family from around the world. And whether I attend in person or by phone I know my mom is among them. My niece said to me the other day, “How great you and Grammie get to go to church together”. Yes it is great. A real gift since we live hours from each other. This mother and daughter are full of gratitude.
- This past year my gratitude for Church has taken a new direction---into a deeper, more profound appreciation and love for each participant---whether attending regularly or occasionally. My persistent prayer to quell mortal mind's mania to make snap judgments, seldom kind, has been effective. Hallelujah! Now when I greet, notice, or even think about, any of the treasures who participate in our services and activities, I feel an over-brooding love straight from the Source. I'm cherishing each one without reservation. I feel like I've finally been let out of jail on this one! Bye-bye to imprisoning and devilish disregard for Love's Beloveds! This has fueled my progress this year both as it relates to my

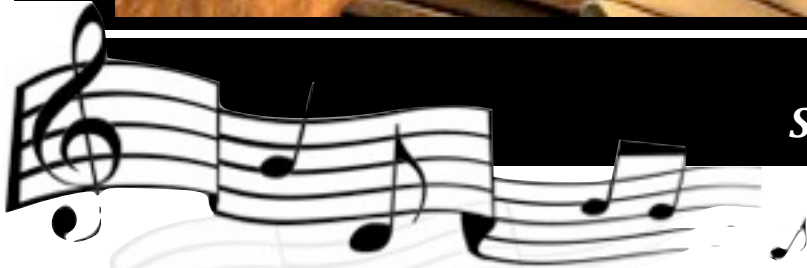
church experience and to my overall experience, including a more effective healing practice. I truly have so much to be grateful for this year. And that gratitude increases every day. And I love traveling in it!



- I began coming to this Society over 13 years ago, and it seems to me that every couple of years I've found new and unanticipated ways of expressing church. Ways that express my unique gifts, and in turn, provide avenues for deeper prayer and a deeper love for Christian Science, my church family, and all my fellow travelers. The tried and true expression of unity and support, even through our struggles, underlies an ever growing, living, collective of spiritual seekers walking together towards understanding and practicing unconditional Love. I came, reluctantly, as an outsider, and found what I didn't even know I needed. More importantly, I found that I had something to offer in return! Who would have thought that?
- I am so grateful for Thanksgiving and Church! It lifts our thoughts from focusing on the drumbeat of animal magnetism to contemplate the present reality and harmony of God's goodness and constant care. This is the time to be on our knees, as we stand in awe of God's love for us all as practiced in the life of Christ Jesus and revealed by Mary Baker Eddy. We are the children of light. Let us walk in this light with joy, freedom, love and gratitude. This light is inspiring and guiding us every moment, revealing precisely what we need to see and do, illuminating the purity, goodness and perfection of us all, and uplifting our consciousness to better understand the allness of God. With deep gratitude for each of you and your life of Love.
- "Give us this day our daily bread." Our services and metaphysical meetings are like fresh bread to me. The inclusive family feeling that permeates the congregation welcomes one and all in our quest for Truth. Congregants don't just give lip service to church, they *work* at it. The recent metaphysical workshops, focused on group construction of our church. Our safe haven has been filled with new thinking and expressions of gratitude. We continue to serve a solid main dish that stretches our thinking and comfort zones. I am in awe of the dedicated work the leaders in our society perform. They rouse and challenge us to be willing to change and grow. I enjoy the fresh books, the fresh outreach, fresh opportunities and especially the fresh, inspiring music.



Abundant thanks to one and all.



Sing a joyful song to the Lord

Community Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursuay November 24th at 10am

Special music provided by: Rondalla de Capistrano from CREER, Hearts in Harmony, Bren Johnson, Diane Schnitzer, the Rockabrand, Ruthie and Julia Flynn, Candi Daggett, Mark and Kristen Palkoner, Brodie Marples

Christmas Candlelight Service

Wednesday Evening

December 21st at 7:30 pm

Come share the Christmas Story in carols and verse



Christmas Sunday Service

December 25th at 10 am

Special music

Attending our church without walls...

Joining us by phone call... DIAL 1-805-309-2350...then punch in this ACCESS CODE: 12111#.

Skype dial: +9900827047040344, room number 7040344# or to call in by phone: 1-201-793-9022 ACCESS CODE: 7040344#

Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano

31897 Del Obispo, #120
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92677
949-443-2537

Website: csinsanjuancapistrano.com
Email: admin@csinsanjuancapistrano.com

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Editor: **Paul Garman**
Contributing editor, proofreader: **Bonnie MacDonald**
Graphic Design and photography: **Joy Aldrich**