



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2017

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted  
Praise Reports  
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
or  
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

This issue of  
the Newsletter  
is printed in  
memory of Leo  
McNamara.  
Rest in peace  
Leo!



## Light up the Tote Board

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Scoring down in the post parade, a glance at the tote board tells what the public thinks of us and our mount's ability in the field. Are we qualified to suit up in our colors and helmet or our team jersey? Then are we in the game or on the bench? On the sidelines, in the stands or in front of the TV—it's fun to watch. However, it sure is a lot more exciting to be in the game or at least to have your horse, daughter, son, wife or husband out there. It's really fun to participate.

John the Baptist cut the mile for Jesus (Mark 1:1-2). John said, "One who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). Yet he certainly had a role in making Jesus known.

The centurion whose servant was sick sent word to Jesus, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed" (Matthew 8:8). Guess what? His servant was healed immediately— (Matthew 8:13)!

When Jesus sent His disciples out, he told them, "Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave" (Matthew 10:11). Then He said, "If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you" (Matthew 10:13).

Jesus told the parable of the king whose invited guests were all too busy to attend a wedding banquet for his son (Matthew 22:1-10). "He said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy'" (Matthew 22:8). They were quickly replaced with

other guests (Matthew 22:9-10).

Participating in horse races, ball games, golf and other sports is all great.

However, participating in God's plan is what

really counts. Are we worthy to suit up and play on God's team? How loudly will we cheer for Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:2-10)?

We work hard to get our horses qualified to race. Ball players and other athletes dedicate years preparing for a spot on the team. Musicians, cooks, business executives, people in all walks of life practice, study and put in the time to accomplish their goals and become worthy of the position they seek.

What are we willing to do for a position on God's team? None of us is worthy on our own. When we recognize and accept the gift of salvation Jesus gave us when He died on the cross, we become "worthy" to join God's team. Great! First we have to believe. Then, true believers suit up and participate. Let's get off the bench, study the "rule book," learn the plays, encourage our team members and maybe even recruit some new ones. Light up the tote board for God!



TRACK	ODDS	RESULTS	RACE 3
FAST	1 5-2 6 12		\$2 TOTE TICKET PAYS
TIME OF DAY	2 6 7 4	1st 6	27.20 11.00 7.60
2:36	3 10 8 7-2	2nd 1	3.80 2.60
POST TIME	4 3 9 2	3rd 9	2.80
0:00	5 5 10		UNOFFICIAL

### Heavenly Downs

### Matt Hess Continued from back page

working and conditioning the Victory Junction Horses for 2016-2017 training season. We have two coming 2 year olds that I will be shoeing and 3 other older horses. I am available at the track each day working and I am available to tack a shoe on or pull a sprung shoe off if I am needed. I have 9 more to trim at the farm and will start trimming outside clients as soon as I can get my business cards up. One thing I have learned: if you can shoe a Standardbred horse, then you can basically shoe anything, because of Standards having a gait to them, which means a deep science!! I am LEARNING!

I still plan on traveling to other locations to work pro bono on some rescue farms in Virginia & Northern NC. Down the road, I hope to be located at a fair track in Ohio for the summers and down here in Pinehurst for the

winters. I trust that God will give me the strength and wisdom to go and be about His Business wherever I am.

I thank you for all your support and especially the prayers. Even when times got tough, the Lord told me that people were praying for me & that this too shall pass.

I thank God for leading me, my instructors for teaching me, my family( including CHHA) for loving and supporting me through this window in my life.

Love, in Jesus, Matthew "Matt" Hess



### The Highway to Hell.....

By Dr. John Prescott, Chaplain at Vernon Downs.

Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction and many there be that go in thereat; Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Mathew 7:13,14.

A long time ago I understood, being an evangelist, that if the Lord brought a visitor to my barn it was because, most likely he wanted to get them saved. A few years ago a very prominent driver would visit my barn. Most times he had been drinking and he wanted to fight me. He had a serious drinking problem but I was patient; and eventually he prayed the sinners' prayer with me. A few weeks later I watched him going up the stairs to the judges' trailer at Vernon Downs, wearing his colors and turning to the paddock and shouting, "Jesus is real, I am saved, praise the Lord!"

To say that he found the "narrow way" would be

true. But unfortunately in our backstretches the "narrow way" is shunned for the "broad way", the highway to hell.

"I don't have time for this", A loving God would not be so narrow", "I believe all religions lead to God." The excuses are endless for choosing the "broad way". But I do believe that there are many in the backstretches that have found the "narrow way", but they are silent, not wanting to rock the boat, wanting simply to fit in to the "broad way".

True Christians are more than people who just want to fit in. Jesus didn't fit in, the disciples didn't fit in, Luther, Wesley, Billy Graham, A.W. Tozier didn't fit in. On and on history is repeat with true Christians who didn't fit in, and consequently made a difference.

In this new year I want to challenge true Christians in our backstretches to be seen as different, to be moved of the Holy Spirit to share your faith. You just never know who is suffering badly who would respond to your witness and find the "narrow way". May God bless us all in the new year in these very challenging times.

## Blessings

*From Chaplain Ken Carter...*

Just got back from Sunnybrook. Karen is now cancer free. Praise the Lord.

*From Art Plant...*

My surgery at Cleveland Clinic went well. Thank you so much for your prayers and love. I truly am blessed with my medical team and with our Savior's supervision.

*From Chaplain Kelly Blanton...*

Chaplain Kelly is doing well. He and his daughter moved to Sebring, FL.

*From Ken Wood...*

Lifetime Wells for Ghana: To date Ken has drilled 1125 wells in Ghana and 507 wells in Tanzania for a total of 1632 Wells. The areas most in need are rocky making drilling difficult. However, Ken and his crew persevere and bless the people with life giving water. In other areas, Ken's crew is able to drill a well a day with a new drill rig. God bless you Ken! *Note: Ken's purse money goes to drilling wells.*

For more information visit: [www.wellsforghana.org](http://www.wellsforghana.org).

*From Chaplain Lee Alphen...*

We were not able to travel to our Mexico mission since the drug cartel is active there. However, we met with key people from our mission in Mexico City to review 2016 programs and finances and to strategize a way to continue all our programs in 2017. Yes, God showed us a way to keep our Mexico Team under the radar of the cartel. Praise God!

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[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

**Choose a Free Gift with your donation**

**Gifts**

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)  (\$20) donation

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

**Books**

*Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

*My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

*Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine  (\$20)

*Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine  (\$20) donation

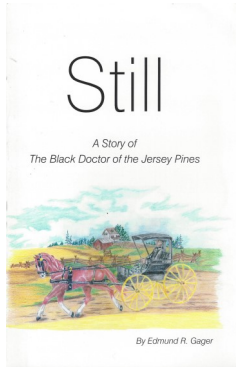
*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care*  
by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"  (\$20) donation

*Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* **New Book true story**  
by Edmund R Gager  (\$20) donation **See below**



*Rambling Willie Remembers*

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.



**Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines**

By Edmund R Gager

Dr. James Still, the son of former slaves, is one of South Jersey's most beloved folklore heroes. He spent less than 6 months in school, yet became a man of many talents and accomplishments. His herbal and homeopathic medical practice enabled him to become one of the wealthiest men in the Medford Vincentown area, owning several hundred acres of prime farmland.

His son, James Jr. became the second black man to graduate from Harvard Medical School. This short word chronicles some of his life and his medical practice, as well as the prejudices he had to endure and the faith that sustained him.

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Necklace Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_

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Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to:

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

## Obituaries cont from page 5

**Ruby Cook**, 81, of McDonald, PA died Dec 31. Ruby was loved by her Meadows family. She arrived at The Meadows in 1963 and spent 46 years serving as the switchboard operator. She was known as the "Chief of Communications!" She was always on the go attending sporting events, shopping and eating out. She loved anything that involved family, food and friends. Meadows Chaplain Pastor Joe DiDonato, a close friend of Ruby and her family, led her Memorial Service on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Adrian Charles de Pasquale**, 78, of Southern Pines, NC died Dec 12. His parents were responsible for the construction and operation of Little River Farm in Pinehurst, NC. After his father's passing, Adrian took part in the enterprise that not only bred more than 50 Standardbreds throughout the 1950's and 1960's, but was a forum for other notable equine events such as the Olympic trials. Little River Farm, which later became a training facility, produced top class horses such as Bye Bye Max.



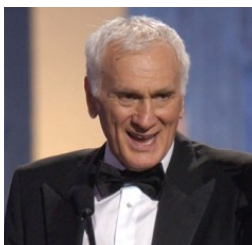
**Jo Ann Hertlein**, 69, of Bronxville, NY, died Dec 17. For the last several years she faithfully worked as an office administrator for the SOA of NY. She will be remembered for her incredible warmth and kindness, her delicious meals and her contagious laughter.

**William N. Lancaster**, 94, of Columbus, NJ, died Dec 23.

Born in Bishopton, Quebec, he moved to New England in 1970, and then made his home in Columbus, NJ, in 1981. Bill trained and raced Standardbreds in the family business his entire life along with his son Mark Lancaster. His daughter, Joy Lancaster Dolan is a CHHA member. He served in the 16th armored regiment (7/11 Husars) of the Canadian Army and was a member of Hedding United Methodist Church.



**Dick Latessa**, 87, the veteran song-and-dance man who stole hearts as Wilbur Turnblad in the original Broadway production of *Hairspray* died Dec 19. Dick also bred and owned of Standardbreds for 35 years. Audiences will fondly remember Mr. Latessa's Wilbur cutting a rug with his wife Edna, played by Harvey Fierstein, in the 2003 Tony Award-winning musical. Dick was rewarded with his first and only Tony Award, for best featured performance by an actor in a musical. He was 74. His last show was a 2012 Broadway transfer of the Vineyard Theatre production of *Nicky Silver's The Lyons*, with Linda Lavin.



**Sheila Libfeld**, the wife of Al Libfeld, one of North America's most noted breeders and owners of harness horses, died Dec 8 at her home.

**Norman McClurg**, 83, died Nov 11. Norman was a graduate of the University of Toledo where he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. He was a lifelong, faithful member of Pilgrim Church where he served in many capacities, including Moderator. After the sale of the family business, The Newcomb-McClurg Co, in 1976, Norm began training, driving and selling harness horses throughout Eastern USA. He wrote a monthly article for the Hoosier Horse Review and was Assistant Race Secretary at Roosevelt Raceway on Long Island for 2 years. He later sold veterinary lasers for Respond Systems.

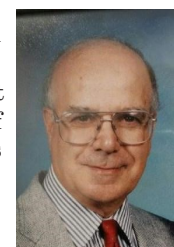
**Dr. Franklin Louis Pellegrini DVM**, 52 of Mantua, OH died Dec 22. Frank was a veterinarian who specialized in equine medicine, focusing on race horses. He was affectionately known as "Doc" to friends, and known as Frank and Daddy at home.



**Gerald Russell** died December 29. Russell was a veteran of the Vietnam War and spent most of his adult life with the harness horses that he loved. He was well known around most of the tracks in Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Florida and Canada. In his early years, before the army, he worked for his stepfather, George (Red) Morris and then went on to work for Dee Stover, then Day Manges, where he drove his first race in 1962. He also worked for Bob Burns and James Shafer. After Vietnam, he struck out on his own and kept a public stable until his death. He often said if he couldn't be around the horses it was time to die.



**Samuel V. Tallarino**, 77, died Dec 23. After graduation he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Korea. After discharge, he started a 39-year career in the Utica Post Office before retiring in 1998. Sam owned, drove and trained Standardbreds at Vernon Downs for many years and was a past president of the Harness Horse Association of Central New York. Sam loved his many years of being a horseman and made many wonderful friends who were very dear to him. He also had a love for golf, the New York Yankees, the New York Giants and, most especially, spending time with his family.



**Terry H Tucker**, 57, of Lake Worth, FL, died November 16, 2006. Terry graduated from Campbellsville University, Kentucky. Terry last worked running South Florida Training Center in Lake Worth for Eric Cherry. Prior to that, he operated the Red Mile and old Louisville Downs. Max Heath and Terry played football as kids and later owned horses together. His father, Alvin Buel Tucker, was a driver and trainer on Chicago circuit and the first track superintendent of Louisville Downs. He was best remembered for his devotion to his children, optimism on life, kindness, sincerity and valued friendship. He was a member of the Florida Gardens Baptist Church.

## Obituaries

**Joe Adamsky**, 80, died Dec 31 at his home in Rochester, MI. Joe was one of the top drivers in Ohio during the 1980s and 1990s. For his career he posted 2,707 victories and more than \$11.42 million in purses. However, I think Lyndel will agree, Joe's biggest accomplishment in life was sharing the Word of God and encouraging others in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Joe spent his final day on earth listening to Lyndel read all the FaceBook posts and emails of prayer, encouragement and love from the harness racing community. Of course she also read the scriptures. It was right after she read Psalm 23:6, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows," that Joe went to be with the Lord.



**Marian Brewer**, the widow of the late well-known equine artist Allen F Brewer Jr, died Dec 25 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She had resided in Apopka, FL. Since her husband's passing in a plane crash in 1967, Mrs. Brewer worked tirelessly to preserve his memory and his legacy in the community of world-class equine artists. Marion

## Prayer Corner

**Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:**

Lew Arsenaault, Dan Ater, Ronny Battis, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Pierre Noel, Shari Okusko, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Joe Adamsky, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jeff Frizzell, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Sherie Hankins, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug

became involved in harness racing through her husband in the mid-1950s. Gibson White coached her to drive horses. She became an accomplished horsewoman. On Oct. 10, 1959, she drove Rodare to a 2:01.2 victory at The Red Mile, which was the fastest race mile ever by a female driver.

**Fred J. Childs, Jr**, 87, died November 22. Fred owned and raced harness horses around New England and the Eastern United States for several years. He and his partner owned and operated Childs Exxon Station in Salem NH for many years and eventually developed Childs Plaza. He had previously worked as a Lawrence Police officer from 1956 until 1963. He also served the Town of Atkinson, NH in several capacities including a fourteen-year term as Selectman. He was a member of the Atkinson Congregational Church.



**Obituaries continued on page 4**

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.harnessracing.com](http://www.harnessracing.com), [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Straws-er, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr.

**Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military**, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Tony Abbatiello had a heart attack.

Karen Kaden Andre requests prayers for her family ministry.

Olivia Davis was in a car accident.

Frances De Rouse is very ill.

Francine Federici was just told she has cancer.

Jimmy, a high school freshman, has cancer.

Sherri Hankins is hospitalized with a brain bleed.

From Ann MacNeil has some medical issues.

Michelle Maloney is recovering from in an induced coma.

Patty Menne fell and hurt her shoulder.

Joyce Mihalick is battling cancer.

Joyce Youshock fractured her pelvis.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

Information at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

**Join us 1:00 PM February 13th at Spring Garden Ranch**  
*See below for details*

### Scholarship Recipient Graduates Farrier School

Hello Lee & All The Great  
CHHA. Members:

I HAVE successfully  
completed and graduated  
Oklahoma Horseshoeing School!

I just arrived back from  
Oklahoma horse shoeing school and am thrilled to be  
back home with my Grandma and Grandpa. Most  
importantly, I am thankful that the good Lord has  
brought me this way in His will to help shoe horses on  
my own. Also, I am thankful to have acquired the  
knowledge & skill and the drive & desire to keep  
learning more and more about this career in steel. It is  
beyond my comprehension.

While attending school I learned various vital  
basics we horse men need to know about our horses.  
The instructors at the school were so diversified! What  
made them so amazing is that they each of them had a  
different way of communicating their knowledge,  
technique & skill in going about the business of  
trimming, shoeing and general blacksmithing. When  
first starting, I was so nervous, but after the first  
couple of weeks, I started to get in the swing of things a  
lot better. I picked up speed and gained more & more  
knowledge! Soon I was able to determine the angle,  
length, and travel expectancy of horses  
that came into the barn and when they  
left the barn after the finished product.  
Being a farrier is the best thing that has  
ever happened to me and since school,  
my mind works better, faster, and  
stronger with time in the field. It is  
always good to study and go back to  
some form of education to keep yourself  
sharp. Now being out of school, I have  
been at the Pinehurst Harness track



**Matt Hess continued on Page 2**



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Jay Ingram** by: Donna Ingram
- In memory of **Clifford S Andrew** by: Joyce Hollingsworth
- In memory of **Ralph Branca** by: Larry and Joan Martin
- In memory of **Dean Davis** by: William Hogue, Jr
- In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Vivian Farrington and Clara Young Gordon
- In memory of **Donna Holterman** by: Craig Holterman
- In memory of **Susan Kelly** by: Harold Kelly
- In memory of **Norman McClurg** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
- In memory of **Thayer Maxwell** by: Thelma Maxwell
- In memory of **Archie Peel** by: Robert Colbert
- In memory of **Joanne Plant** by: Art Plant
- In memory of **Bob Tucker** by: Larry and Joan Martin
- In memory of **Terry Tucker** by: Max Heath

### Spring Garden Ranch Event

**Monday, February 13 at 1:00 PM**  
Be inspired with the music of the Truitt  
Family and a message from Jack Levine.  
Lunch is on us.



**Jack Levine**



**The Truitt Family**