



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2017

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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or
157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

This issue
of the
newsletter
is printed
in
memory
of Sherie
Hankins.



Rest in peace Sherie!

Is it Fair?

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

What the Hill was first in the Hambletonian but was placed back because he struck the front legs of Guardian Angel AS coming down the stretch. The placement certainly caused plenty of discussion. The truth was that What the Hill interfered with another horse, causing him to go off stride. It didn't matter that Guardian Angel AS was fading anyway. The judge's job was to issue a fair ruling according to the rules of the sport.

Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who goes out to hire laborers for his vineyard at various hours throughout the day. After the day's work is done, he has his foreman pay the laborers all the same amount, beginning with those hired at the end of the day who only worked an hour. Was that fair? The laborers in the story did not think so (Matthew 20:1-16).

Whose ways are unfair? God's or ours? Does God ever complain? Here are a few possible quotes. Do any of them sound like something Jesus would say?

"Marvin and Elizabeth have a big stable of horses, a nice farm and healthy kids. Yet they hardly have time for me. In fact, the only time they think about me is when one of the kids or horses get sick."

"Then there is Joe who used to talk with me all the time. I thought we were close, now he's all wrapped up in the races and other sports. If he does not have a horse racing, he's watching a game on TV while simultaneously tracking race results and fantasy football on his cell phone."

"Speaking about cell phones, even the kids are too busy texting their friends to give me a thought."

"I know they really don't understand just how much I care about them or that they are ignoring me and putting everything else ahead of me. I love them all anyway and will keep the door open for them."

Of course, only the last quote sounds like Jesus. In fact, what God wants most is to enjoy everyone's company in heaven forever. God will keep on trying to encourage us to "seek the Lord while He may be found" (Isaiah 55:6). Our God is generous and forgiving. Are we being fair to God who gives us everything?

As Christians, we are called to encourage others to turn their hearts to God. God's mercy makes our jobs easier. We never have to wonder if God will accept those we bring to the Lord, and we don't have to tell our friends to wait in a long line to meet Jesus. With all the confidence in the world, anyone can just cry out to the Lord and become part of the family of Christ. God is always here and available.

That's why Jesus came to die on the cross for us, to save us from our sins—all the times we've chosen the devil and his schemes over God's ways. What an awesome God we serve!

When we take time to acknowledge God working in our lives and to say thanks for our many blessings, God's name is praised and we are blessed even more. Let's develop a good relationship with God and also encourage those around us now, while there is still time.



Blessings

From Joan Harp...

We got some encouraging news yesterday, the results of Warren's CT Scan of last week shows the new treatment is working. His lymph nodes and tumor have gotten smaller. This type of cancer will never go away but as long as it can be kept under control, we will feel relief. We thank everyone for their prayers. Warren and Joan

Jimmy, a high school freshman, was just declared cancer free. Praise God!

Baptism at Vernon Downs...

Chaplain John Prescott baptized Randy McComb at Vernon Downs in July. Witnesses were Leopold Sawyers, Josephine Hodge, and Valerie Prescott.



CHHA Scholars

Jessica Hallett, the recipient of the Rambling Willie Scholarship, is headed to Nova Southeastern University to begin studies in a dual Law and Medical degree program. She says she plans to follow one of these career paths to change the world, "by saving a life from trauma or saving a life from prison."



Jessica has been around harness racing and horses all her life. Her family owns, trains and races horses. She learned when she was young how to properly care for horses. She says, "Whether working with the racetrack veterinarian to learn anatomy and procedure or working with my parents and other trainers as an assistant around the track, I am never far from a

horse.

Jessica was quickly promoted to Lieutenant in the Boward Sheriff's Office Explorer Post program. She also joined the Broward Sherriff's Office Fire Cadet program. In her words, "Through both of these programs, I have been able to get in touch with a more religious side of myself. Working with firemen, paramedics and deputies allows me to understand through the lives of the first responders. Through their perspective and their lives, religion is a major factor that keeps them going and pushes them forward. Ever since I was young, I attended church and practiced religion. However, with these programs, the religion became more meaningful. I began to truly understand what I was being taught." She says, "I hope to put into practice what I have learned in school, religion and life so far."

Kacey Burns, with the help of a CHHA Scholarship, is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio. She grew up around the track starting as a groom for her dad. She has driven the last three years at the Ohio County Fairs and received her trainer's license when she turned 18.

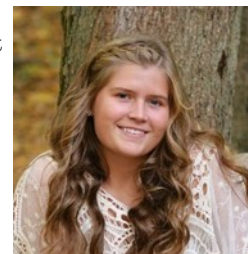


Growing up, Kacey was an active member of the First Lutheran Church in Marysville, Ohio and participated on mission trips with the youth group. Since moving to Wilmington, she started a youth group with some other students and the minister of a local Baptist Church. She also volunteers at a soup kitchen. She says, "It is an awesome experience to be able to have the opportunity to continue to keep God an important part of my life even away from home."

Kacey hopes to one day be a teacher for the agriculture industry and make an impact on people's lives. She wants to be, "uplifting and inspiring to younger

people and hopefully teach them about how important all aspects of the agricultural industry are. Keeping a strong faith is important to keep me on track to be successful on the path I want to pursue."

Alexis Schwartz, armed with a CHHA Scholarship, is set to begin her sophomore year in Equine Science at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She is a 3rd generation horsewoman who grew up around harness racing working with her dad, Bret Schwartz, and assisting her grandpa, Dr Bob Schwartz, on farm calls.



During High School, she spent many hours on various volunteer projects with the Fayette Christian Athletes. She says, "This was a group for athletes to come together and learn about God and gain a closer relationship with Him. I believe I gained many qualities that made me a better person through being in this program." Alexis hopes to become a pharmaceutical sales representative.

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Please pray for my intentions _____

Phone _____

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[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

New on-line store: Check out our new on-line store at www.chha.net/products to select a free gift for your \$20 donation. More items will be added later. Credit card and PayPal donations are accepted.

Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

Books

Downloading God by Jack Levine **New Book**

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine

Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine

Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care by ER Gager and Bob "Dusty Rhodes"

Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines by Edmund R Gager



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

Horseshoe Nail Heart Bracelets and Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

Bracelet: Horseshoe nails are bent into a heart and tied together with coordinated wire and attached to a leather strap.

Key Ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

Necklace: Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire.

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

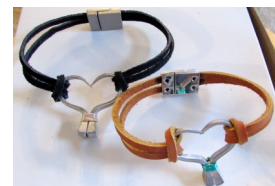
Mail with \$20 ea + \$4 shipping to:

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver ____ Rawhide /Gold ____ Rawhide / Turquoise ____

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____



Obituaries continued from page 5

Mark A. Huber, 61, of Westchester, OH, died August 27. Mark bred and raced horses for many years.



Anthony Iafelice, 83, of Cranbury, NJ, died Aug 14. Anthony retired after 42 years working as a Real Estate Broker/Investor for Anthony Real Estate Corporation. His biggest passion in his life was his horse farm in Cranbury, Misty Acres.

Richard "Dick" Jones, 85, of Dublin, Ohio, died July 27. He served in the US Army. He and Susan attended Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Dick was insurance manager of Commercial Union Insurance Company in Cleveland, and former associate editor for the USTA's *Hoof Beats* magazine. Dick and Susan raced horses and especially enjoyed attending the Little Brown Jug every year.



John Fredrick Joseph, 87, of Bloomingburg, OH died Sep 4. He was a semi-tractor trailer owner and driver for many years and he also worked as an owner, driver, trainer, and breeder of standardbreds. He enjoyed working with his horses and being with his family and grandchildren.

Kenneth W. (Kenny Kirk) Kirkpatrick, 82, of New Holland, OH, died Sep 9. Kenny was a retired farmer and owner, breeder and trainer of standardbred racehorses. His father Wendell started Adios Waverly in the Little Brown Jug in 1968 and won his elimination heat, but finished seventh in the final. He was a member of the New Holland United Methodist Church where he had been a trustee.

Glenn Kuenzli, 77, of Nevada, OH, died Aug 29. Glenn worked as an electrician at Timken for 38 years. He was a member of Emanuel United Church of Christ, Upper Sandusky. Glenn, in his early years, along with his son Mark, raised and showed Hampshire sheep and market lambs. He raised and raced standardbred horses, beginning with his father-in-law, George Gribben. He served as the Speed Superintendent of the Wyandot County Fair for many years.



Murray McConnell, 74 of Hagar, Ontario died suddenly May 5. Murray was the owner and operator of the 160 acre Casimir Farm. He also served on numerous industry committees, with terms on the Standardbred Canada Board of Directors as well as its Breeders Committee. He grew up in the harness racing hotbed of London, Ontario. After spending summer holidays with his family on Manitoulin Island, McConnell developed his fondness for northern



Ontario. He moved to the region in 1970, eventually fulfilling an ambition to own a farm to house his few saddle horses. Before Murray's passing, Casimir Farm stood stallions Up the Credit, Sir Luck and Daylon Frontier. It is currently home to O'Brien Award winner, Sir Luck and a long list of and other Standardbreds.

Edward Kett Mullen, 94, of Cream Ridge, NJ died on Aug 24. Ed served in the Army Air Force during World War II piloting B-29 aircraft in the Pacific. After the war, he went to work in pulp and paper eventually becoming President and CEO of the Newark Group, which he built into one of the 200 largest privately held companies in the US. Ed built and grew Fair Winds Farm in Cream Ridge into one of the foremost standardbred racehorse breeding operations in the state. Ed and Joanne donated their home, Walford, the historic mill site in Upper Freehold Township, to the Monmouth County Park System in 1985.



Nancy S. Papa, 87, of Utica, NY, died Aug 30. Nancy had been employed with Keybank in Utica. She and her husband, Louis, owned harness horses. Nancy was a communicant of St. Mark's Church in North Utica,



Russell Peavyhouse, 80, of Valrico, FL, died Aug 29. He was a key leader in his church all of his adult life, serving in numerous capacities including Deacon and Sunday School Teacher. He taught for over 55 years at Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, First Baptist Church Brandon, and South Tampa Fellowship. Russell was a past member and on the Board of Directors for the Florida Standardbred Breeders & Owners Association (FSBOA). He owned and bred standardbreds in Florida.



Pearl Warren of Fallbrook, CA, died in late August. Pearl's daughter, Valerie, is the wife of Vernon Downs Chaplain, John Prescott.

Smile Time

By Chaplain Sam Spence

If you weigh 200 pounds on earth, you'll only weigh 76 pounds on Mars. I'm not overweight; I'm just on the wrong planet.



Obituaries

H. Charles Armstrong, 96, died. He was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2015. Charlie was a true icon in the Ontario and North American horse industry for more than 60 years. Throughout his career, he was integral in the shaping of Ontario's horse racing industry. Armstrong Brothers Farm, the family-owned operation, was founded in the 1940s by Charlie's father and uncle. Charlie kept the Armstrong horse business strong. The farm was one of the most progressive and profitable standardbred operations and bred, raced and stood at stud a seemingly endless list of champions.



Barbara A. Crawford, 85, of Bennington, Vt, died Aug 10. She was married to horseman, John A Crawford. Barbara spent 39 cooking in the Bennington schools and was inducted into the Middle School Hall of Fame in 2006. She enjoyed horseracing and was an incredible cook.



Howard C Hammond, 88, of Salisbury, MD, died Aug 21. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he embarked on a career in insurance. Besides his family and his business, Howard's other passion was harness racing. He loved horses, especially trotters. He enjoyed helping with the training and care of his horses.



Robert "Bob" Holmes, 69, of Gorham, ME, died Sep 9. Bob worked for the US Postal Service for 36 years before retiring in 2005. In his retirement, he greatly enjoyed his work at Springbrook Nursing Home. A large part of Bob's life was devoted to standardbred horse racing as an owner and breeder. He also enjoyed tending his garden. Bob was known and loved by many for his dry sense of humor and words of wisdom. Bob was Mary Beth Ranger's uncle.



Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and www.standardbredcanada.ca

Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Janette Hughes, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Tom Maloney, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

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

Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, 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, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, 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 John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

John Beckwith is recovering from a bad car accident in Maine. Karen Carter needs more chemo.

Emma Clegg, 5 yrs old, is really suffering with Crones disease. Paul Fontaine has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Pastor Lloyd Fortune had his prostate and portions of his colon removed.

Pamela has stage 4 breast cancer.

Nathaniel Peace has cancer.

Jean Shanley had a hysterectomy.

William broke his back. Now he is a quadriplegic. They are hoping it will improve.

The victims of the recent hurricanes, floods, fires and earthquakes.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Information at www.chha.net

Hambletonian Day–The Meadowlands

We always enjoy visiting with everyone who stops by our booth for a prayer or to chat at the Hambo. Jeff Gural, Jason Settlemoir and their staff are well prepared to ensure a good time is had by all.

It was good to catch up with Sam Mckee's family. It is amazing they are able to go on so well with their lives just because they know that's what Sam wanted. The McKees are strong, vivacious, fun and full of energy and enthusiasm. So was Sam. We all miss him.

Lindsey still spends her free time barrel racing. Melissa is finishing up her Master's degree, and Meagan plans to find a new job in advertising closer to home. Chris works fulltime and is very involved with her girls as well as her parents back in Michigan.



Jim and Phyllis Albert and Cathy Baitzel



Chaplain Lee Alphen with Chris, Meagan and Melissa McKee



John Minda and Greg Gehman



Lewis Weitzner



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Walter and Juanita Mae Adams** by: Brenda Jo Dennon
- In memory of **Billy Carroll** by: Ada Jean Ackerman
- In memory of **Maynard Hagemeyer** by: Bob and Beth Cain
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Rich and Gina Beinhauer, Bellevue Communications, George Dunbar, Harness Horsemen International, Evelyn Johnson, Kim Hankins, Tom and Michele Leasure, John and Judith Mc Mullen, Jack Piatt II, Lori and Ray Romanetti, Curby and Mark Stillings, Sharon Teefey, Van Grundy Insurance, Paula Vitz
- In memory of **Jim Hazelwood** by: Brenda Jo Dennon
- In memory of **Mark Huber** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Jack Johnson** by: Bob and Beth Cain
- In memory of **Glenn Kuenzli** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
- In memory of **Corwin Keith Nixon** by: Brenda Jo Dennon
- In memory of **Joanne Plant**—54th wedding anniversary and 58th birthday by: Art Plant
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood