



Rambling Willie

**In God We Trust**



**Serving Jesus Christ  
in Harness Racing**



August, 2015

**Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter**

**Remember...**



I pray for all our members every day.

*Chaplain Lee*

**Board of Directors**

Chaplain Lee Alphen  
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President

Greg Gehman, Vice President  
Knight's Landing Stable

Roger Huston  
The Meadows  
Little Brown Jug

Lori Romanetti  
Moshannon Stables

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**Needed**

**Praise reports  
testimonies  
other articles  
for our newsletter**

**Vegetables**

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

Farming is hard work and farmers need a lot of faith.

Actually, farming is a partnership with the Creator. Farmers prepare the soil, plant the seed, provide water and fertilizer. Then, when the crops are ready they harvest and distribute the bounty. God provides the seed, the soil, the water and the sun. God also gives wisdom and energy to the farmer. Yes, it takes both God and the farmer to grow the vegetables.

We are all called to sow seeds of faith. Just like with the vegetables, we partner with God. Our faith is itself God's gift. We fertilize it by sharing our faith with others. God blesses these seeds and our faith becomes stronger in the process.

Remember the parable of the sower in Matthew 13? Often we must first prepare others to receive the Word of God. If the soil is not ready, the seed of faith with not take root and grow.

It is the same with our horses. Breaking the babies and preparing race horses takes patience and hard work. Trying to bring one to the races too fast can ruin a horse. Many have been sidelined with too much speed too early. Racing careers end before they begin due to injuries. Patience is also required in sharing the Gospel.

Jesus, of course, knew how best to reach the people. It was through love. Actually, it was because Jesus loved the people that they listened to Him. His love

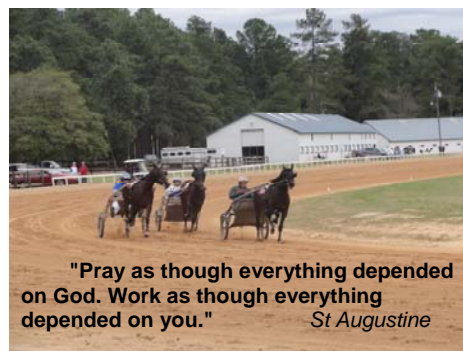
was magnetic. The crowds flocked to Him and could not get enough of Him. And, yes, the seeds of faith took root and many became disciples.



After Jesus invited four fishermen to join Him, they traveled throughout Galilee telling everyone the Good News of the reign of God and healing the sick and the lame (Matthew 4:19-25). Later, others became disciples, including Matthew, a dishonest tax

collector who would go on to be one of the four evangelists. Remember, too, Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus, another tax collector with a bad reputation, the woman caught in adultery and other less than perfect people to be part of His group. Even Judas, the betrayer, was a disciple. Unfortunately, he was not able to put aside his greed. His love of money cost him his life. Jesus never stopped loving Judas or even his executioners.

We don't really know where anyone is in their relationship with God. The key is to love everyone and, when opportunities present themselves, to give credit to God, encouraging others to join us in our walk with Jesus Christ.



**"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."**  
*St Augustine*

The farmer is constantly concerned about the crops. We also must always be concerned with our witness by looking for ways to love those around us and sharing our faith. This is a big job and we will only be successful with God's help. St Augustine put

it well when he said, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

## Praise Reports



Thank you  
Jesus

From Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz...

A praise report....our Granddaughter Alexis received a "Best of Show" and first place for her art exhibit at the Fayette County Fair with the attached :-)



Rev Dave and Pam Wardman renewed their vows as they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

They minister to the motorcycle folks.

From Brenda Watson...

Trenton and Amanda Watson had a healthy, beautiful, 7 lbs 6 oz, 20 inch baby girl named Laney. There were some issues and they appreciate your prayers.



It was a blessing to finally meet Sheri Hankins at The Meadows in June. Thanks to your prayers, she and Kim were able to travel to Washington State and spend time with their grandson.

Please continue to pray for Sherri's recovery.



## Puzzle

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." St Augustine

G O E V E N T H Y D	PRAY
O N N O W O H D U G	AS
M I I N N O N E O O	THOUGH
E V T H X G O D R K	EVERYTHING
A G S T T G I N E F	DEPENDED
D E U P H Y N E D E	ON
R K G U O Y R P W O	GOD
A U U G U A T E T E	WORK
O S A N G R A D V D	YOU
Y O P U H P R Y S E	AUGUSTINE

Words may read top to bottom, bottom to top, left to right, right to left or diagonally in any direction. Some words may be looped together. **Solution on Page 4**

## Neshoba County Fair

Rev. Edward Smith and Chaplain Waverly Parsons have been ministering to the harness and quarter horse men and women at the Neshoba County Fair for the last eight or nine years. Edward says, "Ruth Ann McDonald and her team laid fruitful seed here years ago that are continuing to sprout and spread."

Prayer and visits begin each morning and continue throughout the day. After each race the team brings water and Gatorade to the horsemen and women. The 110 degree heat indexes really take a toll. Over 60 harness horsemen were fed jambalaya Monday night and Wednesday was watermelon night.

Edward recently requested to have their organization accepted as affiliates of CHHA and are calling themselves the Mississippi Christian Harness Horsemen's Association. According to Edward, "The timing of the CHHA affiliation could not be better, and plans are being made for outreaches all across the state."

Please verify or add address on back

Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.

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

Please pray for my intentions \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

Please return to: leaalphen@comcast.net

Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_. Check  Cash



OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_



Choose from these free gifts with your donation

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine  (\$25) donation

Bruce Ranger reprints \_\_\_\_\_ qty (free)

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine  (\$25) donation

Black tie with harness horse  (\$20) donation

Items available while supplies last

Donations and orders also accepted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net).

Members Applaud CHHA Scholars

Thomas Wine was awarded CHHA's John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship for his studies at Florida Atlantic University.

It is my honor to write this communique' on behalf of this extolling young man's character.



I have known young Tom for several years, having met him, I believe, in 2010, as his parents operated a Standardbred racing stable here at Pompano Park.

I have witnessed his growing from a young lad to a responsible, reliable young man with high intelligence coupled with exceptionally high morals and ethics, which, I believe, have become rather rare in this day and age.

Having personally witnessed his exceptional work ethic, his willingness to learn and achieve, your organization would be well served to award a scholarship to this extraordinary young man enabling your organization to obtain future "bragging rights" as he becomes a successful and honorable citizen serving this future world in an exemplary manner.

John Berry

Johnathan Hallett was awarded CHHA's Rambling Willie Scholarship for his studies at the University of Central Florida.

I have known Johnathan and his sister since they were toddlers. His parents are stabled right in back of me and are hardworking horsemen. They have two of the nicest kids. I see Johnathan when he comes to the barn to help his mom and dad. He is clean-cut, quiet and polite and wants to be a doctor.



Joahnathan keeps himself very busy at school and with his volunteer activities. He has been a member of the National Honor Society the last two years. I understand he will graduate with a 4.93 GPA. He volunteers for Let's Keep It Together, an organization that visits nursing homes with minis and for another program that uses horses to help the handicapped.

Johnathan is a member of a local Baptist church and active in their Thursday night Youth Group.

In Johnathon you will find a young man who will make you proud you helped him. Please consider giving him a CHHA scholarship.

Bruce Ranger

Michelle Thompson was awarded CHHA's Weldon and Nancy Stockwell Memorial Scholarship. She will continue her studies at the University of Guelph in Ontario.

I have worked with Michelle at several Grand River Raceway events. She often assists Kelly Spencer, Grand River Marketing Manager, for special promotions.



My observations are as follows:

Michelle is enthusiastic. She is passionate about horse racing. She has outstanding public relations skills.

Michelle is proactive and takes initiative. She is an athletic and high energy person. Michelle is a delightful person to work with.

Kelly Spencer says, "I've hired Michelle on numerous occasions to wear the track mascot outfit and assume the role for our large events.

Her high energy and wonderful attitude are consistently excellent. She is, in a few words, a lovely young lady with a bright future rooted in good family values and an atmosphere of caring and achievement."

Jackie Warner

and worked for the paper until it closed in 1977. He then freelanced for wire services AP, UPI, and Reuters. While at the Long Island Press, he also authored a weekly column, "Murray Janoff's Locker Room." Murray was one of the dozen chroniclers of Roosevelt Raceway who met "over hamburgers and beer" after the races on the night of May 8, 1947, to form the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), harness racing's leading media organization, and was a member for 68 years. (Reportedly, "although he was too modest to admit it," both USHWA and the Tennis Writers Association originated with an idea from him.) In 2007, he was inducted into the Communicators Hall of Fame.



**John "Johnny" Long**, 91, died at his daughter's home in Summerville, SC on June 24. Johnny was a noted former Grand Circuit farrier who began a life-long association with horses as a youngster. A member of the US Coast Guard in World War II, he developed his blacksmithing skills while working with the mounted beach patrols in Charleston, SC. He later found employment with both Standardbred and Thoroughbred horses at racing centers in Aiken, SC, Orlando, FL and Vernon Downs.

**James "Doug" Lough**, 56, of Springfield, Ohio, died July 2 in his home. Doug graduated from Urbana University where he earned his bachelor of science degree. He enjoyed running and golfing, but his true passion was training and racing Standardbreds.



**Herbert L. Miller**, 84, of Clifton, Ohio died June 30 with his family by his side. Herbert was a farmer and became an avid harness horseman in 1966. He raced all over the United States and Canada. In his career he won top horseman and many other accolades and achievements to his name and stable.



**Alan Prince**, a longtime journalist for the Miami Herald, a journalism professor at the University of Miami and 48-year national officer for the U. S. Harness Writers Association (USHWA) and a harness racing Hall of Fame Communicator inductee, died June 17. He was 85.

**Jim Raymer**, 62, died July 8, 2015, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Jim developed and trained many stakes-winning trotters, the richest being world champion Green Day, a \$1.3 million winner who captured the 2007 Yonkers Trot and finished third in the Kentucky Futurity final. He went with the trotters because he found it to be an art and pacers more of a science. He was a self-taught blacksmith and had a gift for picking out yearlings and pedigrees, as evidenced by Green Day, who he bought for just \$6,000 because he didn't see anything wrong with the horse. Rita Jay was his first horse. In addition to Green Day, those that followed included, most recently, world champion Keystone Activator (winner of the Old Oaken Bucket), Nirvana Blue Chip, Freeze Frame, and in 2014,

Harley Momma and Wouldn't it be sweet, who were stakes winners at Hoosier Park.

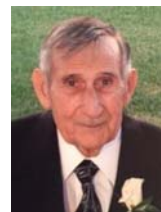
**Patrick 'Pat' Ryan**, 60, of London, Ontario died June 12. Pat was connected to a number of recognizable stakes winners, including 2004 Confederation Cup winner Sparkler, 2007 Jugette winner Western Graduate, as well as Parlee Beach and Countryview Miss.



**E. Carlyle Smith**, 87 of Skaneateles, NY died July 8 after a brief bout with cancer. He was an avid horseman that purchased most of his horses at the Lexington, Harrisburg and Morrisville Yearling sales. Carlyle had the good fortune over the years of buying two eventual Elitlopp winners and one Elitlopp runner-up from the yearling catalogue pages.



**Chris Valkanoff**, 89, formerly of Okemos, MI and Pompano Beach, FL died March 1. Chris was a proud member of the US Navy and served in World War II on a PT Boat in the South Pacific. After the return from the war, Chris and Sophia owned the Midway Café on Cedar Street for 20+ years. Chris also worked for General Motors and retired in 1990. After retirement Chris and Sophia moved to Pompano Beach, Florida and became active in owning standardbred harness horses. It became his passion and hobby. In 2010, a horse they bred, Whosgoingwhosstaying, was the 2 year old horse of the year, and Sophia and Chris were standardbred breeders of the year in Florida.

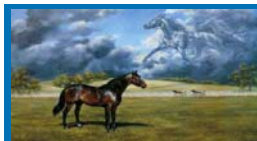


**Andrew "Andy" Wood**, 49, of Denton, MD, died on Monday, July 6 of pancreatic cancer. Andy's dad, Ken Wood, invests his horse's purse money in drilling wells in Africa. According to Ken's website, [www.wellsforghana.org](http://www.wellsforghana.org), they've drilled about 1,000 wells already. Andy was a pump installer for his dad's Denton business, Lifetime Well Drilling. Andy loved boating, crabbing, and the outdoors. He was an excellent photographer and loved flowers and walking with his dogs in the woods.



**Puzzle Solution**

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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Jim Raymer** by: Amy Bondon, Al and Kenndra Casselman, CHHA-The Meadows, Pastor Joe and Marci DiDonato and Roger Huston

In memory of **Johnny Long** by: Bill and Lucille Wick

In memory of **Chris Valkanoff** by: Bruce Ranger and Denise Stein

In memory of **Eddie Morgan** by: Blooded Horse Sales Co.



June Racing for Christ participants were: Moshannon Mojo, Moshannon Motown and El Pescadoro. Falcon Racing, LLC recently registered Burden of Proof in the program. Contact Chaplain Lee to see how your horse can race for Christ. Or, check it out at [www.chha.net/racing-for-christ](http://www.chha.net/racing-for-christ).

### Obituaries

*Please pray for the families of our harness racing friends:*

**Roy Dempsey Davis**, 85, of Dallas, Texas; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Jupiter, Fla.; and Cat Cay, Bahamas, died June 16. Roy was a member of the Hambletonian Society and a former director of the United States Trotting Association. He was an extremely successful horseman in the Standardbred world. His horses, who all had the surname of Spur, won back-to-back Little Brown Jugs (Barberry Spur and Jaguar Spur).

**Murray Janoff**, 100, Communicators Hall of Fame member and the last surviving founding member of the US Harness Writers Association, died July 7 in Boca Raton, FL. Murray who was a World War II veteran, started his writing career at the Long Island Press in 1936

**Obituaries cont. on page 4**

### Prayer Corner

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

Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Wayne Cowdry, Margaret Cromer, Sharon Cromer, Janet Dehart, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Tiffany Fisher, Margaret Groce, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, John Hufford, Betty James, Bob Kinsey, Larry Lederman, Evan Leversage, Rox Liles, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Mrs. Miller, Corey Murphy, Randy Nix, Pierre Noel, Fran Nori, Jay O'Neil, Dee Parsons, Jim Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Del Smart, Jimmy Sommers, Jack Taylor, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Alice Wardman, Evan Wellwood, Betty Wogoman, Marty Woebkenberg, Chaplain Yurian, Joyce Zeasapolowski

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

Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Gaetane Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Dale, Harold Dancer, Dennis Drenth, Nora Fenner, Sylvain Gagnon, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Harry Harvey, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Nancy Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, Donna Holterman, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James,

Thelma Klark, Kenny Kane, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Tom Malibashka, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Gerald Russell, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Tony, Lee Anne Taylor, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Steve Warner, Sandy Weiss, Greggie Welch, Jr., Bill and Lucille Wick

**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 Petruullo and Elizabeth Welch

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Mary Anne La Casse had surgery.

Henry Guilmette is in need of heart by-pass surgery but is battling an infection.

Kaye McDonnell is scheduled for heart surgery.

Chaplain Waverly Parsons injured his leg, arm and back in a fall.

Tori Scott is in a coma, and the Neuro Docs do not know why she has not come out of it.

Dr. Doug Stringer is full of cancer.

Gerry Teis had surgery to remove a kidney stone.

Marsh Townley has three tears in his Rotator Cuff.

Bill Wick has been having a rough time health wise.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Contact Chaplain Lee for information

Please indicate  
Address corrections

### Gaitway Farm Evangelization Event

The body of Christ working together in harness racing continues to amaze me. Tim Hunderfunt went out of his way to make sure everything was perfect for our evangelization event at Gaitway Farm. Ron Dancer’s message splattered with stories of his dad, including Stanley’s decision for Christ, inspired us.



Ron Dancer

Amy Bondon just happens to attend the Jackson Baptist Church where Ron’s friends, Laura and Steve Chisholm, head up the music ministry with Pastor Ken and Barbara Underhill. The devil thought he had us with the scorching heat. However, the band did an awesome job helping us to sing praises to the Lord.

Paul and Vera Wojtowicz and Tom Milici welcomed me to Fr. Pat McDonnell’s church. Since Jimmy Tettrick named Father Patrick after him, it was only right that Fr. Pat start us off with the invocation and a message relaying Christ’s love for all who work in stables.



### Jug Week Prayer Breakfast!

When: Wednesday, September 23, 2015  
7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

Where: Backstretch Hospitality Tent on the Delaware Co. Fairgrounds, Delaware, OH (across from the Log Cabin)

*Plan to join us—it’s FREE!*

Pastor Joe DiDonato and Suzanne D’Ambrose served up the burgers and hot dogs grilled by the farm’s chef, Rudy. Lori Romanetti brought Terry Raymer, and we remembered Jim who recently went to meet the Lord.

Sam McKee always seems to be where you need him. What a blessing he is to harness racing. He brought a camera man from the Meadowlands to shoot some footage for the ad Jeff Zidek is putting together for us.

Harold Kelley, Greg Gehman and many others came out to show support for **Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**



Pastor Joe DiDonato and Suzanne D’Ambrose



Tim and Alex Hundertpfund