



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983



In God We Trust

Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

December 2016

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  
[leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net)  
or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079



## The Christmas Prize

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Breaking a young colt or filly is a slow process. It takes patience—lots of patience. But along the way, milestones reached fill you with joy. Anticipation rises as the quarters speed up and you nudge ahead of others in the stretch. Glancing at your watch, you are filled with wonder. Is this the one? Scenes play out in your mind—stakes races, the Hambo, the Jug. Can it be? Then you clock two minutes. Maybe, yes, maybe.

Isaiah prophesies about the coming of the messiah 700 years before the birth of Christ. "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Sure enough, God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, a virgin, to tell her God was going to bless her and make her the Mother of the Son of God (Luke 1:26-35). The gospels are filled with stories of Jesus, His mighty miracles and inspiring teachings. He impressed many and they followed Him.

Okay, it's time to qualify and then off to the races. However, this young one is a bit of a challenge in the barn. Also, training at the track is not the same as at the farm. Everyone stays clear, not wanting to get hurt. Actually, this colt is not very striking either.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected [...] a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem" (Isaiah 53:2-3).

So Jesus was mocked and



beaten and ridiculed. Eventually He was hung on a cross to die.

Wait a minute! He won, he won! Our colt set a new world record. He won all the big races. He is a champion!

Hanging on the cross, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). In dying, Jesus paid the price for our sins. The angel told the women at the tomb, "He has risen" (Matthew 28:6). Then, rising from the dead, Jesus opened the gates of heaven so we could join Him and the Father and all believers for all of eternity. Jesus made the biggest sacrifice and won the biggest prize. The prize is for us who believe.

We are in training. Like Paul, we are running the race (2 Timothy 4:7). Sure, there are hurdles. We go uphill and downhill. Back at the farm we trained our babies together. They learned from each other. They encouraged each other on. And so it is with us. We stay the course, learning with our friends to put God first and to be considerate of the needs of others.

Jesus came as a baby and grew among His family and friends, learning from them and from the Father. His example is our first Christmas gift. Salvation is the prize that awaits us all who believe.

**Merry Christmas!**

## Blessings

*From Doug and Laura McGinnis...*

We are at Sunshine Meadows Equestrian Village. We kicked off our brand new small group Bible study with Movie Night, eating dinner together and watching "God's Not Dead". Please pray for us, as we have never hosted an in-home Bible study before, and we would really like to get some DVD/book materials for our group. Also, we would very much like to add an enclosed porch to our camper, to utilize my dining set and the outdoor entertainment center, providing more seating space without the mosquitoes, flies, and fire ants.

*From Marsh Townley...*

At the Jug I told you to remove Randy Nix from the list since he has been healed of cancer. Janet DeHart is now cancer free and can also be removed from the list after 5 years on it. I praise God for the healing of Randy, Janet and the other miracles we see happening every day around us. This summer Betty's great niece had a baby that was born early and only 1 pound and 15 ounces she went home a couple of weeks ago and now is at 7 pounds 6 ounces. God is so great there are no problems mentally or physically with this little one. Praise God!!!!!!!!!!!!

*From Lyse Breton...*

Praise the Lord, we came back home after Hurricane Matthew without any damages.

*From Kate and Mark Walker, near Pinehurst, SC ...*

I heartily thank all you CHHA Warriors out there that said a Prayer for We the People in the Path of Hurricane Matthew. We are located in the SE Corner of NC and directly North of Charleston, SC where Matthew made Landfall. We

had torrential rains and storms all the previous week, so the ground was already completely saturated. During the onset of Hurricane Matthew, flooding occurred randomly wherever there was a body of water, a river or low-lying terrain. In abnormal places, the water got to waste deep. There were so many trees on power lines that streets were blocked off. Sadly, 3 people in the next county were trapped in their cars, which were immersed in fast flowing water on a main road and they drowned. Many more were rescued by NC Nat'l Guard. Highway 95 was closed due to flooding and trees down. Today, the day after, they are still concerned about a Dam breaking.

Here... We could /would not leave our animals. We have a weanling, 2 yearlings, a 2-year-old, a donkey, mares, many outside cats and a dog. We just couldn't go to a shelter. I know you might find it hard to explain, but it rained for 15 hours and blew like the dickens here, but we don't even have a tree down (we always have a tree down). We have zero water standing... as I look upon all our neighbors with yard ponds, big messes and trees down. We did not lose power, yet everyone surrounding us has had no power since yesterday. Perhaps an Angel is providing our electricity. The 3 homes directly across the street and the 4 behind us... have no power and no phone. Most of the county and the 2 neighboring counties have no power still two days later.

As I look out over our critters and land, I know that our farm was Passed over. We got all the long hours of the pelting rain, but it did not flow or do damage. We got all the wind, but it was as if we didn't. All the animals came through it, as if it didn't occur... I praise God for our CHHA Prayer Warriors... I know that you all sent UP that sweet incense, First Hand! I praise my God for YOU!

## Stallion Auction January 24-28, 2017

**Breedings Wanted... please...**

### Partial Stallion Listing

State	Stallion	Standing At	Stud Fee
IN	Blueridge Camegot	AE Stables	1,000
IN	He's Gorgeous	Schwartz Boarding Farm	2,500
MD	Charlie de Vie	Fox Den Farm	1,500
MD	Charlie de Vie	Fox Den Farm	1,500
MD	Totally Western	Winbak MD	2,000
MD	Totally Western	Winbak MD	2,000
NY	Lucky chunky	Winbak NY	4,000
NY	Quality of Life	Surf Cast Paradise	1,000
NY	Well Said	Hanover	7,500
OH	Cayenne Turbo	Raimonde Farms	1,500
OH	Powerful Toy	ATI-OSU	750
OH	Three Olives	ATI-OSU	750
Ont	Sir Luck	Casimir	1,500
Ont	Up the Credit	Casimir	3,000

## Up to date List of Stallions at [www.chha.net/stallion-auction](http://www.chha.net/stallion-auction)

**Bid at [www.ongait.com](http://www.ongait.com) or 603-898-1927**

Place your bids on line at [www.ongait.com](http://www.ongait.com) or by phone at 603-898-1927 from noon on Tuesday January 24, 2017 through noon on Saturday January 28, 2017.



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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Richard Beaugard** by: Mary Anne Winters  
 In memory of **Ron Ingrassia** by: Harold Kelly  
 In memory of **John Kenney, DVM** by: Harold Kelly  
 In memory of **Fran Nori** by: Mary Anne Winters  
 In memory of **Paul and Alice Wardman** by: Rev David Wardman  
 In memory of **Terry Holton** by: Jason Settlemoir

Please verify or add address on back

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




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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send my newsletter (circle below)  
electronically in the mail both

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

Please return to: [lecalphen@comcast.net](mailto:lecalphen@comcast.net)

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OR

CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

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

[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

**Choose a Free Gift with your donation**

**Gifts These make great Christmas 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*  
by Edmund R Gager  (\$20) donation

**New Book true story**

**Artwork**

**Three Dates With Destiny - Secretariat**

Artist's Proof

Signed by Jockey Ron Turcott  
and Artist Fred Stone

**\$250**

**Very Rare—no more available on line**

*We can email you a photo of the actual picture*



*Rambling Willie Remembers*

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



**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

**Horseshoe Nail Cross Order Form**

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

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



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

Keyring Qty: Red \_\_\_\_ Blue \_\_\_\_ Turquoise \_\_\_\_ Silver \_\_\_\_

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

**Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

## Obituaries cont from page 5

**Gary Bergmann**, 65, a lifelong resident of Washington, NJ, died at home with his family by his side Oct 10. Gary was at one time the general manager for Stonegate Farms in Glen Gardner, NJ. He was adventurous, enjoyed sailing, and was captain of the seaworthy vessel, Sagacious. He was an avid reader, had a passion for cooking and above all he loved his family.



**John "Jack" Ginnetti Jr**, 80, died Oct 31. For 50-plus years Jack was a member of the The New England Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association and was a committed sports writer. His newspaper career began in the mid-1950s in the Worcester, MA area and continued for many years, until he finally retired, but the urge was still there, so he continued to cover harness racing. It was his life, writing story after story about the races or personality profiles. He was always at the track, whether it be Rockingham Park, Foxboro Raceway, or the present day Plainridge Racecourse. Jack was always looking for a good story and he would always find one. He was named the USHWan of the Year in 1997, then he was inducted into the New England Chapter's Hall of Fame in 2001. And finally his ultimate recognition award was when he was inducted into the Communicators Hall of Fame in 2006. That award he cherished more than any other award. It meant not only did his peers enjoy him as a human being, but his ability to put his pen to the paper and create very interesting articles showed how much respect they had for him and his talents.

**Nancy E Haskell**, 74, died Oct 28, following a long illness. After graduating from Simmons College in Boston, Nancy began a lifelong career in Human Resources at the Bank of Boston making significant contributions as an Executive. There she met her late husband, Conrad Haskell. Together they travelled the world, making many friends along the way. Nancy was Chaplain Lee Alphen's aunt.



**Robert Tucker**, 90, died Oct 23. He was the owner of Stonegate Farm in Glen Gardner, NJ. Bob and Stonegate bred and raced many top performers over the years. His friend Ed Lohmeyer trained them. While Stonegate Farm has been the birthplace of champions, it also was the one-time home of the great pacing stallion Cam Fella. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Bob was raised on Long Island, about 12 miles from Roosevelt Raceway. His father owned Standardbreds, and as a youngster Bob attended riding camps and participated in horse shows. In 1935 the Tucker family moved to a farm in Morristown, NJ, and



they had a full assortment of livestock, including horses, pigs and chickens. As a teenager he worked on a dairy farm and fell in love with farm life. Bob began his career at Banker's Trust Company on Wall Street. He returned to New Jersey in 1954 joining the Beneficial Corporation in Peapack and eventually becoming its chief financial officer and president. He retired in 1985 after 31 years of service. In 1960 he purchased the property he named Stonegate Farm and grew it to 350 acres. Bob served on the board of the New Jersey Sire Stakes for many years and was appointed head of the board by Governor Thomas Keen. He also served as a director of the Hambletonian Society and the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey.

**Alice Wardman**, 76, of Brownsville, PA died Monday, August 11. For eight years Alice worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue as a Tax Preparation Clerk and previously worked as an operator for Bell Telephone Company with over 17 years of service. Alice was a lifelong member of the St. Oliver Plunkett Parish, Fredericktown where she was a CCD Instructor and a member of the Christian Mothers. Alice was CHHA member Rev David Wardman's mother.



**Terry Holton**

Gone but not forgotten.  
Happy birthday Big T!  
Terry would be 70 now.

Remembered by Jason Settlemoir

## Electronic Newsletter Delivery

Electronic newsletter delivery is available. If you would prefer to read our newsletter on your favorite device, go to [www.chha.net/delivery-options](http://www.chha.net/delivery-options) or email Chaplain Lee at [leealphen@comcast.net](mailto:leealphen@comcast.net) and let us know. You can have it both ways if you want.



## Harrisburg Sale Continued from back page

Soup was on behind Fox Den Farm's, beautifully groomed and well behaved stable of both young horses and race horses. Tom and Linda Winebrener put the same love into preparing homemade soup and other delicacies for their friends at the sale as they do preparing their charges for the sale.

Of course, as usual, Hanover and all the consignment stables helped keep everyone well fed. This sale is a class act all the way. You really can't say enough good about the way everything is organized and the spit and polish that continues throughout the week. It was good to see many friends and to sign on some new members. Yes, it was a great week.



Tom and Linda Winebrener



Nicola Abrams



Paul Fontaine



Uvie Hanover

**Obituaries on page 4**

## 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, 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, Gaetane 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 Haskell, Nancy 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 Peternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Reggie 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:**

Please pray Billy overcomes his drug addiction and gets his life on track.

Bob Bloodgood has cancer.

Lyse Breton has been ill.

Dan Clements needs knee surgery.

John Cross is recovering from a shoulder replacement.

Karen Crouse has low blood sugar symptoms.

Bob Ford has cancer.

Greg Gehman is recovering from a shoulder replacement.

Kim Hankins is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Ann MacNeill's mom is having a biopsy on her pancreas.

Amy Miller, 16, has leukemia.

Sophia Oakes had her 2<sup>nd</sup> cancer surgery.

Art Plant is scheduled for prostate surgery December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ray Romanetti is undergoing pulmonary and heart tests.

Robert Stone has cancer.

Lisa Yanak has breast cancer.

Please pray for those going through divorce.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



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

Please indicate  
Address corrections

**Stallion Auction January 24-28**  
**See page 2 for details and stallion listing**

## Highlights of 2016

### Events

#### Spring Garden Ranch Event

Jack Levine, Amateur driver/ Madison Ave Executive, inspired us with racing parables.

Steve and Cynthia Navarro led us in song.

#### Gaitway Farm Event

Sam McKee, Meadowlands Announcer, shared many God-Incidences where God was present at key moments in his life.

Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends blessed us with their music.

#### Jug Prayer Breakfast

Sam McKee, Meadowlands Announcer, again encouraged us in our relationships with God.

The Truitt Family inspired us as they praised God's name in song.

### Other Activities

Awarded a scholarship to Farrier School.

Awarded four college scholarships.

## 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.



Grew membership to over 1,200 members.

Published over 50 great praise reports.

Published 12 inspirational newsletters.

Encouraged breeding with our Stallion Auction.

Portrayed harness racing in a positive light.

Chaplain Lee Alphen officiated at weddings and funerals.

Helped struggling horsemen and horsewomen.

Visited farms, tracks, training centers and industry events.

### Most importantly, we prayed...

Over 60 Partners join Chaplain Lee in praying for our members and the needs of the harness racing community.

Chaplain Lee prayed through the entire member list every month

Chaplain Lee and other members pray for all our members every day.

## Harrisburg Sale

What a difference a year makes! Last year enthusiasm at the Harrisburg Sale was hampered by talk of ending racing in PA. This year the PA Racing Commission

provided funds to encourage racing in the state. As part of the effort, The Standardbred Horse Sales Company provided a huge banquet with Prime Rib and Shrimp Cocktail for sale goes Monday night.

Attendance was way up as were prices in the auction ring.



**Harrisburg Continued on page 5**