



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2021

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH
03079

Happy
Independence Day!



Spirited By Chaplain Lee Alphen

“A high-spirited horse is difficult to control because it is very lively, active, or nervous” according to the *Collins English Dictionary*. We’ve all seen horses that meet this description. Some refuse to go to the gate. Others stall walk, whinny, pull you around the track a lot faster than you want to go or cause havoc in the shed row.

The late Sam McKee’s family is into barrel racing. Sam used to really enjoy it too. During the COVID lockdown I watched lots of horse movies and am in awe of the barrel racers. They are certainly lively and active and also sure footed and fast. They must be easy to control—when you know what you are doing—to make those tight turns around the barrels.

The *Cambridge Dictionary* says, “A high-spirited person is energetic and happy and likes doing exciting and enjoyable things.” To me that certainly defines the barrel-racing horses much better than the definition from the *Collins Dictionary*—except they are not people. Maybe someday I’ll get to see the McKees race. That would be fun.

Jesus said, “Peace be with you! [...] Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:21-22 NIV). The first thing Jesus did when He visited His disciples after the Resurrection was to wish them peace and bless them with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Reading in the scriptures about all the disciples did after they received the Holy Spirit, I think we can agree they were very energetic and happy. They found God’s work exciting and enjoyable and eagerly dedicated their lives to carrying it out. The disciples were high-spirited people. In fact, they were filled

with the Holy Spirit. They were also filled with the perfect peace of Christ.

We don’t want to break our horses’ spirits. However, we would like our horses to settle down and learn to enjoy racing and the other horses and people in the barn and around the track. I would like to have high-spirited horses that fit the second definition, the one from the *Cambridge Dictionary*.



Lindsey McKee riding Fiona

God created us to be who we are. We are not perfect yet. God keeps working with us and encouraging us in different ways to accept the peace of the Lord and the free gift of the Holy Spirit. When we do, I think we too will fit the *Cambridge Dictionary* definition. Filled with the spirit, we will be energetic and happy and like doing all the exciting and enjoyable things the Lord calls us to.

Once we accept God’s gift of peace, we have no need to worry or be upset. Nothing can rob us of that peace. We can **choose** to worry instead of enjoying this peace whenever we want. Of course, it is never too late to **choose** God’s peace again. Filled with the Holy Spirit, let’s enjoy life and the world around us and do great things in the name of the Lord.

Getting in Step

By Chaplain Sam Spence

Someone once said that one of the greatest revelations a man receives is when he discovers that he is not God.

That revelation entails an understanding that you cannot save yourself...regardless of doing mighty and wonderful things...regardless of keeping and never breaking the Ten Commandments...*For by grace are you saved by faith; and that not of yourselves :it is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8,9)*

After that salvation experience – being born again – there begins the process of getting in step with God in the various areas of our lives. The Apostle Paul put it this way in his letter to the Romans...*be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)*

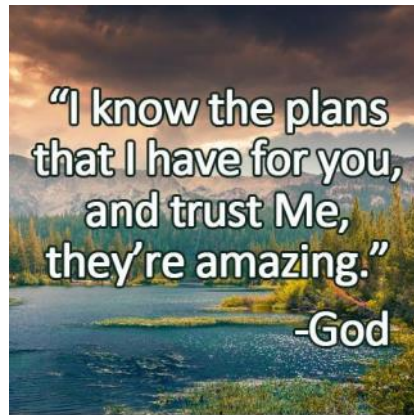
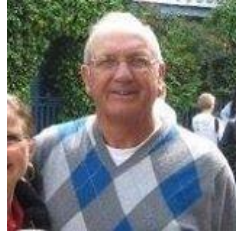
It's a lot like breaking and training a horse – once you've got the buck out of him, you have to bring him around to your way of thinking in each step he takes. It's a process, because he's been so used to doing everything *his way*. So have we.

We have to come around to God's way of thinking. We do that by renewing our mind with His Word. And what a wonderful thing to discover that God's way is so superior, so rewarding, so peaceful...so much better than when we were running the show!

God told the prophet Jeremiah, *"For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."* (Jeremiah 29:11 AMP)

How's that for incentive to turn the reins over to Him...let Him set the pace...getting in step with the Master!

Scripture: What we've learned is this: God does not respond to what we do: we respond to what God does. We've finally figured it out. Our lives get in step with God and all others by letting him set the pace, not by proudly or anxiously trying to run the parade.
Romans 3: 27, 28 The Message



Blessings from God

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

Ken and Karen moved into a new one level condo. Karen is doing much, much better and she gets stronger every day. She gets dialysis three times a week and it seems to be helping. There does not seem to be much change in her tumor. Please pray for continued healing and discernment for her medical team. It would also be nice if they could get into a closer dialysis facility. Currently, they drive an hour each way for the four hour procedure.

From Chris McKee...

May 28th report: We just received the measurements from Meagan's Doctor. Her tumor shrank 70% since February 25th. That is great progress.

June 2nd report: The preliminary MRI results (before measurements) show the tumor is smaller than last week.

From Robyn Remblesky...

Thank you for your prayers.! Lots of good blessings for us this week and last week.

I have been getting my cancer check tests done. No colon cancer !!! Yesterday's mammogram was good too. I am now seven years cancer FREE! I have been driving cars for maybe 50 years and never had a flat tire. Yesterday I had my first flat tire. I looked at the positive side. I found it right after I backed out of the garage. Positive part was I was at home so it was much easier to get it taken care of!!! So now I have learned to walk around my car each time before I get in it to check all the tires!!! Blessings can be found in so many things and so many places and experiences. As always, I love that expression, Expect miracles, I do and I believe in them too!! Thank you for your prayers I know they help!!!

From Kate Walker Williams

I am doing SWELL!! Jesus has richly blessed me with a second CLEAR CT Scan. That means at almost 1 Year post... I am still cancer free...He says when I reach the 3 year mark (extremely rare) I can exhale. BUT yanno what? I am exhaling NOW and glorifying Jesus as my Saviour !!! Of course, He sends the Prayer Warriors to do His blessing and I certainly appreciate All the prayers the peeps have been pouring out on me. Do you know I am "Propped UP" by Prayer? I can lift 25 pounds again (shooting for 45lbs, so's I can unload/load hay) and I am working 10 hours a day. Tell the prayer warriors that's not bad for a propped ole ex-cancer patient turning 70 and missing some organs. JESUS SAVES!!!! LIFE IS GOOD! I thank God every day for EACH added day I live. To live is Christ...To die is Gain. Now let me get busy praying for the peeps.

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Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation

Gifts for Family and Friends

- 10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)
- Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below
- CHHA Hat



Books

- Power in Praise* by Merlin Carothers **New**
- Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence
- Downloading God* by Jack Levine
- 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 Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

Roger Huston · 2249 Grey Oaks · Grove City, OH 43123

Necklace Qty: Red ___ Blue ___ Turquoise ___ Gold ___ Silver ___ Fuschia ___

Keyring Qty: Red ___ Blue ___ Turquoise ___ Silver ___

Other colors are available upon request.

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



Obituaries continued from page 5

Jeffery Lynn Cox, 66, of Brunswick, OH, died May 23. Jeff trained and raced Standardbreds for over 45 years. He raced at Northfield Park and many East Coast tracks and was appreciated for all the qualities you want in a trainer — honesty, integrity and knowledge. He had a passion and talent for golf and enjoyed many days on the golf course with his friends. Jeffery was a member of the NW Church of Christ.

Donald Ray Hicks, 86, of Ocala, FL, died May 21. After serving four years in the US Navy, Donald worked in the FAA as an Air Traffic Controller. He was a natural athlete who played golf, baseball, bowling and Jai Alai and also coached his sons baseball teams. He owned and trained harness horses which he raced and enjoyed during his retirement.

Clara Juanita Wagner Hurst, 92, of Corydon, IN, died May 15. Juanita was best known in Harrison County for her interest and participation which she and her husband shared in the training and racing of Standardbred trotters and pacers under the C and J Stable name. At the Harrison County Fair in August 1963, Clara and her star pacer, CJ, broke the existing World Record for a pacer on a half-mile track with a woman driver. She taught Vocational Home Economics for 30 years and retired in 1984. She was a member of the Crandall United Methodist Church.



Howard Okusko, Sr., 86, of Vernon, NY, died May 20.

Howard was part of the construction team that built Vernon Downs in the early 1950s. He also trained his stable of horses there since it opened in 1954. "My dad never left Vernon Downs, when he always could have," said Howard's son, Howard Jr., also one of Vernon Downs' leading trainers and drivers through the years. "But he always stayed at Vernon." "My dad was still jogging horses as of last year," said Howard Jr. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corp.



Richard P. Paltani, 83, of Sagamore Hills, OH, died Dec 5. Richard owned and bred harness horses since 2002. In total he owned 90 Standardbreds having bred about 20 of them. He still owned 20 horses at the time of his passing.

Carl Roland Peterhansel, of South Florida, died May 1. Carl worked for many years since the early 80s for Peter Blood, as a groom, handyman, a Jack of all trades. He also had a couple of his own horses over the years. Carl was a gifted entertainer. He knew every word to all the popular Bob Dylan songs and sang and played guitar with true heart and soul. Many people at the track loved to listen to Carl play. He also loved fishing in his boat out in the Everglades.

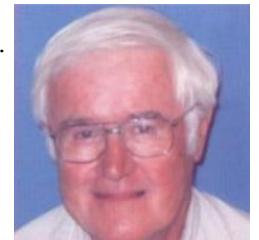
Amy Curtin Silvers, 38, died May 11. Amy loved horses and worked as a groom for several years. One of her hobbies was to look for arrowheads and Indian artifacts.



John "Farmer" Duane Stafford, 75, died April 19. John was a longtime Standardbred owner and was employed at Packard Electric and General Motors.



John "Jack" D. Tatham, 82, of Columbus, Ohio, died May 20. Jack retired after 34 years with the United States Postal Service. He was a trainer/owner of Standardbreds who traveled to various states and county fairs. He enjoyed playing, watching, and coaching youth softball, baseball, and basketball. He was also an avid Boston Red Sox fan, often traveling to Florida to see spring training.



Gene C. Trees, 74, of Marysville, Ohio, and formerly of Lexington, KY, died May 10. Gene was a former employee of Columbus Gas in Columbus, where he retired as a controller. A sportsman at heart, he was an avid golfer and enjoyed simulcast harness racing to spend his leisure time. His interest in horses was an inherited love given to him by his father, who was a well-known trainer, and his grandfather, who was a track maintenance supervisor at Scioto Downs.



Keith Waples, 97, of Ontario, died May 7. Keith drove and won his first Standardbred race at the age of 12 in 1935 at Sundridge, ON. His yellow and blue silks last appeared in a race when he was 81 in 2005, but he continued to train a few horses until just a few years ago. He and James Keeling pioneered Orangeville Raceway, Cloverdale Raceway (now Fraser Downs) and Sandown Raceway in BC. He was an inductee in the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame and the Harness Horse Hall of Fame in Goshen, NY.



Obituaries

Dan E. Ater, 66, of Clarksburg, OH, died May 24. Dan worked as a Standardbred driver and trainer for more than four decades. He was inducted into the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2016, was awarded the USTA President's Award in 2018 and held driving and training titles at many Ohio tracks. He served as a director of the USTA and the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. He was also a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau. Dan was quoted referring to his life, "Racing is a book of dreams. The story of my life. I'm going to live it until I die."



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
 In memory of **Dan Ater** by: Jack and Irene Anders
 In memory of **Harold Kelly** by: Deborah and Jeff Tillia
 In memory of **Richard Paltani** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz
 In memory of **John Stafford** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc.
 In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Jack Levine
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com and www.Standardbredcanada.ca

Prayer Corner

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

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Cohen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Donna Ingram, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Meagan McKee, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Roger Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Fred Ward, Sr, Roland Wardel, Kate Williams, John Wing, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Rick Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Charlie Brigham, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Vivian Farrington, Jim Ferguson, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara

and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Winnie Kaminga, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Art Lisi, Jr, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Gregg Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

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 Lamiq, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

Special Intentions for this month:

Angela and Gary both have cancer.
 Tyler Huston is recovering from a few surgeries following a serious dirt bike race accident.
 Larry Lederman had a slight stroke.
 Linda Moyer is recovering from cancer surgery.
 Robert Paradoski had chemotherapy for a malignant leg tumor.
 Ronnie Parker is recovering from Covid and pneumonia.
 Jay Randall is recovery from injuries sustained in a spill.
 Roger Smith is in rehab following brain surgery.
 Lorraine Truitt and her son have medical issues.
 Charles Weiss is battling with Bipolar disease.

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Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections

Got Any Plans?

By Charity Dalton

Let's talk about God's plan for your life, and yes, you were created for a plan. I couldn't tell you how many times things didn't work out as I had planned. Those times can be very disappointing. There have been times in my life when my faith has been weak, and I have been bitter and angry. But, on the rare, glorious occasion, I am blessed with clarity that can only be spiritual, and I thank God for those moments.



On one such occasion, I realized how trivial our own plans for our lives are. God created all of us for a purpose. We are soldiers in the greatest army to ever exist, one that cannot be defeated. We have truth in our hearts, that cannot be defiled and love in our souls, that defeats all fear.

So, could it be your life is going exactly as planned? I say to you this; draw closer to our Lord, the Great Teacher, with faith and humility, and learn.

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

"It is for **Freedom** that **Christ** has set us **Free**."

Galatians 5:1



Jug Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Join us in the Hospitality tent across from the Log Cabin at 7:30 AM Wednesday, September 22nd for a **FREE** breakfast.

Breeder Jeff Stacy is sure to inspire us with another great message. Everyone enjoyed his country preaching style at our 2017 breakfast.



Jeff Stacy

Faith Hawes and the Truitt Family singers will help us praise the Lord with their angelic voices. Come enjoy a hearty meal and pray with us for good racing and the safety of everyone at the fairgrounds.



Left: The Truitt Family Singers