



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

November 2021

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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### Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

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

Or

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Is your horse  
happy? Are  
you happy?

Happiness is  
found in God!

Talk to Him!

## The Silent Treatment

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Do you give your horses the silent treatment? How about the dog? The cat? People in your life? Or, maybe they give it to you.

When we overwork our horses or do some other thing they don't like, they may stand back in the stall and not want to "talk" to us. Our dogs might do the same thing if we've left them alone too long. Our cats . . . well, that's another story.

How do our horses feel when we don't talk to them? Some studies show that horses respond positively when spoken to in high pitched "baby talk." What they want most from us, though, is good communication. Mostly that's in the form of non-verbal instruction, grooming, clear signals about what we want from them in the barn, on the track and everywhere else.

Horses are herd animals. They thrive on relationships. That means communication, working together and belonging. The same goes for us. Relationships with family, the people around us, our animals and, of course, God, help us to thrive.

People sometimes say, "God doesn't listen to me" or "God does not speak to me." Is it that God is not speaking or that we are not listening?

Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened . . . If you then . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9-10, 13). And, who is

the Holy Spirit? "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26).

Friends, the Holy Spirit is alive and working in our lives. This Spirit of God will help us to hear and understand everything God is telling us. We just need to seek God out and ask. It is really easy and we can do it anywhere. Just simply find a quiet place and say something like, "God, I'm listening" and open our minds and hearts to listen, trusting that God will indeed speak. We can also read our bibles prayerfully, asking God to help us understand.

Horses speak to us by rubbing up against us, laying their heads on our shoulder, or with their facial expressions, alertness and behavior. And, yes, they also whinny when we come along with carrots and at feed time.

Like our horses, God does not generally speak in words that we can hear with our ears. We "hear" God speaking to our hearts. In our spirit we come away just knowing God's will. Let's not give God the silent treatment. God is relational too and is always eager to hear from us.



## God's Eternal Love

By *Danny Daniel*

Have you received some heartbreaking news? May we all remember that God's love is eternal and we are all part of His wonderful plan set forth from the beginning. One day all who have called His name will be together again in our resurrected bodies glowing as Moses' face after being in God's almighty presence. None will be lost who have loved and called out to Him. No matter how long we wait, His promise will be fulfilled just as they have been in ages past.

We must always look to our Lord and our true home, which is in Heaven with Him. No matter the pain, the heartache, the sin, the evil or the moral decay we see all around us, we must keep our eyes raised to Him who is Lord of all and Whose love is beyond the love of even the dearest experiences of love we have ever encountered; our mother's love times 1,000, our siblings and friends love times millions.

Oh, what great love waits for those who keep their heart set on the Lord in good times and bad. Sometimes we only view things in the prism of our lives rather than of all humanity. It is not all about us, though sometimes we fall into that thinking. It is about God and His eternal plan for each and every one He has created in His eternal image and likeness.



## Blessings from God

### From Lyse Breton...

Again thank you for all..... Yes it's a time of mourning and sadness for some peoples, but myself, I will not be sad when I have the assurance that Yves is in God's Presence. The wife of driver Pierre Noel, who is on the Prayer list, did not know how to let him know about Yves' passing. I said, "Just say Yves has finished, won the race and has received his trophy. Amen. I pray many blessings to the members of the Association. In Jesus Love, Lyse

### From Linda Moyer...

Just wanted to share a praise. Our youngest son Sean and his wife Brianna blessed us with this beautiful baby boy on Friday. With everything that has happened over this past year, Easton is a true gift from God. God Bless you. Linda



### From Rich Thorstenson...

I saw my sister last evening at a restaurant, after having hip surgery a couple of weeks ago. She's currently pain free from having hip surgery. She had in home PT this past week, and she's scheduled for more PT of 2 days for the next 4 weeks. She seems to be pain free, praise God. Thank you for your prayers and praise God for providing this miracle for her.

### From Dick Vondenhuevel

1. Brittany has to go back to Cleveland Clinic for another operation in September. She tells me not to worry and says, "There are folks who are a lot worse off than me! No matter what, God is great to us!" Thank you for keeping her on the prayer list.
2. I'm getting better every day between God and the Power of Prayer. I thank everyone!

### From Joyce Youshock...

1. Thanks for your support and prayers! Our granddaughter did go back to college for nursing. She's been praying for guidance and thanks me for having you pray for the Lord to show her her calling. Please keep praying for her.
2. Grandson still has defiant attitude but doing a bit better. I had him pray for music guy at our church with heart issues. He did text the man. I told him the guy really appreciated it. So the Lord is working. We just need patience.



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*

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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Walter and Juanita Adams** by: Brenda Jo Dennon  
 In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky  
 In memory of **Bonnie Battis** by: Joan and Warren Harp  
 In memory of **Lou Carlo** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Warren DeSantis** by: Paul and Joanne Fontaine  
 In memory of **George Harp** by: Joan Harp  
 In memory of **Warren Harp** by: Joan Harp  
 In memory of **Jim Hazelwood** by: Brenda Jo Dennon  
 In memory of **Kaye McDonnell** by: Amy Bondon  
 In memory of **Corwin Nixon** by: Brenda Jo Dennon  
 In memory of **Maynard Raker** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc.  
 In memory of **Kay Reid** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

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

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

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

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

Please return to: leecalphen@comcast.net

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

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157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

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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

Foiled Again Poster



**Books**

*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

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

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



Rambling Willie Remembers

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

**Foiled Again Posters Signed by Yannick Gingras**

Posters are 16 x 24 sticky vinyl.



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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](http://www.chha.net/products)





## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Benjamin A DeFonce**, died Sep 18. Benny was a dry wall contractor by trade. He also trained Standardbreds at Yonkers, Roosevelt and other regional tracks. He was a man of Faith, Family and Country and set a wonderful example for everyone around him. As a Marine during the Korean War, he was sent back to the front lines and was injured numerous times. Due to his bravery, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and retired as a Corporal. He continued to support our veterans' as the Veterans Services Officer of Harrison.



**Ollie Hayden Ervin**, 92, of Chestertown, MD, died Aug 18. When Ollie was he began working on and off with Mt Pleasant Farm his whole life. He also managed Conquest Farm for nine years before embarking on a 30-year career with Baltimore Business Forms/ Reynolds and Reynolds. His true passion was Standardbred racing.



**William R. Ethier**, 83, died Aug 7. Bill was a car salesman in the Fitchburg area for most of his life. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army. Bill enjoyed golf and had the distinction of shooting a hole in one. A sports fan, he was an avid fan of the New York Yankees. He and his wife owned Standardbred harness horses. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family.

**Rodney Hall**, 64, of Hawkinsville, GA, died Sep 12. After his high school graduation, he embarked on a career in harness racing. He drove and trained all over Eastern United States. While wintering in Georgia, he married Judy. He stayed in Georgia for a few years training for KMW Farms. Eventually, Rod and Judy opened and operated a successful grooming shop and doggie daycare in Hawkinsville.

**Max Heath**, 75, of Shelbyville, KY, died July 28. Max enjoyed harness racing since his days as sports editor and partnered on Kentucky Sire Stakes winners on both the pace and trot. Most recently, he owned interests in horses as part of the VIP Internet Stable and rarely missed Kentucky Futurity Day at the Red Mile. He retired in 2008 as Vice President of Landmark Community Newspapers and a member of Southeast Christian Church.



**Herbert Victor LeVan**, 83, of Lewistown, OH, died Sep 17. Herbert owned and operated LeVan Stables and was a Standardbred trainer and farmer most of his life. He was also the former owner of Sunshine Raceway in Dade City, Florida. He was a member of Lewistown-Trinity United Methodist Church.



**Kaye McDonnell**, 84, of Bryant Pond, ME, died Aug 21. Kaye was a dedicated victim witness advocate in Oxford County. She loved her farm, including all animals. Always willing to lend a hand, especially to animals in distress, she was an icon known throughout her community. Kaye was a CHHA member and Chaplain Lee Alphen's aunt.

**Maynard P Raker**, 85, of Fayette, OH, died Feb 10. Maynard served in the United States Army. He farmed and trained race horses his whole life. He enjoyed time with his family. and coffee at Smith's Restaurant in Wauseon.

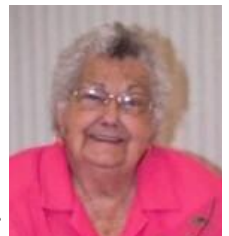


**Linda Phaneuf**, 71, died Sep 7. Linda worked as a store manager for Cumberland Farms for more than 20 years. She and her husband, Richard, enjoyed 35 years of training, breeding, and racing Standardbreds. She was an excellent cook who enjoyed feeding her family and friends.

**William A Smythe**, age 70, of New Egypt, died Sep 5. Bill trained and drove all over the country. Later he became the farm breeding manager for Castelton Farm in NJ. When the farm changed hands, he continued to be the farm manager for Kentuckiana Farm for the rest of his career. In 2007, under Kentuckiana Farm, he was awarded Breeder of the Year.



**Charlotte Geraldine "Gerry" Kegley Truitt**, 88, of Bluefield, WV, died Aug 31. Gerry was a devout Christian who loved her Heavenly Father with her whole heart. She taught adult and children Sunday school and played the piano and the organ in church beginning in those her father pastored. Over the years, she kept hundreds of children in her home so that she could be at home with her own family and her husband who was disabled. She was known to many as simply, "Mamaw." CHHA thanks her for bringing Faith Hawes and Phillip Truitt into the world. They bless our Jug Prayer Breakfasts with their beautiful praise music.



**Steven Wahrhaftig**, 69, formerly Liberty, NY, died June 3. Steven spent 55-plus years as a frequent patron of Monticello Raceway. Over the years, he owned numerous racehorses and introduced many new owners to the sport through partnerships. He worked as an insurance agent for The Prudential Insurance Company. When he wasn't working, he could be found at a nearby racetrack.

**Frank Withee**, 89, of Greene, ME, died Sep 14. Frank spent much of his time as a young man working around Standardbreds. He worked at Bates College for 23 years and often picked up part-time jobs to support his family. After leaving the college, he pursued his career in harness racing which spanned five decades. He raced primarily in Maine and also at Saratoga. Frank also managed Lavish Acres in Greene, a large training and breeding facility.



## Obituaries

**Gerald Robert Burris**, 84, of Bowling Green, OH, died Sep 5. Gerald's life revolved around horses. He owned, trained and drove Standardbreds for more than 50 years. He raced at the County Fairs throughout Ohio as well as Raceway Park, Northfield in Ohio and Michigan tracks. He enjoyed spending time hunting.



**Robert N. "Bob" Burns Sr**, 83, of Kettering, OH, died Aug 25. Bob began training and driving Standardbreds in 1966. He was a lifelong harness horseman. He was a devoted father, grandfather, stepfather, brother, uncle and friend.



**Louis Edward Carlo**, 87, of Lebanon, OH, died August 8. Lou was a US Army veteran who earned an Economics degree at Michigan State. He owned and operated Standardbred Racetracks. He was a



member of St. Francis de Sales Church. He loved spending time with his family, watching sports, vacationing in Florida with his wife, Linda, and was an avid horse racing fan.

**Phoebe Chamberlin**, 81, of Brattleboro, VT, died Aug 26. Phoebe grew up on a poultry farm which she turned into a horse farm. She trained and trucked Standardbreds all over the East coast. When her work horses died, she continued to log using her race horses. She was a member of the First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro. Phoebe had hundreds of friends. Though she had no children of her own, everyone's children became her children. Her door was always open and if it wasn't, friends knew the way in. She was a great cook and loved to feed people.



**Obituaries continued on page 4**  
**Sources for obituary information include:**

[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [www.Standardbredcanada.ca](http://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, Georgianna Brocco, 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-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Sarah Gehman, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Layla Hundertpfund, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, 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, Linda Moyer, 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, 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, Yves Breton, 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, 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, Don James, 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, Dean Miller, Peg 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, Tom Shaw, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Lucille Wick, 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:**

Danny Daniel has some medical issues.

Frank is asking for prayers for sobriety.

Larry Lederman has a few medical issues.

Gregory Peck needs prayers.

Rich Thorstenson's niece has ALS.

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections



**Parker Steck** was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to continue her studies in Nursing at Ashland University.



Parker Steck was awarded a CHHA Scholarship to continue her studies in Nursing at Ashland University.

Parker Steck and her parents, Ron and Kila Steck, can be found Jug week in their barn, the paddock or around the corner in their home on wheels at the fairgrounds. Parker and her brothers grew up helping around the barn. When she is not at school, Parker grooms her horse, McWiz, and a few of the other horses in the barn. She says in her essay, "This business has given me a work ethic, drive, and passion that I can take with me anywhere. I'm glad I found my passion at such a young age, and am glad that I was given the opportunity to love something as much as I have doing this. This is something that I will keep close to my heart forever, and I will forever be blessed to be a part of this business.

While she is at school, Parker attend Ashland College's church. She wrote, "One thing I learned since being in school is you do not have to be going through something hard to talk to God. Praying does not only happen at night. I learned that some of the best times to talk to God is driving home from school, during a test, or simply when you feel stressed."

This past year of school has been particularly difficult for Parker. However, she says, "My faith has gotten me through it. Even in the times I wanted to quit, I knew I wasn't alone and that He would carry me."

When her faith was shaken, she knew, "Jesus is always there and sometimes, I simply don't get to understand why things happen to us. Jesus keeps me going and how lucky am I to have a God so forgiving, kind and present? Very lucky."

Lisa Schwartz, who heads up our scholarship committee, said in her letter to Parker, "Parker, you are a very driven young lady with a great love of harness racing and your fellow horsemen and women. You are going to make a wonderful nurse, and we wish you every success along the way!"

*Happy Thanksgiving*

**"Give thanks  
to the Lord for he is good and  
his love endures forever"  
(Psalm 107:1).**

Thank you God for making us all that we are and giving us all that we have. Thank you Lord for the flowers, trees, mountains, hills, rivers, lakes and oceans. With the sun, the moon, the stars, and interesting cloud formations above, this Earth is truly a beautiful place to live.

Thank you Lord for teaching us to grow so many delicious fruits and vegetables . Thanks too for continuing to inspire women and men with new ideas to make the growing and harvesting processes easier.

Actually Lord, thank you for giving us all Your wisdom helping us each with our own responsibilities to innovate to become more productive.

Of course Lord, we learn from and with each other. Together our world is complete. Thank you for all our sisters and brothers and the gifts You have given them to share with us.

Together God, all of us with You and those who have gone before us, are family. We thank you for all our many blessings. Amen!

*Happy Thanksgiving!  
Chaplain Lee Alphen*