



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

June 2023

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

### Following God's Lead

*By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

The well-formed dark bay filly romped through the fields with the handsome chestnut colt. They raced from one end of the pasture to the other with their tails flying straight out behind them. Reaching the fence, they playfully kicked up their heels, nickering loudly.

Milky Way and Red were always happy to see the couple that fed them. They expected the apples but were not happy when their favorite fruit was used to coax them into a big metal box on wheels. Actually, it was a very nice horse trailer.

When the truck stopped, they smelled hay and other horses. It sure was noisy. The ramp gate opened and thudded to the ground. Backing out, seeing all the horses and barns made them really nervous. Then they were separated and locked in stalls. Milky Way cowered in a corner while Red hollered and kicked the door and walls.

Eventually, Mary and Joe calmed them down some and taught them to pull the jog cart. Side by side on the track, they were doing well until Milky Way, spooked by a shadow, jumped at the same time that Red veered into her, trying to get away from a tractor. They both went down, taking their drivers with them.

Equipped with a shadow roll for the filly and a closed bridle for the colt, Milky Way and Red discovered they really enjoyed their time on the track. They were focused and in communication with Mary and Joe. This made all the difference.

Milky Way was so excited when she flew by the field coming down the stretch in her first race. Everyone made

a big deal out of her in the winner's circle and she was treated very special back at the barn. Yes, Milky Way really liked being a race horse and appreciated how good Mary and Joe were to her.

Red was happy too when he realized that, with Joe signaling him through the bit in his mouth, he could beat all the other horses. He was on top of the world.

When we were young, we knew everything, certainly much more than our parents and teachers. At least I did. We had our chores. I worked hard, but I was not perfect by any means. How about you?

One time I got so upset with one of my brothers that I threw his stereo in the waste basket piece by piece. I don't remember what my punishment was. First though, I had to retrieve the stereo and put it back exactly as I found it. You can be sure it was a substantial lesson. I did plenty to earn my mother's wrath in those days.

Eventually I put my childish ways behind me. I still wasn't perfect, but I was beginning to realize that if I just did what I was told things would be better for me. Guess what! It worked. As I matured, I began developing relationships with the adults in my family on a different level and found they actually enjoyed my company, valued my opinion and appreciated the good things I did. I knew Jesus did too.

Sure, not everyone has our best interests at heart. However, we all have some people who do and certainly God does. Those are the best people to seek out. Of course, first we need to really think about what our best interests are and then to avoid those who want to lead us in another direction.

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, thought like a child, and reasoned

**Following cont. top of page 2**

### Board of Directors

Chaplain Lee Alphen  
Racetrack Ministry

Amy Bondon, President

Greg Gehman, Vice President  
Knight's Landing Stable

Roger Huston  
Ohio Harness Horsemen's  
Association and Little Brown Jug

Lori Romanetti  
Moshannon Stables

*For newsletter questions or  
ideas please contact:*

*Lee Alphen, Editor*

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

603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

### Wanted

#### Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

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

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

*"The whole world is a  
series of miracles, but  
we're so used to them  
we call them ordinary  
things."*

**Hans Christian Anderson**

**Following cont. from page 1**

like a child. When I became an adult, I no longer used childish ways" (1 Corinthians 13:10 GW).

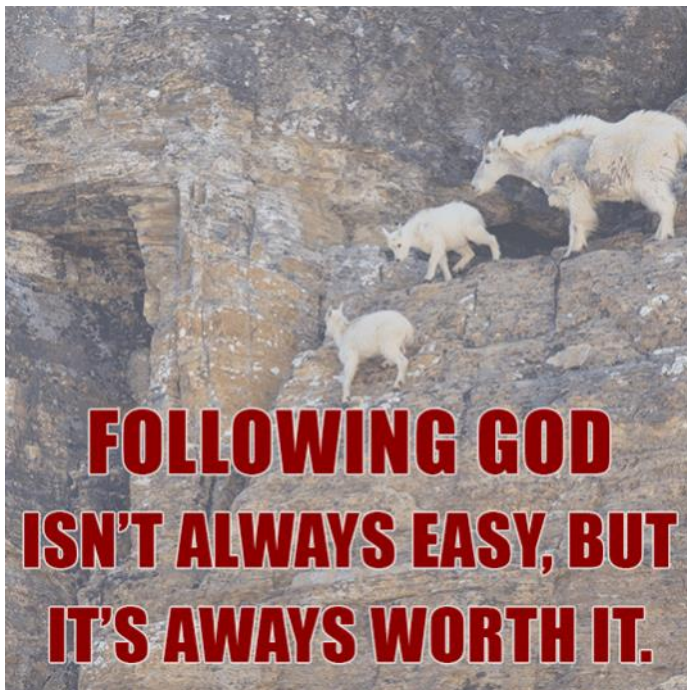
When we begin to follow Jesus more closely, we change our way of thinking. Little picayune things that happen around us are not important. Relationships are what make a difference, our relationships with God first, then with family and those around us.

Being at odds with others wreaks havoc on us. When we learn to just accept others for who they are and to lean on the Lord, life is easier.

Milky Way and Red learned they were much happier when they focused on following Mary and Joe's lead. When we focus on the Lord, who suffered and died so we could enjoy full lives, following His lead, our struggles are easier to bear, and we are blessed with peace, love, joy and happiness. When the Lord directs our steps, we don't need to understand everything along the way (Proverbs 20:24).

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand" (Psalm 37:23-24 NLT).

By the way, both my brothers live with me now and I really enjoy having them here. Praise God!

**Smile Time by Chaplain Sam Spence**

On her way back from the concession stand, Alice asked a man at the end of the row, "Excuse me, but did I step on your foot a few minutes ago?"

Expecting an apology, the man said, "Yes, you did."

Alice nodded. "Oh, good. Then this is my row."

**Blessings from God****From Lyse Breton...**

My brother Pierre is now rejoicing in Heaven. God took him early Friday morning. The pneumonia came back and he could not breath on his own. His leg healed. For me it was a sign that God had him in His hands. I had surrendered him completely to God's perfect will. His sufferings have ended. I thank the Lord that He gave me the opportunity to pray with him before God took him home with my dear Yves. The infinite Love of Jesus fills all our lives. He is so good... Love in Him, Lyse

**From Chris McKee...**

The good news is that the Avastin that Meagan has taken 3 treatments of appears to have reduced the lesions in her spine.

**From Brenda Tippin...**

Another answer to prayer! My bone scan shows no other sign of spread other than the spot on the sternum, and that is just because the tumor is in the chest wall sitting on top of it, not spreading through the blood as they feared. It is still stage 4 because it is in the bone. It is a much better outlook than what they were thinking. The first line of treatment is targeted therapy with oral medications. For my type of cancer. So no surgery, no chemo, no radiation, just two pills.

**From Kate Williams...**

Thank you for praying for me. 3 year anniversary from surgery: I just had a scan for cancer which I get every 6 months and Jesus/prayer delivered me once again. My thanks to ALLLLL the CHHA Prayer Warriors. The oncologist was thrilled because he said that my cancer was so advanced that he rarely gets to give a patient like me good news.

**Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

*Author: Anonymous*

I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. [Refrain]

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

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

Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

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

OR CHHA  
157 North Main St.  
Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

**To Donate Now—Click here**

**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

*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

*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

**Jack Levine’s books are also available FREE as downloads at:**  
<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>



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.



**Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**

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

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

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:  
**Roger Huston · 154 Vista Drive · Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

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

**Donald A. Filomeno**, 82, of Cicero, IL, died April 1. Donald was an owner, trainer, driver and breeder for over 50 years. He trained horses through the end of 2020 and last donned his white, red and light blue colors to drive a race in 1996. He was a member of St. Odilo Catholic Church.



**Wilma Foley**, 66, of Prestonsburg, KY, died April 14. Wilma was a long-time harness horse owner and trainer. She served as Operations Director of Thunder Ridge Raceway in Prestonsburg, KY until it closed. She and her business partner, Lawrence Cooper, campaigned around the country for 23 years.



**Mike Harding**, 76, died March 31. Mike was a longtime horse owner, trainer, driver and head of the Florida Standardbred Breeders Association. He was inducted into the Michigan Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2017. He was the starting quarterback his senior year at Hillsdale College. Then he was the quarterback for the semi-pro Flint Wildcats. He also played amateur baseball and officiated football, baseball, softball, and wrestling.

**Charles J. Johnston**, 87, of Dupont, PA, died March 30. Charles owned, trained and drove Standardbreds on the New England circuit before moving to Pocono Downs. After completing his service in the US Air Force, Charles managed and supervised underground networks throughout New England for AT&T. He was raised in a very religious family and developed a profound love for God, which continued throughout his life. He loved to share stories about his beliefs and would often be heard speaking of God or reminding those around him to "Look up and say thank you!"



**Barbara Jean Kinsey**, 87, of Clayton, DE, died March 24. Barbara was a farmer's wife for many years and then a seamstress. In the 1970's she started working the racetracks in Delaware as a mutual clerk and line supervisor until her retirement. The most important thing in her life was her love of God, family, and friends. She was a member of Smyrna Wesleyan Church where she volunteered in many positions. Barbara was a CHHA member and CHHA member, Sandy Thorstenson's, mother.



**Margareta Wallenius-Kleberg**, 85, died April 14. Margareta was an ambassador for the sport of harness racing on both sides of the Atlantic. She was a member of the board of directors of the Hambletonian Society, owner of the Stoner Creek Farm in Kentucky, and a breeder and owner. She was the main owner of the Walleniusrederierna, a Swedish shipping company founded by her father.



**Jim D. Mace**, 90, of Washington Court House, OH, died April 4. Jim spent many years training and driving Standardbreds throughout Ohio and the east coast. He also owned and operated M&M Turf Supply in Washington Court House and Scioto Downs. He enjoyed fishing, raising and breeding horses, and harness racing.



**Chad Philip Moore**, 46, of Washington CH, OH, died April 17. Chad had a passion for training Standardbreds and was actively involved in the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, USTA, and the Fayette County Harness Horsemen's Association. He was a certified diesel technician at Penske Truck Rental. He enjoyed volunteering his time to help kids in 4-H clubs.



**Efstratios Thomas Nikitas**, 81, of Geneva, FL, died March 27. He was a great auto mechanic in his early years as well as a Standardbred owner, trainer and driver, campaigning his stable throughout the Midwest, New England, and Florida. He branched out into the tack business and eventually created Rich Tack manufacturing harnesses.



**Thomas Sullivan**, 80, of Anderson, IN, died recently. Thomas spent five years studying for the ministry before embarking on a career with harness racing. He worked for a vet in California. In the 1990's, he moved to Indiana and worked for a vet at Hoosier Park who also trained horses. Later he worked for other trainers. Thomas was part of Chaplain Claudean Webb's ministry at Hoosier and attended chapel service. Chaplain Claudean said he was a wonderful man, "He would help anyone who needed help around the track and was an all-around good feller."

### Sources for Obituary information include:

[www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com), [www.harnesslink.com](http://www.harnesslink.com) and [www.Standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.Standardbredcanada.ca)



## Obituaries

**Lois Ann Combs**, 86, of Celina, OH, died March 18. Lois, her husband, Loren, and son, Paul, bred and raced harness horses. She enjoyed harness racing and horse pulling. She attended the Montezuma United Methodist Church. Lois, Loren and Paul are CHHA members.



**John Murray Dailey**, 91, died April 1. After graduating from Harvard Law School, John spent three years driving Standardbreds for his father's stable. He spent most of his career as chief counsel for the New York State Racing and Wagering Board. He even sat "second chair" at the US Supreme Court, seeing a case he had initiated argued victoriously before the Court by the New York State Attorney General's Office.

**Obituaries continued on page 4**

## 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, Dianne Boyken, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Joe Crothers, Thomas Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Barbara Dinning, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Rodney Grady, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Joan Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Jones, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Tommy Long, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Meagan McKee, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Bob Montane, Lalya Mosley, Linda Moyer, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Peter Reynolds, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Julie Schwartz, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Jack Taylor, Brenda Tippin, Gary Tyron, Brittany Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Lucille Wick, Teresa Willabus, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Allan Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

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

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Ellen Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, John Berry, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Kim Hankins, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy



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

## Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky  
 In memory of **Charles Bennett** by: Terry Harp  
 In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs, Dean, Becky and Ginny Davis, Tracie and Jeffrey Fickert and Steve and Diana Tuftie  
 In memory of **Sue and Harold Kelly** by: Linda and Tom Moyer  
 In memory of **Barbara Kinsey** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson  
 In memory of **Bill Kinsey** by: Rich and Sandy Thorstenson  
 In memory of **Jim Mace** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz  
 In memory of **Bill Wick Family** by: Susan Throm-White  
 In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Hite, Jerry Hissam, Joyce Hollingsworth, 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, Lowell Lockhart, Katherine Lonager, Ernie Lowell, Sharon Lowell, Tommy Luchento, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, John Morris, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Frank Profaci, Joanne Ranger, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Denis Rogers, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Lynn Silver, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Caryn Stellino, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Carol Tebo, Myra and Al Terwilliger, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, 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, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Paul Battis has some health issues.

Annie Bordenkircher is recovering from shoulder procedures.

Mike Carter is battling cancer.

Denise had both knees replaced.

Kids stole 3 horses from Lorenzo Gooch. Two are dead and one is badly injured.

Jana is full of cancer.

Ernie Lowell is recovering from heart surgery.

Meagan McKee's pain and eyesight decline continue.

Chaplain Waverly Parsons had his knee replaced.

Valerie Prescott's cancer has returned.

Rev Edward Smith is recovering from a stroke.

Brenda Tippin has cancer.

Brittany Vondenhuevel has health issues.

Dick Vondenhuevel is recovering from hip replacements.

Chaplain Claudean Webb had his knee replaced.

*Let's pray for victims of alcohol abuse.*

157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections



### Horseman Ken Wood's African Mission



When you see the Longshot Stables horses racing, cheer them on. Ken Wood of Longshot Stables and co-founder of Lifetime Wells International travels to Africa several times a year to drill wells and bring medical teams to perform eye surgeries.

To date they have drilled over 3,100 wells providing clean water to many communities. They also facilitated over 10,000 eye surgeries making the blind to see; fitted over 28,000 people

with eyeglasses and helped almost 62,000 others with treatments for eye infections and other eye problems. His horse's earnings help fund these projects.

**Center: children who benefit from fresh water wells.**

[Lifetime Wells International](http://www.lifetimewellsinternational.org)

[www.lifetimewellsinternational.org](http://www.lifetimewellsinternational.org)

Address for both is

24321 Shore Highway, Denton, MD 21629

#### *From Godspower Jessa Facebook page...*

Godspower Jessa is the FB page of a Bishop in Africa who was Ken Wood's first eye patient. Here is what he says.

"Most times God uses people to answer the prayers of others. God is using Mr Ken Wood and the Lifetime Wells Vision's free cataract surgery program to answer the prayers of many here in Warri Delta State, Nigeria. One of the beneficiaries in this batch was blind for 6 years. He recalled how he cried till daybreak begging God to help him as he doesn't have the money for his eye surgery. The next day he was introduced to Mr. Ken Wood and the Lifetime Wells vision. Today he can see after 6 years of blindness. May God use us to answer the prayers of others."

**Left: eye surgery patients**

[Lifetime Wells Vision](http://www.lifetimewellsvision.org)  
[www.lifetimewellsvision.org](http://www.lifetimewellsvision.org)

