

# TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.

*"Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park"*

**Rev. Dr. Jack Cordell, Chaplain**

**Molly Shallcross, Administrative Assistant**

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**Fall 2007**

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### Pig Roast/Chaplain's Benefit 2007

On Pig Roast day we all look forward to Rocco's one-man concert, sing-a-long, and lots of great food and fun. This year was no exception. Thanks to Bobbie Enke, the children enjoyed games while Molly Shallcross prepared to give away many backpacks, loaded with school supplies, provided by Aldenville Baptist Church of Aldenville, PA (Rev. Gary Gilpin, Pastor).

Also, at the Pig Roast the Chaplain's Office has a benefit to help Stable Employees who have emergency and local transportation needs during the year. Individuals and local businesses contribute prizes to be won at the gathering. We are most grateful for the generosity of all those who participated in the Benefit!



Rev. Gary Gilpin, Pastor of Aldenville Baptist Church, Aldenville, PA, hands backpacks and school supplies to Molly Shallcross, Administrative Assistant to the Chaplain..



These three winners proudly display their new backpacks loaded with school supplies.

### Dr. Torres Visits Philadelphia Park



Dr. Torres (L to R) stands beside Ana Garcia, Hilda Garcia, Joan Carango and Rey Roque. Hilda and Rey are members of the local Council. Joan is the "Flower Lady" for our Chapel services, and "Annie" faithfully attends our services and is a delight to all of us.

On Sunday, October 7, Dr. Enrique Torres, Executive Director of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America, spoke at the Communion Service held in the Rec Hall on the backstretch of Philadelphia Park. During his visit he also got to meet Mr. Mike Ballezzi, Executive Director of the Horsemen's Association and to thank Mike for his aggressive support for the Chaplaincy at the racetrack.

### Costume Party 2007

Everyone braced himself for the scary group who showed up for the Costume Party this year! Molly Shallcross, Ethel Guy and Cadet Troop 996 from St. Luke's Church in Philadelphia, were ready to help the children to have a fantastic party. Among other activities, the children guessed how much the Great Pumpkin weighed, and how many grains of candy corn were in the jar. We gave a total of \$120 in Wal-Mart gift cards to costume winners in three categories --- Funniest, Scariest and Prettiest. The adults had the chance to win a fall decorated cornucopia and stuffed scarecrow. We are always thankful for the delicious hot dogs and all the trimmings donated by Ron's Backstretch Café.

The children always love bobbing for apples, and many very wet ghouls and goblins ended the activity holding an apple in their mouths. After crafts, food and great fun, everyone received a bag filled with goodies. We all went home tired, but happy that the event was a success.



These three show off their fantastic costumes!

## **Seminary Student Intern Joins Staff**



Chaplain Cordell presents the "official" Chaplain's Cap to Ethel Guy, Palmer Theological Seminary student intern.

At the end of September, Ethel Guy joined the Chaplain's staff at Philadelphia Park. She is a student at Palmer Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, doing her field education at the track. Ethel is a second-career person, having worked for twenty-five years as a chemist, laboratory manager, and engineer for various oil companies. She now is able to realize a life-long call to ministry by taking early retirement and studying fulltime. A native of Ohio, Ethel is no stranger to horses. Her favorite pastime these days is spending time with her three grandsons – James (2 years), Tyler (8 months), and Zachariah (3 months).

## **Chapel 'n Chow Nights**

We are always deeply grateful to the churches and organizations that make it possible to enjoy a meal following our Wednesday Chapel service. We enjoyed the kindness of the Board and Staff of YWCA of Bucks County; Harriman United Methodist Church, Bristol, PA; First Baptist Church, Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA, and we had a hoagie meal and a pizza night, thanks to individuals who love the people of the racetrack.

## **Baptismal Service Conducted**

We were thrilled that three people from the track came to be baptized by Chaplain Cordell on Friday, August 3, at First Baptist Church, Levittown-Fairless Hills, PA. Rev. Christine Holcomb is Pastor of the church and is a member of our Council. Those who followed Christ in baptism were Jockey Maria Charles, Exercise rider Bruno Cariera and Ana Garcia, daughter of E.T. and Hilda Garcia.

The Chaplain's Administrative Assistant, Molly Shallcross and Rev. Holcomb provided a lovely reception for the group following the baptisms. It was indeed a memorable event for all of us.



The three candidates for baptism were (L to R) Ana Garcia, Maria Charles and Bruno Cariera.

## **God Things at the Track**

++"Bill" happened to see me at the barns. He told me he had been in pain for days. Of course, I urged him to go to the doctor, which he did that

day. He had a ruptured appendix, and the doctor told him that under the circumstances he could have died in a matter of hours if he had not gotten medical attention. God has his appointments for us! "Chance" meetings are crucial.

++When Dr. Torres came to speak for the service on October 7, we thank God that two people publicly responded to commit their lives to Christ. Do pray for them.

++A stable employee has shown great commitment to a retired trainer who is quite ill. Everyday he travels to see his friend when he is in the hospital or in a rehab center. Such devotion is a great blessing to observe.

++"Tom," a stable employee, was on the donor list to receive a liver. Some weeks ago he had the transplant, and is doing very well. We thank God for his live-giving provision for "Tom."



Several Council members enjoyed the fun at the Pig Roast. (L to R) Rev. Christine Holcomb, John Brady (Linda's husband), Rev. Linda Haughton (Vice-President), Hilda Garcia (Secretary), and Dan Sourwine.

## **A Tribute to Rev. Dr. J. Val Hastings, Sr. June 17, 1932 – October 31, 2007**

On Wednesday, October 31, our Council President, the Rev. Dr. J. Val Hastings, Sr. went to be with the Lord he loved and served for so many years. His life celebration service took place at Covenant United Methodist Church in Lancaster, PA on Sunday, November 4. His son, the Rev. J. Val Hastings, Jr., delivered the meditation entitled, "Unbelievable," in which he celebrated the remarkable ways God had worked in and through his father's life. His thoughts were indeed memorable, honoring not only his father, but also the God who gives us life. The large attendance for the service gave witness to the impact of Val's life on so many people in the churches he served as Pastor, the ministries he developed, and the lives he touched through counseling.

Val, Sr. served the Council of RTCA, PA Division for more than two decades. In recent years he was President of the Council, providing dedicated leadership.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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