

TRACK MINISTRY NEWS

Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pennsylvania Division, Inc.
"Sharing God's Love at Philadelphia Park"

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Spring Edition 2009

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With baskets full of Easter eggs and hands filled with crafts, these partiers were having fun.

Easter Party 2009

Thanks to the PTHA (the horsemen's association), the Easter Bunny had a new outfit and a vest for keeping him/her cool during our annual time of fun in the Rec Hall on Saturday, April 4. About 60 children and their parents arrived to enjoy a time of laughs, hunting eggs, doing Easter crafts and chowing down on hot dogs and all the trimmings provided by Ron's Backstretch Café. After an invocation by Rev. Tom Brooks, RTCA-PA Board Vice- President, everyone joined in and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Molly Shallcross ("Miss Molly" to the kids), gathered up her helpers from First Baptist Church of Levittown – hubby, Joe Shallcross, Sharon Woodhouse, Pat Mutek and Janice Chuch. The ladies at First Baptist also boiled 40 dozen eggs – count them, 40 dozen – for the egg hunt. We would be at such a loss without their faithful labors of love for the racetrack employees.

One of the egg hunt winners piled 28 eggs into her basket! Crafts included a beaded cross and an Easter bunny "Smore." At the end of the party, each child received a goodie bag filled with fun things to take home – a beautifully illustrated book of the Biblical story of Easter, candy and other good things.

We're always indebted to and grateful for the support of the PTHA Board (Mr. Don Reeder, President and Mr. Mike Ballezzi, Executive Director) for their ongoing financial commitment, which makes the event possible.

Computers for the Backstretch

Thanks to the Smarty Jones Fund, the Rec Hall now has three computers to enable the backstretch employees to use the Internet. During March, the units had 51 different users for over 400 internet sessions. For sure, it's a popular spot in the Rec Hall these days.



Very popular in the Rec Hall these days are the three computer stations for the backstretch folks.

RTCA National Meetings in Dallas



(L to R) Jockey Hall of Fame member, Pat Day, RTCA-PA Board President, Rev. Linda Haughton, and Seminarian, Ethel Guy took some time to chat with each other at the National Meetings.

From March 25 through 30, Chaplains, Executive Committee members, Council Presidents and their spouses from around the world gathered at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the Dallas/Fort Worth, TX International Airport for several days of learning, worship and fellowship. The theme for the meetings was "Building Bridges for Jesus." The teachers inspired all of us to trust God for his power to bless our ministries at the racetrack. We departed from the gathering with a renewed vision for sharing Christ on the backstretch.

With the Churches

Chaplain Cordell traveled to Dover, Delaware to speak at **Christ Memorial Baptist Church (Rev. Jeffrey Collins, Pastor)** on Sunday, March 8. The congregation was enthusiastic in its response to the DVD about the work and the message about what God is doing at the racetrack. Worship with the lively congregation was indeed uplifting.

On Tuesday, March 10, we had a special night to share the racetrack ministry with members of the adult fellowship at **Oxford Circle Baptist Church in Philadelphia (Rev. Pete Peterson, Pastor)**. Local RTCA Board member, Dan Sourwine, accompanied the Chaplain and they had such a delightful evening. The group has been strongly supportive of the racetrack ministry through the years, especially with their gifts for the racetrack children and workers at Christmas.

Saturday, March 21, was a bright but chilly day for members of **Upper Merion Baptist Church (Rev. Marcia Ricketts, Interim)** to come for a tour of the racetrack. Everyone braved the cooler weather for an enjoyable day of learning more about the ministry at the track. Upper Merion has been involved with Philadelphia Park for many years.



Members of Upper Merion Baptist Church enjoyed meeting exercise rider, Chaz, and his horse!

Ethel's Corner

"This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine." Did you sing that song in Sunday School? I did. "Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm gonna let it shine." Light in the darkness – that's what the song implies that we are called to be in God's world today. Now, we take artificial lights in our lives for granted, don't we? We flick a switch, and there's light! But how does an electric lamp shine so brightly? If we are to be lights to the world, perhaps we need to take a lesson from how electric lamps manage to shine so brightly and regularly. Take an ordinary light bulb. Hold it in your hand. It doesn't do much, does it? But put it into a socket, where it has contact with a source of power, and it instantly shines! It doesn't have to do much, but be open to the power that flows into it. So it is with us. We need to be connected to the source of our power – our heavenly Father – and he will shine through us. Break the connection, and the light dims. Keep the connection alive, through prayer, meditation, and study, and the power will flow when the darkness needs illuminating. That's what we do on the backstretch of the racetrack. We work to be connected to God's power for the salvation of his lost and needy people. We never know when, in the course of a daily walk through the track, we will stumble into a patch of spiritual darkness in someone's life. May God keep us powered up and ready to light the moment!

By Ethel Guy, Palmer Seminary Student Intern

God Things at the Track

&& Susan, a newcomer to the track, walked into the Rec Hall looking for the Chaplain. When she saw me, she said, "I'm Susan and I want to help. I bring you greetings from Chaplains Waverly Parsons (Fairgrounds, New Orleans) and Ken Boehm (Churchill Downs, Louisville)." What a great way to meet! Since that introduction, Susan

has pitched in to show her commitment to the racetrack ministry. God is indeed using her for His glory on the track.

&& In a recent meeting with "Tom," I shared a few Scripture verses that had been part of my morning quiet time. He told me that the words were exactly for him. When I wrote them out for him, he told me he would memorize them. He will.

&& Liz has faithfully attended the Track Chapel Services for several years. At a recent Chapel Hour, we asked her to share how God had changed her life. As a result of her sharing, several prayed to commit their life to Christ.



Boy meets Easter Bunny

Board of Directors - RTCA, PA Division, Inc.



Seated (L to R): Mr. Rey Roque, Secretary; Mr. Donald Hogeland, Treasurer; Mr. Dan Sourwine and Rev. Tom Brooks, Vice-President

Standing (L to R): Mrs. Bobbie Enke; Rev. Linda Haughton, President; Rev. Nelson Krute; Rev. Christine Holcomb; Mrs. Hilda Garcia and Chaplain Jack Cordell

Board Members Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Salios, Chaplain Emeritus
Mrs. Rose Salios, Chaplain's Assistant Emeritus



This mom won the jelly bean count contest.

