



## Diana R. (Comes) Stevenson

March 21, 1949 - December 22, 2016

Diana R. (Comes) Stevenson, known to her congregation as “Deacon Diana” , age 67, stepped into the loving embrace of her Lord, Savior, and Love, Jesus Christ, as she passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center with her loving family and church family by her side. Born in Ilion on March 31, 1949, Diana was the daughter of Leah (Christman) Seelman and the late Marcus Comes. At one time, she was married to Lawrence Stevenson; they loved one another and remained in touch for the betterment of their lives.

Diana’s journey in life brought her to the Spendthrift Farm in Lexington, Kentucky where she embarked upon a career as caretaker and groomer for racing horses. From preparing them to race, to tending to their injuries, her time with these thoroughbreds elevated her to a greater state of being and a love for all God’s creation. She later ventured into a new vocation as a Regional Food Service Director for a county incarceration system in Kentucky. Diana was witty, strong-willed, and free-wheeling. She was also a loving and outreaching person, and once she was born-again, she was loyal to the Lord. She found her new calling at the Turning Point Church of Utica where she shared an interpersonal relationship with her fellow congregants. They connected through shared interests, mutual love and respect for all, and she often raised her voice in song to worship Jesus. Serving the Lord and the needy became Diana’s greatest salvation. Her heart, mind, soul, and strength were centered on easing the burden of those bearing hardship. Diana became

a paradigm of living for God. Her efforts in this new life were rewarded when Pastor Chris named her a Deaconess. She was dedicated to volunteering in Pro-Life Ministry including CareNet. Her church family gave her purpose and direction in finding her way back to her children and re-bonding with her mom and siblings.

Nature was a place of comfort for Diana. She loved to sit in a chair and take in all the peaceful scenes of God's glory. She marveled at seeing things grow, especially the bounty of a garden. She was a great cook and her excellent recipes could not be beaten. Her empathy and energy led her to a leadership role in Pen Pals for communication with Oneida County Inmates and she named the program "Linked Hearts".

Diana is survived by her mother, Leah Seelman; her children, Eric Comes-Nask, Julie Rhuberg, Amy and Keith Corbett, and Keri Diamond; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and her sisters and brother-in-law, Sally Pugh, Debra Wilson, Connie Swalgin and Karl Baird, and Charleen and Ron DeChard. She also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and aunts. She was blessed with the love and friendship of, Chris and Nancy Tringali, Misty Johnson, Michael Eaton, Marie Bates, and her extended church family.

The family extends thanks to the St. Elizabeth Medical Center nurses and staff of 3C, Diana's niece, Becky Sarus who is a patient allocation coordinator, all of whom were instrumental in providing comfort to her and her loved ones during her final days; and her pastor and "brother", Chris Tringali, and his wife Nancy, with whom she shared a "Best Friend" relationship that was so much about caring for each other.

Visitation will be held Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Turning Point Church of Utica, 438 Columbia Street, Utica, NY 13502. Diana's Celebration of Life and Eternity Memorial Service will commence at 3:00 upon conclusion of visitation with friend and Pastor, Chris Tringali officiating the ceremony.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 14. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Turning Point Church  
438 Columbia Street,  
Utica, NY 13502

## Funeral Service

JAN 14. 3:00 PM (ET)

Turning Point Church  
438 Columbia Street,  
Utica, NY 13502

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ *Diana was awesome !!! She always had a hug and a smile for me. (Even when i didn't deserve either). I'm going to miss her.*

Dano - January 16, 2017 at 06:27 PM

JR

“ *My mother,my love,my heart, my inspiration. You will be greatly missed MOTHER OF MINE! You are at peace*💔💔💔💔

Julie Ann Comes Rhuberg - December 30, 2016 at 04:02 PM

FS

“ *Well Diana, you are now in the presence of the Almighty God! I will miss you and all your caring ways, you are my sister from a different mother! Till we meet again!*

Frances E Slamm - December 29, 2016 at 06:15 PM

ND

“ *Diana and I became friends and kindred spirits through the race horse business. She worked at Dixiana Domino Farms. She will always be my Dixiana Diana and I am so glad she was united with her family and children. Diana suffered deeply for the separation, I love you dear lady!!!*

Nancy Peters Darnell - December 29, 2016 at 07:41 AM

JR

*I love my mother deeply. I wished we had more time together*💔💔💔💔

Julie Ann Comes Rhuberg - December 30, 2016 at 12:42 AM

JU

“ A memory.... Where do I start....my co worker, my friend, my room mate, my house mate for about a year. Whomever got home first, would cook. Our evening ritual of hot tea... Watching Tv, attending church.... We laughed together and we cried together. Sometimes crying from laughing. .Had goofy conversations and did goofy things. Talked often. We always kept it real. It was your turn to call me, .... First time ever for the phone not to be answered..... I miss my friend.



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**Judy** - December 28, 2016 at 11:25 PM

SK

“ Diana was instrumental on my road to recovery and my walk with Jesus. I will miss you Sista!

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**sarah king** - December 28, 2016 at 08:45 PM

SP

“ I searched 30 years to find you, my sister., and it was finding your daughter Julie that brought us together. You were Loved and you will be missed by many. Your sister Sally

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**Sally Pugh** - December 28, 2016 at 08:40 PM

JR

I love you and Sally I love you this is true if I never went on ancestry.com you would have never have brought us all together I thank you for that you are a blessing in my life and in many but some don't realize it yet they need to realize how much you tried but Mom knows no she can Fly Above and hear and see everything and everyone alright thank new Aunt Sally

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**Julie Ann Comes Rhuberg** - December 28, 2016 at 09:02 PM

EN

“ *You may have held my hand for a very short while. You will hold my heart forever.* ”



Eric Nask - December 28, 2016 at 08:11 PM

JR

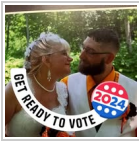
*I love you my beautiful brother*

Julie Ann Comes Rhuberg - December 28, 2016 at 08:58 PM

 Connie Swalgin

“ *I will miss you so much...my Sister my Friend.* ”

Connie Swalgin - December 28, 2016 at 04:51 PM




“ *Love and miss you cuz.* ”

Billijo Beaudin Chrisman - December 28, 2016 at 03:32 PM

JM

“ *SO SORRY FOR LOSS MAY SHE REST IN PEACE* ”

JOY MCQUEEN - December 28, 2016 at 02:45 PM

 Chris Tringali

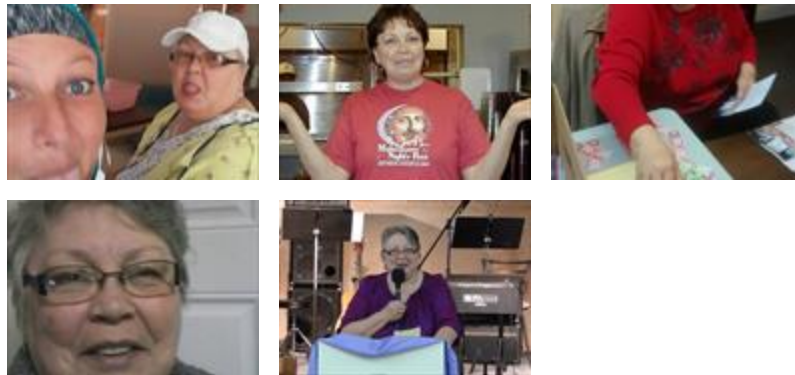
“ *Diana, Nancy and I were so blessed to have you in our lives. Your friendship, love and your support of Nancy and I as we pastor the church has been unsurpassed. Thank you for always being there for me. I miss you so much, even knowing that you are with Jesus and are so happy. I look forward to that glorious day when we see each other again. I Love You,*  
*Chris*

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**Chris Tringali** - December 28, 2016 at 12:39 PM

 Connie Swalgin

“ *22 files added to the album New Album Name*



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**Connie Swalgin** - December 28, 2016 at 10:02 AM

 Michelle Dutcher

*Love lover this so much !!!! Thank you ♡♡♡*

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**Michelle Dutcher** - December 28, 2016 at 11:53 AM

 Chris Tringali

*Thank you, Michelle! The funeral home and Nancy Eannace wanted us all to be blessed...sh worked extra hard to get Diana's right. <3*

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**Chris Tringali** - December 28, 2016 at 12:29 PM

JS

“ I met Diana in Lexington, KY at Liberty Worship Center when I attended there briefly. She was the first to befriend me. Even after I moved on to another church we stayed in contact with one another through Facebook. We didn't talk everyday or every month but always managed to stay in contact with one another. She was a sweet sweet soul who loved the Lord with all that was in her. She had such strength and resolve and faith beyond faith that the Lord would heal her on either side of heaven. I loved her as a friend and a sister in Christ. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, especially her mother Leah who I had the pleasure of speaking with on a couple of occasions. Diana is healed and whole and singing and dancing before the Lord. A word the Lord spoke to me a few years ago that covers ALL things in life. GOD's GOT THIS !! Miss you Lady Di but we will see each other again one day.

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**Jackie Stone** - December 27, 2016 at 07:38 AM