

Inside View

For the next few months, members from the Leadership Team will use this column to share their thoughts and vision for Westminster Towers



As I reflect on the past year in my interim CEO role, the major activity of the Board of Directors has been to find a new Towers President/CEO.

My original thoughts were three to six months and I could go back to my retirement life.

The task has been more challenging than initially anticipated. The Towers has been fortunate to have had only one Executive Director and one President/CEO over the past 27 years. Thus the Board was not particularly experienced in the search process.

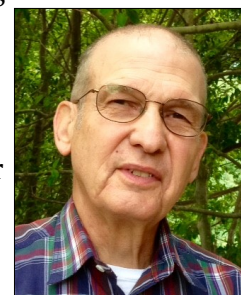
The Board's goal is not just to have an individual in the position but to have the right individual for the leadership of the Towers in a changing market. Perhaps more importantly the desire is to have the individual that God has chosen for leading the Towers as we move forward.

Initially the Board turned to the trade organization for not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Communities—Leading Age. At the annual meeting there are typically 8,000 to 12,000 representatives of CCRCs across the United States in attendance. We had perhaps 20 applicants and that boiled down to two candidates. After face-to-face interviews, the

Board felt that these were not the individuals that God was leading us to.

After much discussion and debate about the needs, direction and culture of the Towers it was agreed that a professional search firm dealing only with CCRC executive positions would be beneficial. The search firm started within a 200-mile radius of the Towers. This yielded perhaps 50 folk who were either not available or not interested or not the individual for whom we are looking. When the search was expanded to nationwide the list of candidates grew to almost 150. From that list three individuals were invited for on-site interviews. The candidates were interviewed by the Board, Towers Staff and members of the Residents Association Executive Committee.

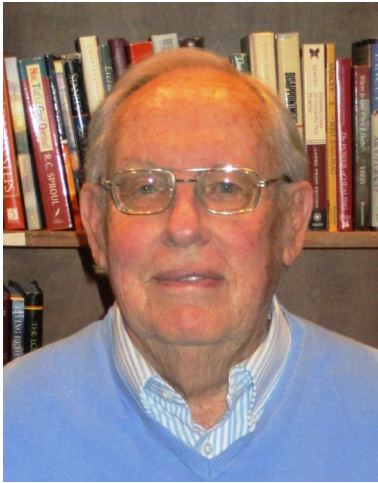
The Board is assessing the three candidates to determine if we are in God's will for the Towers. I ask that you continue to pray for the Board to have God's guidance in the selection process and for the chosen individual's success in leading the Towers.



Jim Bright

Chair of the Board of Directors

Interim President/CEO



French O'Shields

Apt. 314

Blessed with the Challenge of Old Age

This is a myth that needs to be exposed for the falsehood that it is. Sharing Rachael's story will help. She is 94 years old and lives in a western North Carolina assisted living facility. Her entire life has been devoted to others. She never married, choosing instead to care for an older sister nearly blind from a childhood disease. For 44 years Rachel influenced the lives of hundreds of children as a teacher in public schools.

As a 94-year old resident, she is rather unique in the facility. Her mind is still good and she is able to walk unassisted. When she became depressed, a therapist detected her feeling of no longer being needed by others. He persuaded her that there were many other residents who needed her, and encouraged her to devote herself to actively helping them. She took to heart this counsel and now spends most of her day giving words of encouragement, a friendly smile, and a helping hand to her fellow residents as well as to the staff. She even assumed the responsibility of being chairperson of the "Welcoming Committee."

Rachel, a devout Christian, became attentive to a middle-aged lady on staff who had immigrated to the U.S. years before with her parents from Poland. Discovering she was not a Christian, Rachael gave her copies of a daily devotional, saw to it that she had a Bible and shared her own faith with her. After months of the

power of God's Word, the work of the Holy Spirit in her heart, and Rachael's continuous words of witness, care and encouragement, she joyously received Jesus Christ as her own personal Savior.

The Sunday after I visited with Rachel, her friend was baptized and received into membership in the local First Baptist Church. Seated on the second row was Rachel. No way was she going to miss that service.

What Rachael discovered, we all need to know if we are blessed to face the challenge of old age. It can be one of the happiest periods of our life if we forget self and focus on others.

Rachel learned this from her Savior who, even when dying on the cross, did not complain about his own pain, but concerned Himself with the well-being of others: entrusting his mother to the apostle John, consoling the good thief with the promises of paradise, and even praying for his torturers who "do not know what they are doing." From Him, and Rachel, we can learn the same lesson.

Editors Note:

The Rev. Dr. French O'Shields, a retired pastor and published author, wrote a syndicated column for several newspapers in four states.

This previously published column remains relevant today and is a powerful reminder to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

Growing old presents a real challenge. Some grow old gracefully, others dig in their heels. For those blessed with a long life, growing old is inevitable and resisting avails nothing. It only turns it into a crisis.

Old age is often viewed as an unhappy time of life. Mark Twain wrote, "Life would be infinitely happier if only we could be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen." Depression is experienced by all ages, but perhaps more so by the elderly.

True, it may be a time of: slipping self-esteem, fading physical attractiveness, physical ailments, loneliness, activity limitations, and less community attention and respect. All these contribute to old age being an unhappy depressing time to many.

Yet, the major factor may be a sense of no longer being useful to others. An inner chill very deeply felt: "Life goes on all around me, but excludes me. I am no longer needed or useful."

The Westminster Towers Summer Olympic competition held in August was an opportunity for residents to flex their muscles and show their spirit.

At the end of the week the 5th Floor went home with pizza and bragging rights until the next competition.

Ed FitzGerald—227



Pinky Funderburk—208

Helen Benson—401



John Harris — 301



Back Row: Larry Stroman—503, William Bell — 501, Frank Kiser—514, Robert Southwell—512, Pat Bramer—502, Don Hunt—507; Middle Row: LaReine Chapman—527, Louise Bell—501, Dorothy Southwell—512, Dorothy Kerr—525, Sarah Goforth—505, Bonnie Sallis—517; Front Row: Elizabeth Howell—508, Rachel Roberts—511, Helen Bennett—520, Pix Drennan—521, Frank Polito—526

Towers 'Round Town

August was a busy month for Towers residents. In addition to the Olympic games, groups toured the Billy Graham Library, Cat's Paw Winery and the Pump House.



Mignon Eayre and Ruth Page



Peter and Mignon Eayre, Hugh Barnett, Ruth Page, Lynn Hornsby, Gaylon Syrett and Robert McDuffie

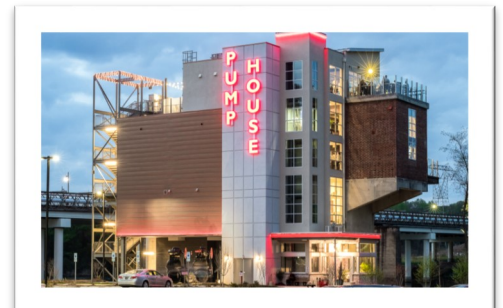


John Hunter, Joann Mac, Jane Watkins, French and Alma O'Shields, Nancy and Robert McDuffie

Kathy St. Clair



Marion Schaefer, Dorothy Kerr, Jane Watkins, Joann Mac, Nancy and Robert McDuffie, Alma and French O'Shields, John Hunter



Things Go Better with Coca Cola!

69 Years and Still Going Strong

Bill Kirkpatrick of Fort Mill and **Pansy Adams** of Rock Hill met at a party of a mutual friend, **Buddy Culp**.



Pansy and Bill Kirkpatrick
Apt. 601

They both came with dates, but quickly discovered each other at the table serving Coca Cola.

Although they went home with the ones that brought them, **Bill** and **Pansy** knew they had found something special in each other.

They dated exclusively for the next 18 months and were married August 17, 1947.

By today's standards, their marriage had a rough start. **Pansy's** father died two days before the wedding; the preacher who was originally going to marry them was suddenly called out of town; and the second preacher they asked to officiate the wedding got hurt and was hospitalized. Thankfully the third preacher was able to officially tie the knot for them!

Bill and **Pansy** honeymooned at Myrtle Beach and came home and lived with **Pansy's** mother for about four years before they moved into their own home.

Bill and **Pansy** have two children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**For you have been a shelter for me,
A strong tower from the enemy.**
Psalm 61:3



There is a treasure trove of games in the cabinet in the 2nd floor lounge.

These games were placed there by the **Dave** and **Beverly Henriquez** (Apt. 226) and can be used, then returned, the same as the books in the lounges.

They are there for everyone to enjoy so don't forget to bring them back. Thank you **Bev** and **Dave**!

SAVE THE DATE(S)

Oct 18 John Leon Lewis

Oct. 27 Tea & Talk with Mary Alice Monroe

**Nov. 12 14th Annual Holiday Market
Craft & Gift Sale**

Nov. 22 "One Man Band" Jeff Whittington

Dec. 5 Roth Harp Studio

Dec. 10 Concert Pianist Duchess Raehn

Dec. 20 Books are Fun Sale

REMINDER

**Resident Association
Meeting
Wednesday, September 7
2:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall**



*From the Resident Association President's Desk—
I came across this story and felt it was worthy of sharing.
Today will you ignore the black spot?*

The Black Dot

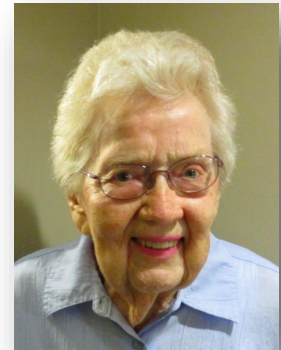
Don Hunt The professor entered the classroom and asked students to prepare for a surprise test. He handed out the test with the text facing down as usual. Then he asked the students to turn over the paper. To everyone's surprise there was just a black dot.

The professor seeing the expressions on everyone's faces told them the following: I want you to write about what you see there. The confused students got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class the professor took all the exams and started reading each one out loud, in front of the students. All of them, without exception, defined the black dot trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet.

After all had been read, the classroom was silent, the professor started to explain. I'm not going to grade you on this. I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot — and the same thing happens in our lives.

We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God with love and care and we always have reasons to celebrate—nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see everyday. However we insist on focusing on these dark spots—health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind.

Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love.



Laura Norwood

Apt. 304



Betty Cunningham

Apt. 315

Riverview @ The Towers

**Urgent and Primary Care
Clinic**

Located in the Lower Level

**HOURS
8—noon**

**Monday
Wednesday**

803-328-WELL (9355)



Contributions

Endowment Fund

In memory of **Arnold and Jane Brown**
Lynn Hornsby
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Doris Melton**
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Elizabeth Nash**
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Sara Rooks**
Jean Barnes
Billie Bell
Lynn Hornsby
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Lydia Smoak**
James and Deborah Burgess
Jean Barnes
Joel and Sara Farrar
Sig and Judy Huitt
Walter and Geraldine Sherman
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Petsa Stathopoulos**
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Betty Sturgis**
Jack and Dicksie Ward

In memory of **Bradley Walker**
Sig and Judy Huitt
Westminster Towers ~ Board of Directors

In memory of **Jeanne White**
Jack and Dicksie Ward

*Any gift to the
Endowment, Capital
Campaign or
Employee Assistance
Fund can be made in
honor or in memory
of a loved one or
neighbor.*



In Memory

Sara Rooks

Servant Heart

Lydia Smoak was a faithful servant to our Volunteer Ministry for more than fifteen years. She was a lifetime



Lydia Smoak
4/13/1933~8/21/2016

member of our Servant Heart Society having served thousands of hours for our Residents.

Her heart was full of love and she only wanted to share it

with others. Each Wednesday morning she could be found having very moving and heartfelt devotions with our Manor Residents. Each Friday morning, **Lydia** also assisted other volunteers with Devotions and Songs of Praise for our Health Center residents.

The Residents loved her sharing God's word with them and they loved **Lydia**. Her trademark was to tell a joke at the end of each session. **Lydia** loved to laugh with them and oh how the Residents loved to laugh with her.

Someone stated that her weekly devotions were a highlight of their week. On multiple occasions **Lydia** said 'the Residents are such a blessing to me.' The Residents and Staff are truly blessed to have known **Lydia**.

~ **Connie Byers**

Let's Talk Trash

Trash rooms are located on each floor, next to the elevators in the Towers. To properly dispose of your household trash place it in a plastic bag, securely close the bag and place it in the trash chute. If you have glass items to be discarded, wrap the glass item before bagging to prevent bag punctures and spills. Cardboard boxes should not be placed in the trash chute. Contact the Towers Receptionist @ ext. 5000 to arrange for cardboard (or other bulky items) to be removed. Under no circumstance should you place trash and/or bags on the floor in the trash room. The blue bins in the trash room on each floor are for newspapers only — the bins are emptied nightly by the Maintenance Crew.



Recycling bins for aluminum, glass and plastic are located in the lower level of the Towers, across from the Employee Lounge. Make sure your recycled items are rinsed and clean of debris before placing them in the containers. When the containers are full, **Odell Hope** takes the recyclables to the York County Recycling Center.

If you have documents containing sensitive and/or personal information you can safely dispose of them in a secure bin, also located in the lower level, near the North elevator. Twice a month, Shred-It, a licensed document destruction company, empties the bin and its contents are securely destroyed.

Remembering Edroy



Eddie Mingo worked the 3rd shift for the Maintenance Department for more than 13 years.

He will be remembered for his hard work, big smile and his cheerful heart.

Westminster Towers, an extension of the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church, was founded on the theological principles and values of the Presbyterian Church in America. Our mission is to provide services that inspire, encourage, and empower seniors, while demonstrating the love of Christ to support individual well-being.



Westminster Windows is published monthly for the residents, staff and friends of Westminster Towers continuing care retirement community.

Submissions and column ideas are welcomed in writing to the following members of the newsletter committee (submissions will not be returned, and they will be used according to space availability and content appropriateness).

Editor, **Bette Christensen**; Newsletter Committee — **Ginny Dunn**, *Chair*, **Louise Clark**, **Vernon Sumwalt**, **Bob Benson**, **Pinky Funderburk**, **Gaylon Syrett**, **Bill Whitman**; Residents' Association President, **Don Hunt**; Interim President and CEO, **Jim Bright**; Director of Life Enrichment, **Amy Laughlin**.