



WESTMINSTER TOWERS WINDOWS

CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Vol. XXXV No. 7 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732 (803) 328-5000 August 2021

westminstertowers.org



Life's a Beach at Westminster Towers



WELCOME TO THE TOWERS



Mo Josten #301



Joy Taylor #205

**Bill and Mika Van De Nobelen
#603/605**

Health Center Spotlight: Rosaline Cook

Ms. Rosaline Cook is one of our more seasoned residents here in the health center. She came to Westminster Towers in 1993 in independent living and has stayed in all three phases of our Life Plan community, Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing. She is enjoying life in our Health Center and keeps active with our Life Enrichment Programming. You can always recognize Ms. Cook's Room because she always seems to have a bird in her room that she is taking care of. She says she has too many birds to remember, but some of her favorites were Fred, Patty, Jo Jo and Charlie. She loves all animals and has had dogs and cats over the years, but birds have been her favorite since she moved to the towers nearly 18 years ago.

Ms. Cook's favorite activity is Bingo! She is adamant about it and never misses a game. Watch out for Ms. Cook because she will start calling out the numbers she needs, sometimes creating some confusion for those around her. She is

defiantly in it to win it, and she is usually successful.

Born in Batesburg, Ms. Cook has deep ties to her hometown. She still takes the hometown newspaper and loves to keep up with everyone where she is from. Ms. Cook was proud to turn 90 years old on March 27th and is not afraid to tell you her age. She took care of her parents for years in Batesburg as their sole care giver.

Ms. Cook always keeps the television on NBC and keeps up with the news and sports. She is a huge Carolina Gamecock fan and loves to watch their football games. She loves her stuffed animals and arranges them on her bed.

When she moved to Rock Hill, Rosaline became involved with Oakland Baptist Church and still has friends from her circle that pray for her daily. She loves getting mail and keeping up with her nephews and family. She is a joy to have in our Health Center and loves when visitors check in with her.



Beach Memories

By: Lou Ardrey

In the 1940s our family spent a month at Myrtle Beach each summer on the ocean front. My parents rented a house shaped like an airplane just a block from the Pavilion. There was a big central room with two bedrooms on either side connected by a bath...the perfect sized house for a family of seven...five girls and my parents. The kitchen was behind the central room. Fresh seafood was always a special treat; so much so that we counted the scallops and shrimp to make sure everyone got an equal amount! We were near the Gay Dolphin Gift Cove, Driftwood Hotel and Patricia Manor and just down the street was the Krispy Kreme Donut place as well as an ice cream parlor. During the war years we had to be careful to pull down the blackout shades so the light wouldn't silhouette our warships for the enemy. Daddy usually stayed in Dillon during the week to work and joined us for the weekends.

Many happy hours were spent riding the Ferris Wheel as well as the Carousel with its brightly painted carved animals and inviting, unique music. Another popular past time was standing and watching the couples at the pavilion dancing the Shag. It was always quite a show. A favorite gift to take back to friends was the salt water taffy.

There was always something to entertain us on the beach....picking up shells, playing in the ocean and digging in the sand to our hearts content. We never tired of building castles with our buckets and shovels---only to find the next morning that they had washed away during the night.

The Pink House with its array of appealing gifts always intrigued me as well as the abundant antique stores that display old treasures from years gone by.

The "airplane house" is no longer there. It's been replaced by high-rise hotels, but the memories remain. The time there was always the highlight of the summer for me.

Since we lived so close to the beach my parents would often drive us down for a seafood dinner at the Inlet Kitchen. Back then you could get their delicious hush puppies with a platter of shrimp, scallops, flounder and deviled crab for just a few dollars. Another treat was the Sunday night buffet at the elegant Ocean Forest Hotel. Unfortunately, it was demolished years ago to make way for more modern housing.

December 14, 1957 Jim and I spent the first night of our honeymoon at Eyerly's Motel on our way to Florida. We had often eaten at the Restaurant there. Many years later we went back, hoping to have a meal but found that it had been torn down.

Litchfield Beach has been our home away from home for the past 30 years. We bought into a partnership there that has provided a place to entertain our growing family. Not many things can match the joy of sharing adventures at the beach with children and grandchildren. The pavilion has been torn down and the amusement park has been dismantledto the regret of many---- but outings to our favorite restaurants, playing golf, shopping and fishing are new pleasures for the family to enjoy. The musical performances at Alabama and Broadway at the Beach are also on my list when I go down. I can't count the number of times I've seen the Rockettes there as well as other entertainers through the years.

Brookgreen Gardens is one of my favorite places to visit with its impressive entrance of larger than life fighting horses. It's easy to spend hours wandering around admiring the greenery, the long avenue of gigantic trees, the items in the gift shop and various statues.

The Sea Captain Restaurant provides not only delicious seafood....after a long wait....but also a unique view of the sea gulls sitting on the ocean..

The Kudzu bakery with it's bread and pastries beckon me regularly as well as Frank's in Pawley's Island, and Gulf Stream in Garden Citytwo of my favorite restaurants. There is no better seafood anywhere. It's also fun to go buy it fresh off the dock in Georgetown and cook it.. Oh the memories.....



N E W S

YOU CAN USE.



Wellness Committee:

On a lovely Monday morning a hearty group of residents, some with rollators, strolled around our campus. They walked for about a half hour and saw some areas that were new to a few of them. A delicious breakfast followed the walk. Consider joining this Walking Club on the third Monday of the month. Remember to stay hydrated during these hot, steamy days . Sue Nazak, Chairman



Food Committee:

During our last Committee Meeting we had an excellent attendance with robust discussion. Some discussion centered on food but other topics veered from the stated purpose and agenda from the meeting which proved to be a lively, engaging discussion ! Related to the purpose of the Food Committee a report was given by Chef Rick regarding menu options throughout the day from 7:00 am -6:15 pm. There was discussion about aligning Dining to the Residency Agreement all residents sign when they move into the Towers which led to robust discussion about how at times practices exceed the residency agreement and from Jim's perspective the importance of the residency agreement defining practices for good management approaches. There was much healthy and open discussion during the meeting with residents, Chef Rick, Jim Thomason, CEO in attendance all sharing their thoughts. Dot Modla, Chairman & Jim Thomason, CEO



Library Committee:

The committee would like to welcome two new members. Merle Craft and Linda Lenz. The committee will be meeting soon to update the library. We will be going shelf by shelf and removing duplicate books to new homes, getting books in proper alphabetical order, and removing old books that have not been checked out in the past 5 years. We will be in touch with the committee members soon. We continue to get new donations so keep your eyes peeled. If you need any help in locating a book or any other library need please contact me or another committee member. Donna Reese, Chairman.



Windows Committee:

Thank you writers on all the good articles you submitted for the July edition. We received many nice comments on the edition and its thanks to you. Keep them coming. In September, we are going to feature the wonderful Winthrop University, and we would like to hear from Winthrop grads about their experiences there. We welcome new contributors and articles. Linda Lenz, Chairman



Activities Committee:

We would like to welcome our new bus driver, Mark Harris, to Westminster Towers! He brings with him a great deal of transportation and leadership experience. We are thrilled to have him as part of our Life Enrichment team! Christy O'Connor, Director of Life Enrichment

A Private Beach

By: Nancy Anderson

Going to the beach for a family outing in the Philippines was an exercise in endurance since our family engendered much curiosity among the local population. It wasn't unusual to have a cluster of children surrounding us as we spread out our towels to sit. They would point to our blond haired, blue eyed kids and make running comments about them as well as what we were wearing, the food we were eating for our picnic lunch, etc.

There was one beach we discovered, however, that afforded us the privacy we cherished. It wasn't too far from where we were living and was hidden in a cove surrounded by rocky outcroppings that even made an arch through which we could go and explore. It wasn't as sandy as other beaches, but what it lacked in sand, it made up for by pristine water and seclusion. We had great fun lying across innertubes and using snorkels to watch the myriad of brightly colored fish swimming through amazing coral formations. We learned to spot sea urchins and other life forms as well. We did learn the hard way, however, not to stay out too long, for our backs would become sunburned very quickly!

I was in regular contact with the teacher in the US who was assigned to oversee our children's home-schooling lessons and results. In one communique she suggested that we get an aquarium so that our kids could become acquainted with fish. When I explained that our "aquarium" was the Philippine Sea and talked about the snorkeling we did while at the beach, she wrote back, "Totally adequate." I couldn't have agreed more!



Wednesdays are for Worship

Father Dale Hathaway (Left) greets long time member of The Episcopal Church of Our Savior, Betty Jo Rhea (Right). Father Dale presided at the Episcopal Communion Service in June.



A huge thank you to all of our residents who have helped make our Wednesday service such a huge success!

It is not too late! If you would like to have your pastor speak at one of our upcoming Wednesday services, reach out to Christy O'Connor at 5018!



Ebenezer Park!

It was a beautiful day for a noon picnic. A full bus, plus several cars drove over 20 residents to the reserved picnic shelter at the recently renovated Ebenezer County Park and Boat Launch. There was walking, talking and beautiful sights of the blue waters of Lake Wylie. Lunch was provided by the dining room, which made the picnic! Hope we can return soon, as the park is a beautiful, relaxing, and safe place for us Old Timers.

Did you or someone you know attend Winthrop University?

Looking Ahead

We would like to have your stories for our September issue of the Windows Newsletter!

All submissions are due by August 15th!

Please email them to coconnor@westminstertowers.org

Twins Everywhere

By: Ed FitzGerald

The idea of writing an article about Westminster residents that were a twin or gave birth to twins occurred one day at the reception desk. There, Gale Hipp introduced me to her sister who was visiting from Hendersonville. They looked very much alike, and they advised me that they were in fact twins. Gale's sister, Dale, commented that after their arrival their father said, "Well, that's it!". And that was it!!

Gale and Dale, identical twins, were born in Athens, Georgia when their father attended the University of Georgia. During the war, their family relocated to Charlotte. The girls attended and graduated from West Mecklenburg High School, and while there, they dressed alike and were joined at the hip. Both entered the banking business, working in Uptown Charlotte at 3rd Street Bank. They purchased a 1957 Ford automobile together for transportation to the bank. Gale said that often bank customers would get confused as to which twin they were talking to. Gale met an employee of Celanese, Bill, of Fort Mill, and they have been married for 58 years. Gale and Dale stay very connected and talk on the phone each day or schedule in-person visits. Prior to Bill's health issues, they travelled together on many family vacations.



Gale Hipp & Dale Geiger

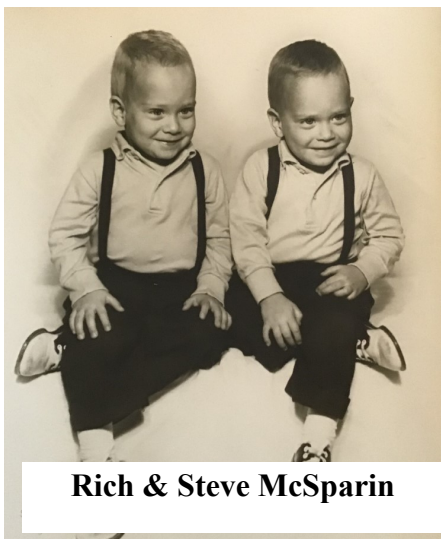
Ed McPoland's introduction to his newly arrived twin daughters was quite unique. Ed was a patient in the Navy Hospital, Pensacola, Florida, when Janice and Joyce were born on August 18th and 19th, in the same hospital. The twins were discovered during delivery. The nursing staff wheel chaired him to maternity where his wife, Jean, introduced him to the new girls. Ed made the startling observation that they looked the same, but then remarked that all babies, according to him, look the same anyway.

As a military family they moved frequently, so having twin girls plus another daughter the girls always had friends wherever they were stationed. Today, the twins are quite close with one living in Rock Hill and the other in Maine. Ed said that he was fortunate enough to have a mother-in-law willing to come down to Pensacola to help Jean with the twins as it was several weeks before he was released from the hospital. It was not until their second year of high school when the girls charted their own direction and developed distinct personalities.



Joyce Dyer & Janice Louttit

Vera McSparin told me that on Halloween October 31, 1955, while Robert was serving in the Coast Guard, her pregnancy began to feel a bit “unusual”. She thought it best to check into the New Orleans Public Health Service Hospital. After observing her severe pain, the staff, admitted her into the labor room, and was quickly surprised by the birth of twin sons, Rich and Steve. The boys were only three minutes apart, obviously anxious to get their lives underway. As they were premature, they had to remain in the hospital for a month. The doctor advised Vera and Robert that the birth was very unusual, as there was no membrane separating them in the placenta, a condition that could have resulted in their being Siamese twins. They are identical, and even today are hard to tell apart. Vera said that as they were born on Halloween they always called them: “Trick and Treat”. Continuing the tradition, the McSparins also have identical twin great-granddaughters.



Fay L. Reynolds and her husband were living in Marion, Illinois where he was studying for a Mechanical Engineering degree at Southern Illinois University. Fay had experienced some serious health issues that caused her doctor to warn her about becoming pregnant until a year had passed. They had received the doctor’s OK, and Fay was now expecting. One month early, Fay was in the hospital, and twin sons were born nine minutes apart. When her husband got the news, Fay said, he lost all his color from the shock—he was white as a sheet! As poor students they were living in a small mobile home, so how would they accommodate two small boys? Fay never revealed how this was accomplished, but they had time as the boys weighed less than the required weight to leave the nursery. They stayed in the hospital for one week until they had gained the proper weight. Named Gary and Terry, they were not identical and Fay recalled that they had a great time fighting each other. When the family moved to Arkansas, they located in a nice neighborhood that had twin boys across the street and twin girls next door. The neighborhood boys enjoyed camping out in the woods from time to time and had somehow convinced the twin girls to prepare and bring them breakfast in the morning! The Reynolds’s family eventually moved to Southern California where the boys grew up, remaining very close, only separating after they had completed college and found employment in the computer engineering industry. One son lives in Ohio and the other nearby in York, SC. The boys convinced Fay it was a better plan to move into Westminster where she could enjoy two grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

REYNOLDS TWINS: NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Pinky Funderburk and his wife Vivian were at the family doctor in Charlotte when the doctor announced that twins were on their way! Mike and Brent looked the same, according to Pinky, but definitely had different personalities. Brent, an artist, attended East Carolina University and is now on the faculty at Mississippi State University and tends to be liberal. Mike, an architectural graduate of NC State maintains a very busy practice in Charlotte. He tilts conservative.

When they were young, the boys looked the same and dressed the same. However, Pinky, noticed that

when he drove them to Scout meetings they always pulled their coat collars up over the traditional scout bandana. They explained that they had concluded that the girls did not view Boy Scouts as “cool”. It was at this point when they started to de-connect. Girls did it!



**Mike & Brent Funderburk
w/ dog Tippy in background**

My wife is also a twin. Jo Anne, AKA Jody, and her sister Jeanne Ann were born in Flint, Michigan. They were no surprise, as her mother was alerted to a multiple birth six weeks before the due date. Jody was the only person I interviewed that mentioned diapers. Her Mom had the luxury of Diaper Service for a few months and then reverted to long lines of washed diapers flapping on an outside clothes line. She and her sister were identical twins, looked alike and were always dressed the same. In the early years, the family moved a lot, eventually settling down in the town of Winchester, Kentucky, where her mother was employed as a high school English teacher in the local county school.

Jody claims that her sister was the dominant and bossy twin, but not as engaged in her studies as Jody. With a smile, Jody notes that in high school she was on the school cheerleading squad while Jeanne was not. They were always in the same classrooms together with Jody helping her sister with homework and class writing assignments. They attended Transylvania University, in Lexington together but there they began to separate a bit. Jeanne eventually transferred to Morehead State. She finally received her degree from the University of Kentucky. After her graduation, Jody, entered the teaching profession and taught in the classroom for over 43 years. She received her Master’s in Education from Winthrop in 1994 and taught at several Rock Hill Elementary schools before retirement.



**Jo Anne FitzGerald & Jeanne Ann
Codell**

The twin story had many unusual angles and stories that I found fascinating and there were more “twin people” living at Westminster than I thought. Two residents that had experience with twinning cared not to tell their story. The one constant in the stories is the bond between twins that lasts a lifetime and is their special joy!

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR

By: Wendell Anderson

A young man named Jerry was a student at the theological college where Nancy and I served many years ago in the Philippines. I later learned about an interesting experience he once had on the island of Bohol. He had found it difficult to find lodging in a town, but a widow agreed to rent him quarters if he promised not to talk with her about the Lord. He agreed.

A year passed and her problems became more difficult. She was advised to share with friends to find relief from her worries. She did this, going from neighbor to neighbor, but found no relief. So, finally, she knocked on Jerry's door, with the request that he tell her about his beliefs.

Jerry reminded her that she had said she wouldn't let him stay if he talked with her about the Lord. She responded by telling him not to mind, since she had observed his life for a year and now wanted to know. And so, after many hours of explaining the gospel, she accepted the Lord as her Savior!

This is certainly an encouragement for those of us who know Jesus as our Savior and Lord and want to share Him with others. However, whether the good news of God's offer of **salvation through faith in Christ alone** is going to be believed often depends on the **evidence of change** others see in our lives. Eternal life is a gift based on what Jesus did at Calvary, and we do not earn it, but rather receive it through repentance of sin and faith in Christ. But then there should be evidence of our faith as seen in our changed lives.

The Apostle Paul wrote in his biblical letter (Ephesians 2:8-10): ***"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."*** But then he goes on to say, ***"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*** And Jesus Himself exhorted His followers, ***"You are the light of the world . . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*** (Matt. 5:14-16)

Virginia Beach World War II

By: Janet Yocum

At the beginning of the war, the call went out to the mountains for men with a trade to report to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA. to begin building aircraft carriers. My father, a master pipe fitter, answered the call. Virginians, just like South Carolina residents, loved the beach. We saved our gasoline coupons to take a short vacation to the beach. We always rented rooms at a weathered shingled cottage on 34th street. We went every year until we could no longer get tires for the car. Imagine my surprise when we arrived at the beach to find soldiers armed with rifles patrolling every 50 yards on the beach. There were spotters for German submarines and airplanes. On the beach were huge globs of black tar from ships that had been sunk offshore. I still played on the sand and played in the ocean but I got black tar on my bathing suit. On the way home my father drove us by a fenced-in area where German prisoners of war waved and smiled at us from inside the fence. I was shocked to see they looked just like us. Next year we could not get tires for the car so my friends and I took turns playing like we were driving the car which sat on four very patched flat tires.





The third time is the charm! Finally a full bus load of residents arrived at the hotel and were escorted to the roof top patio and bar. The hotel comped a free glass of wine, due to the misunderstanding about the times the bar was open. Fifteen residents had a grand time checking out the new hotel, enjoying a glass, and ordering small plate snacks. We had the space totally to ourselves and top service from Chef Sam and his staff. We hope to return again as it is a really different venue.





Celebrating 73 Years of Love

Mr. and Mrs. Hazen celebrated their 73rd Wedding Anniversary on June 25th! We threw a party in the lobby of the Towers and the Hazen family was generous enough to provide cake and punch for all of the residents!

Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Hazen for allowing the Towers' family to help celebrate your beautiful legacy of love!

The birthday singer

Ed McPoland is the resident, self appointed birthday singer. He thrives on visiting or phoning each resident on their birthday and croons an offbeat version of Happy Birthday. The birthday tribute ends with Ed doing a few riffs on an air ukulele. So what did he do at his June birthday? You guessed it! He sang a throaty and spirited rendition of his signature song to himself! Happy Birthday, Ed. Keep on singing.



James Marshall Doswell Jr.
Born August 13, 1921
Celebrating his 100th Birthday
With Love By: Janet Yocum and Linda Lenz



Marshall and Gloria Doswell

I wanted to write about Marshall because we share a heritage and a history. We are both native Virginians. A Virginia Cavalier, in colonial times a supporter of King Charles, today a gentleman of the highest honor, and a Colonial Dame. Marshall was born in Richmond, the capitol of Virginia, to James Sr. and Margaret Miller Doswell just 3 years after WWI. (Before chocolate chip cookies were invented Ha!) Marshall was 5 years old, his sister Mary Houston Doswell was 2, and his baby brother John William (“Billy”) was 7 days old when his mother died. His father was 36 years old and his mother 27 years old when she died. Marshall and I lost our mothers at an ear-

ly age. His father managed a group of stores owned by the C&O Railroad. He married again and the two oldest children remained with the family but little Billy was reared by his paternal grandparents. Times were difficult in those days. Even though they were separated during their growing up years Marshall and Billy became very close as they grew older. Marshall attended elementary school and John Marshall High School in Richmond and Hampton Sydney College in eastern Virginia. It was a men’s college and the 10th oldest college in the United States. He majored in chemistry, graduating in 1942. He was immediately drafted and sent to the war in the South Pacific serving in the Army in the 31st Infantry Division. There he served in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies and Mindanao in the South Philippines. He was staging for an invasion of Japan, but the dropping of the atom bomb saved him from likely dying in the endeavor. My Uncle Louis of Richmond graduated from the same High School and served in the US Army, landing on Anzio Beach in Italy and walking all the way to Berlin. It was WWII and Virginians answered the call.

Upon returning after the war, Marshall found a job on the editorial staff of the Covington Virginian the newspaper of the City of Covington, VA, the home town of 4 generations of my family and the town in which I

was born. He found residence in a boarding house, possibly one owned by my Aunt Ellie. Two doors down in another boarding house lived a lovely lady, Gloria Stacy of Gaffney, SC, graduate of the University of SC in Columbia. She also was a chemistry major. She was employed by the huge West Virginia Pulp and Paper company as were several of my uncles. One of them became a CEO of one of their largest divisions in the Home Office in New York where he worked with Steve Ellsworth who was Manager of Personnel for the company. Is it not a small world? Marshall was also offered a job at the huge paper company but he felt he had found his life's work as a newspaper man. He and Gloria fell in love and married. He was offered a job with the Associated Press (the AP) and they moved to Chicago, IL for 7 years where his daughter Julia was born and Margaret (Maggie) soon followed. She was born in Evanston, IL where they lived. Gloria did not like the cold and Marshall accepted an offer to return to Covington as Editor of the paper there. Soon he was offered a job as Associate Editor in Rock Hill SC returning to South Carolina, Gloria's home state. He became very involved as an advocate for black citizens and became very active in the civil rights movement. Marshall and Gloria's 3rd daughter, Laura, was born with Downs Syndrome. Marshall, recognizing there was nothing offering homes and care for such young people, was instrumental in establishing group homes for both mentally challenged young women and young men. For his huge contribution to this cause, he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto for his extraordinary lifetime of accomplishments and service in this field. Marshall has been a lay minister and Sunday School teacher for 57 years. He is well known for his generosity and his support of many charities and the blessings he bestowed on others. He remains active in Westminster activities both intellectually and keeping physically active. We are proud to know Marshall and to be his friend and neighbors. We are thankful for the many years God has granted Marshall and wish him a HAPPY BIRTHDAY and many more with respect and love from all the residents. When I asked Marshall his recipe for a long life he replied "Love God and live your life to the fullest every day."

100th Birthday Celebration Drop In For Marshall Doswell

Friday, August 13th from 1:30 PM—3:00 PM in Heritage Hall

Please drop by and wish Marshall a happy birthday!

BEACH REVERIES

Submitted by: Carole Partridge

The child hovered over the front seat of their automobile. ('Twas the days
before mandatory seat belts.)

"We're almost THERE!" her parents exclaimed excitedly. "You can SMELL
the ocean from here."

Large pillowy clouds rolled across the hydrangea-blue sky. Both the car
and the clouds glided seaward...the car seeking a parking spot close to the
beach. Across from a boardwalk a parade of shops stood booths selling
salt-water taffy. Fathers stood at crowded hot dog stands piling on onions
after the children squirted on ketchup and mustard.

As close as the beach was, hungry travelers indulged the food first, following
the onion aroma, mixed with pop corn fragrances and salt-water taffy. Load
up the picnic basket with beach delectables to be wolfed, gulped, sipped,
licked, and thoroughly enjoyed while sitting on a wide blanket spread over hot
white sand. Prop up an umbrella for make-believe shade.

Then came the wild dash toward water...toes, feet, knees, body, shoulders as
the sea climbed hot, sweaty little bodies, cooling down the warm excitement
of waiting for the next wave. Jumping high with anticipation, splashing,
dodging, being swept over with salty madness by a force found only at ocean's
edge before ebb tide.

When the tide went out, one could make pathways under the sea in sand
exposed to shell homes where sea creatures dwelled. Tired hands and feet
explored the life exposed in the nooks and crannies of water pools. Fish and
barefoot imprints skittered and fanned out landward. Shells were to be
diligently collected, examined, hoarded or discarded. Such are the fragments
of memory and ocean mysteries upon first childhood discovery.

The young couple walked hand-in-hand along the water's edge, which reflected
a white full moon. In the distance violins wailed leisurely, "Full Moon and Empty
Arms"; the lyrics returning to memory only upon the phrase of the musical
title. Both knew they were only friends on such a romantic evening, strolling
the shore. But they could still enjoy the potential of the moon, the ocean,
each other's company, in anticipation of a future time....How far away?...With
whom?....Yes, SOMEday...maybe...love in all its mysterious and wondrous
splendor.

Nassau's beaches are equal to the NC, SC, GA and Florida beaches....even
in December. Sunshine and wind play with hair and ruffle up the passion
of honeymooners escaping to their own private Paradise Island....away
from glass bottom boats and intrusive tourists. Life begins fresh and new
for young loves exploring the world in-between the voyages of mind, body
and spirit. New vistas of sand and sea. Quiet strolls and whispered
declarations of future hopes, plans, paths yet to be taken, but sighted
somewhere ahead....perhaps in that flock of determined looking gulls.

"You haven't BEEN to the beach", he said, "until you go to Cape Cod." She
wondered about that when she saw the painful rocks and stones instead
of sugar-fine white sands of the Southern Sea Shores. Who ever heard of

swimming in ice cold water with flimsy rubber-soled shoes on? Where's the fun of huddling in a shivering puddle, sharp-cutting shells piercing between the toes as one explores beach water-holes. Someone bragged about the clams and other sea fish dug up to fill a pot of quahog chowder hot on the stove.

"Oh, PLEASE!" she muttered as she drew a semi-warm blanket around her shivering form while the winds re-arranged her hair into pretzel-like shapes.

The nose dripped liquid mucus. How romantic is THAT, even for New Englanders known for their staunch perseverance and practicality?

Somehow the blacks, browns, and gray shells of winterized summers at Cape Cod show up more than the Southern shells of tans, whites, and pinks.

Neither type of shell matters to the frozen blues of the New England visitor's nose and fingers. She longed for the cuddly warmth of sand dunes separating ocean from land. She longed for warm buried treasures discovered with metal detectors...hot metal coins...lost diamond rings.

Maybe next year...."BRRRR"....teeth chattering...."How does one start a fire with two water soaked sticks?"

Warm sun sinks into arthritic bones to warm the cockles of old souls. Walking the boulder-lined beach, they see rolling ocean waves thunder and crash upon the rocky "shore soldiers" guarding the beach. They have been pounded for generations and still stand faithfully....not unlike the couple themselves. They walk on smooth sand packed by wind, rain and time. They walk hand-in-hand at a leisurely pace, at peace with their surroundings and themselves.

Beyond the boulders, the sea rolls, rumbles and roils its way to the shore, up and over the rocks, settling near the travelers' feet harmlessly.

The photo could well serve as a metaphor for lives well-lived, having weathered the years of children; navigating waters churned by pounding problems and purposeful careers. Yet the solid connection of deep love binds them together as their footprints align themselves in harmony and faith. Theirs is a loyalty to the One "who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters."

(Isaiah 43:16)



Christy Finn O'Connor
Director of Life Enrichment

By: Ed FitzGerald

How many wedding receptions have you attended where a penguin was one of the invited guests? None, I assume. However, when Christy Finn of Baltimore, Maryland and John O'Connor of County Kildare Ireland were married it was to be a grand event. At the nuptial mass, three Irish priests presided and the front pews were filled with brothers, uncles and aunts, and cousins, all coming from Ireland to witness the marriage. The reception that followed was held at the Baltimore Zoo, and a resident penguin was an invited guest. As you can see from the photo, Dawn came dressed fully formal. There is no question that Christy, our Director of Life Enrichment, does it with "Flair" when it comes to event planning.

Christy joined the Towers staff in December as Life Enrichment Director. She brings a long legacy of working in the eldercare field. During her high school years, she worked as a waitress in the Dining Services Department of Edenwald, a large retirement community in Towson, Maryland. An honors graduate of Salisbury University, with emphasis on psychology, Christy continued her affiliation with Edenwald working in dining services.

In June of 2015, Christy joined the staff of Oak Crest Retirement in Parkville, Maryland. This facility of over 1500 independent living units is owned and operated by Erickson, a corporation with multiple facilities in the Eastern part of the country. There, she managed the full service café where her focus was on improving food quality, staff training, feedback on food service, and above all quality. Eventually she was promoted to Resident Services working directly with those retirees living in the several 500 unit high rise apartment buildings that were on the Oak Crest campus. In this role, she worked directly with residents in designing, planning and facilitating various structured and impromptu programs that enhanced resident life. She noted that there was a fair amount of social work with the aging residents.

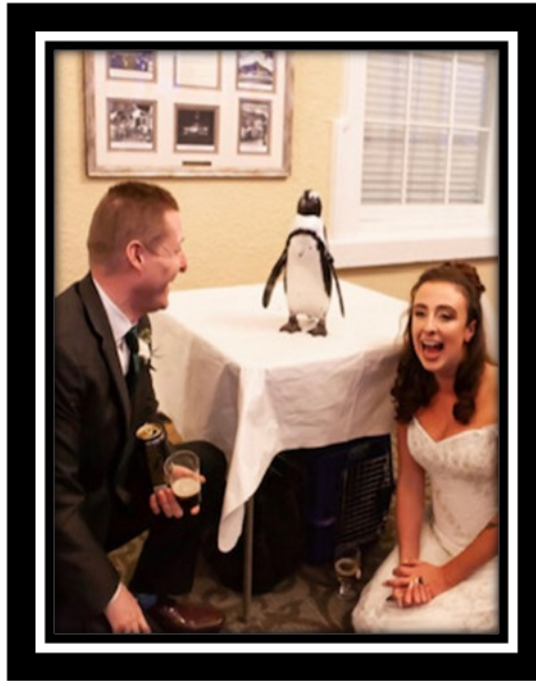
A major change was underway as she married John O'Connor, a native of Kildare, Ireland, who was Manager of Oak Crest Dining Services. Attracted to John, her plan was to interest and connect with him by appearing in his office at lunch time and offering to prepare a healthy sandwich so he could continue his busy schedule uninterrupted. At first, John was not interested in the offer, but Christy persisted, and eventually he agreed, and

she produced an amazing club sandwich! Apparently this did the trick! Soon, he asked for her phone number and the courtship began. It was a long road to the altar; however, this is typical Irish men's behavior with matters of the heart.

The route to Charlotte was more direct. John's uncle and family lived near South Park, and their visits there sparked a desire to relocate to Charlotte. They were attracted to the friendliness of the people, the dynamic growth, and potential opportunities, as well as the weather and local beauty. Christy found an employment opportunity at the Towers on the web, applied and was hired. Her extensive experience in Eldercare Industry certainly was a major factor. She and John live in a South Park area apartment. She commutes, and John prepares himself for certification for a career in finance and investments.

Her responsibilities are many as Director of Life Enrichment which covers Independent Living, Manor and the Health Center. She also is responsible for the bus operations, beauty salon, wellness activities, and assisting a volunteer co-coordinator on her staff. As editor of the monthly Windows newsletter, she has demonstrated creativity, imagination and graphics that have moved the periodical to a high professional level.

Her leadership and "flair" has resulted in a new burst of energy and enthusiasm in outings and in house programs. She is justifiably proud of the participation by residents in the weekly church services as well as the monthly Catholic Communion service held in Heritage Hall. She saw a need, identified it, created a plan, and implemented it, with resident assistance. Resident run activities, she believes, are an important part of the activities mix. The post-pandemic growth of the bridge and games groups, current events, and wine club social hour are resident led and important to the health of our community. Participation rate is critical for her in evaluation of program success, and she believes it is growing, as does Ray Damron the Resident Association Activities Chairperson. Ray is an enthusiastic booster of Christy and her staff! So, keep sharp eyes on the signup table and commit early, write it down, and don't forget to show up for the event!!



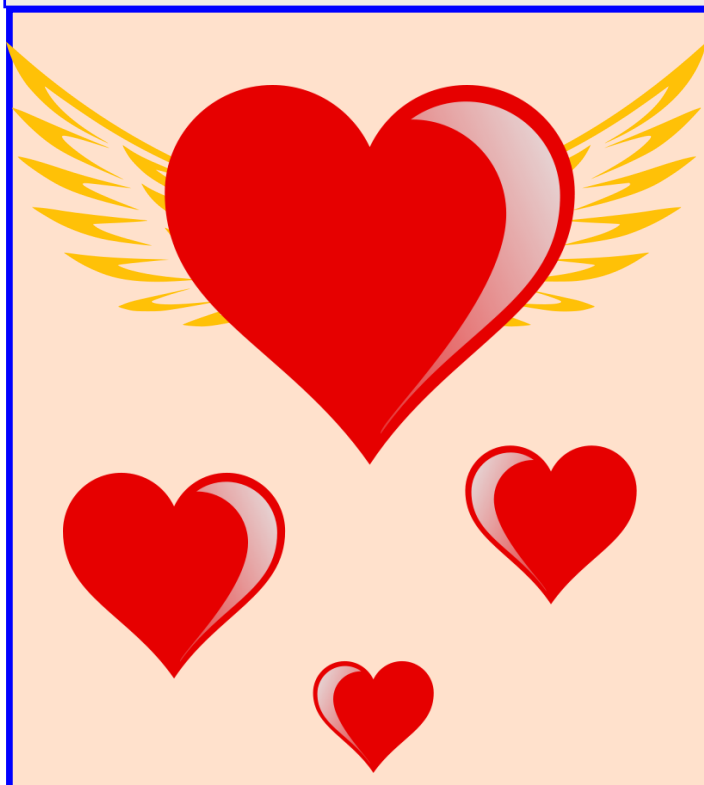
In Loving Memory:

♥ *Elizabeth Sumner*

♥ *Pat Marshall*



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.



Contributions

Endowment

In Memory of: Billy Holley
Sylvia Holley

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Robert and Dorothy Southwell

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Katherine Sizemore

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Billy and Karen Simmons

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Frank Kiser

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Winston and Janice Sanford

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Dr. and Mrs. John Little

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Shelley White

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Jim and Nancy Bright

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner
Gregory and Andrea Sellers

Employee Assistance Fund

In Memory of: Mary Doty
Joanne Cauthen

Thank You



We are looking for articles about Westminster Towers residents and happenings around the Towers!

Entries can be submitted directly to Christy O'Connor or Linda Lenz.

Deadline for entries for September is **August 15th.**



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).

Newsletter Committee — Committee Chair: **Linda Lenz**; Members: **Morna Matheny, Lou Ardrey, Marshall Doswell, Pinky Funderburk, Barbara Gladden, Mary Alice Mitchell, Carole Partridge, Gaylon Syrett, Janet Yocum**; Residents' Association President: **Spencer Anderson** President and CEO: **Jim Thomason**; Windows Editor/Director of Life Enrichment: **Christy O'Connor**