



CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Windows

Vol. XXXVII No. 12 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000 December 2021



Looking back on.....

November

November 11th Veteran's Day

Pictured right is Ed FitzGerald looking at his Veterans Certificate of service.



Pictured above is our oldest veteran from our Health center, Mary Gettys.



To the left
Sunday, November 21

The fraternity Phi Mu
Alpha Winthrop
singers came to
entertain us!

Alzheimer's walk

November 18th

To the right: Jennifer Tucker and
Jody FitzGerald.

We had a great turn out! We walked
once around the whole community.
Kona ice provided flavored ice and
hot chocolate. There were also two
dogs, Waylon and Hank, that joined
in on the fun!



To the left:

This year we donated \$720.00 to Operation Christmas
Child and were able to make 26 boxes for the children.
Here we see Cami Freeman with some of our completed
boxes.



Pictured above is Pix Dennan from the Manor and Hank the puppy.

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy to help us remember what Christmas is all about. He made a Christmas Candy Cane.

He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white for the purity and sinless nature of Jesus and hard candy to symbolize the solid rock foundation of the Church and strength of the promise of God.

He made it in the form of a "J" for Jesus and to represent the staff of the Good Shepherd.

He included red stripes to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life.



Looking Ahead at

DECEMBER

Check the New outings and Socials leaflet added to this month's windows!

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

By Lou Ardrey

On December 7, 2021 Cindy Ashworth will celebrate 26 years of service here at Westminster Towers. In 1995 a nurse told her they needed a housekeeping supervisor at Westminster Towers. She thought "I can clean my house so I can probably do that." She applied and was hired.

On her first day on the job, Jimmy Hambright called her, complaining about the person who had cleaned his apartment the day before. When she responded, she found him inspecting the rim of the toilet with a mirror because it wasn't clean enough for him. Cindy thought "What have I gotten myself into?" After a few days of working here Cindy thought "This is where the Lord wants me to be. I feel like I am coming home." Cindy told me "I'm a pretty boring person. I live a simple life." However, as she related some of her background, I found it hard to agree with her.

Cindy is the oldest of 4 children in the family.—3 girls and 1 boy who is deceased. She is known as the quietest of the bunch. Her father drank and her mother never worked so Cindy started selling newspapers when she was 12 years old. She took it upon herself to see that her brother and sisters had what they needed. She graduated from Chester High School in 1978 and went to work at Mesco Metal Buildings in customer service until they closed. She then worked at Springs Mills in Chester as a weaving inspector until it closed. Her next job was working at Owenby Co. in Chester in shipping and receiving until they closed.

Cindy's father had dementia. She had to put him in a nursing home when he became unable to care for himself and went to see him every day. She also took care of her mother when she developed colon cancer in 2005. After Cindy got off work each day she would drive to Columbia, spend the night with her mother and drive back to Rock Hill the next morning to do her job. That went on for 2 months until her mother was taken home to be with Hospice. She asked the ambulance driver who was transporting her to sound the siren as they approached the neighborhood to let everyone know she was back. Cindy said the Bible teaches "Honor thy father and mother" so she cared for both parents until the end. "I always treated them as I wanted to be treated myself." Cindy has 2 sons, Scott and Josh. Scott is married to Amy. They have 2 children, Tyson and Caroline. He is an engineer with Truvista in Chester. Josh has a fiancé, Erica. They have a daughter, Stella. He works with Duke energy as a controller. Cindy enjoys being with the grandchildren....attending their ball games and spending time with them in other ways. In 2006 Cindy married Andy Ashworth, a confirmed bachelor. She met him on a blind date arranged by Bobby Baker, a friend. She drove her own car on the date "just in case I didn't like him and wanted to get home on my own." She didn't need to do that. The date was such a success that Andy gave up his single life and took on Cindy and her readymade family. She says "The Lord sent him to me." Cindy's hobby is collecting cookbooks. She has about 100 which she keeps in her kitchen in a bookcase.

Cindy says "I love working here at Westminster Towers. I really do. I never ask somebody else to do what I wouldn't do myself.. If something troubles a member of my staff I hurt, too. I don't want anybody I care about to hurt. What they do is important. I enjoy everyone one of them." Thank you, Cindy, for your consistent, compassionate service.



Elf on the Shelf has been sighted!!
Can you find him??

Prizes daily for the lucky one who finds the him.
Sorry, you're only allowed to find him once a week.
If you can catch him, take him to the front desk at the towers and collect your prize. Look for him starting December 6th.

CHRISTMAS TREES!

My cherished boyhood Christmas memories always include the brightly lighted and decorated Christmas tree in our family living room. Along with this memory is that of time spent during the days prior to Christmas with my grandfather in the yard beside their home. He sold Christmas trees that he had had shipped in, and prior to Christmas, his yard was filled with evergreen trees of all sizes, some leaning along the side of the house. People purchased trees they then decorated and displayed in their yards and homes during the Christmas season. It was always a fun time for me!

Our Christmas celebration here in the Towers is enhanced by the beautifully decorated trees in the lobby and dining area. The internet encyclopedia, Wikipedia, has an extensive article discussing the history of the Christmas tree, which is said to have developed in Europe in the 16th century, and became common in the United States in the early 19th century. The National Christmas Tree here in the U.S. has been lit each year on the South Lawn of the White House since 1923.



While Christmas trees can be enjoyed for their decorative beauty, it is important for us as Christians to focus on the incredible historical miracle to which they point – the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. No greater miracle could be imagined than the coming of the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, into this world as a true human being, while remaining true God – then giving his life for our sins on a cruel cross and rising in triumph and ascending into heaven. Today, by the Holy Spirit, he lives in those who repent and trust in him! And someday, perhaps sooner than we think, he will return in indescribable glory and eventually introduce a new heaven and earth, to enjoy eternally with his resurrected and transformed believers!

“...Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” (Rev. 22:20 NIV)

Wendell Anderson

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

By: Sara Curry

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. military and naval forces in Hawaii. In a devastating defeat, the United States suffered 3,435 casualties and loss of or severe damage to 188 planes, 8 battleships, 3 light cruisers, and 4 miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes, and 5 midget submarines. The day after the attack, before a joint session of Congress, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan.

Four years after the attack, Congress established the Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack. Their task was to make a full and complete investigation of the facts relating to the events and circumstances leading up to and following the attack. In its investigation, the committee sought to determine whether shortcomings or failures on the U.S. side might have contributed to the disaster and, if so, to suggest changes that might protect the country from another attack in the future.



CONTEST OF WILL



As a child we had a variety of animals as pets. Mostly they were outdoor animals. My grandparents lived on a farm, and, for a time, we lived there too. Animals have an important purpose on a farm, depending on the breed. Attempts at keeping animals ALIVE as pets, when my sister and I were small, were sporadic at best. Caring for the pets with food, water and proper housing was spotty at best, when pets, as playmates, became the popular reason for acquiring beasts of any kind. Fortunately for the animals, my parents were more diligent as to their maintenance.

One would have thought Noah was wise and brilliant in choosing the animals for the ark, until one rereads an accurate Biblical accounting of that event. We learned that GOD chose which animals...not Noah. The animals came to the ark because it was God's project, not Noah's alone. I had always envisioned Noah on a major hunting expedition to track down and round up the animals to be saved. Not so. God did the choosing and provided the transportation to the Bon Voyage party prior to the ark's sailing date. It was ALL of God. (Well, maybe not the Bon Voyage party...)

Later, when my sister and I were older, a rabbit was added to the menagerie...kitten, fish, a parakeet, each with its own diet and routine. My enthusiasm for pets began to wane however, when a winter storm necessitated a large fireplace with roaring flames. The rocking chair beside it provided an excellent, cozy spot to sit, rock, and cogitate on important matters of the world, in between sleepy dozes.

Parents, however, view such occasional moments of contentment as opportunities to be productive. So I was given the task of keeping the butter churn operating during the rocking period. The vertical butter churn required up and down motion, as the butter would clot gradually into a tasty and rich butter to spread on homemade biscuits. This scene of quiet and contented motion was ideal for the pet cat, who hopped up on my lap. There we remained in blissful quietude for some time beside the fire - child, churn and cat. Suddenly I felt something moist in my lap. Looking down, the cat had mistaken my lap for a safe, comfortable place to birth the next generation of her family. Before a litter arrived, we quickly found a safe, soft, and cozy box in which to complete her maternal duties.

When my children arrived, years later, their father thought pets were an essential aspect of the childhood experience. The primary problem, however, stemmed from the fact that my husband went off to work, and the children went off to school each day. Guess who the only adult was left to feed, water, let in, let out, chase after and search the neighborhood when a pet escaped from the sanctuary of the family domicile. You guessed it!! Then there was the iguana that escaped up a thirty-foot tree and had to be retrieved, and the boa constrictor snake brought home covertly by her son on a college break. College years do not necessarily foster good housekeepers unfortunately. So, Mom was picking up discarded shoes, underwear, and a strange pillowcase dropped into a corner of the room. Thinking to add it to the laundry basket, Mom reached for the linen. Suddenly it began to move in an undulating motion. Mind on high alert, body frozen, heart racing, she slowly backed out of the room, slamming the door tightly. Someone would be wearing dirty underwear that week. The final straw, which broke the camel's back (and this Mom's widely acclaimed good humor) centered upon a black, mixed-breed mutt, named Diamond by some previously misguided owner.

Our last encounter is still vivid in my mind. It was a freezing, cold day—wind whipping, snow patches frozen into plate-like shapes, ready to fell the first inattentive stroller through the yard...namely Mom, the lady of the house. My husband had put Diamond on the line in our backyard.

“Carole, I put Diamond out to do his business and to play briefly on the line. Be sure to bring him in after a few minutes. It’s too cold for him to be outside today.” The silence in the house was deafening after husband and all four children tumbled out the front door. I went out to bring the wild animal into the warm den. As I bent down to loosen Diamond’s collar for release, his enthusiasm overwhelmed his canine safety instincts (if he ever had any at all). He danced and pranced such intricate choreography to express his joy and enthusiasm for company, that his line was wound around my ankles several times. He leaped such an Olympic high jump that I was jerked off my feet to the frozen, hard ground, flat on my back.

Puffy white clouds drifted across the azure blue sky serving as background for a hairy, black and pink nose and slobbery red tongue, hovering inches from my face. With all four paws firmly planted on my chest and saliva dripping on my chin and sweater, we appraised each other eyeball to eyeball as to whom would be the victor in this contest of temperament and agendas. Realizing that I was the “underdog” quite literally, in this battle of the wills, I recovered my breath without CPR. With sheer determination (and a healthy dose of profanity), I offered up a fervent prayer that my neighbors’ doors and windows were closed. (Fortunately this was before security cameras.). Had there been “open mikes” anywhere within a half mile of my yard, my carefully crafted persona as a “good, Christian wife, mother, and considerate neighbor” would have been badly besmirched for all time, never to have been restored without serious penance and genuflection to all concerned. The persona of being an avid animal lover had never, ever been contemplated nor emulated, nor imitated by me....EVER!

Where in the marriage ceremony has there EVER been any mention at ALL furry, hairy, slithery, smelly animals?!?! After the early morning wrestling match, Diamond retired to a warm spot in front of the roaring fire in our den, snoring with a nose still dribbling some yet-to-be-identified viscous fluid onto my best sofa pillow. The lady of the house submerged herself in a hot, hot bath, steam rising to fog up cabinet mirrors and windows alike. In the privacy of her boudoir, she massaged the black and blue bruises while plotting as to how to find an alternate owner for the obstreperous canine. The primary question under serious consideration? Who would be departing the premises at first opportunity? Wife/mother? Husband? Children? Canine? Three guesses, and the first three don’t count.

Submitted by Carole Partridge



We had a generous gift given to us for Christmas this year.

Julie Walters has generously given her time to order supplies and come to Westminster Towers to volunteer her time setting the decorations up. Julie has been working for the last two years at the White House in Washington, D.C.

decorating for Christmas. We are pleased to have her and her team come help us decorate this year.

Thank you Julie!



STARS AT CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND

Displays of stars become prominent during the Christmas season – and rightfully so! According to the Bible, God made the stars on the fourth day of creation and flung them into space. Whether we are observing them twinkling in the heavens above us on a clear, cold night or placing them on the tops of decorated Christmas trees, they are beautiful.

Astronomy, or the study of stars, is one of the oldest natural sciences. From the beginning of recorded history, astronomers from many civilizations have methodically observed the night sky. It is almost certain that the Magi were some of them. They rightly interpreted what they saw in the heavens to mean that a king had been born, and they traveled many miles from the East to bring him gifts and worship him.

Stars come in various forms. The Star of David, for example, is a six-pointed star and a prominent symbol on Jewish synagogues, in decorative arts, monuments and designs, and on the Israeli flag. The American flag is adorned with five-pointed stars – one for each state of the union. This type of star originates from European or Western heraldry and, if it is gold, is associated with military power. Sheriffs and other lawmen wear stars that depict their authority to maintain law and order. We praise and acknowledge the schoolwork of our children with gold stars. It has also become a symbol of fame or “stardom.”

From the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem to his statement about himself as the “Bright Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16), the use of stars in Christendom reveals truths about our Lord. His Father gave him a figurative “star” when he declared at the time of his baptism by John that he was well pleased with his Son. And he was born a King! Herod was so jealous of that fact that he had all the male children in Bethlehem under two years of age slaughtered to prevent the possibility of him ascending the throne. But he could not stop him! He has all authority in Heaven and on earth to restore justice and establish a peaceful rule, and one day he will come to do that. We state this every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer when we say, “**Thy** kingdom come, **thy** will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” His title “King of kings and Lord of lords” confers upon him the ultimate “stardom.” And the Bible tells us that one day all knees will bow, and all tongues will confess that he is Lord.

As we observe stars during this Christmas season, it is good to remember the star that heralded our Lord’s birth. But also remember him as our “Bright Morning Star” when he brings all time as we know it to an end and ushers in eternity as depicted in the final chapter of the last book in the Bible.

Submitted by Nancy Anderson



To our friends and staff at
Westminster we wish to thank
you for your prayers and sup-
port
during this difficult time from
our 73rd wedding celebration to
Madeline’s memorial service.

Thank you.

~The Hazen Family



Employee Christmas Appreciation Fund

Just a friendly reminder to please contribute to the Employee Christmas Appreciation Fund. As we all are aware, this year has been difficult for everyone, including our staff and any gift would be much appreciated.

Any contributions should be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Christmas Fund" and delivered to Kevin Johnson or the Towers receptionist's desk. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Towers with "Employee Appreciation" written on the memo line.

Spencer Anderson
Residents' Association President



TOWERS CHOIR

Rehearsals have begun for the new Towers Choir, but it isn't too late to join the dozen or more first responders. Music for Christmas and "The Sound of Music" has been distributed. It is great fun, and truly a delightful educational opportunity to sing under the direction of Dr. Kristen Wunderlich, a professor at Winthrop University, choir director at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and professional singer herself. She is particularly interested in providing singing opportunities for the mature voice. There are no auditions. Your voice will blend with other choristers who simply enjoy music and singing in a group. The group is gradually learning proper breathing exercises to strengthen the voice as well as the physical aspect of good health. Rehearsals are fun, uplifting and strengthen the lungs, diaphragm and general stamina.

We invite you to join us at the outset to enjoy this marvelous new opportunity to make friends, learn a new skill, and delight in making a joyful noise. We are especially blessed to have Scott Griffin as the accompanist. So you have an opportunity to work with other Towers amateurs who just want to have fun under the direction and accompaniment of two highly qualified and dedicated professionals.

If you've ever enjoyed singing in the shower, you will be the ideal participant. No one will be embarrassed. All are welcome to be challenged, to have fun and sing to the heart's delight. If we begin together, we can learn and grow together.



"OPEN A NEW WINDOW!
OPEN A NEW DOOR..."



Submitted by Carole Partridge

WELLNESS COMMITTEE - This will be a busy month so we need to be mindful of keeping ourselves in the best frame of mind. Keeping active and eating a healthy diet will go a long way to making sure we have a blessed Christmas season. Join your neighbors in one of the exercise classes with Jason or try tai chi with Sara. The first and third Monday of the month a group of residents walk around campus followed by breakfast in the dining room. It's a great way to start the day. Everyone is welcome!

Submitted by Suzan Nazak

Carolina Snipe Hunt

A Poem by: Earl J. Wilcox

In the small tract of land
behind our house where we've lived long enough
to raise grandchildren, developers finally found
the right money to entice the owners to sell.
Today, we totaled up our losses.

A staggering number of
nature's perennials no longer have homes: tall
hardwoods and pines, sumac, dogwood, squirrels,
generations of ticks, Canada geese, rabbits, raccoons,
deer, night and day owls, millions of chiggers
Cardinals, Blue Birds, Woodpeckers, Finches both
Purple and Yellow, Carolina Wrens, dandelion, black-
berries, wild strawberries, mice, rats, copperheads and
common garden snakes, happy Sparrows, Chickadees,
and our children's woods where they built playhouses,
waded in the streams and fished the pond, got their
share of ticks, reveled in romping in woods as if they
owned the land themselves.

Oh, and this: two turkeys are
without a home. We caught sight of them this week
when the tractors and trucks came to cut and haul the
trees, rearrange the land for condos, chase Carolina's
critters out of their natural habitat.

We and all the creatures seem
to be adjusting except for the turkeys. Today, they
stood in the middle of a busy road, gawking and
waddling all around confused, unhappy, lost.

What losses have we suffered compared to the
homeless.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Submitted by: Barbara Ingles

Virgin born God's Son came
No Status, wealth or fame
Man's just curse to reclaim.

Tried, condemned, crowned
with thorns
Flesh with nails and sword torn
King of Jews taunted, scorned.

Unjustly sentenced to the cross
Sacrificed blood spilled cost
God's wrath poured for the lost.

Suffered Hell's deepest death
Paid the cost with his breath
For everlasting breath.



In Loving Memory:

♥ *Alma O'Shields*

♥ *Madeline Hazen*



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.

**The Windows Committee is looking for
New Year's related articles/pictures
for the January edition of the
Windows Newsletter.**

**Please turn in your submissions to
Linda Lenz or email them to
Sara Curry at
scurry@westminstertowers.org
on or before December 15th.**

Endowment

In Memory of: Elizabeth Sumner

Westminster Presbyterian Church

In Memory of: Louise Whifield

Louise Ardrey

In Memory of: Louise Pettus and Louise Whifield

Ed & Jody FitzGerald

In Memory of: Louise Whitfield

Lynn Hornsby

In Memory of: Susan Thomason

Frank Kiser

In Memory of: Alma O'Shields

Louise Ardrey

In Memory of: Louise Whifield

Spencer & Elizabeth Anderson

In Memory of: Jean McPoland

Ed McPoland

In Memory of: Madeline Hazen

Joann Twedt

In Memory of: Madeline Hazen

Mr. and Mrs. Sig Huitt

In Memory of: Madeline Hazen

Susan Nazak

In Memory of: Madeline Hazen

Joanne Cauthen

In Honor of: Pam Weinstein

Jody and Ed FitzGerald

Thank you for your support!

Windows Committee meets every 3rd Friday of each month on the 6th floor. We discuss the current and following month's windows. Any ideas are welcome and anyone wanting to help with the editing is more than welcome!



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

Entries can be submitted directly to Sara Curry or Linda Lenz.

Entries can be emailed at
scurry@westminstertowers.org
Deadline for entries for January is
December 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, Joy Taylor, Jody FitzGerald, Nancy Preston, 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: **Sara Curry**

