



WESTMINSTER TOWERS

CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Windows



Looking back on.....

December

Rock Hill Christmasville Parade

On Friday, December 3rd the Towers Activities Bus was decorated with 1000 lights, gingerbread men/women and chefs surrounded the bus and signs proclaiming Westminster as the home of the Gingerbread. Two Jody and Ed Fitzgerald rode the bus, waving as they went by. Jason Greene (our wellness coordinator) wore a gingerbread full body costume, along with Life Enrichment Director Sara Curry in a blow up gingerbread. We also had two chefs wondering about looking for their gingerbread men who escaped



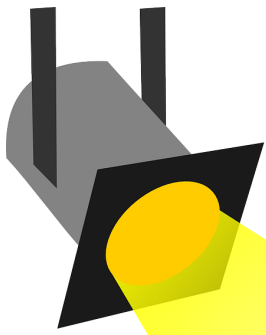
the oven. Hopefully more will join us next year as a walker or rider. On the left we see Ed FitzGerald saluting with the local ROTC Ardrey High School.



Here we have Ruthann Poore getting ready to see some Christmas Lights.

Ruth Burgin waves to the camera as she helps put together the Dear Santa social. We had old style candy and treats from 1886, 1920's-1960's. Great fun was had by all!





Resident Spotlight

JOY ON THE 5th FLOOR

By Lou Ardrey

Joy Taylor is well named. Her joy is evident from the moment you meet her. Her first comment to me was “I’ve lived a fun life!” I believe it. It sounds like something you would read about or see in a movie.

Joy grew up in Chicago and lived in the same apartment building her father lived in when he was a child. Her grandparents came to the US in the early 1900s. They were hardworking individuals and bought property in Chicago in an undeveloped area. There were 7 flats (apartments) in the building. Her grandfather, father and mother ran the neighborhood grocery store. Her father had 5 siblings and they all lived in the same building.

All of Joy’s aunts, uncles and cousins lived there. Her childhood was spent playing with cousins in the stairways. Since Joy was the oldest, she was always the teacher and the others were her students. It was a very unusual childhood. “We were poor as dirt but didn’t know it”, she says. With few toys they relied on their vivid imaginations and creative minds to entertain themselves. Joy’s whole life was spent in that apartment building and the surrounding ethnic neighborhood so she had the same friends all the way from early childhood to college.

During her preschool years she would go with her Dad to Chicago markets to get vegetables and fruits and to the stockyards to get meat. At the stock yard they would get a litter of pigs, goats, or lambs who had been birthed on the trains coming in. They were headed for slaughter in the stockyards so they would buy them and raise them in the basement of their apartment building. When the animals were old enough they were weaned and taken to a farm in Indiana where they grew up and were then served as a feast for somebody’s meal. Joy briefly attended college in Chicago and then went to Germany and married there. Her life in Germany was “WUNDERBAR”exploring the entire countryside in eastern Europe on weekends.

Joy began her domestic life when she came to the US and her two children, Bill and Pamela, were born in Ohio. She enjoyed being an “at home mom”. When they went off to college, she went off to college. She got her degree and worked for 25 years in the field of nuclear medicine. She says it was quite an experience...most of the patients were pediatric cancer patients. After working all day with children who were ill, she would go home at night and hug her son and daughter, ...grateful that they were healthy.

After Joy retired from such a demanding, challenging job, she wanted to do something more cheerful, adventurous and fun so she traveled with her son and daughter-in-law quite a bit. Then she became a Blackjack dealer in Las Vegas and Detroit. “That was a fun experience but short lived”, she says.

Joy moved to Rock Hill in 2002. After getting settled in to her new environment, she began working at the Rock Hill airport. “Life was fun there....seeing famous people come and go.” She met Barack Obama who flew in on Oprah Winfrey’s private jet, Paul Rand, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senator John McCain, football players, race car drivers and many other celebrities from various fields.

In January, 2021, Joy began a new hobby which she could enjoy in her Lazy Boy and pjs. She became a licensed ham radio operator and talks daily to club members, which includes contacts in Europe and Japan. She says “If you are interested in starting a new hobby, please contact me for details.”

In August of 2021 she moved to Westminster Towers and has enjoyed making new friends, finding about their lives and the experiences they have had. She is fortunate to have her two children nearby...her daughter, Pamela, who is a dental hygienist and her son, Dr. Bill Ross who is a dentist. If you need a little joy in your life.... go meet Joy Taylor on the 5th floor.

Welcome our ALL our 2021 New Residents!

Some Residents have chosen to not be photographed.

Ginny Van Hove – 406 (Maryland)
Cathy Garland – 520 (Fort Mill)
Jerry Johnston – 205 (Rock Hill)
Ian & Nancy Davidson – 202 (Rock Hill)
Janet Small – 505 (Fort Mill)
David Martin – 217 (Florida)



Frances Cauthen – 626
(Rock Hill)

Charles & Weltha Martin
414 (Rock Hill)



Nell Branning
203 (Mississippi)

Chick & Linda
Williams – 224
(Rock Hill)



Kathy Jaggers
212 (Rock Hill)

Bill & Mieke Van De
Nobelen – 605 (York)



Joy Taylor – 527
(Rock Hill)



Gail Griffin – 326
(Tega Cay)

Weldon Burns –
229 (Rock Hill)

Merle Craft – 308
(Rock Hill)

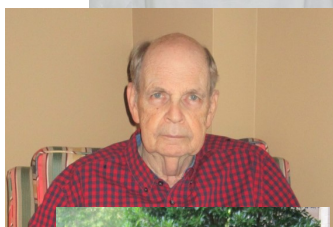


Joan Bundy – 529
(Lake Wylie)

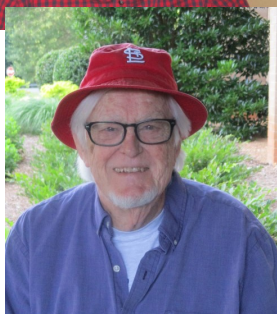
Fay Reynolds – 322
(Pittsburgh)



Bill Crockford
614 (Charlotte)

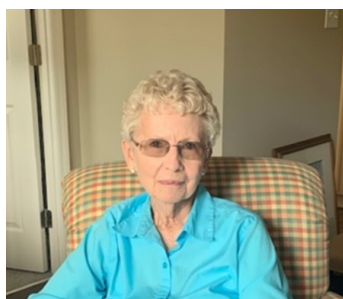


Earl Wilcox
314 (Rock Hill)



Mo Josten
301 (Wisconsin)

Sonja Erickson
618 (Minnesota)



Bill Davison – 426
(Murrells Inlet)



Carole Hennessee
516 (Cheraw)

Mardelle Nasshan
232 (Rock Hill)



Ken & Roxie Wheatley
430 (Lake Wylie)





MAN OF MANY TALENTS

If you should hear a whistle echoing from the hallway or see a broad smile appear in the lobby or dining room, or admire the only man in the building who looks “spiffy” with color-coordinated attire from hat to shoes, you’ll KNOW who it is immediately. NO, it ISN’T Santa Claus nor is it the Fifth Ave. fashion guru from New York. Well, correction: he IS from New York.

Daniel Williams is Westminster Towers’ not-so-secret antidote to the Covid Blues. When he breezes in and departs with his lively jaunt, he leaves twice or three times the number of smiles he shares upon his entrance.

This is only the surface of a man of faith who admits that anger and resentment were once major hurdles to overcome in his youth and later in life.

Born into a family of hard workers, he and his parents and three sisters lived in a three-story building owned by his aunt and uncle in the Bedford- Stuyvesant area, granted a pretty tough neighborhood at the time.

Daniel recalls being shot on two occasions as an innocent by-stander. The first time he was shot in the appendix, spending a month in the hospital. The second time he was shot in the leg when he went to a party, forbidden by his mother, his own personal heroine. He was more afraid of his Mom’s reaction to his being out of the house without permission than the wound in the leg.

As a safety precaution for an angry young teenager, filled with resentment, Daniel’s Mom sent him to live with a sister in the South. Some of his anger could be vented by playing football, which earned him a partial scholarship at the University of South Carolina.

Eventually Daniel returned to New York to work at Chemical Bank, then City Bank on Wall Street. When his daughter was born, he returned to the Charlotte area to be near her. He worked at Bank of America and later Wachovia. A series of mergers occurred in the banking industry, eventually leading Daniel to become Account Manager in Billing here at Westminster Towers until he recently moved over to Life Enrichment.

God became the major turn in his life in finding a new joy and purpose to life and a new freedom from resentment and rage. Today we, as residents, get the privilege of experiencing Daniel’s cordial flexibility and tenacity among his wide range of talents. He holds devotions in the Manor Chapel on Fridays, and welcomes visitors.

The next time you see this gentle cut-up and Louis Armstrong look-alike, remember this Bible verse in Psalms 118:24: “THIS is the day the LORD has made; we will REJOICE and BE GLAD in it.” “That captures everything,” says Daniel. (And Daniel lives it and spreads joy around like milk and honey, balm for the soul, and hope for the future.)

Submitted by Carole Partridge

A Note from the President

A big thank you to the residents of the Towers for your very positive response to the Employee Appreciation Christmas Fund. We generated more money in this year's fund than last year's, so we were able to distribute very nice gifts to all the employees.

Your participation was very much appreciated.

Spencer Anderson
Residents' Association President



WORDS TRAVEL

- by: Mardelle Nasshan

"WORDS TRAVEL"!! For good or ill - - "WORDS TRAVEL"!! - - They travel from "person to person!" From "family to family!" From "text to text!" From "tongue to heart!" From "heart to mind and memory" transforming along the way into "memory scars"! Wounds that travel the course of time dividing and judging-- sentencing both "guilty and innocent" to years of "word rehearsal" accompanied with "Justification" or "Explanation"!

We have just gone through several years of Covid Pandemic Worldwide!
We are still "distancing", "creatively covering our mouths", and "testing for the virus"!
We debate and debate the source of the contagion!

Sadly - - we apply the same strategy to the "scourge of words" as they also "travel and infect"!

GOD HIMSELF, HAS PLACED RESTRICTION ON THE HARMFUL "TRAVEL OF WORDS"!

LET US BE CLEAR ON WORD TRAVEL BAN:

- ~ **The Source:** "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh".
(Matthew 12:34)
- ~ **The Remedy:** "Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)
- ~ **The Instruction:** "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from trouble." (Proverbs 21:23)
- ~ **The Diagnosis:** "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."
(Proverbs 18:21)
- ~ **The Prescription:** **PRAY,** "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the doors of my lips."
(Psalm 141:3)
PRAY, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."
(Psalm 19:14)

Why should we celebrate MLK Day on January 17th?

MLK day, officially known in the United States as the Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., commemorates the life and work of the civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King was one of the key figures in the American Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century. Dr. King advocated for nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He created change with organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; he was the youngest person to ever receive this high honor. He followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father by entering the ministry to become a Baptist minister. On April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee as he stood on the balcony of his hotel. Dr. King traveled to Memphis, Tennessee to lead a march in support of striking sanitation workers.

When did it first start?

Signed into law in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan, Martin Luther King Day was first recognized as a federal holiday in 1986. In 1994, Congress designated Martin Luther King Day as a national day of service, noting it was a "day on, not a day off."

"Anybody can be great because anybody can serve." - Martin Luther King

Found from:
[Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 17, 2022 | DoDEA](#)



1929 1968

KEEP PRAYING!

Upon opening my Bible not long ago, I noticed one of my markers with a past quotation from Billy Graham saying, "Almost every week I get at least one letter from someone who has prayed for a loved one or friend for many years without any apparent effect."

Perhaps we can identify with that and have been praying for years for our husband or wife, or son or daughter, or friend who has never personally trusted in Christ as personal Savior and Lord, and is facing life and eternity without hope. Or perhaps they once professed faith, but never showed evidence of true faith by their lifestyle, or seemed to at first, but then suddenly or gradually drifted away and no longer profess to even trust in Christ. At times we may feel that it seems hopeless, and are ready to despair and quit praying.

Mr. Graham, in the quotation, then went on to say regarding the praying folks he was referring to, "And yet they go on to say that their prayers finally have been answered." In response to these encouraging testimonies, Mr. Graham challenged us that if we have a burden for an unsaved loved one or friend from God on our heart, we need to keep on praying for them. He pointed out, "Remember: You may be the only person on earth who is still praying for that person – and that is an awesome responsibility."

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

Wendell Anderson

THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW HAS COME

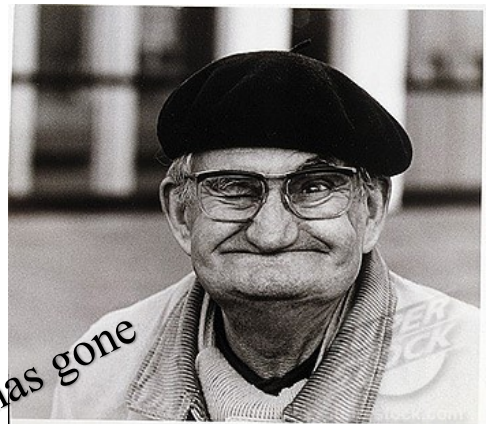
by Nancy Anderson

The year 2021 has come and gone.
And I am so glad it is finally done!
Challenges have abounded during the year
All 'round the country and most certainly here.
We've lived thru it all – both the good and the bad.
We're thankful for all of the blessings we've had.

The result of generosity has been in full sight.
New Christmas décor has made our home bright.
The talents of volunteers were sure on display
As new wonders were made to appear each day.
Parties and programs were held at all hours.
Good food and good music have filled the Towers.

And now a new year is upon us once more.
I wonder what the next twelve months have in store.
I pray for staff who have tough decisions to make.
They fill in the gap, more responsibilities do take,
As mandates have forced some workers to choose
Whether the jabs to take or their jobs to lose.

There is certainly a need for real restoration
Not only in the Towers but all over our nation.
I pray we get beyond all the COVID restrictions
And see no more need for all the distinctions.
So, join me in watching what the Lord will do
In this upcoming year of 2022.



The old has gone

Referring to the
new year



THE NEW
HAS COME

CHEF RICK SCHMITT

By Lou Ardrey

At the December meeting of our Resident's Association, Jim Thomason made the sad announcement that Rick Schmitt, our Executive Chef and Culinary Director, has accepted a job in Columbia. His last day here was December 26th. We residents are deeply grateful to him for his faithful service to us during these past four and a half years. He has gone "over and above" the call of duty. During the early days of the pandemic when we were confined to our apartments and the dining room had to be closed, he provided a meal a day for us as well as coffee, fruit and muffins delivered to our door in the mornings. Once we were able to go back into the dining room with certain restrictions, he faced a shortage of some food items and various supplies, rising costs and a lack of employees. Those challenges led to creative solutions which only a dedicated person of his ability with forty years in the food industry could provide. The recent change to serving cafeteria style is an example. When he no longer had the personnel to wait on tables, he came up with an alternate plan. He also added new items to the menu and introduced tasty appetizers as a choice to add variety.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Rick and his workers in the dining room and kitchen who have remained loyal throughout these difficult times. Their dedication towards our well being, comfort and good health have been greatly appreciated. Not only have they cared for our dietary needs, they have performed cheerfully and efficiently.... making the best of a very challenging situation. He calls his job a "calling." And it truly is.

During his service here, Rick has commuted one and half hours from his home in Columbia on a daily basis in all kinds of weather. His new job is only 10 minutes from his home. That will give him more time to spend with his large family of seven children and four grandchildren.

Thank you, Chef Rick. We hate to see you leave but we wish you the very best. We know you will continue to bring joy to those you serve.



Meditative Resolutions

Earl J Wilcox

Let us now praise this idea:

Resolve to live in the present,

While keeping the past nearby.

Resolve to cherish each chat

With friends here, while keeping

Words we recall from forever

friends.

Resolve to be on the move,

But also meditating daily in quietude.

This new year, as others, casts

A magic spell--resolutions for

Triumph of the heart and mind.



TEN COMMANDMENTS

(to follow in life all the time)

- 1) Prayer is not a **spare wheel** that we pull out when in trouble. It is a **steering wheel** that directs us in the right path throughout life.
- 2) Do you know why a car's **windshield** is so large and the rearview mirror is so small? Because our **past** is not as important as our **future**. So, look ahead and move on.
- 3) Friendship is like a **book**. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
- 4) All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy them, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
- 5) Old friends are like gold. New friends are diamonds. If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold. Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
- 6) Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, child, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- 7) When God solves your problems, you have faith in his abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, he has faith in your abilities.
- 8) A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing **eyesight**?" He replied: "Yes, losing your **vision**."
- 9) When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- 10) Worrying does not take away tomorrow's **troubles**; it takes away today's **peace**.

Praying for love and peace to fill the coming **NEW YEAR**.

Author unknown, submitted by Nancy Anderson

January

This will be filled in on December 29th.

Indoor Bowling!



In Loving Memory:

♥ *Mary Gettys*

♥ *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 romantic related articles/pictures for the February 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 January 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!

Write your own goal for the New Year below:

Windows Committee meets every 3rd Friday at 2:00pm each month on the 6th floor. We discuss the current and following month's windows. Any ideas are 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 February is **January 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**

