



Windows

January 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 1 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000



January Church Schedule

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in Heritage Hall

1/1 Happy New Year! No Church Service.

1/15 Reverend Jason Anderson, Hopewell Presbyterian

1/22 Reverend Jon Oliphant, First ARP

Sunday, 1/12 St. Anne Catholic Church

**If you would like to suggest someone to conduct a Wednesday church service, please contact Cami Freeman #5018, or Melissa Russell #5011
All Denominations are welcome!**

If you would like to submit an article or pictures, please email them to:
camifreeman@westminstertowers.org
The deadline for the February '25 edition of Windows is Monday, January 13.

Have you been to Punxsutawney, PA, to see the groundhog celebration?

Did you get engaged or married on Valentine's Day?

Please share your stories with us, both good and not so good, for the February issue of Windows.

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Windows Committee Members:
Linda Lenz - Chairman
Alice Airth
Lou Ardrey
Carole Partridge
Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder

This Month's Contributors:
Alice Airth
Edmond FitzGerald
Carole Partridge

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher
Cami Freeman

The next Newsletter Committee Meeting will be on Monday, January 20, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

We'll Miss you, Friend!

by Carole Partridge

Allison Matthews represents a person's first impression of Westminster Towers. As the Marketing Executive for the Towers organization, she has presented the building, the individual apartments and the gracious smile of welcome to many of us, as we came to the Towers as potential residents throughout the years.

Her gifts and skills have greeted hundreds of residents to calm uncertain plans and give hope that life in retirement can not only be good, but even better – joyful. Her reassuring smile makes it a certainty for the grateful heart.

Ask her about anything in the Resident's Directory, and she knows the answer. When asked what she looked forward to in the days and weeks ahead, she said, "Going to the grocery store in the middle of the day." (She may well change her mind once that dubious thrill has been experienced).

Understandably, she looks forward to spending more time, quality time, with her retired husband and her son, Christopher.

She seems to be taking a major shift in one's lifestyle with the calm demeanor and aplomb of one who is anticipating a smooth transition. Her successor to the position will be her stalwart co-worker in Marketing, Melanie Evans. "And the beat goes on..." so goes the music.

As residents, we can assist in this important transition by following house rules and support those who care for us and our home. We can smile and say a cheerful "Hello" to Melanie as she escorts potential residents down the halls or to the Dining or Exercise areas. We can certainly smile and applaud the variety of programs in Heritage Hall.

A warm welcoming resident can ease so many uncertainties and potential fears of our future friends and family here at Westminster Towers. Thank you, Allison and Melanie, for showing us the way.



Cottages are Underway

by Ed FitzGerald

On Tuesday, December 3rd, the official groundbreaking for the Towers Villa project got underway. The city had finally issued building permits for the site work and construction of 10 Villas. Four will be built in the initial phase of the ambitious plan. Site work, construction, and general management will be by York County construction firm, JM COPE. The Cope organization has been very involved with the Towers Management since the vision emerged. The groundbreaking was preceded by a prayerful invocation from the Westminster Church Ministerial staff. Mayor John Gettys and other officials manned the gold shovels. CEO, Jim Thomason, concluded the service and invited all to attend a reception in the dining room. Hot cider was featured, as it was a cold and windy afternoom. Those residents with a Southern Exposure will see the Villas rise from the ground and become a reality. The rendering of these villas, on display in the Dining Room, show a very attractive offering for potential residents not ready for Independent Living.

Ed FitzGerald



Getting to Know Cladeen “Deen” Clanton

by Alice Airth

When asked if she would mind being interviewed for Windows Getting to Know You column, Deen Clanton said, “I’d be glad to.” Still at sixes & sevens in her apartment, she graciously invited me in and took time off from making her annual Christmas fruitcake to chat a bit. Moving from a four-bedroom house in Norfolk, VA, she had to downsize a great deal... and is still working on it.

After only a few minutes chatting, I got the feeling that saying “I’d be glad to” is a phrase that Deen often says. For sixteen years, she took care of her mother who had Alzheimer’s, and she said she would do it all again. They traveled to Nova Scotia, where her grandmother was born, and she and her daughter took her mother to Scotland, where her mother’s father came from. They spent eighteen days traveling all over the area - which her mother greatly enjoyed. They also took her back to Hawaii, where they had lived when Deen was growing up.

Deen was born in Long Beach, CA, lived with her family in Hawaii for nine years, and San Diego, CA, for fourteen years. She married her husband, Donald, in 1969; he was in the Navy, and was ordered to Norfolk, VA, where they enjoyed 53 years together before he passed away two years ago. They had two children, Douglas and Wendy, and now have three grandchildren - Zack, Lauren, Joshua - and five great-grandchildren - James, Davey, Asher, Meagan, Aubrey. It was her son and daughter who found Westminster Towers, and since her daughter is only five minutes away, it seemed like the perfect place for their mother to move closer to family. After a thorough tour, they put down a deposit- then told their mother!



Cladeen “Deen” Clanton

Deen’s bother, Neil, who she always called “Buzzy” because she couldn’t pronounce “brother,” passed away 6-7 years ago; her sister, Norma, still lives in San Diego with her husband. Deen enjoys baking (remember the fruitcake?), sewing, quilting, and traveling. She worked in management for an Oil & HVAC Co. for thirty-three years and is currently still unpacking boxes, having been here only three weeks (as of Dec. 16).

Welcome to Westminster Towers, Deen, - we’re glad you’re here!

THE GIFTS OF MUSIC AND A MOTHER'S LOVE

by Carole Partridge

The year was 1939, a year of deep , economic depression. Christmas was special for the young parents because it was the first Christmas their two little girls would experience Santa Claus. The children were three years old and 15 months old. The youngest little girl did not realize what Christmas even WAS, and the older child knew ONLY that special gifts would be given at that time. For weeks her heart held the thought that only she and Santa knew what she wanted for Christmas. She saw no need to share with anyone the expected gift that she was SURE Santa would bring.

Christmas morning arrived. What was Santa thinking? Her expected gift was nowhere under the Christmas tree!!! Salty tears flowed freely. No other gift could staunch the watery output. "What's the matter?" begged the disappointed, bewildered parents.

"Santa did not bring my "pee-hanna"!!!!!!

"Your WHAT???"

"My 'pee-hanna'!!"

The other gifts Santa had brought did not console the distraught child. So went the Christmas morning sans the "pee-hanna". Other toys could not redirect nor distract from the missing gift.

Finally, the heart-broken mom, in a sea of tears and fog of self-condemnation, called the small-town drugstore, which had sold other toys and carried the toy pianos for six enormous dollars each.

In a simpler time, in a small town, the owner of the store agreed to meet the distraught mother on Christmas Day, reopen his store to sell her the last two toy pianos in stock. Why two toys? One piano for the distraught Christmas child and one for the younger sister, who was still too young to really care. Conscientious parents sometimes go to the opposite extreme to avoid seeming to show favoritism.

Around 2 p.m. that afternoon, the mom hid the toy pianos under the low-hanging branches of the Christmas tree. Then, she picked up a broom and began sweeping up Christmas tree needles and discarded Christmas paper and ribbons. She casually suggested the children take another look under the lower branches of the tree. "Santa MAY have left a toy or two you didn't find."

With new, eager incentive, the children soon discovered their most coveted Christmas gifts under the tree. Tinkly, piano poundings filled the room with music the remainder of the day. The eldest child was thrilled with her sleek, black, grand

piano the size of a salad plate. For the younger child, the piano was a small brown upright saloon piano about the same size. No formal concert hall nor aromatic saloon could have been decked out more authentically.

Thus, one conscientious mom met her own high standards of love and fairness, while two little girls pinged and pounded to their hearts' content. And Santa Claus's reputation for love and fairness remained unblemished.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



A **BIG** Thank You

A Sweet Reminder



Refer a Friend, and if they move in, receive a one-month credit toward your monthly fees! Contact Marketing for details! 803-328-5587

Thank you to all Westminster Towers residents for donating empty pill bottles to be used by Matthew 25 Ministries. Because of your participation, I was able to ship 1,090 bottles to them -- far more than ever before!

Please keep making your donations in 2025.

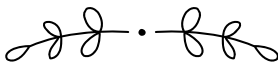
If you are new to the Towers and want to find out more, please contact me.

Jane Mitchell
Apartment 616



First ARP Bible Study at the Towers

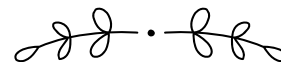
All are welcome to join members of the First ARP Church for a Bible study at 2:00, on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Room. Their next session will be on Thursday, Jan. 9th.



If you want to make a donation to any of our funds (Endowment, Employee Assistance, or General Fund), please bring cash/check to Pam Engle in the business office. You can make checks out to Westminster Towers, and in the memo section, indicate the fund you are supporting.



In Loving Memory Thomas "Pinky" Funderburk Barney Blackwelder



Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

<i>Sharon White</i>	<i>Vicki Moore</i>
<i>Kack & Jim Hardin</i>	<i>General Fund</i>
<i>Esther Jackson</i>	<i>Pinky Funderburk</i>
<i>Ed & Jody FitzGerald</i>	<i>Pinky Funderburk</i>
<i>John & Judith Gabrenas</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>
<i>Jim & Nancy Bright</i>	<i>Pinky Funderburk</i>
<i>Rion Rutledge</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>
<i>Charles Ives</i>	<i>Pinky Funderburk</i>
<i>Lou Ardrey</i>	<i>Sarah Schell, Vicki Moore</i>
<i>Daniel & Virginia Barnes</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>
<i>Clarke & Kathy Moore</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>
<i>Ed & Jody FitzGerald</i>	<i>Employee Appreciation Fund</i>
<i>Milt & Pauline Jellum</i>	<i>Barney Blackwelder, Library</i>
<i>Samuel & Marilyn Huffman</i>	<i>Endowment Fund</i>
<i>Jim & Nancy Bright</i>	<i>Barney Blackwelder</i>
<i>Mildred Cornwell</i>	<i>Employee Appreciation Fund</i>
<i>Bill Davison</i>	<i>Employee Appreciation Fund</i>

December 2024 Memories

