

Windows

February 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 2 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000





February Church Schedule

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in Heritage Hall

2/5 Rev. Lisa Johnson, Bowling Green Presbyterian Church

2/12 First Baptist Church of Rock Hill

2/19 Rev. Jason Anderson, Hopewell Presbyterian Church

2/26 Rev. Jon Oliphant, First ARP Church of Rock Hill

3/5 Ash Wednesday, Ecumenical Service

Sunday, 2/9 Deacon Ted Clement, 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 March '25 edition of Windows is Monday, February 10.

My Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you to Westminster Staff and Residents who sent cards, phone calls, or just offered me love and support for the loss of my husband, Barney Blackwelder. I could never have gotten through this difficult time. You all helped to make Barney's last few months of life so much more enjoyable as well as for me. Love you all from the bottom of my heart.

Arlene J. Blackwelder

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

This Month's Contributors:
Lou Ardrey
Ed FitzGerald
Jody FitzGerald
Kathy Jagger
Milt Jellum
Carole Partridge

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher
Cami Freeman

The next Newsletter Committee Meeting will be on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

St. Valentine Loved Christ

by Lou Ardrey

Young Valentine was a Christian living in the third century. He was wealthy and in love and was soon to be wed. But his pleasurable, orderly world came crashing down around him when the Roman emperor declared all Christians illegal citizens and guilty of treason. All they had to do was say, "Caesar is Lord!" But all they would say was, "No, Jesus is Lord!" Rather than deny Christ, young Valentine was arrested. In jail, awaiting execution in the arena, he wrote love letters to his girlfriend assuring her of his great love. But theirs would be a love not lived out. On Feb. 14, 269, young Valentine was put to death, martyred for Jesus Christ. Since then, Christians have celebrated his fidelity to Christ and romantic love on the 14th of Feb. by sending love letters to special people. And as we do so this year, let us, too, resolve to live for Christ unashamedly. For in Christ and in heaven, we shall love God and one another for all eternity.

Author Unknown



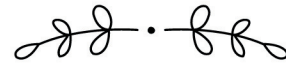
It is time to crown the 2025 Valentine's Royal Court! Please cast your votes for the King & Queen (a couple) and the Prince & Princess of Hearts. Please submit your selections to the receptionist by **Friday, February 7th**. The results will be announced at our Valentine's Day Celebration on Friday, February 14th, in Heritage Hall!

*Last year's winners are exempt from nomination:
King & Queen: Ed & Carole Trelinski. Prince: Bill Davison. Princess: Dot Modla.*



In Loving Memory

Fay Reynolds



Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

Ed & Carol Trelinskie

Barney Blackwelder

Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder

Barney Blackwelder

Spencer & Lib Anderson

Barney Blackwelder

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.

Why February Is a Great Time to Start a Garden

February is an exciting month for gardeners as it bridges the gap between the quiet of winter and the arrival of spring. As days grow longer, it's time to prepare for the growing season by sowing seeds, planting crops, and nurturing your garden or allotment. Whether you're growing vegetables, flowers, or herbs, February offers a wide range of planting opportunities, both indoors and outdoors.

February is the perfect time to start seeds indoors, plant hardy vegetables, and prepare soil for the upcoming growing season. With careful planning and attention, you can ensure an early start that leads to a thriving garden throughout the year.

If you would like one of the beds located in the back of the Towers, please contact Jody & Ed FitzGerald in apartment 227. They will be happy to assign you a bed and let you know the next steps toward getting it ready for planting.



What to Plant in February

1. Vegetables to Sow Indoors

- Tomatoes: Start seeds indoors for transplanting in spring. Use a propagator for faster germination.
- Peppers: Bell peppers and chilies benefit from an early indoor start under grow lights.
- Aubergines: Ideal for sowing in February; provide heat to aid germination.
- Leeks: Sow seeds indoors or in a greenhouse for a long growing season.
- Brassicas: Broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage can be started indoors in trays.

2. Vegetables to Plant Outdoors

- Broad Beans: Sow directly into the ground or in pots for transplanting later.
- Peas: Hardy pea varieties can be sown outdoors under cloches for protection.
- Onion Sets: Plant onion sets or shallots in well-drained soil for a summer harvest.
- Garlic: If you missed autumn planting, you can still plant garlic cloves in February.
- Spinach: Choose winter-hardy varieties for outdoor sowing under fleece.

3. Herbs

- Parsley: Start seeds indoors or sow directly in a greenhouse.
- Coriander: Ideal for cooler conditions; sow in pots for fresh leaves.
- Chives: Begin growing indoors for an early harvest of flavorful shoots.

4. Flowers to Sow Indoors

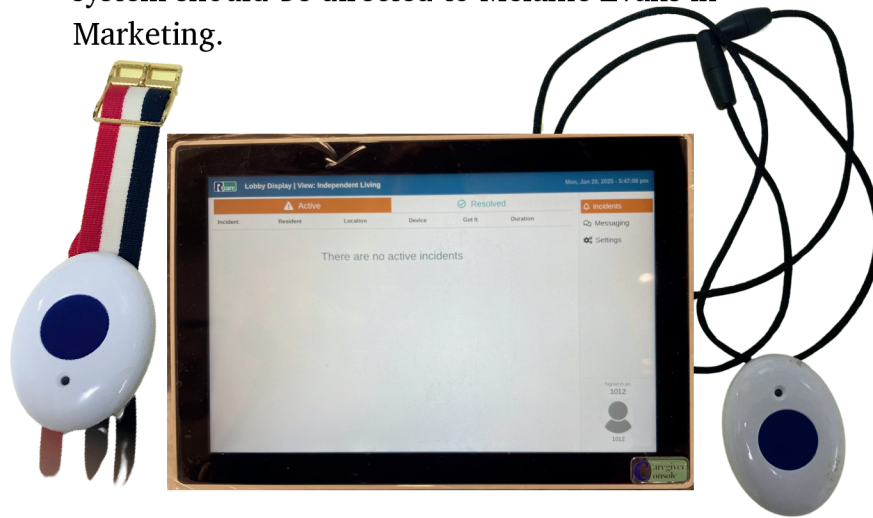
- Sweet Peas: Sow in deep pots for strong roots and beautiful summer blooms.
- Geraniums: Start seeds indoors for vibrant summer displays.
- Petunias: Sow under grow lights for an early start to this popular bedding plant.
- Begonias: Start tubers indoors for lush summer flowering.

Emergency Pendant Update

by Ed FitzGerald

It has been several months since the Towers switched to the new Pendant system for identifying emergencies. I met with Will Bosdell, Director of Operations, to determine how well the system was working and to review the operating procedure. Will stated that the system was working very well and achieving excellent emergency coverage for residents. A quick review of how the system operates would be helpful for our residents. The key element is the new Pendant. It should be worn at all times, either as a neck pendant or on the wrist. This insures that if an emergency occurs, the system will be activated immediately. When a resident activates the system by pushing the blue button, the signal opens the system monitor and alerts staff of an emergency call. On the monitor, a screen automatically opens which includes the name of the resident, the location of the resident, and a contact phone number. If the emergency occurs during the hours the Reception desk is staffed (8am-9pm), Reception will call the contact phone number and discuss with the resident the emergency issue and assess what actions should be taken. If the resident is unable to answer the phone, Reception will alert a maintenance staff member to visit the apartment and make contact with the resident. If the emergency occurs when Reception is closed, the call will open the monitor in the Manor. One of the care givers will immediately call the listed phone number and if answered, determine what actions are needed. If the call is unanswered, a care giver will visit the apartment to assist the resident with the appropriate action.

Will, emphasized the Manor nursing staff is equipped with a master key to gain entry to an apartment experiencing an emergency. He also advised that EMS ambulance service, police, and fire department responders possess the current door entry codes. When they enter the Towers, in response to an emergency call, they will go directly to the unit experiencing an emergency. Will is planning a testing day when all residents can activate the system and insure they are connected. Battery life of the pendant is four to five years. Questions concerning the Pendant system should be directed to Melanie Evans in Marketing.



Pictured here, with the pendants, is the tablet where calls are received at the front desk.

The Activity Committee will meet on Monday, February 10th at 2:00 pm in the 4th floor lounge. Please plan to attend and share your ideas for lunches, dinners, and other fun outings. Hope to see you there!!

Linder Tucker,
Activity Committee Chairman



Remembering Thomas "Pinky" Funderburk "Agent 208"

Thomas "Pinky" Funderburk moved into the Towers in April of 2007. With his dry wit and infectious personality, he instantly became a favorite of residents and staff. While here Pinky dubbed himself *Agent 208* (his apartment number) and delighted everyone when he walked through the building with his pet bird, Pretty Boy, riding on his shoulder and assisting him with his daily exercise routine.

During his time at the Towers, Pinky received 2 awards: The Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award and The French Legion of Honor, presented to him by Congressman Ralph Norman for his humanitarian flights during WWII.

Pinky passed away in the Health Center in December of 2024. Today if you visit the Sullenberger Aviation Museum you will find a part of Pinky's legacy on display.

THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR
MEDAL CEREMONY
TOM "PINKY" FUNDERBURK

Pinky loved sharing stories about his time as a pilot during WWII with 5th grade students from Orchard Park Elementary



PRESENTED BY

CONGRESSMAN RALPH NORMAN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019
2:00 PM IN HERITAGE HALL

WESTMINSTER TOWERS
1330 INDIA HOOK ROAD
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA



The French Legion of Honor Medal



Pinky & Pretty Boy on the NuStep



"The heroes are the ones that never got back."



Pinky & Vivian Funderburk
June 24, 1949



Pinky's military uniform is on display at the Sullenberger Aviation Museum in Charlotte



Pinky receiving The Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award along with his B17's Nose Art



In addition to Pinky's jacket, also on display are his letters to his mother during WWII.

The Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award



Pinky's Eisenhower Flight Jacket



Pinky (left) with his tail gunner (middle) and Navigator (right) standing with their B-17, Hun Bumper

Meet Pam Engle Executive Administrator Assistant

I was raised in the northwest suburbs of Chicago with my two younger sisters. I attended Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, GA, where I met my husband, Rich. We were married November 10, 1990. We have lived in IL and FL and moved to Fort Mill in August of 2020 when my husband accepted the position of Athletic Director at Westminster Catawba Christian School.

We have twin daughters who turn 29 in March. They both joined the Marine Corps after a year in college. They were both stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, which made visiting them very easy! Sydney finished after her 4-year commitment and joined the San Diego Police Department. She loves her job and living in sunny Southern California.

Madd signed up for an additional 5-year commitment and was stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, NC. She married a Marine in September 2022. They welcomed their first son, Sequoia Austin, on Halloween of 2023. Being a grandparent is the best thing in the world, just like everyone says! They have since both separated from the USMC. My son-in-law has acquired a land surveying position in Boise, ID, and they will be moving in the next month or so. We are so excited for them, but will certainly miss them and our grandson. Lots of visits are planned out west!!

I have been at the Towers since March of 2021. While I have done administrative work my whole working life, I never worked in a retirement community. As my in-laws grew older, I was spending lots of time in the communities where they lived and felt a tug on my heart to work in that environment. It has been a true blessing to meet and engage with so many residents and fellow coworkers here at the Towers. I feel the Lord has put me in this place, and I am extremely grateful.



A Note from the Library

by Kathy Jagger

If you are looking for an entertaining book to read, I highly recommend books we have in our library by John Sandford. He is a talented Pulitzer Prize winning author who spins an intriguing story in every book he writes. I must admit, that I have a personal interest in him as he is my first cousin!

John Sandford has written several series crime thriller fiction books as well as some non-



fiction ones. The two series we have in our library are the "Prey" books and the Virgil Flowers books about a "cop" who works for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

When you are browsing in the library searching for something to read, pick up one of his books, look it over, and check it out.

Travels

by Milt Jellum

I was born in rural central Minnesota at the beginning of the Great Depression where we did not get electricity until 1941. Growing up on a farm, we did not have much money, but we had plenty to eat with a large garden and livestock (milk cows, calves, pigs, and chickens) as a source of meat. Travel was restricted to a trip of 25 miles to a larger city once a year to shop for school shoes. Shoes were selected larger than necessary so that they would last until spring, and then we would go barefoot. I attended a one room school with eight grades and one teacher. I had one classmate. In such a small environment, it would have been hard to imagine what there was to see in God's creation. However, leaving the farm and going to college created an opportunity to travel to many parts of the world.

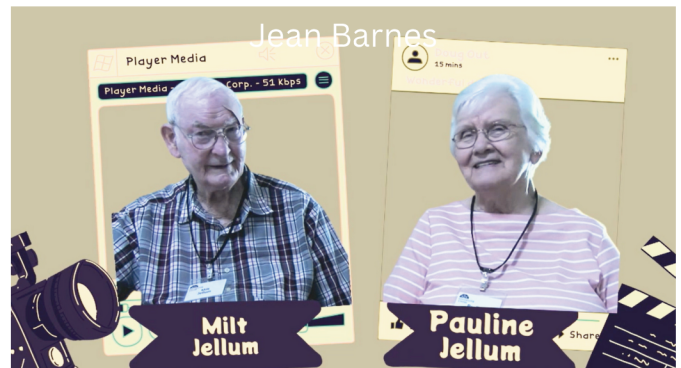
A Small sample of the many historical, cultural, and beautiful sites we have seen around the world is as follows:

1. Rode mules to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and stayed overnight at Phantom Ranch.
2. Hot air balloon ride near Sedona, AZ.
3. Famous waterfalls: Niagara, Victoria in Zimbabwe, Iguazu in Argentina & Brazil, Angel in Venezuela.
4. View of Dubai from the 128th floor observation deck of the tallest building in the world.
5. Observed skiers on the indoor ski slope in Dubai.
6. Rode camels in Morocco, India, and Australia.
7. Rode 2-hump dromedaries in Mongolia.
8. Rode elephants in Thailand and India.
9. Three trips to Russia:
 - a. Overnight trail from St. Petersburg to Moscow.

10. Three trips to Russia:
 - a. Overnight trail from St. Petersburg to Moscow.
 - b. River cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg.
 - c. River cruise from Stalingrad to Moscow.
11. Cruise on the Black Sea from Odessa to Yalta and then on the Dnieper River from Odessa to Kiev, Ukraine.
12. Three trips to China.
 - a. Great Wall, Terra Cotta soldiers, world's largest dam at Wuhan (Source of Covid)
 - b. Cruise on the Yangtze River (Twice), cruise on the Grand Canal.
13. Camped in a tent hundred miles from civilization in the Sahara Desert of Morocco.
14. Camped in a Yurt in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and in the mountains of Mongolia (home base of Genghis Kahn - leader of the world's largest empire.)

This is just a fraction of the trips the Jellum's have taken over the years. Next month in Windows, we'll post more of their adventures around the world.

Be sure to catch Towers Spotlight featuring Milt & Pauline Jellum, on Wednesday, February 5th at 11:00, and Thursday, February 13th at 2:45 on channel 99. They talk about their travels around the world and show us a few of their special souvenirs.



Dear Residents,

Throughout my time here as the CEO at Westminster Towers, it has been so deeply heartwarming to experience how our residents care for one another through the trials and tribulations of aging which oftentimes results in physical decline due to aging, the loss of family members and friends all of which take a toll on one's life emotionally, physically, spiritually. Time and time again, many of you undergo the challenges of some form of loss, and it is hard, and it is painful. On the other hand, I see time and time again how we as a community of faith rally around one another to lift one another up, encourage each other, and support one another. You pray for each other, send cards, sit with someone in their grief, listen to each other's struggles and stories, turn out in large numbers for memorial services in Heritage Hall, and call each other on the phone. Beyond that short list, in very tangible ways, you faithfully give to our Resident Endowment Fund so those who live here now and those who will live here in the future will have financial assistance when they outlive their finances. You give so generously to the Christmas Staff Appreciation Fund, contribute to the Staff Assistance Fund (which helps staff when there is a crisis in their life), and volunteer around the campus.

As CEO, daily I have a front row seat to experience a group of residents who love and care for one another in tangible and real ways in concrete acts of kindness in such unselfish ways. It all creates for us as staff a tremendous role model of a loving, caring community of Fellowship of warmth that binds us together. It is something hard to describe in words; it's something we feel and experience all over the campus.

It is a fulfillment of what the Apostle Paul urged the Galatian community in his letter to them in Chapter 6:2 and 10....."Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ.....therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

As the old hymn says: "Blest Be the Tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

Thank you, residents, for making Westminster a place of love for each other and for all who work and visit here.

**Jim Thomason, CEO
Westminster Towers**



"Activities Committee reports that there was a goof sign up, Saturday, January 11 afternoon, for the first Winthrop Men's Basketball game. The University has extended the bargain price of \$5

ticket price for Towers residents. 13 residents attended, dropped off at the lower level with printed tickets, and walked the short distance to our reserved seats. Ticket cost is added to the resident monthly bill. It was a great game with Winthrop defeating 2023 Big South Champion, Longwood University, 94 to 75. Activities will be scheduling additional games as the team is a top contender in the Big South Conference. If you are looking for an exciting get away from the Towers, consider signing up!"

Ed FitzGerald

TAMING THE TONGUE

by Carole Partridge

Imagine the astonished reaction of a parent a few years ago as she bundled her children into the car after church one Sunday, and was confronted with this question from a seven year old Solomon.....

“Mother, did you know that the tongue is an EVIL and WICKED thing?”

Knowing that the words “evil” and “wicked” were not in this particular child’s current vocabulary, and uncertain as to where this discussion was leading, the mother replied with caution.

“Well, I know that it certainly CAN be an evil thing, if we allow it to be. It takes great control for it not to be. Why do you ask?”

“THAT’S what we talked about in Sunday School today. My teacher SMASHED an egg with a hammer and said that our words can do the same thing.” For emphasis, the child smashed his tiny fist into the palm of his hand. “WOW, IT WAS GREAT!!!

This simple and graphic illustration made a profound impression upon a young heart who faces the worldly epithets of “Jerk!”, “Stupid!”,

“Shut up!” every day in public school and in the neighborhood games among friends. For some time after that, there was a secret signal between parent and child whenever patience worn thin, tempers flared, and harsh, hurtful words danced temptingly on the tip of the tongue, eager to perform their crushing devastation. Some members of the family would smash a fist into the palm of the other hand, and the picture of an irretrievably broken egg flashed through the mind... and the words would be swallowed unspoken.

On the other hand, the Sunday School teacher had provided an excellent opportunity for discussion on the healing and encouraging aspects of a well-placed word of kindness. What joy and harmony can be brought about by a sincere “I’m sorry.” “Please, forgive me.” “I love you!”

Proverbs 15:4 reminds us that “a wholesome tongue is a tree of life.” Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” (Proverbs 18:21) We are grateful for the many parents and teachers who gave their time, efforts, prayers, and personal examples to teach us important life lessons.

Etiquette Lunch

by Jody FitzGerald

On Wednesday, December 11, twelve students from Westminster Catawba Christian’s Etiquette Class, taught by Ms. Tammie Newell, enjoyed a lunch in the Private Dining Room hosted by Pam Engle, Jody FitzGerald, Don Hunt, Charles Ives, and Earl Wilcox. The students presented lovely handmade Christmas decorations to the hosts. It was fascinating to hear stories about their activities and family plans for the holidays. Ms. Newell’s Class exhibited excellent manners and enjoyed practicing their social skills with Towers residents.



Handmade Christmas gift presented to hosts by students.

January 2025 Memories



The
White House
Gift & Home Decor
featuring the Jim Shore Collection

QUILTING FABRICS
VINTAGE LINENS



2025
Happy New Year

