

Windows

March 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 3 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000





March Church Schedule

Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in Heritage Hall

3/5 Ash Wednesday, Ecumenical Service

3/12 Rev. Lee Zehmer, First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill

3/19 Rev. Jason Anderson, Hopewell Presbyterian Church

3/26 Rev. Jon Oliphant, First ARP Church of Rock Hill

Sunday, 3/9 Deacon Ray Moore, 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 April '25 edition of Windows is Monday, March 10.

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Newsletter Committee Members:
Linda Lenz - Chairman
Lou Ardrey
Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder
Jody FitzGerald
Carole Partridge

This Month's Contributors:
Ed FitzGerald
Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder
Milt Jellum
Carole Partridge

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher
Cami Freeman

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

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service

by Ed FitzGerald

An Ecumenical “Imposition of Ashes” Service is scheduled for Ash Wednesday, March 5th. The ancient placement of ashes on the forehead, signified the start of the 40 day penitential preparation for the risen Christ on

Easter Sunday. The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th @ 3pm in Heritage Hall. Rev Jeff Bryan, Senior Pastor at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, will co-preside with Deacon Ray Moore of St, Anne Catholic. Dr. Joe Zdenek will speak on behalf of Pilgrims’ Inn. The Inn is a local Social Services Agency that ministers to “the poorest of the poor.” Rev Lee Ferguson, Chaplain at the Towers, will close the event with prayer, and Nancy Anderson will provide appropriate Lenten music. Please mark your calendars and attend, if possible. Note: There will be a Free Will offering at the entry door in support of the Pilgrims’ Inn ministry.



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

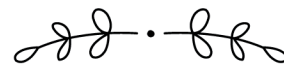
Linder Tucker,
Activity Committee Chairman



In Loving Memory



Don Grant



Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

Spencer & Lib Anderson
Jim & Nancy Bright
Sharon White

Fay Reynolds
Fay Reynolds
Fay Reynolds

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.



**Please Support
The Inn With a
Small Free Will Donation
Thank you**

Meet Your Neighbors

by Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder

Carmen and Ron moved to Westminster Towers May 20, 2022. They have spent most of their lifetime volunteering and helping the less fortunate. Ron was born and grew up in Illinois, and after attending Illinois State University majoring in Physical Education. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1952 and served until 1957. He was stationed in Japan for a short time before his transfer to MacGill Air Force Base in Florida where he met the love of his life, Carmen! She was working in retail, and Ron offered to drive her home from work, but she kept refusing his offer! On the third try, she accepted, but Carmen insisted he drop her off two blocks from her home because her uncle was hanging Christmas lights, but Ron won her uncle over by helping him string the lights!

Carmen and Ron married Sept. 28, 1957. Ron worked in sales for the rest of his career.

Carmen Amanda (Lopez) Hoover was born in Honduras, South America, and lived with her grandparents when she was a year old. Carmen attended grammar school in Antiqua studying to be a teacher. She immigrated to the U.S. at age 18 and lived with her uncle, who was a doctor, in Tampa, Florida. He enrolled Carmen in English classes, but Carmen found the classes too difficult and instead, skipped classes to play ping-pong with her Spanish speaking friends! When her uncle found out she was not attending school, he enrolled her in a business training school where Carmen applied herself and learned English!

One of her prized possessions is a letter from President Ronald Reagan congratulating her when she became a U.S. citizen.

Carmen and Ron married Sept. 28, 1957. They have three adult children, Ronald Jr., Angela, and Carla, six grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.



Carmen & Ron Hoover

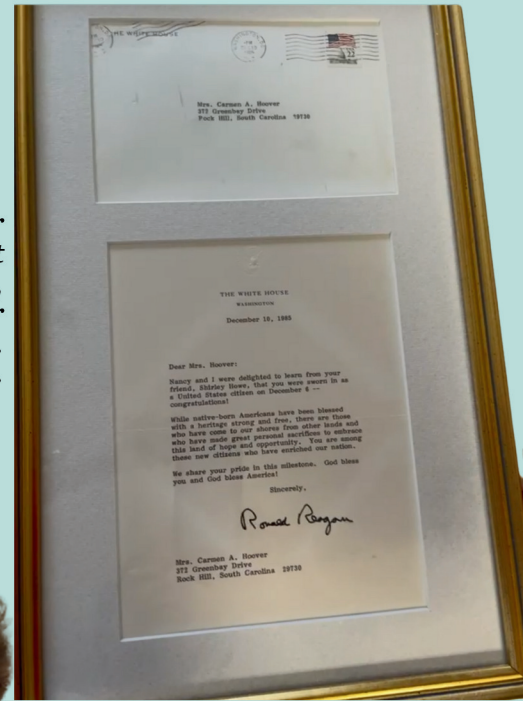
Ron enjoys playing cards and Rummikub. His passion was golf, and he had four tickets to a Panthers game before the stadium was ever built! Way to go Ron!

As mentioned earlier, Carmen and Ron have spent most of their married life volunteering and helping others. Ron volunteered with the probation office while Carmen was a volunteer with the Juvenile Court. Ron shared with me he was a Probation Officer for a young girl in Rock Hill and was able to place her in Epworth Children's Home in Columbia. After she graduated from high school at age 18, she wanted to leave the state home care system, but Ron convinced her to stay in the system so she could attend college. She followed his advice and earned a degree in social work and later returned to Epworth to be a social worker.

Carmen has been a volunteer at various places all her married life and is very proud of the many awards and citations she's received. In Orlando, Florida, she volunteered at a state home for disabled children. When they relocated to Charlotte in 1976, Carmen volunteered in Family

Juvenile Justice in the courts. She was appointed to the Guardian ad Litem and was the voice of children in court (Carmen shared that the Judge had gone to school with the Hoover children) She also volunteered with the Rock Hill Juvenile Auxiliary helping the Probation Officers for Juvenile Justice. She did this for a few years and received “Volunteer of the Year Award” in 1977 from the state of SC, for her work in the Juvenile Justice System. After moving to Rock Hill, Carmen volunteered to be a Translator for the Rock Hill school district where she met Jody FitzGerald as well as many other teachers in various schools. But once again, she felt God’s call to volunteer visiting Hospice Patients in their homes. She did this for 10 years until one day, she saw a sign on a Hospice Resale store. Even though the Hospice Resale store has relocated 3 times to different locations, Carmen relocated right along with it! She shared she started “behind the scenes” and has worked her way up to the front of the store as a cashier. You can see Carmen every Tuesday at the cash register in the Hospice Resale Store on Cherry Road. Carmen has supported various community organizations and is to be commended for her many hours/ years of volunteer work.

Carmen’s letter from President Ronald Reagan, congratulating her on her U.S. Citizenship.



Carmen with the Community Outstanding Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service to the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice.



How do you Volunteer?

We would like to celebrate all our resident volunteers! Submit your community service stories and pictures to Cami by March 10th at the front desk.

China: With and Without SARS

by Milt Jellum

The Towers celebrated China's New Year of the snake in January. We have made three trips to China beginning in 1994, 2003, and 2009. During this span of 15 years, we saw tremendous difference in development throughout the country and here are some of the brief highlights of our travels.

1994 trip: We traveled with a tour company that specialized in China tours. We began our tour of Beijing with trips to Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Harvest Temple, and many other sites. The outstanding feature in 1994 was the huge number of bicycles and the small number of cars. Cars would drive on the left or right side of the road or wherever there was space between bicycles. After a trip to the Great Wall, we took an overnight train to Xian home of the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. The army was discovered in 1974 by farmers digging a deep well for irrigation water. By 1994, the site was still very primitive and hard to visit. The site was vastly improved before our visits in 2003 and 2009. They have found over 8,000 soldiers (no duplicates), 150 chariots, and 520 horses.



Terracotta Army first discovered in 1974 by local farmers in Lintong County, outside Xian, Shaanxi, China.

From Xian, we took an all-day train and overnight train through over 1,100 miles of central China to Nanjing to Shanghai. The beauty of taking a train instead of flying was that we could really see the countryside, terraced mountains, villages, cities, and everyday life in the country. The trains and train stations are unbelievably crowded. Of course, we were treated differently from the natives. When trains came to a stop in stations, the rest rooms were locked until the trains started moving again. The rest rooms consist of a 6 inch hole in the floor.

In the Shanghai area we had a cruise on the Grand Canal which is used for transport of freight of all kinds and very busy. At times, our ship would be bumped by the freight boats. The Grand Canal was dug by hand in the 5th century and was over 1,100 miles between Beijing and Shanghai. In Wuxi, we visited a silkworm growing farm.



Silkworm farm in Wuxi, China

2003 Trip: (The year of SARS - severe acute respiratory syndrome). We had booked a tour with our favorite tour company, OAT (Overseas Adventure Travel) long before the beginning of SARS. Since we did not take out travel insurance, we ended up in Beijing with two other couples for our tour of China plus Tibet. With only six of us plus a driver and our tour guide, we could see and do a lot of things unavailable to regular size tour groups. One such adventure was a tour of the underground tunnels (serve as bomb shelters) that crisscross between Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, the airport, and other important sites. During the 1970's, school children (including our tour guide) would go to school in the forenoon and would dig in the tunnels in the afternoon.

A large part of this 2003 trip was a cruise on the Yangtze River from Wuhan (source of SARS and Covid) to Chongqing. The cruise ship had passenger capacity of 400, and we had our group of six and less than a dozen other passengers. The ship's crew was much larger than the passenger number. Construction of the Three Gorges Dam (world's largest dam) was beginning, and much work was taking place along the river in clearing land and moving people. It was interesting to see the work in progress to move over 31 million people. 13 cities, 140 towns and 1350 villages.

In the evening of our last Yangtze River cruise, we were preparing for our flight into Tibet the next

morning. However, our tour guide informed us that the Chinese government had just shut down the border with Tibet due to lack of medical facilities concerning SARS. We and the other two couples on the tour with us decided to cut our tour short and go home because of SARS.

2009 trip: Because of SARS in 2003, we could not visit Tibet, and we assumed we would never return to China again. However, we could not resist another trip when OAT offered the same trip to China-Tibet plus a pre-extension six-night tour of Mongolia. Mongolia is a fascinating country with a few large cities and most of the population as nomadic farmers. Mongolia is the world's largest land locked country. We camped in yurts (round canvass tents) in the mountains and in the Gobi Desert. There are no fences in the country, so one can drive wherever you wish. We visited a horse breeding farm and were served mare's (horse) milk. Mongolia is noted for a few individuals, after years of training, can sing two tunes at the same time. It is known as throat singing.

Beijing, Xian, and Yangtze River: While it may seem like we saw everything for a second time, this was not the case. Most tourists go to a restored section of the Great Wall that is easy to walk and is a beautiful site. We went to a natural section of the Wall that was almost impossible to walk because of damage due to age, earthquakes, and vandalism (stones hauled away for building material). The 2008 Olympic site in Beijing made a big difference in development of the city. In Xian, the Terracotta soldiers were just beginning to be restored in 1994. By 2009 there was a roof over the site to protect it from the elements, paved parking lot, museum, and major restoration in progress.



Sections of the Great Wall of China have been damaged due to age, earthquakes, and vandalism.

The Yangtze River was still flowing in 2003, and clearing buildings and relocation of people was taking place along the shore. By 2009 the world's largest dam was about half full of water and the scenery along the river was radically different from 2003.



Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric dam that spans the Yangtze River near Sandouping in Yiling District, Yichang, Hubei province, central China.

Tibet: SARS kept us out of Tibet in 2003, but we finally made it in 2009. Tibet is the country with the highest (about 2.5 miles) average altitude in the world. We had some high-altitude sickness, but not serious. The main attraction was the Potala Palace, home of the Dalai Lamas. The current 14th Dalai Lama is in exile in Northern India. China controls Tibet and they have a very high presence of military force at all major intersections in Lhasa, the capital city. Also, soldiers were located on the roof tops of all buildings in downtown Lhasa. We had our first Yak burgers in Lhasa. The Yak is similar in size to our Bison and has very long hair. It is adapted to high altitudes and cannot live at low altitudes.

A Final Thought



A commission was formed in 2001 to name 7 new wonders of the world from 200 existing monuments. The results were announced on July 7, 2007, in Lisbon. The new 7 wonders of the world: (1) Great Wall of China (2) Petra, Jordan (3) Colosseum, Italy (4) Chichen Itza, Mexico (5) Machu Picchu, Peru (6) Taj Mahal, Agra, India (7) Christ Redeemer, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We have visited all new wonders of the world as well as 50 states, 7 continents, and 100 countries.

Travels

(Continued from February 2025)

by Milt Jellum

Last month, Milt Jellum shared a little about himself and his travels around the world. We'll pick up where we left off....

15. Two trips to Vietnam:

- a. Cruise on the Mekong Delta River
- b. Visited the site of Ho Chi Minh trail overland and underground.
- c. Overnight on a houseboat in the Ha Long Bay, Hanoi.

16. Visited glass mausoleum for Lenin in Moscow, Chairmen Mao in Beijing, and Ho Chi Minh in Hanoi.

17. Taj Mahal in India. Built by Shah Jahan with over 20,000 workers from 1632 to 1653.

18. Houseboat tour of canal and river waterways in Southern India.

19. Cruise on the Gota Canal between Gothenburg & Stockholm, Sweden with 65 locks at 5 knots.

20. Pyramids of Giza in Egypt and cruise on the Nile River.

21. Cruise on a yacht among the Galapagos Islands.



A Galapagos tortoise is the largest living species of tortoise.

22. Tour of Ecuador where we stood on the equator with one foot in the northern hemisphere and one foot in the southern hemisphere.

23. Cruise from Acapulco to Fort Lauderdale through the Panama Canal.

24. Game safaris in Zimbabwe, Botswana (Okavango Delta), Namibia, and Zambia.

25. Cruise from Bergen, Norway around North Cape to Kirkenes above the Arctic Circle in June (24 hours of daylight) and in January (24 hours of darkness).

26. Hiked 6 miles around the base of Ayers Rock, Australia.

27. Angkor Wat, large temple in Cambodia. From the 12th century and the largest (400 acres) religious complex in the world.

28. Visited the only American Military cemetery in Africa near Tunis, Tunisia and the Normandy Beach Military in France.

29. Caught 4 piranha fish while fishing on the Amazon River in Peru.

30. Toured the Potala Palace home of the Dalai Lama (in exile) in Tibet.



The Potala Palace was the winter palace of the Dalai Lamas from 1649 to 1959. It has been a museum since 1994.

31. Petra, Jordan. Home of Nabataean Kingdom and unknown to the western world until discovered in 1812.

32. Underground cities of Cappadocia, Turkey. Due to persecution of Christians in the 7th and 8th centuries.

33. Jerusalem and all the major sites of importance in Israel.

34. Attended the Passion Play in 2000 in Oberammergau, Germany. Presented every 10 years.

35. Visited all the major sites (cities) important in the life and work of Martin Luther in Germany.

36. Visited the mountain top statue of Christ overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

37. Hiked to the Sun Gate at Machu Picchu, Peru.

38. Zodiac cruise through iceberg alley, Antarctica.

39. Cultural show in Mongolia of singing two tunes at the same time. Known as "throat" singing. Accomplished by very few individuals.

40. Transatlantic cruise on the Queen Mary from New York to Southampton, England.

41. Transatlantic cruise from Copenhagen, Denmark to Cape Liberty, New Jersey with port calls in Norway, Scotland, Iceland, and Newfoundland.

42. Cruise from Dubai to Abu Dhabi and through the Strait of Hormuz to Oman. A major supply of oil in the world passes through the Strait of Hormuz.

43. Cruise from Buenos Aires, Argentina around Cape Horn to Santiago, Chile.

A Day at the Fair

by Carole Partridge

It was a long time ago when it was the month that the County Fair came to our area, usually in the Fall in October more often than not. Our seventh-grade class was driven by a school bus to THE FAIR. It was that time of year when a sweater kept one warm and was easy and comfortable to wear or carry.

In our Georgia county, fairs came and went to mysterious places. We saved our money to ride the most exciting rides. We followed the school crowd to listen to the hawker trying to entice Money Holders into one of the questionable acts being offered. Outside the tents, the performing “ladies” wore costumes similar to bathing suits. Their friendliness seemed to be surface level only, with wax smiles, even to a seventh grader.

Georgia county fairs were usually held in the fall...late September or early October. Our schools grudgingly gave up one day in the autumn to allow buses to transport school children to this highly coveted event. Chaperones were required, but we were spared having to drag one around, if we stayed in chummy groups of four.

After we had squandered our allowance on the merry-go-round and the Ferris Wheel, we visited the animal barns where our farmer school mates and Future Farmers and Homemakers were displaying their fat pigs or calves with well-earned pride. The Fair grounds had been scattered with straw and hay to soak up some of the mud puddles created by a rainstorm within a day or two of our arrival. Personally, I suspected that the authorities in charge planned the Fair dates on the coolest and wettest days or weeks of the Fall season.

Oh, but the aromas could not be matched by any other event of the year...hot dogs loaded with onions; cotton candy guaranteed to be pink and sticky to the fingers; farm animals to be judged, brushed, watered down, preened for the judges. I admired those FFA and FHA classmates who fed and nurtured their animals to prepare for the Fall showing of their pigs, cows, even chicks. But I had no desire to follow suit. I could watch from a distance and be perfectly contented and proud for them.

The County Fair offered up the tall, circular Ferris Wheel, guaranteed to test one's ability to keep the junk food down. The horses on the Carousel bobbed up and down, leaping, skimming imaginary obstacles and simulating a legitimate hunt, chasing a non-existent fox.

My sister and I learned a valuable lesson at the last County Fair we attended. When our mother asked us later whether we had attended one of the questionable side shows, my sister and I conceded that we HAD, and it turned out to be sleazy and not worth the money. Mom smiled and chuckled to herself. “What’s so funny, Mom?”

“Well, one of my friends SAW you there and predicted that you would lie about attending. You have learned a valuable lesson, and I shall be able to trust you more in the future.”

This was the most coveted prize that we could have asked for...the TRUST of a loving, compassionate parent, dreading the dating years for her daughters on the cusp of maturity not too far in the future.

MONDAY, MARCH 3, AT 10:30 AM
HERITAGE HALL

SPECIAL
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY

SHELLEM CLINE



Award winning singer/songwriter from North Carolina. Cline is a Faith Country Artist with multiple awards and 2 number 1 hits. Cline performs in various venues from theatre to festivals, campgrounds and churches and provides Faith country music with a pinch of family friendly comedy. With many influences in Southern Gospel and Country music, his style reaches a demographic of 45 plus and has a heart to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

Residents' Association Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, at 2:30 PM
in Heritage Hall



All residents are encouraged to attend.

Should you have any questions or comments that you would like to be addressed by the RA Executive Officers, please complete the form included with the Feb. 17th memo and minutes from the December meeting and return it to the Front Desk by the end of day Sunday, March 2nd.

March Outings

HAPPY Valentine's Day

Congratulations to our 2025 Valentine Court

Signup at the Bulletin Board

Saturday, March 1

3:30 pm Winthrop Basketball
UNC Asheville vs. Winthrop

Saturday, March 1

6:45 pm Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra
Dvorak's New World Symphony
Tickets are \$30 and available at the door

Wednesday, March 5

4:30 pm Dinner outing to Pier 51

Friday, March 7

11:30 am Lunch at Flipside in Rock Hill

Friday, March 7

2:00 pm American Revolutionary Exhibit
at The White Home in Rock Hill

Sunday, March 9

3:30 pm Hope's Garden: Melodies for my
Mother by Kristen Wonderlich at Barnes
Recital Hall

Wednesday, March 12

11:30 am Lunch at Chinese Delacey

Friday, March 14

11:00 Lunch at Wagon Wheel in
Lancaster

Wednesday, March 19

4:30 pm Diner at Sweet Caroline's in
McConnells

Friday, March 21

11:30 am Lunch at Hickory Tavern in
Rock Hill

Wednesday, March 26

11:30 am Lunch at The Speckled Pear in
Fort Mill, and a visit to the Fort Mill
History Museum

Friday, March 28

4:30 Diner at Salmeri's Italian Kitchen in
Fort Mill



**Prince: Chuck Rohr, Princess: Sonja Erickson,
King & Queen: Milt and Pauline Jellum**



**Manor Prince:
Hartwell
Hildebrand**



**Manor Princess:
Carolyn Leaphart**



**HC Princess:
Bessie Vastis**

Fact or Fiction?

The Rice Method is the Best Way to Dry a Wet Phone

Many people believe that placing a wet phone in a bowl of rice is the best way to dry it out, but this method is not as effective as commonly thought. While rice can absorb some moisture, it is not as efficient as other drying methods. In fact, leaving a phone in rice for an extended period can cause further damage due to trapped moisture.

The best way to dry a wet phone is to power it off immediately, remove the battery if possible, and use a desiccant like silica gel packets to absorb moisture. Alternatively, placing the phone in front of a fan or using a vacuum to draw out moisture can be more effective. The rice method is a widely believed myth that persists due to its simplicity and accessibility.

February 2025 Memories

