

Windows

April 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 4 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000



Jesus said to her
I am the resurrection
and the life. He who
believes in me will live,
even though he dies: and
whoever lives and believes
in me will never die.

John 11:25-26



NEW!

April Church Schedule

The 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 3:00 pm
in Heritage Hall

4/9 St. John's Methodist Church

4/23 Rev. Jon Oliphant, First ARP Church of Rock Hill

Sunday, 4/13 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 May '25 edition of Windows is Monday, April 14.

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Newsletter Committee Members:

Linda Lenz - Chairman
Lou Ardrey
Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder
Jody FitzGerald
Carole Partridge

This Month's Contributors:

Lou Ardrey
Ed FitzGerald
Jody FitzGerald
Cami Feeman
James Neely Townsend
Jane Mitchell
Milt Jellum

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher
Cami Freeman

The next Newsletter Committee Meeting
will be on Monday, April 21, 2025,
at 3:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

The Wonder of Easter

by Lou Ardrey

I will never forget the sense of awe I felt several years ago when Jim and I were in Jerusalem. We had spent a week in Israel walking where Jesus walked, seeing the places we had read about in God's Word where He had taught and performed miracles, visiting the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed the night He was betrayed and standing at Golgotha where He was crucified. And then...we went to the empty tomb. We stepped inside and were reminded of the events recorded in Mark 16:



The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem

photo taken by Lou Ardrey

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so that they might anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb, and they asked each other,

“Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go tell his disciples and Peter. He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him just as he told you.”

Jesus is alive! He is in heaven today, seated at the right hand of the Father. When we accept Him as Lord and Savior, we also have the assurance of being resurrected one day and living with him for all eternity. Until then, His Spirit lives within us. When we celebrate Easter, we are reminded of those timeless truths. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Meet Your Neighbors

by James "Jim" Neely Townsend

I moved into Westminster Towers in November '24 after realizing that I was facing new health concerns, kidney failure. I have a daughter who lives in Cincinnati and a son in Pleasantville, NY. They helped force me into the decision, one that I had considered for several years. I loved my house in Rock Hill where I had lived for over 40 years. I dreaded the thought of getting rid of all my "stuff," treasures my wife and I found in antique stores during our 43 years of marriage. We loved to buy bargains in the rough and restore them together. Carolyn died in 2005 of cancer.

I married again to Margaret, and we lived mostly in my Blowing Rock Mountain house because she had resided in Boone for much of her life. This too, was a good marriage, but she died in 2020.

I am a Rock Hill native, attended Winthrop Training School, Rock Hill High, and Clemson. Carolyn was from the Cincinnati area, and used to say that I came there to find her because I was kin to everyone in York County. My mother, Earle Neely Townsend, was one of the early residents of Westminster and lived here for ten years.

I finished Clemson with a Mechanical Engineering degree and took my first job with Allis Chalmers in Cincinnati where I met and married Carolyn. After 2 ½ years in the Army, we settled in Charlotte where I worked for Kendall Co. I later worked in the construction industry for several years, until I bought and managed Waldrop Supply in Rock Hill selling plumbing supplies and appliances. Many locals remember us because of Carolyn's shop within the store, the Kitchen Corner, where she sold kitchen gadgets and decorations. I sold the business in 2000 and retired.



James "Jim" Neely Townsend

Retired does not mean I quit work. I have two serious hobbies, woodworking and old cars. My primary woodworking shop is at the Blowing Rock house, and my old cars are in my building where I ran Waldrop Supply. I told friends that when in Rock Hill, I was an auto mechanic, and when in Blowing Rock, a furniture maker. And that has been true for the last 25 years.

I prefer to build period furniture of walnut and cherry, but have bent to make a few modern pieces for grandchildren's special orders. I filled all corners of my two houses plus a few in my family's homes. I refrained from making pieces for sale. I made a number of small items that I donated to the gift shop in the White Home. When I moved to Westminster, I brought my first major piece, a corner cupboard and my last, a wine cellarette.

I worked in my grandfather's auto garage as a youth and always loved the American autos. During high school, my brother and I would buy junkers from the used car lot, fix them, and

sell them for profit. In my 20's, I bought my first antique car, a '32 Lincoln. It came from a junk yard and was in terrible condition, but all I could afford. It took 13 years for me to put it on the road, but it was a beauty! My interest gravitated to the model A Ford, a simple car built between 1928 and 1931. I have four. Earlier, Ford made the famous tin lizzie, the Model T, and I have two of those. I belong to the area club, Queen City Model A Club, and have opened my shop to members where we work on each other's cars. We have performed complete restorations but focus on maintenance needed to keep them on the road.



I guess you could say I have gone full circle. My shop? It is my grandfather's auto dealership building in downtown Rock Hill where I worked as a youth. I bought the building in the 80's, rent the front to a friend, and use the shop as my playroom. I work there three days a week.

I am happy with my decision to move into the Towers. People are friendly, I eat better, and I am free to work without the overhead of maintenance needs at my house. I have the comfort of knowing that if I have health needs, Westminster is prepared to assist me.



Wine Cellarette and collection of antique cars

The Activity Committee will meet on Monday, April 14th, 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



Ukraine and Russia

by Milt Jellum

We had a unique opportunity in 2008 to take a Dnieper River cruise in Ukraine with Gate 1 Travel followed by a Volga River cruise in Russia and Grand Circle Travel (GCT). Our plan was to make one round trip air flight for two cruise tours. Everything looked in order after booking the different river cruises with two travel companies and round-trip air flight with GCT. However, after several weeks, we were notified by GCT that they did not have a contract with Aerovit Airlines for us to fly early before our cruise with Gate 1 Travel. Therefore, we had to cruise with Gate 1 or add round trip flights to our tour. Since we did not want to cancel, we flew from Kiev to JFK where we found a motel overnight, and the next day we flew from JFK back to Kiev. In summary: we flew about 10,000 miles and 20 hours of flight time in two days (this was not our original plans.)

UKRAINE: Dnieper River cruise with Gate 1 Travel. Before the cruise, we had three days for sightseeing in the port city, Odessa. What was most interesting about Odessa are the tunnels dug out of limestone for building houses above ground. It is estimated that there are over 1,200 miles of tunnels under Odessa.



The Odesa catacombs are a labyrinth-like network of tunnels located under the city of Odesa and its outskirts in Ukraine, that are mostly the result of mining limestone.

The cruise began by going into the Black Sea to Yalta where we toured the Livadia Palace site of the Yalta Conference. The Livadia Palace was the summer home of the last Czar Nicolas II, the last of the Romanovs.



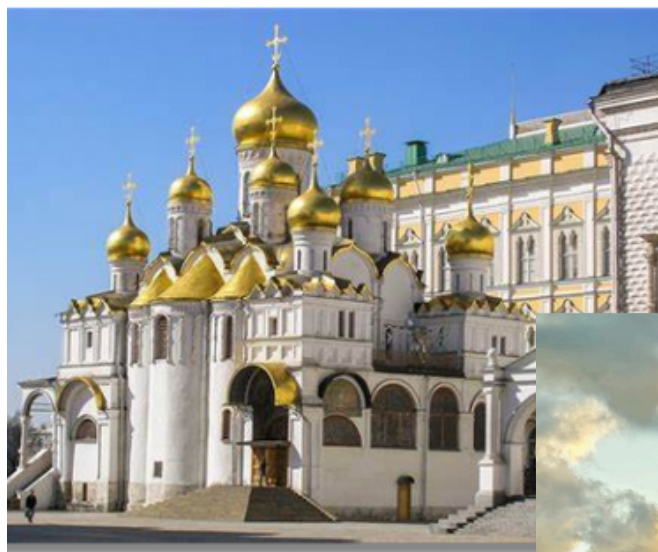
Livadia Palace in Yalta

After Yalta, we had a tour of Sevastopol which has one of the world's largest panoramas. In the battle of Sevastopol, the Russians had a cannon named "Dora" (and we have a small Dora in the Towers.) The Cannon Dora was 1,488 tons and it took 60 railroad cars to transport it, and when set up, it was 164 feet high with a 107-foot barrel. It took more than 4,000 men to transport, guard, maintain, and fire it with 5- and 7-ton shells that went up to 29 miles distance. The Dnieper River cruise ended in Kiev where we visited St. Sophia's Cathedral and the extensive underground catacombs.



"Dora" cannon

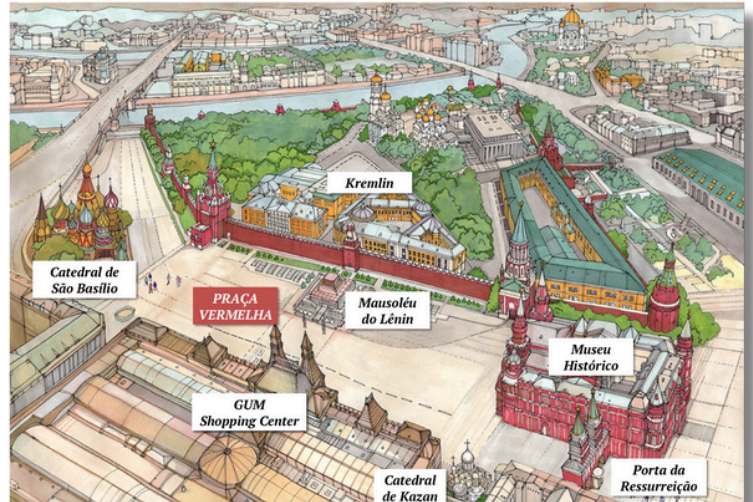
RUSSIA: Volga River cruise with GCT. Before the cruise we had time in Moscow to visit the Kremlin, Red Square, GUM department store and other sites. We had previously spent time in Moscow in 1992 and 1999 and we saw vast improvements from 1992 and 2008.



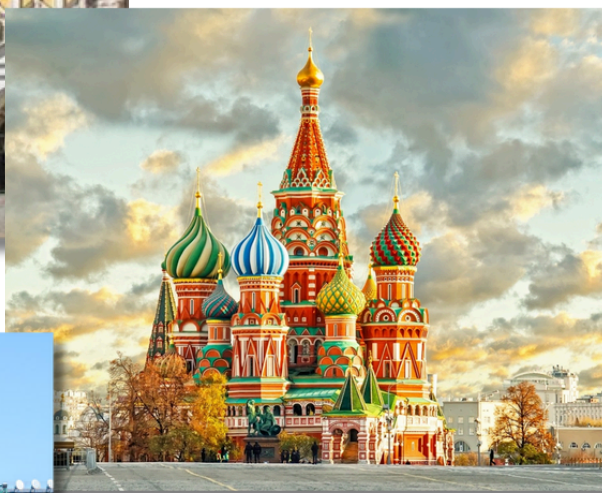
Kremlin



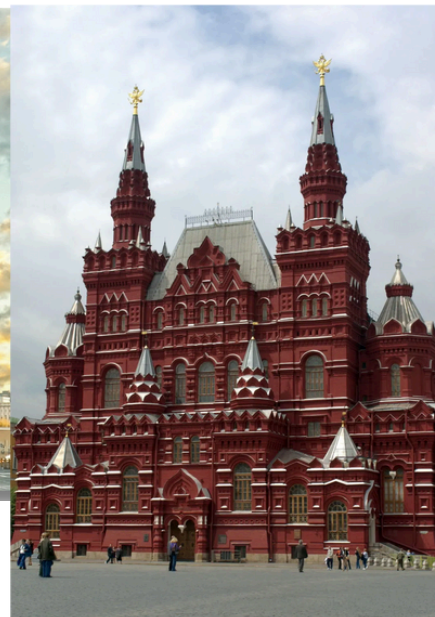
GUM Department Store



A sky view of Red Square in Moscow



St. Basil's Cathedral



State Historical Museum



Lenin with his parents and sisters and brothers,

Lenin is seen seated on the right. His brother, who was executed, is shown standing resting his arm upon his father's shoulder

At Samara, we visited Stalin's bunker by 200 steps down (and 200 steps up.) The bunker was built in early 1942 by 2,900 workers and 800 engineers.



Stalin's Bunker



The next port of Saratov was the hometown of Yuri Gagarin, the first human to travel into space. He died in 1968 in a Mig Plane on a routine training flight.



Yuri Gagarin



The last port of call on the Volga River was Stalingrad. Stalingrad was totally destroyed during World War II where the German army had about 500,000 personnel at the beginning siege of Stalingrad and only about 5,000 ever saw Germany again. Many monuments and museums are found throughout the city. One statue known as "Mother Russia" is 170 feet high and weighs 8,000 tons (the sword alone weighs 14 tons.) It is the largest statue in the world followed by the Statue of Liberty and by the Christ Statue in Rio.

"Mother Russia"

***The wisdom of St. Augustine:
"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page."***

Our New Residents are Fishing for Compliments

by Cami Freeman



Chick and Paul discuss how to keep the pond clean and the water flowing.



We have 12 Goldfish.



They are mostly gold (orange) but we have a few multi-color patterns.

When you walk through the lobby take a look out the window into the courtyard and try to spot our new residents. Chick Williams has transformed our fountain into a Goldfish Pond.

Goldfish are a relatively small member of the carp family and were domesticated from wild carp by the Chinese over 1,000 years ago. Over time and with selected breeding, many different breeds of goldfish have been developed. Today you can find goldfish in a variety of shapes, colors, and sizes.

Goldfish can grow their whole life and live up to 25 years in captivity. Common goldfish can easily

reach 10-12 inches in length and can be trained to recognize their owners and music. And goldfish in an outdoor pond will live longer than fish in an aquarium.

Goldfish are cold-water fish and thrive in water between 68° and 76°F but can survive in temperatures a few degrees above freezing. If the temperature dips below 60°F for more than a few days, they will go into hibernation and can survive for a few months.

Take a moment to admire our new residents and if you come up with names, please let us know.

Our Goal was \$500, and We Doubled it!

by Ed FitzGerald

Our Ash Wednesday service was, once again, a success. Over 75 residents attended the Ecumenical service and participated in the ancient rite of Ashes Imposition. Ashes on the forehead symbolizes the start of the 40-day preparation for the risen Christ on Easter morning. With amazing generosity, the service generated over \$1000 in support of Pilgrims' Inn, our selected charity, this year. Thank you, residents, for your genuine display of caring for the "poorest of the poor"; you made a difference.



Recycling: From Trash to Treasure

by Jane Mitchell

Many of us remember a time BEFORE plastic. We used paper bags for shopping, and our medicine came in glass containers or paper envelopes. Now, we are surrounded by the convenience of plastics, but plastic trash is affecting our environment, and microplastics are ending up in our food and even in our brains. Did you know that the recycling program at Westminster Towers includes plastic medicine bottles and plastic bags?

Plastic Medicine Bottles



Jane Mitchell will take your empty medicine bottles (prescription and over the counter) and process them for a mission project. What is trash for us becomes a clean container for life-saving medication in a developing country.

Please place empty medicine bottles with lids attached in the receptacle at apartment 616. You may remove prescription labels or strike through your name if you like. Jane removes all labels and washes the bottles before shipping them to the collection center. If it is inconvenient for you to deliver your used medication bottles, please call Jane to pick them up. She can also answer your questions about this mission project.

Plastic Bags

The recycling center in the basement accepts plastic grocery bags and dry-cleaning bags for recycling. Bags must be completely empty and clean. These bags can be transformed into new products rather than polluting God's beautiful world.



A Good Place

by Jody FitzGerald

When I knew Jane Mitchell was writing about her mission project for reusing empty pill bottles, I felt it was a perfect time to share my story about Good Pharmacy which is a family- owned business located at 1030 Oakland Avenue in Rock Hill since 1963. It is the Pharmacy used by the Health Center in the Towers as well as many of our residents. They are very accommodating and friendly to their customers! The druggists will gladly contact your physician if the prescription needs refilling and your pill bottle says " no refills." Good Pharmacy delivers to your door in the early evenings by the friendliest young people. If you are away, the prescription will be left on your shelf. Immunizations for COVID, RSV, Flu, Etc. are administered with little or no wait time. It truly is a GOOD PHARMACY!

April Outings

Signup at the Bulletin Board

Wednesday, April 2

10:30 am Brunch at IHop

Friday, April 4

11:00 am Lunch at Journeyman
Neighborhood Tavern on Oakland Ave.

Friday, April 4

6:45 pm Byrnes Re-opening Event.

Saturday, April 5

10:00 am Lake Wylie Lutheran Spring Craft
Market

Sunday, April 6

1:30 pm Music Club of Rock Hill Student
Spectacular at Barnes Recital Hall

Wednesday, April 9

5:00 pm Dinner at Flipside in Rock Hill

Thursday, April 10

5:30 pm Come See Me: *Broadway Nights* at
Castle Heights Middle School

Friday, April 11

9:15 am Westminster Catawba Christian
School *Hello Dolly!* Tickets are \$10.

Friday, April 11

11:30 am Lunch at The Roasting Company

Sunday, April 13

1:00 pm Antique Car Show & Craft Fair at
Rock Hill White Home. \$10 admission

Sunday, April 13

3:00 pm York County Choral Society
Passiontide. Tickets are \$10.

Wednesday, April 16

11:15 am Lunch at Cracker Barrel

Wednesday, April 16

5:30 pm *Shen Yun* performance at Blumenthal
in Charlotte

Friday, April 18

10:00 am WingHaven Garden & Sanctuary
with lunch following.

Etiquette Class



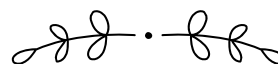
Approximately eighteen students from Westminster Catawba Christian School and adults from the Towers attended the Etiquette Class Luncheon on March 10. The students presented homemade bracelets to the Towers guests. Lessons taught this semester included table manners and proper etiquette sending and responding to text messages on their cell phones.



In Loving Memory



**Marie Graham
Juanita Eising
Dicksie Ward**



Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

Ed & Jody FitzGerald

Judy Heustess' Birthday

Ed & Jody FitzGerald

Marie Graham & Juanita Eising

Linder Tucker

Marie Graham

Spencer & Lib Anderson

Marie Graham

Jim and Nancy Bright

Marie Graham & Juanita Eising

Joanne Cauthen

Marie Graham, Juanita Eising &
Dicksie Ward

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.

March 2025 Memories

