

Windows

June 2025

Vol. XXXVI No. 6 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000





June Church Schedule

6/1 Oakland Ave. Presbyterian Church Communion Service at 2:00 pm in the Community Room

6/8 Catholic Communion Service at 3:00 pm in Heritage Hall. Deacon Ted Clement of St. Anne will preside. All are welcome!

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

6/11 Lee Zehmer, First Presbyterian Church

6/25 Rev. Jon Oliphant, First ARP Church of Rock Hill

**If you would like to suggest someone to conduct a Wednesday church service, please contact Nancy Anderson, in apartment 214, or 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 July '25 edition of Windows is Monday, June 16.

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Newsletter Committee Members:

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

This Month's Contributors:

Nancy Anderson
Ed FitzGerald
Milt Jelum
Nancy Preston

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher
Cami Freeman

The next Newsletter Committee Meeting will be on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Manager on Duty (MOD)

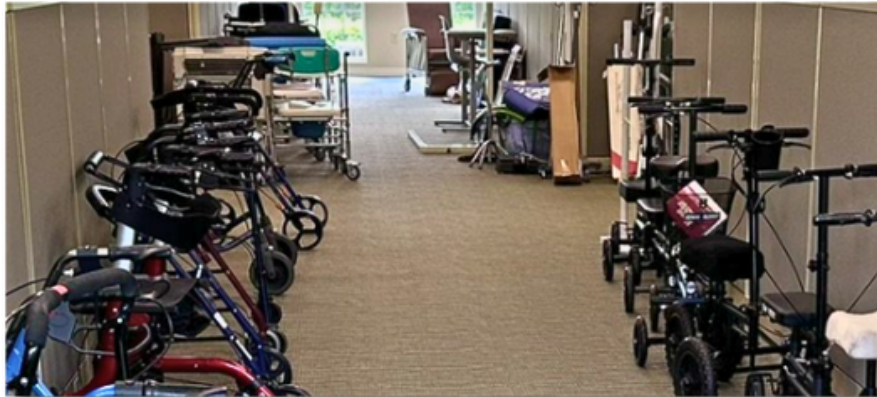
by Ed FitzGerald

On weekends at the Towers there is a management staff person on duty from 8am to 12 noon Saturday and Sunday.



Prior to Covid, the appropriate manager's name was posted at reception. Somehow, the posting of the MOD stopped for no apparent reason. It has recently been revived, and the name of the assigned manager is now posted at reception. It is comforting to know that if an emergency or system breakdown occurs, the receptionist can contact the MOD on radio and start remedial action to correct the problem. Additionally, the MOD assumes a presence with visits to the Health Center, Manor, and Independent Living, making sure staff and residents know that they are trained and ready to assist if needed. The reception desk is pleased to know that MOD is out there ready to assist them if needed.

Hospice & Community Care



Caring Closet located at 2275 India Hook Road, is part of Hospice and Community Care and provides a great variety of walkers, transport chairs, kneel scooters, commodes, etc. for loan. The paperwork is minimal, and the only request is that the equipment be returned promptly in clean condition when no longer needed.

Their mission is to make use of the resources already available in our community and to share them with people in need. The phone number is 803-329-1500, and it is open from 10 am to 1 pm each Tuesday. The email address is caringcloset@hospicecommunitycare.org.

BHUTAN “Land of the Thunder Dragon”

by Milt Jellum

Bhutan is located in the Himalayas mountains between Nepal and India. Bhutan is 98.8% covered by mountains and is the world's most mountainous country. We had a six-night tour of Bhutan in 2005, and our first experience with mountains came with our approach into Paro International Airport when we looked out both sides of the airplane and saw mountain sides very near the plane. The airport is only open in the daylight hours, and pilots must be certified to fly into Paro after extensive training.

Travel distances are given in time instead of miles. For example: our first trip from Paro to the capital city, Thimphu, was 34 miles or 2 hours. Our next trip was from Thimphu over the 10,000-foot Dochula Pass to Punakha of 44 miles or 3 hours. In general, there is one highway from east to west across the country and three roads into India. Most highways were one paved lane with shoulders for vehicles to pass each other. Bhutan is a country with not a single traffic light. The lone stoplight ever installed was in Thimphu, but locals complained so much, it was taken down and replaced by white-gloved traffic directors.

In Thimphu, we visited the National Library which houses a paper factory, textile museum, and a Medicine Institute. We had a trip high into the mountains to a game preserve to see takins, the national animal of Bhutan. After two nights in Thimphu, we had two nights in Punakha where we visited a farm village and toured a farmer's house. Most of the population is involved in subsistence agriculture with rice being the main crop. Before leaving the Punakha valley, we had a long scenic drive into the narrow and high mountains of the region. The narrow and steep roads were not for the faint of heart. The next two nights found us back in Paro for a close-up view of the Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery. This monastery was



Nestled in a deep valley along the Paro Chhu River, Paro International Airport is considered one of the most challenging airports for landing and taking off in the world.



The takin, also called cattle chamois or gnu goat.

built in the late 1600's high on the mountainside (3,000 feet above the valley floor). I (Pauline did not participate) rode a mule up the steep mountainside across the valley from the Tiger's Nest for a closeup view. However, because of the steep grade we could not ride the mules the 3000 feet back down to the valley floor. Going down by foot was fast but not easy.



Paro Taktsang, also known as the Taktsang Palphug Monastery and the Tiger's Nest, is a sacred Vajrayana Himalayan Buddhist site located in the cliffside of the upper Paro Valley in Bhutan.

Bhutan was an absolute monarchy at the time of our visit in 2005. The King Jigme Singye Wangchuck married four sisters in one ceremony. In 2008, Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy. In 1999, the government lifted a ban on television and internet. The sale or use of tobacco is banned and carries a high fine if caught smoking. Bhutan banned plastic bags nationwide in 1999. Travel to Bhutan must be by tour companies such as Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT). To protect their culture and way of living, the government limits the number of tourists and collects a fee of \$200 per tourist per day.

Locals worry about the subtle changes mass tourism brings - from plastic waste to shifts in traditional life. If you've ever wanted to trek to Tiger's Nest Monastery or sample spicy ema datshi in a cheerful farmhouse, the window might be closing.

The best time to visit is spring or autumn, when rhododendrons bloom and festivals light up the valleys.

After a fascinating week's tour of Bhutan, we left the Paro airport and wound our way between the mountain peaks to our next adventure. It was a perfectly clear and sunny day, and we had a nice view of the Himalayan Mountains including Mount Everest. We had a stop in Kathmandu, Nepal before arriving in New Delhi, India for a three-week tour of India.



Jigme Singye Wangchuck married four sisters. The Bhutanese like to joke that the reason he married sisters was so he could avoid having four mothers-in-law.

HAPPY Father's DAY

Known as Ed FitzGerald to many, he's Dad to us, and Grampy Fitz to his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren!

He and Mom moved to the Towers in early 2016 in preparation for the expected advancement of dementia and Alzheimer's Mom would eventually succumb to. When Rita Marx, our grandmother, moved into the Towers in 2006, Dad would comment that "I don't think I'd live there, too many old folks!" We just chuckled, thinking he might fit right in some day. Well, Dad loves Westminster and began saying shortly after he and Mom moved in, that it's the best place for him to be. "I can't imagine still taking care of a house at my age," he's said many times.

But that he did. We have great memories of Dad working so hard on various home improvement and maintenance projects over the years. He wasn't about to pay for someone to do the work if he could tackle the chore himself. He loved to paint both inside and out, usually whistling a tune while steadily wielding a brush or roller, sometimes way up on a ladder!

For years, Dad kept a vegetable garden which continues today with his little patch at the Towers.

It's through his demonstration of hard work and dedication that Dad has instilled in us the value of a job well done. He was fond of saying "We don't do any half-jobs around here," essentially conveying if you're going to do it, do it right!

Education was very important to Dad, and he wanted us to work hard and stay focused. He always told us to "sit in the front row" so that we would get all the knowledge directly from the teacher, rather than goofing off with friends in the back. We sat in the front pew at church, too, for the same reason!

Dad's generous nature and passion for social justice was always a part of his focus and still is today. He volunteered for charities and sat on various civic boards, contributing much time to the betterment

of our city and region. For many years, he taught a current events series at Shepherd's Center, which proved to be quite popular. These actions have inspired us to be better citizens by keeping ourselves involved in efforts to give back.

As kids, we often joked that we had a guest speaker each night at dinner. It was Dad, of course, and topics ranged from current events to politics. This all ties back to the importance of education, keeping oneself informed, and doing something to make a difference. What great lessons that we pass on to our children. Dad is always quick with a laugh, too. He taught us that humor, often self-deprecating, is a sign of self-confidence, and that it's important to look upon the bright side of life.

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**My father didn't tell me
how to live. He lived and
let me watch him do it.**



CLARENCE BUDINGTON KELLAND

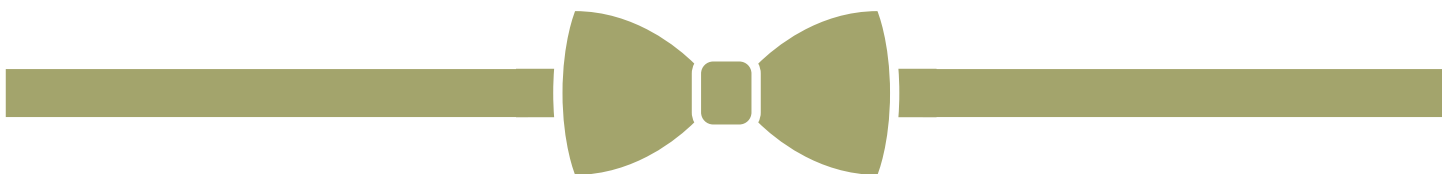
Family and being together is of utmost importance to Dad. He's always loved a great family vacation. As our families grew, frequently he and Mom traveled across the country or to England to ensure quality time was invested. Locally, being invited to dinner is the highlight of his week.

As adults, we have sought Dad's sound advice

when faced with career hurdles and other bumps life has thrown us along the way.

Dad has been an incredible positive influence on our lives, the lives of our spouses, and our children. We feel happy and blessed to still have him with us. Happy Father's Day, Dad!

Love, Greg/Della, Bridgit/Phil, and Nate/Rebecca



Ray Lautzenheiser, "Mr. L", was my dad, and you couldn't tell me that I wasn't cool because of it. I got to ride to the high school with him every day, which meant I got to be the 1st one on the bus for elementary school, and because I was always at the school with him, it was like I had hundreds of extra older brothers and sisters who always looked out for me. My dad worked in the same school district for more than 35 years. When he retired, students from all over shared stories about the impact that he had on their lives.



I have so many memories that would have never happened if my dad wasn't Mr. L. Trips to see Broadway shows in New York and Toronto, Canada with my high school friends, going to Europe for three weeks and singing, spending study hall playing euchre instead of studying, just to name a few. My dad was everyone's school dad. He gave them advice for how to be good friends and students. He always showed up for his kids at school and never missed any of our events. He believed in public education and within that system, the importance of adding music whenever possible.

After I earned my bachelor's degree, I realized that I wanted to be like him... sort of. I didn't really want to teach, but I wanted to work in the school system. I became a School Counselor and eventually an Assistant Principal. Like my dad, all of my years of experience are in the same school district. Like my dad, our son rides to school with me every day and will graduate from the high school where I work. Like my dad, I have had the opportunity to be a school parent to thousands of students. And, like my dad, I believe in public education, including a strong partiality for the fine arts.

My dad is Mr. L and all these years later, I am still pretty cool because of him!

Happy Father's Day!

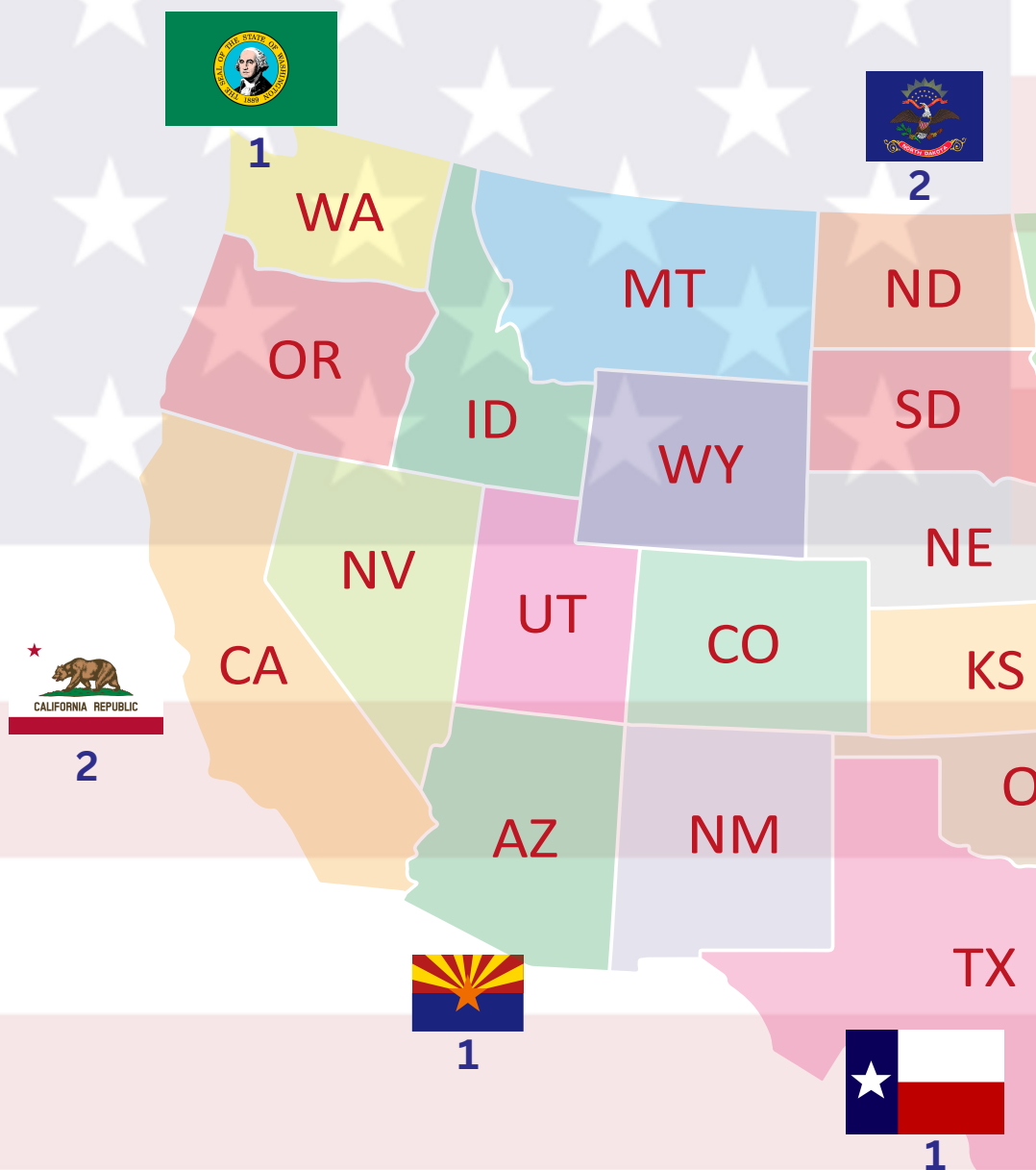
Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

The Flag Resolution stated, "That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternating red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

FLAG JUN

Where are

Arizona 1
Arkansas 1
California 2
Florida 4
Georgia 2
Illinois 3
Maine 1
Massachusetts 3
Michigan 4
Minnesota 3
Missouri 4
New York 5
North Carolina 7
North Dakota 2
Ohio 4
Oklahoma 3
Pennsylvania 9
South Carolina 31
Tennessee 1
Texas 1
Virginia 2
Washington 1
Washington D.C. 2



All Roads Lead

we from?

Though we come from diverse states with their own cultures and traditions, we stand united as one nation under the U.S. flag, bound by shared values and a common purpose.



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Meet Your Neighbor

by Nancy Preston

John Karhu was born in Orismala, Finland in 1938 and moved to New York when he was a year old. His mother was a maid, and his father was a carpenter in the shipyards. In 1946, the family moved to Leads, Maryland.

After high school, John joined the army and was stationed in Germany for three years. He then attended the American University in New York City where he majored in German.

In 1961, he married Mary Lou, and they were blessed with two children. Wendy lives in Atlanta, and his son Michael, has lived in Rock Hill for many years. Sadly, Mary Lou is now deceased.

John now resides in Manor West and loves to play BRIDGE! He plays weekly in Manor West and is eager to play in the Towers as well! He can be reached by calling Manor West.



John Karhu

Repurposing the Organ

by Nancy Anderson

When the organ died and was dismantled last year, Pat Wickham observed the two keyboards leaning up against the dumpster, and she rescued them. They sat in Mark Howell's office for some time while we pondered what could be done with them. Some research on the web revealed numerous pictures of artwork made from musical as well as computer keyboards.

I contacted Bill Weaver who had created our podium from parts of the organ console, showed him some pictures I had taken from the internet, and asked if he would be interested in making some artwork out of one of the



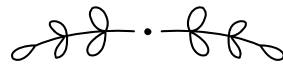
keyboards. He took on the task and got right to work. The piece he constructed has now been hung on the wall right above where the organ used to sit in Heritage Hall. So, once again we say thank you to Bill for using both his creative as well as carpentry skills to bless us. The organ has now truly been memorialized.



In Loving Memory



Dorothy Kerr



Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

Milt & Pauline Jellum	Mrs. Ruth Aanerud and Mrs. Hilma Jellum
Joan Barron Bundy	Eugenia Granger Barron
Mary Thompson	Estella B. McDaniel
John Barnes	Jean Barnes
Ruth L. Greer	Ina R. Long
Louise M. Clinton	Florence Elizabeth Vernard
Anonymous	Olive M. Barnes
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BrickSide Homes	Carol L. Douglas
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Marjorie Cook Trust	Marjorie R. Cook
Don Hunt	Alice Farr Hunt
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Anonymous	Mary J. Norman
Rion Rutledge	
Helen Faile	Annie T. Baine
Spencer & Lib Anderson	Sara Senn Plowden and Leila B. Anderson
Carlton & Judy Heustess	Rachel Fergusson Barton, Elsie Taylor Heustess, Dicksie Ward, & Barney Blackwelder

In Remembrance/Honor

Earle Turner	Elizabeth Ervin Sanders
Carolyn Hallman	Lutie Cartrette McQueen
Stephen & Debbie Turner	Carolyn Hallman
Denise Prast	Janet Billey
Tom Jackman	Joyce Jackman
Sylvia Kirby	Vera Sermons & Myrtle Kirby
Deen Clanton	Laura Hill
Donna & Chip McArthur	Clara Nell Branning
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Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder	Alice James & April Amos
Anonymous	Etoile W. Crain
Ed & Jody FitzGerald	Jim Townsend, for a special favor
Ed & Jody FitzGerald	Rici Williams, brother of Chick Williams
Clarke Moore	Sara Grahm Moore
Ann Simpson	Honor Our Veterans
Pat & Steve Cashion	Louise Harris & Helen Cashion
Brad & Cindy Dickey	Florence F. Dickey

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.

