

Windows

February 2026

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





February Church Schedule

**The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:00 pm
in Heritage Hall**

2/4 Rev. Lisa Johnson, Bowling Green Presbyterian Church

2/18 Rev. Jon Oliphant, First ARP Church of Rock Hill

Ecumenical Imposition of Ashes Service. All are welcome!

**2/8 Catholic Communion Service at 2:45 pm in Heritage Hall.
Deacon Andrew DaSilva will preside. All are welcome!**

**If you would like to suggest someone to conduct a Wednesday church
service, please contact Nancy Anderson, in apartment 214.
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 '26 edition of
Windows is Monday, February 9.

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Newsletter Committee Members:

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

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher
Cami Freeman

The next Newsletter Committee Meeting
will be on Monday, February 16, 2025,
at 2:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Getting to Know Dawna Sapp

by Alice Airth

Getting to Know Dawna Sapp. No, that's not a misprint...it's Dawna, not Donna. Yes, it is a family name.

When I asked Dawna if she would be willing to be interviewed, she said...well, I won't repeat it but let me just say she has a wicked sense of humor. However, since we are neighbors, she eventually agreed to allow us to meet her.

Dawna is originally from Chester, SC. She was married – husband died in 2015 – has 2 children, 2 stepchildren, 4 grandkids, and 2 step-grandkids. For names and details, see Dawna.

She attended Winthrop College, then Winthrop University for her MLA, and taught English and AP English (Advanced Placement) in Rock Hill at the Westminster Catawba Christian School, and later, was principal of the High School.

She likes to read, do crossword puzzles, play bridge, and to “Shag” – the SC State Dance. She also enjoys visits with her two sisters, one living in Florida and the other in Connecticut.

Dawna moved to the Towers from Asheville, NC, where she had moved after her husband died, to



Dawna Sapp

be closer to her daughter. But she missed Rock Hill and the friends she had here, so this year she decided to return. She already knew a lot about the Towers because her mother had been one of the original residents, moving in soon after the facility opened in 1989 and living here for 10 years. Now, Dawna is enjoying the Towers and the friendly people here, just like her mother.

Welcome to Westminster Towers, Dawna—we're glad you're here, and one of these days we want to see you “Shag”!



by Ed FitzGerald

- From the kitchen: Silverware and small dishes continue to disappear from the dining room. Please give your apartment a once over, and if you have any of the missing items, kindly return them. Our dinning staff thanks you!
- Jim Townsend, our resident wood craftsman, can repair any broken furniture. If you have a need, you can contact Jim on Wednesdays in the Woodshop from 2:00tp 3:30pm. He is a very helpful resident.

Towers Tips continued on page 11

Knitted Slipper

by Carole Partridge

It seems like so long ago when Germarish came into our lives for a brief period. Our church was one of several churches in the community who took in converted ex-convicts for the holidays to provide them with a family atmosphere and show them the love of Jesus Christ in what the church called Undershepherd Homes. Germarish had been convicted of stealing and had since paid off her debt to society. Our home was an Undershepherd Home and had been selected to host, not only Germarish, but her five children, who had been separated and scattered in foster homes, for the Thanksgiving holiday. Germarish had participated in several church activities in the months prior to Thanksgiving, and she was excited at the prospect of her children being together as a family for the holiday.

On that Tuesday evening, the probation officer dropped Germarish off at our home for the holiday weekend. The Undershepherd group was also meeting at our home for Bible study and prayer that evening. Germarish was welcomed to the group and settled in for the study lesson and prayer time.

Before prayer began, Germarish asked if she could pray first. She said she needed to thank the Lord for the special gifts He had given her this year... the opportunity to be with her five children and the beautiful new slippers a church member had knitted by hand and given her. She held up a pair of blue knitted slippers. The inserted sole was a sanitary napkin - invisible, but firm for the foot. The ingenuity of the home-made slippers, and the pride with which they were worn, brought tears to the eyes of other Christians present, who lacked very few of the world's luxuries. A sense of grateful humility

swept through the group of prayer warriors present as Germarish read Psalm 40. It seemed to take on a new meaning when read by someone who had suffered, rather than one of us especially blessed on that Thanksgiving weekend.

Germarish's children joined us Thanksgiving Day, and while we waited for the turkey to finish cooking to a rich brown color, the children asked their mom to braid their hair. As her fingers flew in and out, the children sat patiently, luxuriating in the presence of their mother, and enjoying the intricately braided hair styles she gave each child.

As everyone gathered around the table, laden with culinary goodies, acknowledgement of God's generous bounty, in and through prayer, brought God's grace to hearts and table alike. Whatever the family had gone through that year, God had provided a roof over their heads and at least one holiday in which the family could be together.

I waited patiently for the Lord;
And He inclined to me,
And heard my cry.

Psalm 40



Renovated Swimming Pool Glows

by Ed FitzGerald

The construction phase of the pool renovation is complete, and the pool just sparkles with an aquamarine glow. The newly installed LED lights, combined with the walls and bottom resurfacing, provide an amazing “Brand New” look. Handrails and exit ladders are finished in attractive white adding to the new pool look. All deck surfaces have also been upgraded.



The pool water has to be treated to proper PH balance and inspected before being approved by state officials. JR, who is managing the project, estimates the pool will be ready for use by mid-February. Stop by and give the pool a look. Get your swimming attire together and get ready to go swimming!

The Activities Department is planning a Grand Re-Opening party once everything is completed and ready!

Do's And Don'ts

by Linda Williams

How did I, a retired Rock Hill School District educator, married since 1963, mother of a son and daughter, grandmother of five, and a regular, everyday citizen, come to write a book on etiquette and manners in the latter stages of a very good life? Here's the story.

In 1999, someone from York Technical College asked me to teach an etiquette class as part of their Community Outreach program. "We know you can teach. We'll trust you to produce the content."

Although I had always referred to an etiquette book when needed, I had never read the book in its entirety. I took on the challenge - to educate myself.

I read that first book and took many notes. I realized that my mother never taught me everything I should have known. (She didn't know.) Even worse, this mother had never taught her children everything they needed to know. (I didn't know.) I read another book. And another. I was ready to teach that class, but it was cancelled, due to lack of interest.

But my interest had piqued. I kept on reading books by leading authorities. The gurus did not always agree. The same topics were not covered by all of them. I had amassed a wealth of etiquette information that I could use. As an educator, I had to find a way to share that knowledge.

In 2003, I organized the "rules" into 18 categories, put them into a "Do's and Don'ts" format for each day of the year, and self-published a page-a-day calendar with pages that could be easily removed and put on bulletin boards, etc. The calendar was well received by family and friends with two complaints:



Linda in 2003, with her "Do's and Don'ts" self-published page-a-day calendar

1. They didn't want to tear off the pages.
2. They needed an index.

In 2008, the book was updated and self-published in a spiral bound 5-1/2" x 8-1/2" book. It, too, was well-received but limited in circulation because of the difficulty in distribution. When it needed another revision in 2017, I offered it to Winthrop University to use as they saw fit. Friend and neighbor, Dr. Mark Herring, Dean of Dacus Library at the time, suggested we add it to the Digital Commons library for easy distribution and revisions. Therefore, the information could be obtained for FREE in an easy-to-read, easy-to-understand format.

Shortly after the first publication at Dacus, there were over 500 downloads from people all over the world. By 2025, over 4,500 downloads were registered. Time for another big redo.

This is it: just Google
Winthrop Dacus Williams Etiquette
https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/dacus_facpub/74/

To date, there have been over 5,700 downloads

Now, 25 years since my first encounter with etiquette education, what are my thoughts?

I would like for people to change their perspective of the word “etiquette”. It is not for “high society.” It is not just about table manners. The knowledge and practice of etiquette rules produce a sense of confidence that makes each day easier and better – for each of us and the people we meet. And it’s not just a “Southern” thing, as I have been told.

Guidelines for good manners never change - but etiquette rules do. Is it now acceptable for family members to host bridal or baby showers? Yes. Is it okay to use preprinted address labels on invitations? Yes. Fortunately, we can find updates on the internet when we are in doubt - but we can confidently use the old etiquette rules because they still apply.

The one thing I would like to change in the world of etiquette is this long-standing demand for handwritten thank-you notes. Our mothers did teach us to write those notes on good stationary using wood writing pens, properly addressing the envelope, attaching the stamp, and sending them within a short amount of time. Yes, doing this produces the ultimate and best way to express appreciation. However, the focus should be to express your gratitude for a gift, a special favor, a thoughtful gesture, etc. – in any way you can. Failure to do so is the ultimate act of rudeness. So, why isn’t an email, text, a telephone call, or even a verbal acknowledgement acceptable? So many young people never thanked Aunt Sally in any way for the \$100 she mailed two years ago as a graduation gift because they never got around to handwriting a note to send in the mail. SO ungrateful! SO thoughtless! So inconsiderate! (It’s not too late to do that, by the way. Let Aunt Sally know you got her gift. She is still wondering.)

So, here are over 730 suggestions for “recommended” behavior. I am not the “Manners Police,” but I think people would like to know not to put a used cloth napkin in their dinner plates, not to clink their glasses together during a banquet

toast, not to arrive at a party before the stated time, how to insert a greeting card into an envelope, when not to use their cell phones, and so much more.



Linda in 2008, signing copies of the spiral bound edition of “Do’s and Don’ts”



Linda and Winthrop’s “Winnie” checking out the rule and updating as needed.

Meet The Crew: Administration

Each month we will feature different departments here at Westminster Towers.



Jim Thomason, CEO

Hired: October 2016

Born: Jackson TN, family has resided in Tennessee since 1795, and before that, in NC and VA traced to 1686

One of Five children, all of us were born in 7 years 1951-1953-1953 (twins)-1955-1958

Lifelong Baptist

Hobbies: walking, American History, Current Events, Family History

Graduated from Union University, BA, M.DIV Southern Seminary, MA Webster University

(Health Services Management), two-year Clinical Pastoral Education Residency (5 Units) at Geisinger Medical Center

Licensed Administrator since 1983

One adult son who works in Real Estate



Will Bosdel, President

Hired: November 2023

Married to Alison with 3 children (Ansley, Sadie, Liam)

Hobbies: Traveling with Family, Gardening, attempting to play guitar

Fun Fact: I like to reference song lyrics and movie quotes within normal conversation

Pam Engle, Executive Administrative Assistant

Hired: 2021

Married to Rich, twin daughters - one in San Diego, one married with a grandson in Boise, ID

Hobbies: reading, cross stitching, walking

Fun Fact: both daughters and son-in-law are separated from the Marine Corps - Ooh Rah!



Jennie McCall, CFO

Hired August 2023. I relocated to South Carolina from Connecticut 4 years ago, after previously living in Connecticut for 32 years. I'm a big UCONN basketball and soccer fan, women's, and men's teams.

I have a married daughter who resides in Boston, Mass area, and son, still living in CT. Until recently, I had an Australian Sheppard dog who lived to be 18 years old!

Hobbies: I enjoy walking ocean beaches and many sports, especially tennis, running road races, and swimming.

Fun Fact: my most memorable trip was hiking the Grand Canyon - 24 miles rim to rim, experiencing beautiful scenery amidst cold and snow to desert conditions all in one day!



Tim Moll, Financial Controller

Hired: Aug.2024

Married to Nancy, 2 married daughters living locally, 2 granddaughters

Hobbies: playing tennis and scorekeeper at most Winthrop sporting events

Fun Fact: Big Ohio State fan, born and raised a Buckeye



The Activity Committee will meet on Monday, January 12th, 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

WINTHROP EAGLES

For the second year, Winthrop University Men's Cornhole team has won the National Championship, held recently, at Myrtle Beach. This news got me wondering just what was happening at the Towers at 3pm on Fridays in Heritage Hall.

CORNHOLE

What I discovered was an organized group of Towers residents engaging in friendly competition tossing weighted bags onto an elevated frame with a hole located toward the top. A bag tossed that goes into the hole counts three points. Bags that stay on the frame, above a scoring line, are given one point. A game ends when one team scores a total of 15 points. We have some very skilled players. At the Friday event. Lois Kirkpatrick can compete with any player. Chuck Rohr and Don Hunt are outstanding players. They are very welcoming to new residents interested in learning the game. It is spirited exercise and good socialization, both necessary for resident happiness. Interested? Just show up at 3pm on any Friday. I might see you there!



Doubles team winners Gavin Hamann, left, and Jaxson Remmick, right.



Chick Williams, Don Hunt, Sonja Erickson, Chuck Rohr, and Lois Kirkpatrick enjoy some friendly competition

by Ed FitzGerald



by Ed FitzGerald

- Agape Heath visits the Towers the second Monday each month. Visit them in the Community Room starting at 10:30am. They will screen your weight, oxygen level, temperature, and blood pressure. It's a good idea to get a monthly check up!
- Need change or small bills? Reception can help if request is reasonable.
- Here is how to compute your new unit rent that will appear on the January statement. Multiply the December rent by 104% and add \$60. This will appear on the statement. In July, add another \$60. If you are having difficulty reading the new statement's "micro print" like me, ---- COMPLAIN. The Towers is a retirement community with many residents who are experiencing vision decline.
- Remember to use the hallway handrails to avoid painful falls. They are there for a very important reason!
- Energy bills are dramatically increasing due to growing demand. Help the Towers cut back on electricity use by darkening your apartment unit when you are away. We can impact on reducing Towers costs.



In Loving Memory



**Bob McSparin
Charles Martin**

Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

Judy & Carlton Heustess	Dining Room Waitstaff, Jimmy Galloway, Table Decorations by Jim Townsend	Endowment
Jody & Ed FitzGerald	Becky Gasque Franco, Juli's Daughter	Employee Appreciation
Lois & W.C. Kirkpatrick	Becky Gasque Franco, Juli's Daughter	Endowment
Nancy & Jim Bright	Bob McSparin	Endowment
Dr. Brand & Mrs. Cindy Dickey		Employee Appreciation
Jody & Ed FitzGerald	In Honor of Sarah & Paul Basha, Lou Ardrey's daughter & son-in-law, and Pam Engle's Mother	Employee Appreciation
Lou Ardrey	Esther Jackson, Bob McSparin, and Pam Engle's Mother	Endowment
Jody & Ed FitzGerald	Charles Martin	Employees Christmas Fund

If you want to make a donation to any of our funds (Endowment, Employee Appreciation, 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.

February Outings

JANUARY 2026 MEMORIES

Signup at the Bulletin Board

Wednesday, February 4

11:00 am Lunch at Junior Varsity & Tour of The Thread.



Friday, February 6

10:30 am Lunch at Catawba Fish Camp.



Saturday, February 7

2:30 pm Winthrop Basketball Game.



Saturday, February 7

6:45 pm Rock Hill Symphony.



Wednesday, February 11

5:00 pm Dinner at Rey Azteca.



Friday, February 13

10:30 am Brunch at Pop's Cafe.



Sunday, February 15

Rock Hill Music Club at Winthrop.

Wednesday, February 18

5:00 pm Dinner at Flipside.



Friday, February 20

10:00 am Shopping at Hamrick's of Gaffney & lunch at Clock Restaurant.

Wednesday, February 25

4:30 pm Dinner at Pier 51.

Friday, February 27

TBA

Saturday, February 28

3:30pm Winthrop Basketball Game.

