WESTMINSTER TOWERS

Windows

October 2026

Vol. XXXVII No. 10 1330 India Hook Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732
(803) 328-5000





October Church Schedule

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

10/7 Matt Joldersma, Neely's Creek ARP Church

10/21 Rev. Jon Oliphant, First ARP Church of Rock Hill

10/11 Catholic Communion Service at 2:45 pm in Heritage Hall. Deacon Angel 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 November '26 edition of Windows is Wednesday, October 14.

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Newsletter Committee Members:
Linda Lenz - Chairman
Alice Airth
Lou Ardrey
Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder
Jody FitzGerald
Charles Ives
Betty Spradley

Grammarian
Jody FitzGerald

Publisher / Editor
Cami Freeman

The next Newsletter Committee Meeting will be on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 2:00 pm, in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

A Request and A Reminder

by Nancy Anderson,
Your Residents' Association President



Do you ever wonder what the $6 annual association dues are used for that are collected? Each fall, the Executive Committee meets to decide what project we might spend the money on that will benefit residents. In recent years, we have purchased the luggage cart at the front entrance, some of the shopping carts, the cushions on the portico benches, the amplifier and microphone used for the Bible reading each evening, and a clock in the library.

Now, we are asking you to make suggestions for things you feel would be helpful for us to have. We typically contribute some money to the Employee Christmas fund but have several hundred dollars left to use for another project. What would you like to see us purchase? Send your ideas to one of the Executive Committee members, and we will thoughtfully consider them.

On another topic, there are 19 people on the waiting list to get a reserved parking space. If you are one who has a spot there but have essentially stopped driving, please be kind and give up your space for someone else. That should be true for the handicap spaces as well. While the Towers provides more of them than the law demands, we also have more people who could use a space than what is available.

Woodshop Coordinator Needed



After significant renovation, the basement woodshop is close to re-opening. As Jim Townsend has passed away, the shop needs an experienced coordinator to assist residents desiring to safely use the equipment. If you possess the basic skills and would be willing to assist users, please contact JR Lester, Building Operations Manager. An open house viewing of the new facility will be scheduled shortly. When the open house times are announced, please plan to visit. You will be amazed at the new facility!

Watch Jeanne Robertson on YouTube
2n & 4th Wednesdays, at 3:00, In the Community Room



So, who is Jeanne Robertson?

Jeanne Robertson was a wife, mother, and Miss North Carolina 1963. She became a public speaker during her Miss NC year, and that lead to a long career as a humorist (not a comedienne). Jeanne could turn everyday occurrences into funny stories. She traveled all over the country telling these stories on radio and for adoring sold-out audiences. She appeared in Rock Hill many times for fundraising events and other special appearances. She would talk about her being 6'2" at age 13; playing basketball in high school and at Auburn University; her husband Jerry (often called "Left Brain" - not an insult; he just thinks differently); her friends; and her son "Beaver".

Sadly, Jeanne died suddenly in 2021 at the age of 77, only two months after the death of "LB". Fortunately, her presentations have been saved and are available on YouTube. It is very enjoyable to watch her on a computer screen, but tons of fun to gather in one room with friends to look, listen, and share the laughter.

So, let's get together for some hilarious afternoons. Wednesdays, 3:00, in the Community Room.

Submitted by Linda Williams



The next meeting of the Food Services Committee will be held on Thursday, October 15, at 2:30 pm in the Community Room.
All are welcome to attend and share their thoughts about the meals and services provided by Unidine.

The Activity Committee will meet on Monday, Oct. 5th, 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



A Tribute

by Nancy Anderson

In September, the Towers lost one of its loved and distinguished residents. Jim Townsend did not live here all that long, but the impact he made was significant. A display of some of the wooden objects he had made at the September 15 breakfast honoring him revealed that he was a very accomplished wood worker. When he moved in, he took immediate interest in the woodworking shop and was the catalyst behind cleaning and revamping it. Then he spent countless hours there working on various projects – such as the wooden reindeer displayed on each table in the dining room at Christmas. He also offered a weekly time when the shop was open for residents to bring items needing to be fixed. I took advantage of his expertise as I am sure many others did too.



We were also delighted when a parade of his antique cars arrived one day and were parked under the portico for all to examine. Also, because I live on the front side of the building overlooking the parking lot, I saw him drive one here occasionally and park it overnight in a space right in front of my balcony window. It was fun to look at it and reminisce about times long gone.

Jim was a gentle, unassuming man who had a positive impact while he lived here. My husband and I ate many Sunday meals with him and other good friends. We shall surely miss him.

Towers' Stitchers Holiday Market



Please plan now to attend a sale of the Tower's Stitchers handcrafted items on Saturday, November 7th, and find some early gifts for those on your Christmas list. The sale will be held in our Community Room from 9:00 am until noon and will be open to the public. Donations from our residents of handmade items and cash donations would be greatly appreciated. See Pat Cashion, Apt. 512, to make these donations. The proceeds from this sale will be donated to the Employee Appreciation Christmas Fund. Your kind and generous participation will be greatly appreciated, especially by our employees who are so deserving.



TOWERS TIPS

by Ed FitzGerald

- The Towers reception now closes at 7:00 pm on weekends. This means that residents must carry or remember the door code to enter the building, if out past 7:00 pm. If you do not have the code, use the phone located left of the doors, dial 5000, and it will be answered in the Manor. Identify yourself, and someone will come to open the door. It is best to use the main entrance since it is safe, has better light, and is out of the weather.
- On holidays, there will only be one meal served in the dining room at lunch. If unsure, ask the staff or check the weekly menu where the holiday meal time will be listed.
- If you use the Towers bus, please arrive at the gathering place 15 minutes prior to departure. This allows our drivers to begin loading the bus for an on-schedule departure. The four front seats are reserved for passengers who need extra help boarding the bus. Please respect this protocol---thanks.
- There will be no formal signup sheet for the B & K nails. The bus will carry residents to the nail salon on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The bus will make a nails drop-off before Food Lion. Just show up 15 minutes prior to the scheduled 9:00 am departure.
- Old exercise equipment has been replaced with new machines. They are excellent, smooth, and easy to operate!
- The Supervised Open Swim has been moved to Thursdays at 10:00 am due to a conflict. Order a new bathing suit and enter the warm therapeutic waters of our beautiful, renovated pool! Here you can leave some aches and pains behind.



Ed, Jody, and Arlene join Maggie for Open Swim Thursdays at 10:00 am

- Eladio is back on staff after a significant leave of absence! His responsibilities are with Resident Care. Need help, call Eladio.
- First Citizens Bank has announced that the brand-new facility, at the corner of Ebenezer and Herlong, will open on Monday, November 16th. This beautiful building will be the area headquarters. The bank's downtown location will close. There will be an Open House to visit the new facility. Peter Guarascio, our bank contact, will work with Activities to schedule several bus visits to the new building.
- There are two employee funds at the Towers. If you want your contribution to go to the Employee Christmas Fund, write Employee Appreciation Fund on the left side memo line of your check. Please direct your check to Pam Engle in the CEO office for handling.

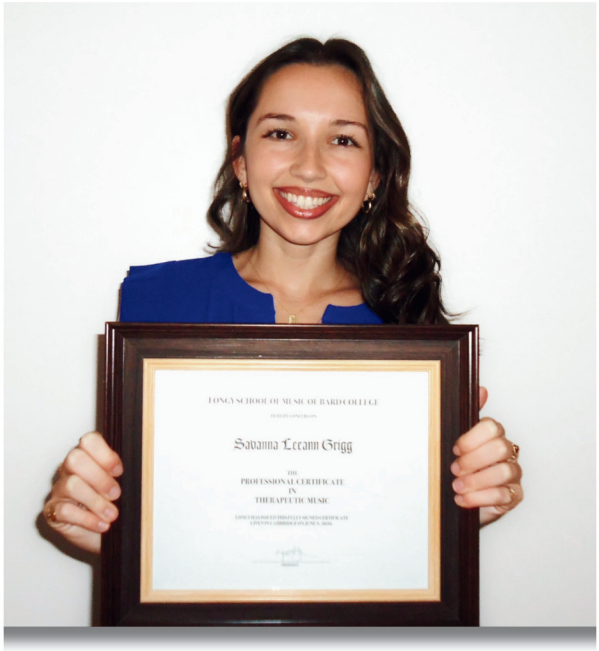
Meet the New Voices of Experince Choir Director

Submitted by Lou Ardrey

After leading the Westminster Towers choir for several years, Dr. Wunderlich has turned it over to one of her brightest students, Savanna Griggs. Savanna is excited about this new opportunity in her musical career. Here are some interesting facts about her….in her own words.

I was born in and grew up in Clover, South Carolina. My love for choral music began early on, and in the seventh grade, I decided I wanted to be a choral director. Once I reached high school years, my love for choral music truly flourished! I attended Clover High School and was a part of the Clover Choraliers as well as Honors Chorale under the direction of Jay Forest. Being in this program in my high school years was my favorite activity. I also took a music theory class in high school multiple times, where I got to dabble in composition for the very first time .

After graduating from Clover High School, I attended Winthrop University, where I am in my final year. I will graduate with my Bachelor of Music Education, Choral Concentration in May of 1927. I will have my senior recital on Sunday, November 22nd, at 2:00 pm in Winthrop Barnes Recital Hall.



Savanna displays her Professional Certificate in Theraputical Music



Savanna and Ezra

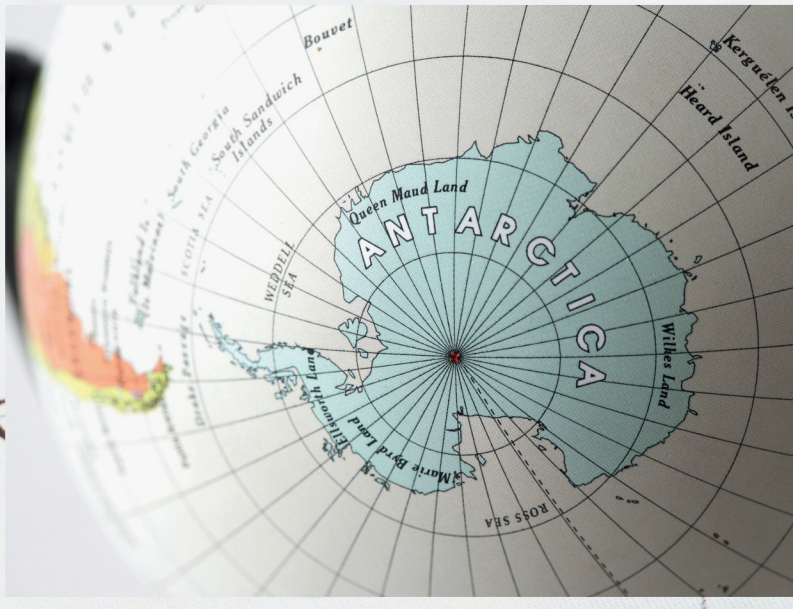
My hobbies revolve mostly around music. I spend lots of time practicing and planning music and rehearsals for my choirs and private students. Outside of music, I like to visit antique and thrift stores, spend time with my family and friends, and go for walks. I also love to spend time with my pet iguana, Ezra. I have had Ezra for a little over a year. He was found at my mother's school on a car windshield. We assume he escaped from a nearby neighbor who tended to lose reptiles. I decided to take him in, and he has been the best pet ever since! Iguanas live 20-30 years, so he will be around for quite some time. He is my only pet and lives with me. He has a 6-foot-tall cage, but he often free-roams my apartment when I am home.

Antarctica: A Trip to the Bottom of the World

by Milt Jellum

In 2027 we took a 16-day tour with Grand Circle Travel (GCT) to Antarctica. Getting ready required more time and effort than most trips. First of all, we had to get a physician sign-off on a form that we were fit to travel to Antarctica. Then we had to pack a parka, rubber rain pants, rubber 15-inch boots, and gloves. Our first stop was Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, for a two-night stay. Our tour guides met us here, and unknowingly to us, they were evaluating us for further travel because two elderly sisters were sent home as unfit for travel to Antarctica. We had a tour of the city and a tango performance. The most visited site is Eva Perón's gravesite in Recoleta Cemetery. Eva Perón was a champion of the working class and is much revered in Argentina. She died in 1952 of cancer at the age of 33.

An example of what not to bring on a trip. Two couples from our group went out of our hotel to eat lunch at a restaurant. The restaurant wasn't open when they arrived, so they waited at the door. A man approached them and engaged them in conversation. All of a sudden, the man grabbed the lady's arm, ripped the Rolex watch off, and a scooter appeared. The man jumped on, and they were gone in seconds. Goodbye Rolex, and the lady ended up with a very sore and bruised arm.





Ushuaia "City at the End of the World"



Beagle Channel

Our second stop is Ushuaia, known as the "City at the End of The World." We had an overnight stay with a room overlooking the Beagle Channel to the south and snow-capped mountains to the north. After a tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park, we embarked on our 90-passenger M/S Andrea expedition ship. The Ushuaia port is extremely busy as a cargo port, and most ships coming and going to Antarctica use the Ushuaia port. As we went out on the Beagle Channel, we were told that we would



Crossing the Drake Passage to reach Antarctica is a challenging 48-hour journey through the world's roughest and most unpredictable bodies of water, connecting South America to Antarctica.



enter the 600-mile Drake Passage at 2:00 am. At the appointed time, we were awakened by what felt like hitting the bottom of the ocean (but it was only the bottom of a large wave). Our bed had the ship's wall on one side and a hospital-type rail on the other side, which spilled everything onto the floor. The Drake Passage is where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans converge with warm and cold waters to produce turbulent conditions. In the morning, we looked down the hall and, despite handrails, we decided to skip breakfast. Later on, our room steward offered to bring breakfast to our room. A lady passenger did go to breakfast, where she fell and injured her shoulder. We then headed to the Chilean research station, where there was air service for the lady and her husband back to Ushuaia. We were given a tour of the research facilities, so this was a bonus excursion for us. Despite extensive handrails throughout the ship, falling to the floor was a common event. In the dining room, the tables were attached to the floor, and the chairs had a strap from the seat to the floor with limited movement. The tablecloth was sprayed with water before setting the plate and glasses down, and they did not slide off the table (try it sometime). We soon learned how to hold onto one handrail and dash to the next handrail. While cruising the Drake Passage, the ship had an expedition team that gave lectures on birds, animals, geology, history, etc. Instead of attending in person, we could watch the lectures on our room TV. We were fortunate to have a pod of orca whales going alongside the ship in good view.



A pod of orca whales in the Drake Passage.

ANTARCTICA

While 25 million tourists visit Niagara Falls per year, only 120,000 visit Antarctica. However, only 80,000 visitors actually go ashore, and the other 40,000 see Antarctica from the deck of large cruise ships. By international law, a maximum of 100 tourists can go ashore at any one place at the same time. Fewer than 0.002% of the global population has visited Antarctica. Antarctica is larger than the U.S. and Mexico combined. Research personnel and anyone else planning to spend the winter months in Antarctica must have their appendix and wisdom teeth removed. Medical services may be weeks or months away. However, a Russian doctor at the Novolazarevskaya Station removed his own appendix in 1961 with assistance from two workers holding mirrors. The doctor survived.



Antarctica is larger than the U.S. and Mexico combined.

Our tour group (GCT) as well as all other tour companies will have tentative schedules of zodiac landings. However, no tour company will guarantee that all landings will be made due to water, ice, and weather conditions, as well as coordination with other ships. Our tour included 9 tentative zodiac landings in 4.5 days. Fortunately, we were able to make all 9 of our scheduled zodiac landings.



A zodiac landing in Antarctica is when you step ashore from a rigid inflatable boat (Zodiac) to remote beaches, with IAATO rules limiting 100 guests at a time



Antarctiva: A Trip to the Bottom of the World by Milt Jellum will continue next month, in the November edition of Windows.



Etta Kett says....

Condolence Letter

Condolence letters should be handwritten on good quality, white or ecru, plain or engraved stationery as soon as you learn of a person's death. You may add "and family" when addressing the envelope.

Never send a commercial sympathy card with your signature only. Enclose or add a note, such as, "I am so sorry for your loss."



Calling All Towers Retired Nurses

Hopefully you have received and completed the Nursing Survey mailed to you by the Marketing Department. Planning is underway to celebrate all retired nurses living in Independent Living and our Manor Assisted Living section. If you did not receive a survey, please stop by Marketing for a copy. Kindly complete it and return it to Marketing. If you have not completed your survey, please take a moment to complete it and send it to Marketing ASAP. The Nursing Celebration is now scheduled for Monday, October 19th, in Heritage Hall, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. We want to celebrate and recognize all our wonderful nurses living among us. Thank you.



In Loving Memory



Gordon Reese
Jim Townsend
Betty Rudd

Acknowledging Those Who Donate

In Remembrance/Honor

Jim Bright	Gordon Reese and Jim Townsend	Endowment
Ruth Greer	Jim Townsend	Endowment
Sonja Erickson	Jim Townsend	Endowment
Chuck Rohr	Jim Townsend, David Henriquez, and Dora Bowman	Endowment
David Martin	Weltha and Charles Martin	Endowment
Arlene Jenkins Blackwelder	Barney Blackwelder	Endowment
Ed FitzGerald	Jody FitzGerald's Birthday	Employee Appreciation
Jody and Ed FitzGerald	Edward Marnock, Barbara's Brother	Employee Appreciation
Linder Tucker	Jim Townsend	Employee Appreciation
Judy & Carlton Heustess	Jim Townsend, in appreciation of his creative ideas and great talents in the woodworking shop to make Westminster Towers so special.	Endowment
Lou Ardrey	Gordon Reese, Jim Townsend	Endowment
Charles Ives	Jim Townsend	Endowment

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.

October Outings

SEPTEMBER 2026 MEMORIES













