Enjoying Christmas Dinner with our friends and family ... is such a wonderful gift!

SAINT SIMEON’S CHRISTMAS DINNER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 11:30 A.M.

Reserve your table through the front reception desk at the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center

(918) 794-1903

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. As always, we will make every attempt to accommodate you and your loved ones in the dining room of your choice.

Right: On November 17th, Residents enjoyed making holiday candy in Carla’s Corner with special guest Susan Secrist from Baptist Village of Owasso (not pictured).

Below: Residents Ginger Read and Ruth Kraemer share a laugh.

Left: Simone II gets in the holiday spirit!
“Miscellany” is your opportunity to share creative writings, short stories, poems, jokes and other pieces. If you have something you’d like to submit, or a suggestion about a piece you’d like to see, send an email to kimberly.earickson@gmail.com.

Back in October’s Miscellany column, Resident Marie Millar shared the story of how her “button bracelets” came to fruition. It was a neat chronicle of a Resident’s own idea and initiative turning into something that others could experience and enjoy! Thanks also to Kathy Hinkle for highlighting the following story to share with our readers:

This month we’re sharing another great Resident idea that has just taken flight: Residents Tom Freeman and Father Bob Evans came up with an idea to make note cards featuring pictures from Saint Simeon’s on the front. They, along with their wives, Ruth and Anne, so enjoy the natural beauty of our grounds, that they thought others would too. And since we’re always looking for new and creative ways to introduce Saint Simeon’s to others, they also thought perhaps someone would see one and think that they might want to move to a beautiful place like this someday. We may also give them to speakers and performers to express our appreciation when they visit here.

Being that Tom and Fr. Bob are both active members of our Auxiliary, and the proceeds from these cards will ultimately benefit Residents through Auxiliary programs, they took their idea to the Auxiliary and got their blessing and approval. After all, there is an initial cost for the printing, materials and packaging. Then they got bids from three printers, and finally, completed the difficult task of choosing just four photos from the many options that were available.

They wanted to keep the cost very reasonable so everyone could afford to buy them. For just $5, each package includes eight cards and envelopes (two of each photo), and they are blank inside with information about Saint Simeon’s on the back. They’re available now - just in time for Christmas!

There are 500 packages in the first printing and they are available at our Gift Shop and through the Foundation Office. We hope the sale of these cards will benefit the Auxiliary and its work to enrich and enhance the lives of Saint Simeon’s residents!

Thank you, Tom and Bob, for a great idea - and following through to make it happen!

Important News & Information

December BIRTHDAYS

12/5 Elizabeth Bird
12/5 Art Rubin
12/6 Ruth Fishburn
12/8 Lucille McKay
12/9 Ruth Kraemer
12/9 Ann Leander
12/9 Doris McBryde
12/9 Gloria Scott
12/9/ Ruth Staudt
12/10 Agnes York
12/12 Joi Salisbury
12/13 Janet MacLeod
12/17 Ruth Freeman
12/18 Emily Jackson
12/19 Mary Draper
12/20 Robert Krafft
12/27 Lucille Sund
12/28 Patricia Flint
12/29 Nancy Jupp
12/29 Mary Ann Wilkinson
12/30 Johnny Howerton
12/31 Arline Oliphant
12/31 Mable Rice

December Resident Council Meetings

Resident Council meetings are held monthly for each living area. Residents and family members learn about upcoming events, and will also have the opportunity to share their thoughts.

Health Care Center
Thursday, December 22, 10:30 a.m.
Garden View Dining Room

Dotson Family Assisted Living Center
Tuesday, December 27, 10:30 a.m.
Deisenroth Bistro

Memory Center
Thursday, December 29, 3 p.m.
Home 6

D-Hall Assisted Living
Tuesday, December 27, 1:30 p.m.
Common Room

Have YOU signed up for the Quill E-Newsletter?

Email distribution of the Quill saves Saint Simeon’s up to 50 cents per household!
1. Enjoy the Quill in COLOR!
2. Receive FASTER delivery!

To change your Quill subscription to “E-Newsletter”, email: kimberly.earickson@gmail.com

We Remember in Our Prayers
Reva Butcher
Elinor Curlee
Jack Dinsmore
Patricia Green
Shirley Taggart
Lucy Thomas

Those Who Have Graduated from this Life
One of the themes of the Christian season of Advent is keeping awake, or being aware, being conscious. Of course, this does not mean that we aren’t supposed to get our daily required sleep! It means that we are to live our lives in a state of mental and spiritual awareness. Another word we might use for this is sobriety.

There are many things in life that dull our mental and spiritual awareness. We place our minds at the disposal of every thought, whim, fantasy, and dream that comes down that endless stream. We live our lives in the past; we live our lives in the future. We rarely actually live in the present; and yet, everything that has ever happened in our lives, happened in the present moment. It would seem, therefore, that the present moment deserves some special attention!

“Learn from the past and plan for the future” certainly has its place in life. That place, however, is not to make us fearful, or worse, ignorant, of the present. We spend so much mental and spiritual energy fretting about the past and then, scheming and dreaming about the future, without the slightest awareness of what is really happening around us – now! In fact, we are unable to be fully aware of the present because what we see of the present is through the filter of our past experiences. We tend to be resentful of the present because it intrudes on our dreams of the future.

Jesus calls us out of our dreamy, dull, and ignorant state of mind. He tells us abruptly, “Wake up!” Come into awareness of God’s power and presence in your life – right now! To do this, you will need to quiet your mind, or at least not let it be taken over by every thought that passes by.

Advent provides a time to quiet and focus our minds to the present. Christmas will come, whether you worry about it or not. The present moment gives you the opportunity to prepare yourself in mind and spirit to be aware of and to receive all the joys that Christmas promises.

Advent Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly+
“There will be bluebirds over Eckel Park clover tomorrow, just you wait and see.”

Many of you will recognize this slightly modified sentence from the famous World War II song – (There will be Bluebirds over) The White Cliffs of Dover. Tom Freeman is responsible for the “quotation” as well as spearheading our having Bluebird houses here at Saint Simeon’s.

The Friends of the Animals Committee has established a Bluebird "trail" consisting, at present, of eight Bluebird nesting boxes attached to the perimeter fence of Saint Simeon's. They are set at approximately one hundred yards apart. Each house has an appropriate opening to attract nesting Bluebirds and opens up on the side so we can clean them out. There are small holes on the side for ventilation and holes on the bottom for drainage. Hopefully next Spring some of these houses will have new residents. Bill Lytle, a neighbor of Administrative Assistant Brenda Read, donated his time and talent constructing the eight houses from material provided by a Saint Simeon's resident. The committee appreciates greatly Bill’s contribution.

Next year, we are also hoping that “there will be Purple Martins over Eckel Park clover”. We had one Purple Martin house up last year but it was pretty late in the season and we had no takers. Father John and Linda Norris donated a second Purple Martin House (placed approximately 40 yards away from the first one) so we will have our welcome mat out for when the first Purple Martin scouts hit the Tulsa area.

Both of these birds are voracious insect eaters in addition to being fun to watch. Bird watchers be on the look out!

Kris’s Caring Champion for November is one of Saint Simeon’s longest-time employees. Joyce Stephenson has worked here since 1982 – a total of 29 years!

Joyce works in our Dining Services Department – Morrison’s Senior Dining Services. She is a Morning Shift Dining Service Aide in Kitchen #3, which is in the Health Care Center. She was recognized for her desire to make a Resident happy. A resident who eats a pureed diet asked for a donut. Joyce stopped what she was doing, found a donut, and pureed it for her. You could tell by the big smile on that Resident’s face that Joyce had made her morning special. That is just one example of the big heart Joyce has for our Residents!

“Since I’ve come to work here, some changes I have seen are that we now use table cloths and folded napkins almost all the time, and our uniforms are black pants and black tops with a black apron. Residents get to choose what they want from a Daily Menu and we have the ‘Always Available Menu’ with staples like hamburgers or salads and special sandwiches like the Simeon’s Club and Ruben Sandwich.”

“I was born in Buckner, Arkansas, a small town of about 300 people, 50 miles east of Texarkana. My Dad, R.T. Neal, who is deceased, did construction work and we raised crops on the farm when I lived there. Later, my parents raised cattle. Even though my Mother, Arthrell Neal, will be 84 on her next birthday, she still lives on the farm by herself and raised a bunch of calves this year.”

“I was an only child. After I graduated from High School in Stamps, Arkansas, I came to visit my Aunt at Christmas and decided that Tulsa was the place I wanted to live. Working at Saint Simeon’s is only the second job I’ve ever had. The other was at a Day Care Center. I have been a widow for 17 years. My husband, Leroy, was a Volkswagen Mechanic. We raised seven children and six are still living. I am fortunate that they all live in Oklahoma. I now have 17 grandchildren and am a Great Grandmother with a daughter in college, and my first grandchild attending Booker T. Washington. I attend Greater Union Baptist Church on 36th Street.”

“My home is only a few blocks north of Saint Simeon’s, so I have even walked home on a few occasions. I like flowers, but seem to have lost my touch with gardening. So now each spring I just go to the store and pick up some flowers in pots. Everyone gets to enjoy them all summer, and then that’s it for them until the next year when I’ll buy new ones. I also have two dogs in my backyard, a Blue-nose Pit and a Red-nose Pit. They’re mostly for the grandkids to play with when they visit.”

“I love to travel. Every summer I attend my family reunion which is held in a different city each year. A recent reunion was in Los Angeles and that was my first trip to California. I always go someplace special on my birthday, and a couple of years ago I had the pleasure of going to Las Vegas. I liked the scenery and it was a pretty place with something to do all the time. It sure is a place you don’t sleep.”

Joyce has a wonderful attitude about life and obviously enjoys working at Saint Simeon’s. All of us, Residents, family members, and fellow employees are glad that she is here! We’ll miss her when the time comes (if it ever does) that she retires, but that will give her more time to travel and spend time with her Mom. And she has earned it!
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Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s,

“Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” Mark 13:35-37, NRSV

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Once again this holiday season, the Trustees of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation invite you to help us express appreciation to the Home’s nurses and nurse aides, as well as the support staff, by making a charitable donation to the Foundation’s Employee Christmas Fund.

This annual tradition is always appreciated by the employees, as many have stated that this gift of money at the holidays allows them to give presents to their families and fund that special holiday meal that may otherwise not be possible.

If you choose to make a donation to the Foundation’s Employee Christmas Fund, please place your contribution in one of the gift boxes that will be located in each area of the home from Friday, November 25th through Wednesday, December 14th. You may also mail a check or charge your donation to your Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Saint Simeon’s Foundation, Attn: Employee Christmas Fund, 3701 N. Cincinnati Ave., Tulsa, OK 74106.

Please call the Saint Simeon’s Foundation at (918) 794-1977 if you have any questions.

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To ensure that ALL EMPLOYEES at Saint Simeon’s understand proper care and health practices, it’s time again for the annual Competency Fair. Created by Director of Nursing, Sue Slama, the Competency Fair won Best Practice from Leading Age in 2011! Employees are currently completing exams, and information is displayed throughout Saint Simeon’s.
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Above: The note cards feature images from Saint Simeon’s: Eckel Park, with flowers in bloom and the Clayton Coss sculpture of Simone I and Simone II; a peacock strutting across the lawn; the Reflection Courtyard Pond, with Koi and Rosalind Cook sculpture; and the Entrance to the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center, with it’s beautiful trees, azaleas and bird feeders.

Ruth & Tom Freeman  Bob & Anne Evans

Important News & Information

December BIRTHDAYS

12/5  Elizabeth Bird  12/9  Ruth Staudt
12/5  Art Rubin      12/10  Agnes York
12/6  Ruth Fishburn  12/12  Joi Salisbury
12/8  Lucille McKay  12/13  Janet MacLeod
12/9  Ruth Kraemer   12/17  Ruth Freeman
12/9  Ann Leander   12/18  Emily Jackson
12/9  Doris McByrde 12/19  Mary Draper
12/9  Gloria Scott  12/20  Robert Krafft
12/27  Lucille Sund
12/28  Patricia Flint
12/29  Nancy Jupp
12/29  Mary Ann Wilkinson
12/30  Johnny Howerton
12/31  Arlene Oliphant
12/31  Mable Rice

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We Remember in Our Prayers
Reva Butcher  Elinor Curlee  Jack Dinsmore  Patricia Green  Shirley Taggart  Lucy Thomas

Those Who Have Graduated from This Life

Page 7
Welcome

Lillian Drvostep
Mildred Kroblin
Richard Sewell
Alice Simon
Fayette Vogle

Our new family members!

Join the Alzheimer’s Association for the Drawing on Memories program at Gilcrease Museum

This FREE program is designed for individuals with Early stage Alzheimer’s and their care partners, and will include a gallery discussion of specific art pieces followed by a hands-on, interactive activity. Snacks and beverages are provided.

2011 Dates
November 8 and December 13

2012 Dates
February 14, March 13, April 10 and May 8

10 a.m. to Noon
Gilcrease Museum
1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Rd.
Tulsa, OK

Info & Registration: 918.481.7747 or ronda.roberts@alz.org

Special thanks to the Westby Foundation for their gracious support of this program

Quill of the Hill

A monthly publication for and about the Residents, Families & Friends of Saint Simeon’s

Volume 46

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Below: Residents Ginger Read and Ruth Kraemer share a laugh.

Left: Simone II gets in the holiday spirit!