We are so thankful to celebrate the most beautiful time of year, once again. What a Merry Christmas! May the new year be blessed with peace, joy, and love for all.

See page six for more Saint Simeon’s Christmas!
The existing Auxiliary Committees, Friends of the Animals and Landscape Enrichment, have combined to form the new Flora and Fauna Friends Committee!

*Flora*: Latin, Roman Goddess of Flowers (Plants)
*Fauna*: Latin, Ancient Italian Rural Goddess (Animals)

**Next Meeting**

*Saturday, January 12th*
*Smith Conference Room*
*10:15 a.m. (Social Time), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. (Business)*

Father Bob Evans and Kathy Hinkle, Co-Chairs

**Mission Statement**

The purpose of the *Flora and Fauna Friends Committee* is three fold:

*First, to enhance the lives of Residents by increasing opportunities to interact with nature;*

*Second, to promote programs that will enrich the knowledge of Residents in the natural world; and*

*Third, to take the responsibility for feeding the wildlife on the campus.*

This Auxiliary committee, within its budget, works independently and in cooperation with Saint Simeon's Board of Trustees and Facility Management personnel on projects that affect the overall lives of our Residents.
You're Invited to Attend!
The next meeting of the Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary is Tuesday, January 8, 2013, and will feature an educational program and presentation on Grief. All Residents, friends and family are invited to attend.

CHAZ WESLEY
Director of Education & Community Relations
Hospice of Green Country

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8TH
1:00 PM
IN THE COMMON ROOM

Chaz Wesley, Director of Education & Community Relations for Hospice of Green Country
(Note: This is a repeat of an article I wrote for the January 2011 Quill. I continue to find the new awareness that comes with every epiphany to be a powerful marker of spiritual development. In this new year, may we all be blessed with manifestations of Divine Love that increase our awareness of God’s presence in our lives.)

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s,

One of the most common images that has become associated with Christmas is the visit of the Magi or Wise Men. Cards, billboards, signs and all manner of media will display the Magi at the manger or the silhouette of the Magi on camels against the night landscape with only the light of the star guiding them. It is a beautiful image; however, this is not a Christmas event. It is an Epiphany event!

Epiphany, which begins on January 6th, is a Season of the Christian Church year that celebrates the manifestation of Emmanuel (God with us) in dramatic ways. The three biblical stories traditionally associated with Epiphany are: the Visit of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus, and Jesus’ first miracle at the wedding in Cana (changing water into wine). But it is the story of the Magi that inspires this reflection.

The story is a very simple one found only in the Gospel of Matthew. The Magi are Persian men who have been very well educated in many subjects, including astrology. They appear on the scene in Jerusalem at King Herod’s palace, looking for “the one who has been born king of the Jews,” as indicated by a star that had appeared. Herod is disturbed by this news, and discovers from his own Chief Priests and scribes that Bethlehem is the place where such a child has been prophesied to be born. So Herod sends the Magi in search of the child, asking that they return when they have found him so that he might also pay the child homage. Of course, Herod has evil intentions. The Magi find the child, Jesus, in a house in Bethlehem and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Their part in the story concludes with them being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they take an alternate route home.

The story is significant in Matthew’s Gospel because Jesus has been born in Bethlehem with no fanfare, no indication that anything important has taken place. There is no manger or shepherds or angelic chorus – that’s Luke’s story. In Matthew’s story, Joseph knows what an angel has told him in a dream, but that’s it. Suddenly, these men from Persia show up bearing gifts for a king!
It is as if the world is just slowly becoming conscious of what has happened. Something new has manifested itself in creation – it’s an epiphany!

It is this dawning of consciousness that we celebrate in this story. We celebrate it because we can relate to it on a personal level. Whenever anyone suddenly becomes aware that God is with them, it is an epiphany. When this happens, what seems to be normal, even mundane, takes on a whole new life-changing significance. Faith teaches that this world was deemed worthy by God of the Christ Child. Epiphany happens when you become aware of the eternal truth that God has deemed you, so worthy.

Epiphany Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill+

ROOTS n’ Shoots n’ Critters written by Kathy Hinkle

Please enjoy this reprint of Roots n’ Shoots n’ Critters, originally published in January 2012.

Now that we’re truly into winter, only the most hardy are venturing outside. That makes for a great opportunity to enjoy our two aviaries (Ice Cream Parlor and Memory Center). For those finches and doves living in the aviaries, it is always spring and they are busy building their nests, laying eggs, and raising their chicks. For the first time in all the years we have had the aviaries, both currently have a pair of Gouldian Finches. This variety is slow to breed in an aviary but we asked Living Design (out of South Dakota) to bring us some on their recent quarterly visit because they are arguably the most beautiful of all finches. In their native land of Australia, Gouldians are becoming quite rare in the wild. As few as 2,500 individual birds may now survive. Though both the male and female display a rainbow of colors, they are easy to tell apart because the male’s color is quite brilliant and the female’s color is more subtle.

What are those Blooming Bushes?? November and December are not when you expect to see anything actually blooming in Oklahoma so there have been a number of questions about the bushes which have been blooming with white flowers located in front of the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center. They are a new variety of cold hardy Camellias and ours are named Snow Flurry. Up until now Camellias could only survive further south because of our cold winters but we expect these to grace our landscape for many years to come.
The Flint family presented their annual Christmas gift, a Christmas carol sing-along featuring Patty Flint and pianist, Rick Fortner. The special guest was flutist Anita Randza, who performed several musical numbers with Rick. The “Patty and Friends” concert is a joyful, fun hour for everyone at Saint Simeon’s. Tasty seasonal refreshments were provided as well. Everyone had a great time singing well-known Christmas carols and enjoying a special performance by Becky Ashwill and Chris Gruszczki from the Life Enrichment Department.

Thank you to all who shared in this joyous celebration!
JANUARY birthdays

1/1 Patricia Fowler 1/14 Ken Pooser
1/2 Martha Dyer 1/19 Colleen McKee
1/7 Adele Garren 1/22 Ruth Ward
1/7 Rose Mitchell 1/23 Doris Stanton
1/8 Duke Isley 1/24 William Cox
1/8 Ruth Matlock 1/26 James Dempster
1/9 Grace Bakamjian 1/29 Loretta Dewey
1/13 Ninette Allen-Maples

Welcome
Jay Carr
Donald Hayden
Lu Hedges
Jeanette Ice
Izzy Levine
Rose Mitchell
Doris Stanton
Vernon Stanton

Our new family members

Theola Standridge

JANUARY RESIDENT COUNCIL MEETINGS
Learn about upcoming events and share your thoughts! All Residents and family members are always welcome.

Health Care Center
Thurs, 1/31, 10:30 a.m., Garden View Dining

Cottages & 1st Floor Dotson Assisted Living
Tues, 1/29, 10:30 a.m., Deisenroth Bistro

2nd Floor Dotson Assisted Living
Tues, 1/29, 1:15 p.m., Skyline Dining Room

Memory Center
Thurs, 1/31, 3 p.m., Home 6

D-Hall Assisted Living
Tues, 1/29, 1:15 p.m., Common Room

Would you like to receive the Quill by e-newsletter?
Send an email to kimberly.earickson@gmail.com
Receiving the Quill by email is faster, and reduces postage costs to Saint Simeon’s!
If you don’t have email, we will gladly continue to mail the Quill to you.

We Remember in Our Prayers
Allene Hart
Patricia Lohman
Betty Nemec
Barney Welch

Those Who Have Graduated from this Life
What a Merry Christmas!
Enjoy photos from this year’s Christmas parties on the cover and page six.

Men's Social Club
Games, conversation and camaraderie on the third Thursday of each month.

For more information, contact:
Tadd Weese (tweese@saintsimeons.org)
Father Holly (bholly@saintsimeons.org)
David DuBois (ddubois@saintsimeons.org)

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, 1/17 - 3 p.m. in the Bistro