The Auxiliary held its annual Christmas parties for the Residents in all areas of Saint Simeon’s on Saturday, Dec. 14. Residents and families enjoyed live musical entertainment from Victorian carolers, and of course, had a great time getting their pictures taken with Santa. Special thanks to the Auxiliary members for all their hard work!
Donette consistently goes above and beyond her expected job duties in several ways. Whenever she learns of a Resident having missing articles of clothing, she not only searches for the lost items in the MC, she also goes to the Lost and Found in the Laundry Room and identifies clothing and who it belongs to. She has been able to find many items of clothing for families this way (sometimes the labels fall off). Donette is also one of the first staff members contacted when an unexpected call in occurs. She is willing to come in at the last minute when needed to help even when it is not her shift. She has an unassuming, quiet demeanor but she truly is a soft spoken leader who gets the job done well. Thanks, Donette, for all the extras you continually do!  – Gina Sides, Memory Center Manager

“I am a Certified Nurse Aide in Home 5 in the Memory Center. My main job is to help Residents who need assistance. This could be helping them get dressed or ready for bed or assisting them at meals or whatever they need. I primarily work the 3-11 shift, but if I am needed, will also come on 7-3. I have recently become one of the Memory Center representatives on the Employee Council.

I was born in and grew up in Tulsa. I attended Sam Houston Elementary, Monroe Middle School and graduated from Edison High School. My mom, Virginia Ragsdale, who is now deceased, worked at Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital as a Microbiologist. My Dad, Wilbert Randle, worked as a welder while I was growing up. I was one of five children. There were four girls and one boy. I was the oldest. Second was Delisha, who is deceased. Next is Deneane, who is a stay-at-home mom. Then there was Wilbert, who is also deceased. De De is the youngest and she also works here at Saint Simeon’s as a CNA.

I started out doing warehouse work. But one day my sister, Delisha, and I were sitting around talking about what else we might want to do, and we decided we wanted to work in the medical field. I started at Oklahoma Methodist Manor and became a
CNA there. Later I worked at Grace Living Center in Jenks for six years. I then came to Saint Simeon’s in 2009.

My husband, John Kelley, who was a welder, passed away a year ago from a heart attack when he was just 44 years old. I have a daughter, Candice, who is 25 years old and expecting a baby next month. She works in the dietary department here and has a son, Cameron. I had a son, Michael, who is deceased, and another daughter, Brittany, who is 22 years old and has a boy named Antione and a girl named Jonnie.

I have mainly lived in east Tulsa, but for the last four years, I’ve lived in a house on the north side of town. I have a boyfriend, Rufus Nichols, who is a car salesman. I don’t have a lot of spare time because I often work double shifts, but when I do have some time, we mainly go out to eat and take in a movie. On days when I am off, you can often find me at the Osage Casino.

I enjoy watching football and basketball and my favorite teams are the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Thunder, and the Dallas Cowboys. My favorite TV show is the ‘Housewives of Atlanta’. I have not traveled much, but if I could, someday I would like to go on a cruise. In the future I would like to become a Certified Medication Aide so I could also help Residents in that way.

I love helping anyone who needs help, not just elderly people, but I do particularly enjoy helping our Residents. I take care of them the way I would want someone to take care of me when I get to be that age. I find that my job can be quite challenging at times, but I am up to the challenge.”
Saint Simeon and Saint Anna

From time to time I am asked the question: “Who was Saint Simeon?” It seems good to revisit our Patron Saint’s history ever so often as there are always new folks who are interested. You will probably see this article reprinted every couple of years or so.

There are a few folks with the name “Simeon” in the Old and New Testaments. Most notably, in the Old Testament, is Simeon, the second son of Jacob by Leah. His descendants become the Tribe of Simeon, one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. However, this is not the Simeon for whom our home is named.

We find our Simeon in the Gospel according to Saint Luke. In the second chapter, Luke tells us of a man living in Jerusalem, “righteous and devout,” upon whom the Holy Spirit rested. Now it had been revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. One day, he felt compelled to go to the Temple in Jerusalem. There he saw Mary, Joseph, and the child, Jesus. They were there to present Jesus in the Temple; for as the firstborn son he was considered holy to God. Simeon took the child in his arms and began saying the prayer we know today as the Song of Simeon:

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32, KJV).

Simeon then spoke to Mary about the role of her son, which would include suffering, and he said these ominous words, “a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Also a part of this story is Anna, an eighty-four year old widow and prophet. She spent all her time in the temple worshiping God with prayer and fasting. She saw the child and, like Simeon, began to praise God, proclaiming that Jesus would be the redemption of Israel.

After this story, we hear no more about either Simeon or Anna. We just know that following the birth of Jesus, there were these two faithful, older people, filled with God’s grace, who had been given the wisdom to recognize and proclaim God’s great gift to the world.

Our home is named after Saint Simeon and our Chapel bears the name of Saint Anna. We are reminded that just as God fulfilled his promise to Simeon, so also we wait, trusting in God’s promises made in Jesus. And like Saint Anna, our Chapel is open day and night for all to worship, pray, or just sit and be with God.

God’s Peace be with you,
Fr. Bill †
This year, Saint Simeon’s had its first living Christmas Tree!

In addition to the eight beautiful artificial trees throughout the Home that Residents enjoy decorating each year, a Blue Spruce was planted last March between Oxley Circle and the Memory Center.

This tree was planted in honor of the very important work and leadership provided by the 49 men and women serving on our Home and Foundation Boards of Trustees. Thank you, Trustees, for all you do! For these wonderful people, a wonderful tree was selected – a ‘Fat Albert’ Blue Spruce.

Its Botanical Name is Picea Pungens, and it is considered to be a dwarf version and the bluest blue of the Colorado Blue Spruce Family. It will always retain its perfect cone shape and will generally grow to be only 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide, making it easily manageable to illuminate with lights each year.

Its needles are silver or steel blue in the spring and remain blue throughout the winter. And, the answer to your question is Yes. The ‘Fat Albert’ Blue Spruce is named after Comedian Bill Cosby’s fictional character by the same name.

On a separate note, sometimes newcomers to Saint Simeon’s worry about our peacocks dealing with the winter weather – especially if they don’t see them for a few days. Actually, the peacocks do just fine in the cold with one caveat – dealing with snow. We have had peacocks at Saint Simeon’s for many years. They roost in the trees at night – even during the winter – because they feel (and are) safer from predators.

But when snow covers the ground, they won’t walk on it – not even to get to a tree or a bird feeder. Because of their size and weight, their feet break right through the snow and they have great difficulty walking, much less using their legs to push off to fly. So they won’t even venture out on the snow. During that cold snap in December when we had snow that didn’t melt for several days, most people couldn’t see them. Never fear, they were hanging out on the Health Care Center Patios and had food and water delivered to them.
2013 Year in Review

2013 was another great year at Saint Simeon's. Through special events and everyday life, friendships were deepened among Residents, staff members, Auxiliary members, and more. Here are just a few of the milestones from the year gone by.

In April, Saint Simeon's was named winner in the Senior category of the Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence (ONE) Awards by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits. Out of approximately 19,000 nonprofits statewide, only 24 were named finalists. As winner of the Senior category, Saint Simeon's received a $7,500 award from the H.A. and Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust.

Also this year, Saint Simeon’s threw a big party to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of two of our beloved patrons, George and Phyllis Dotson. Over 100 guests and Residents flooded the entrance of the Dotson Assisted Living Center in order to surprise the couple. The couple enjoyed celebrating their golden anniversary with some of their closest friends.

Of course, one of the biggest highlights of any year at Saint Simeon’s is Western Days. Our 2013 Western Days: Take Me Back to Tulsa! was a huge success, raising more than $550,000. Mandy and Blake Atkins served as Event Chairs, and Phyllis and George Dotson served as Patron Committee Chairs. William S. Smith was selected as Honorary Chair, and was celebrated for his long-time leadership, friendship, guidance and support of Saint Simeon’s. The Pioneer Spirit Award was presented to Saint Simeon’s Resident Marie Millar in appreciation of her dedication over the last 10 years to crafting thousands of beautiful items to sell as Western Days auction and General Store items.

Another exciting moment of 2013 was the Auxiliary’s Harvest Moon Festival, an event that was resurrected from the Auxiliary of the 1960’s. Harvest Moon Festival attendees enjoyed a horse-drawn hayride, pumpkin painting, face painting, balloon animals, games and prizes, and more. It was a picture-perfect fall day that many generations were able to cherish together. Plans for Harvest Moon Festival 2014 are already in the works!

(from top to bottom, left to right) Displaying the ONE award are The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Chair of Home and Foundation Board; Lindsay Hurley Fick, President and CEO of Saint Simeon’s; Carolyn Blair, Executive Director of Saint Simeon’s Foundation; George Dotson, President of Foundation Board; Elaine Hanner, Auxiliary President; and Aaron Lawhorn, Executive Chair of Home Board.

Saint Simeon’s Resident Doris Stanton posing as a pirate during the Harvest Moon Festival.
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Emilie Burr
1/1 Pat Fowler
1/2 Doris Stanton
1/7 Adele Garren
1/8 Dillard Iseley
1/8 Ruth Matlock
1/12 Patty Holt
1/14 Kenneth Pooser
1/17 Geraldine Yoakley
1/19 Colleen McKee
1/21 John Cagle
1/24 Bishop William Cox
1/26 Jim Dempster
1/27 Betty Hitzman
1/29 Loretta Dewey

WELCOME OUR NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

Betty Brown
Bobbie East
Beverly Fulkman
Robert Hagen
Velda Hazley
Peter Koef
Norma McCrery
Yolande Thompson

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We Remember in Our Prayers

Irene Cannon   Rose Mitchell
Martha Dyer   Alice West

Dining News

Did you know? Saint Simeon’s guests may join Residents for a meal for $5.

Nursing stations sell meal tickets for $5. Guests should bring their ticket to the dining room. The server will ask for the ticket before presenting a plate. In the Healthcare Dining Room, the guest may take the ticket directly to the meal window and receive their plate.
Out and About

In December, several Residents enjoyed an outing to Olive Garden and Philbrook Museum to see the Festival of Trees and gingerbread houses.