Auxiliary Evolves into Saint Simeon’s Volunteers

The Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary started in 1961, just one year after Saint Simeon’s was founded, as a group of Episcopal women offering services to Saint Simeon’s Residents. On April 8, 2014 at the Annual Auxiliary Spring Luncheon, Auxiliary officers suggested some changes to increase volunteer effectiveness.

When the Auxiliary started, the organization planned and presided over virtually all Resident events and outings. Over the years, Saint Simeon’s has created a Life Enrichment staff, whose primary responsibilities largely include the creation of Resident events and outings. Therefore, some of the responsibilities of the Auxiliary have changed over the years. At the Spring Luncheon, Auxiliary members voted to dissolve the Auxiliary and form a new group known as the Saint Simeon’s Volunteers.

The purpose of Saint Simeon’s Volunteers shall be to enrich and enhance the lives of the residents of Saint Simeon’s. The primary functions of the Saint Simeon’s Volunteers will be to:

• Encourage a volunteer presence at resident events, parties, and committees.
• Participate in selection and implementation of resident experiences relating to the “Tree of Dreams” program.
• Provide opportunities to visit with Residents in an individual capacity as overseen by Saint Simeon’s Life Enrichment staff members.

Saint Simeon’s Volunteers will not be a dues-paying organization, but gifts of time and money will be encouraged and designated to the Foundation’s Resident Event and Enrichment Fund.

The Saint Simeon’s Volunteers look forward to continual involvement in events such as the Ice Cream Social, Harvest Moon Festival, Christmas parties, Resident outings, one-on-one visits with Residents, Flora & Fauna Committee, maintaining the Resident library, and fulfilling Residents’ dreams through Tree of Dreams.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Lindsay Morris, staff liaison to Saint Simeon’s Volunteers, at 918-794-1945 or lmorris@saintsimeons.org.

FAMILY PHOTOS

Saint Simeon’s will be hosting free family photos in our courtyards for all Residents and their families.

Friday, May 16 from 12-5
Saturday, May 17 from 10-3

If you would like to sign up for a 30-minute photo shoot, contact Lindsay Morris at lmorris@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1945.

NAME THE BABY!

Do you have a baby picture of yourself? (or a picture of yourself as a child?)

We want to see it! We will play a “Guess that Baby” game in an upcoming issue of the Quill!
We’re looking specifically for Residents’ pictures. Email in your pictures to lmorris@saintsimeons.org.
Or contact Lindsay Morris at 918-794-1945 and she can scan your photo and give it back to you.
“I am a Certified Nurse Aide working in the Memory Center (MC). Though I work several 7-3 shifts a week, my primary job is that of Resident Assistant. That means I am in the MC from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is a key time when some Residents may be experiencing sundowning and are anxious. I am there to look out for them. Many Residents may be engaged in an activity of some kind, while others may be too restless to participate, and I may take them outside for a walk or just walk up and down the hallway with them. One of the most important jobs I have is to try and make sure that no one falls. Around 7:30 or 8:00, I will serve everyone drinks and snacks. I really enjoy getting to spend time with the Residents. They talk about their lives, their children, all sorts of interesting things.”
I live close enough (a few blocks north of here) that I can see Saint Simeon’s towers from my house, so I certainly knew about it before I came to work here. In 2009 when I was getting my CNA Certification at Tulsa Technology Center, I did my clinicals here and that further convinced me that this was where I wanted to work someday. I wasn’t able to get a job here the first time I applied, so I worked at another nursing home for a while. But when I applied the second time, after I had more experience, I got the job, and I’ve been here since 2012.

I was born and grew up in Tulsa. My dad, Harry Cannady, is a construction worker and my mom, Lidia Jones, stayed at home while we were growing up but is now a cafeteria worker at an elementary school. I have two brothers. I have an older brother, Antonio, and a younger brother, Joshua. I attended William Penn Elementary School, Gilcrease Middle School and graduated from Memorial High School. While in high school, I was a member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. This was an opportunity for me to be physically active (running, marching, and participating in parades). I also received excellent leadership training and did community service.

After I graduated from High School, I attended Rogers State University in Claremore for a while but came back to Tulsa and worked as a day care teacher at my Church, Full Gospel Family Outreach Ministry. There are a lot of people in my family who work in the nursing field as CNAs, CMAs (Certified Medication Aides), and nurses. I have also always wanted to help people, so it was natural that I decided to become a CNA.

I got married to my wonderful husband, Manuel Oviedo, in June of 2011, and we have a 2-year old daughter named Zahni. She is the focus of my life. That is why I am currently working part-time and in the evening. I love being with her, and we do all sorts of things together. I know the importance of reading and learning and take Zahni to Story Time at three different libraries. At Martin Library, which serves an area with a high Hispanic population, we are even learning Spanish together. When I am working, Zahni is in home day care run by a member of my family. If that is not available because of the hours I work, then my Grandma, Ann Jones, watches her for me. Grandma is wonderful with her, and she is 90 years old!

I am active in my church and used to be a member of our Praise Dance Group. This is a choreographed group which performs at various churches, from small towns around here to places out of state, like Florida, where I got to go. We also teach the little kids how to dance. I also went to New York City with members of my church to attend a women’s conference. It was my first plane ride, and New York was wonderful. We did a lot of walking and visited as many places that we could, including Harlem and China Town, saw museums, and took in a play.

I have a dog named Spot who is a German Shepherd that I raised from the time he was a puppy. He is a very good dog. I like to be physically active and enjoy walking the trails and having picnics in Riverside Park. I even found a Story Time there for Zahni.

I like working in the medical field, and I’ve always wanted to work with children, so someday I would like to become a Pediatric Nurse. Most of all, I want to be able to provide for my daughter so that she can have a happy life.
Dear Residents, Families and Friends of Saint Simeon’s,

This month marks a significant anniversary for me. On May 19th, I will celebrate the 30th anniversary of my ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church. I also attended my 40th high school reunion at the end of March. Besides the fact that it’s pretty clear I’m getting older, I have a body of time to reflect upon those forces, people, and life situations that have guided me to where I am today.

While I have told this story before, I’ve never related it here in Chaplain’s Chat. It’s about how one’s perspective and values change. I remember clearly 28 years ago, having a conversation with Fr. John Norris. At that time, he was Rector (Pastor) of Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church here in Tulsa. He had just announced his resignation from Saint Peter’s because he had accepted the position as the first full-time Chaplain at Saint Simeon’s Episcopal Home. We were vesting for some service that was going on, I believe at Saint Peter’s, and I was questioning him about his decision to leave parish ministry. I was a couple of years out of seminary, full of youthful arrogance, and the certainty that I was “right” about everything. So I asked Fr. Norris, “Why would you leave Saint Peter’s to be a chaplain at a nursing home?” Fr. Norris answered, “It’s just something I’ve always wanted to do. It’s a ministry I feel called to.” I think I muttered something along the lines of “whatever” and just dismissed this as some sort of aberration. After all, “real ministry” takes place in the parish – right?

Sometimes, I’d like to go back in time and whoomp that stupid kid up the side of the head with a tire too! But it probably wouldn’t have done any good. These things are best left to God, who gets to work delicious irony into our lives. You see, almost 20 years later I would be looking at our national Clerical Directory, checking out Fr. Norris’ age, and thinking, “Isn’t it time he retired?” I was doing that because I wanted this job so badly, I could taste it!

What happened? How did I come to such a turnabout in my understanding of life, ministry, and where I was called? Well, first and foremost, life happened – and lots of it! A strange combination of decisions I made, critical junctures in time, mentors, and people who influenced me; and my own awakening to see how all these things are indeed the hand of God guiding me, forming me, and bringing me to my truest joy. Had I simply been left to my own devices, I would not have known the fulfillment I have experienced in my work here at Saint Simeon’s.

It has been said that if you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans. May God work delicious irony into your life.

Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly†
It’s the merry month of May - prime time for the Birds and Bees! One of the special joys of spring at Saint Simeon’s is all the new babies we welcome into our world. In both our Aviaries, new chicks have hatched. Both Aviaries have many of the same birds but each also has one or two varieties that are unique to it. You need to visit them both (Ice Cream Parlor and Memory Center) to appreciate all the different birds and see the new chicks. We currently have Society Finches, Mourning Doves, Zebra Finches, Gouldian Finches, Green Singers, Spice Finches, Shaftails, Java Finches and an Orange Weaver.

Let’s hear it for hibernation! We had an awfully cold winter but our Koi and Gold Fish in the Reflections Courtyard Pond all survived because they were hibernating under all that ice – essentially barely moving and not eating all winter. These days in the pond, you will find four babies (called fry or fingerlings). Clearly one is distinctive with his buggy eyes and, another is already showing a stipe of orange down his side. All were black to begin with but will add color as they grow. Priscilla Worden’s daughter, Carolyn Jordan, has provided us names for several of our adult Koi – all sports related.

Did you miss our last Flora and Fauna Meeting (2nd Saturday each month)? Special guests included Miss Piggy, the Guinea Pig, brought by volunteer extraordinaire, Kim Tatro-Smith and three tortoises, (two needing names) brought by Teresa Reno in Life Enrichment and her daughter Casey. Over the years people donated tortoises they found and we put them in the Gazebo and Reflections Courtyards. There are enough that both sexes are clearly represented and manage to find each other because we now have babies (hatchlings) appear each spring. They are so small that most don’t survive, eaten by something or inadvertently run over by a lawnmower.

Teresa and Casey have provided a home to several hatchlings over the years including our three tortoise guests. When it gets warmer, we are going to have a “Turtle Party” and welcome back two who will be returning to live here. These tortoises will always have a safe home with Teresa and Casey. One of them had probably already been injured by a lawnmower when Teresa found him and is missing part of his head and one eye. He’s not really able to survive out in nature on his own but awfully cute and was very active at our meeting. Get Teresa to tell you about administering tiny shots of antibodies with a tiny needle in his tiny leg twice a day.

Five young deer were sighted by Pat Perrin just outside the fence behind her cottage. That’s the most she has ever seen at one time. But the most anticipated babies each year are our peacocks! Our four peahens will start laying their eggs later this month and then it is just 28 days from the time the mother starts sitting until things really get exciting around here. Over 20 peachicks hatched last year. Know anyone who has suitable property for Peafowl? Each year we sell them to good homes because we clearly are at capacity here.
A TAIL-WAGGING GOOD TIME: MY 5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

On April 1, I turned 5! Half a decade is a big milestone in a dog’s life! For the second year in a row, my birthday wish was to help homeless dogs find homes! We invited the Tulsa SPCA and Pet Adoption League to bring some adoptable dogs to the party. Last I heard, Linus the one-eyed Bull Terrier was adopted at my party! Hooray!

No birthday party is complete without cake! Plenty of cake was served: the humans indulged in vanilla or chocolate cake, while we dogs scarfed down a carrot and peanut butter cake made by Teresa Reno and several Residents! Teresa and the Residents also made special doggy treats for my new canine pals to take home… in doggy bags, if you will!

Since I have so many wonderful toys and can never seem to find the time to play with all of them, I wanted to give some of my toys to my new friends! The rescue dogs all went home with a new toy. I really hope they will all find homes soon.

Of course, when I have a party, the news comes out in droves! My birthday party was featured on the cover of the Local section of The Tulsa World on April 2, and Channel 6 featured me on the 5:00 news on April 1.

Thanks to everyone who made my birthday so special!

Simone
MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/3  Nell Davis
5/3  Pat Perrin
5/3  Gladys Scott
5/5  Edythe Schroeder
5/6  Bernice Robak
5/8  Joseph Keuchel

5/19  Eugene McGraw
5/24  Dolores Dukes
5/24  Emma Hemdon
5/25  Douglas Henson
5/26  Garry Crookham

We Remember in Our Prayers

Ann Leander  Charlotte Stewart

Donations Needed!

Saint Simeon’s is looking for donations of DVDs, especially classics, musicals and family type movies. We are also hoping for the donation of a Blue-Ray DVD player.

Please contact Teresa Reno at 918-794-1932 or treno@saintsimeons.org about DVD donations.

WELCOME OUR NEW FAMILY MEMBERS

Sophie Buss
Mercedes De Jesus
Robert Essner
Billy Hatchett
Helen Hatchett
Douglas Henson
Katherine Robison
Mary Rowin
Thelma Singleton
Jo Waller
William Waller
Dorothy Worstell

DID YOU KNOW?

Saint Simeon’s guests may join Residents for a meal for $5/ticket.

Nurses’ stations sell meal tickets. Guests should bring their ticket to the dining room. The server will ask for the ticket before presenting a plate.
A “Senior” Prom!

Saint Simeon’s Resident were treated to a “Senior” Prom on March 27. The Public Relations class at Oral Roberts University planned the event for our Residents. The theme was “A Night on the Red Carpet,” and Residents enjoyed playing movie trivia and “Oscar” awards were given out!