Saint Simeon’s Lassos Up for Western Days 2014: OKLAHOMA! OUR HOME IS GRAND!

Dust off your cowboy hat – Western Days 2014: OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand! will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6 p.m. at Central Park Hall at Expo Square. OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand! marks the 18th annual milestone of this fundraising event to benefit Saint Simeon’s.

Kristin and Jim Bender, Event Chairs, are already rounding up the ranch hands for this year’s event, with Lucy and John Barker serving as Patron Chairs and June Patton and David Hogan serving as Chairs Elect. Margaret and Ross Swimmer have been selected as Honorary Chairs, and will be celebrated for their long-time guidance and support of Saint Simeon’s.

This year, the Pioneer Spirit Award will be presented to Saint Simeon’s Resident Mable Rice in celebration of her dedication to minority rights and community development in Tulsa. Rice worked as a founder and developer of Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, North Tulsa Heritage Foundation, the Greenwood Cultural Center and the Business and Industrial Development Corporation in an effort to preserve the rich history of the Greenwood District.

On Tuesday, April 29, Event Co-Chair Kristin Bender hosted the OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand! Kickoff Party at the Tulsa Tennis Club. Kick-off party attendees were entertained by Jared Jirele, a member of the Tulsa Opera Chorus who jumpstarted the party with a lively rendition of songs from Oklahoma! the musical. Advisory, Patron and Steering Committee Members enjoyed a superb dinner by the Palate Catering.

At the kick-off party, Kristin Bender thanked Margaret and Ross Swimmer for their abiding service to Saint Simeon’s. Bender remarked, “Saint Simeon’s could not ask for better friends than Margaret and Ross. Margaret is a long-time member of the Foundation Board of Trustees and currently serves as fundraising chair. She and Ross chaired Western Days 2012, setting a new fundraising record for the event.”

As preparations continue, Saint Simeon’s would like to remind everyone of the many ways to help make OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand! a success. You can help by:

- Serving as a sponsor, with sponsorships ranging from $50,000 to $500;
- Donating an item or service for silent or live auctions;
- Purchase or sell Raffle tickets for a $2500 Utica Square gift certificate. Tickets are $20 each or 6 for $100.
- Purchasing individual reservations at $75 each; and
- Attending OKLAHOMA! Our Home is Grand! on Tuesday, September 9, 2014!

If you are interested in any of the above, or if you would like to discuss other ways you can help, please contact Carolyn Blair, Executive Director of the Foundation, at (918) 794-1937 or cblair@saintsimeons.org.
“I was working in a Home in the MC and having a challenging night. Right at 6:30 am (shift change), one of my residents was ill in the room and also in the Dining Room area. I assisted the resident back to the room and told the nurse. I then went to get what I needed to clean up the area. Kristen stepped up as a great team player. With just the right attitude, she asked me what I needed help with and proceeded to take care of everything, from mopping to changing. Because of that, I was able to assist the other residents and make sure my job was done before the shift ended. I love to see teamwork without complaining. We all are here for the residents.”

— Anika Spears, CNA/CMA/Assisted Living

“I am a Certified Nurse Aide working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift in the Memory Center. When I come to work, most residents are in bed asleep, but there are always some who aren’t in bed because they are not sleepy and others who will wake up at some time during the night and want to stay up. We help those residents. We make sure that they are dry and comfortable. We make sure they get something to eat if they are hungry. If they are restless and want to walk around, then we walk with them. If they want to watch a movie – usually a musical (all-time favorite is Singing in the Rain) - we watch it with them. But most often they are lonely and just want someone to talk to. That is the part of my job that I love the most.

I get to listen to all their war stories. I get to hear about how things were in the ‘20s and ‘30s – back when milk and bread cost just a nickel; how they used to live back then, and how everything has changed so much. I learn so much from them!

I love my co-workers. I don’t even consider them co-workers anymore – we are more like a family. Working this shift, we don’t see much of anyone else, so we get really close. We try to go out together sometimes and text each other. Karen Ray has become a very close friend.

I was born and raised in Tulsa. My parents are Nida Goudeau and Aundra Phillip. I have two
sisters, Patrice and Traci on my Mom’s side (I’m the youngest of them) and on my Dad’s side I have a sister, Aundrea and a brother, D’Auntrel (I’m the oldest). Growing up, we kids were home by ourselves a good bit because both our parents were working. My mom is a County Court Clerk and my dad is a AAA Supervisor.

I grew up in Turley, just north of here, and attended Greeley Elementary School, Edison Middle School and graduated from Rogers High School. I started working as soon as I turned 14 and had jobs at Blockbuster and at Burger Street. My sister who is two years older than I am was already a CNA and she told me that I would be good at it since I was the ‘nicest’ one of us three girls, always trying to be helpful, and didn’t have a weak stomach. So, as soon as I turned 18, I started working as a CNA. I knew about Saint Simeon’s because I only live two miles from here (seven minute commute!) and have worked here since August 2013.

My husband, Rico Britt, and I met when we were in the sixth grade. He was my first love and I was his. We have been together for a long time but waited until we were sure we really knew each other as adults (27 years old) before getting married. We’ve now been married two years. Rico is an awesome dad, good provider, great protector, and cool, calm and collected. I tend to be wild and crazy, but he is so laid back that he has calmed me down some.

We have four kids: Rico is 8, Mariah is 7, Beautiful is 6 and Tyre is 4. My kids like to throw water balloons, have food fights and walk around giving wedgies, even to their mother! These pranksters keep me young! The two older kids attend Gilcrease Middle School. The two youngest attend the Bunche Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC). We all like to go to the park and bar-b-que or play on the water pad, ride bikes, go to movies and go shopping.

I like to read my Bible and books by Higgins Clark (All Around the Town). I love hiking in Mohawk Park, weeding or cutting grass and climbing trees – anything that lets me be outside with nature. I enjoy watching the Home and Garden Channel and reruns of the ‘Golden Girls’ on TV. My favorite sport teams are OKC Thunder and OU. Thunder up! As a family, we attend Going Hard for Christ Church at 31st and Garnett. We started this church just a year ago with 10 people and now have a houseful. We had six kids to begin with (four of them were mine), and now have almost 100 kids on Sunday!

Someday, I want to finish college and become a Physical Therapist Assistant. I would also like to live outside of Oklahoma to see what else is out there, but not too far away, since both our moms live here. Most of all, I want to make a good life for our kids. I want them to be able to go to college. It is all about my kids.

I was bullied some when I was growing up, and I didn’t grow up always in the best situation. I know what it means to not feel good about yourself, and to be told no all the time. Our residents have heard ‘no’ a lot too, so I try to find a way to instead say ‘yes’. I used to always be the first one to speak, but now I’m getting better at listening, watching and observing. All of this helps me to better relate to the residents and take better care of them. It is all about my residents.”
The Easter Season, celebrated by many churches, focuses on the powerful story of Jesus’ resurrection. Each of the four Gospels gives their unique account of the discovery of the empty tomb, and subsequent appearances of Jesus to his disciples. We hear of Mary Magdalene in the garden experiencing the risen Lord. We hear of the disciples gathering behind closed and locked doors, afraid to venture out, and Jesus suddenly appearing in their midst. We hear of two disciples encountering Jesus on the road to Emmaus, not recognizing him until at dinner when he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. The instant they recognized him, he disappeared from them and they had to run back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

We hear of Thomas, who disbelieved the stories of the other disciples, and proclaimed that he would not believe unless he could see and touch Jesus and the wounds of his crucifixion. That disbelief turned into the profession of faith, “My Lord and my God!” when Jesus appeared to him as well. We hear the stories of Jesus’ subsequent appearances and teaching the disciples, and his ascension into heaven out of their sight. Finally, we hear the story of Pentecost, and the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit upon the disciples, transforming them from learners (disciples) to those who are sent out by God (apostles).

These amazing stories tell of a group of people who had been called out of the routine of their lives by Jesus, broken by his crucifixion and death, and transformed into proclaimers of the Good News (Gospel) of God in Christ. These stories tell the story of every follower of Christ. We become aware of the presence of God in the midst of our lives at some time or at various times. We struggle with the reality and significance of that awareness. In the course of our learning about Christ, we become transformed for the purpose of ministering to others.

The disciples were not simply to continue to be disciples. They were being formed and transformed for a purpose. So are we. Too often, we Christians act as if we are supposed to be consumers of religious products and services. We are not. We are being equipped to serve.

In the Church’s Liturgical Year, the awareness of what God has done for us in Easter turns to the empowerment of Pentecost where we are sent out to serve others. We are being formed and transformed so that we can bring the blessings of God to all people. Pentecost Sunday falls on June 8th this year. What a great day to celebrate God’s empowerment of the Church with the gift of the Holy Spirit. What a great day to take stock of the ways in which each of us has been equipped to be a blessing to others. What a great day to ask, “O Lord, how may I serve?”

God’s Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly
ROOTS N’ SHOOTS N’ CRITTERS

“When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.”

– Author Unknown

The grounds of Saint Simeon’s have never been more beautiful! If only our flowering trees and shrubs could stretch out spring a little longer for us. If you enjoy the beauty of nature, this is the time of year and the place to be! Our wonderful new Health Care Center Nursing Manager, Scott Tenney, said that when he came here to apply for the job, he got out of his car, and the first thing he heard was the cry of a peacock (we all know about that!) and he thought, “This is a place I want to be.”

At the May Flora and Fauna Friends Meeting (always the second Saturday of the month), we decided for an outing this summer to go to the Linnaeus Teaching Garden in Woodward Park. Life Enrichment has made the arrangements for us to take the bus; and we will have a guided tour. In addition to the bus, we will have a car or two going or folks can meet us there. If you have never been to this “State of the Art Demonstration Garden”, you have an incredible experience awaiting you. If you have been, then you know that you want to see it again because there are always new things going on. This will be on Thursday, June 5th at 9:00. PLEASE let us know in advance if you plan to go.

Here is another invitation - to our first ever Turtle Party. The “Guests of Honor” will be the two Box Turtles that Teresa Reno and her daughter Casey took home as hatchlings from our courtyards and have raised until they are now big enough to return to Saint Simeon’s. Watch for the contest to come up with names for these two. There will also be several other Turtle Guests attending. The date is Thursday, June 19th at 10:30 in the Gazebo Courtyard. Most people never see the turtles that live in our courtyards because they are shy and stay hidden most of the time. This will be your chance to see what you don’t see!

Speaking of turtles or tortoises, have you seen the new Bird Feeding Station in the Chapel Garden? That’s the small garden between the Chapel and the hall with the collection of turtles “walking around”. Actually, one and only one was a living turtle at one time but is now stuffed. Can you find him? We’re making a special effort to attract hummingbirds this year, and one has already been spotted at this new location.
GUESS THE BABY!

Can you guess which photo belongs to which Saint Simeon's resident?

Jim Dempster
Geraldine Sanders
Kay Herring
Billie Ann Johnson
Jeanette Chucker
Lois Gatchell

For answers, see page 7.

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/1  Lois Gatchell
6/4  Robert Axtell
6/5  Albert McCall
6/6  Rumi Framjee
6/11 John Conway, Jr.
6/17 Paula Lowery
6/20 Jane Wirick
6/22 Iris Goins
6/26 Mattie Treadway
6/28 Ethel Grigg

Welcome our new family members

Bill Brock
Erma Carter
Barbara Chitwood
Iris Goins
George King, Jr.

We Remember in Our Prayers

Esther Dyck
Frances Hansen
Brooks Jenkins
John Paul
Priscilla Worden

“Common Medical Issues in the Aging Population”

Presented by Dr. Bernadette Miller,
Saint Simeon’s Medical Director

Thursday, June 12 at 2:00
Saint Simeon’s Common Room

Bernadette Miller, M.D., OU Physicians, will offer a
discussion of common medical conditions among
the aging and geriatric populations and what the
current medical guidelines recommend.

Annual Ice Cream Social

Thursday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Rain or Shine!
Saint Simeon’s Grounds
Join us for live music, ice cream, and fun with
Residents, staff and volunteers!

Name the Baby!

a) Jeanette Chucker
b) Jim Dempster (with his twin sister Jean)
c) Kay Herring
d) Lois Gatchell
e) Geraldine Sanders
f) Billie Ann Johnson (she is the younger
   child, with her sister Joyce)

Flora & Fauna
Friends Committee

Next Meeting:
Saturday, June 14 | 10:00 a.m.
Dotson Center Living Room
Sometimes the humans I’m around like to dress me up. And I really have no choice but to cooperate. At Easter time, I had Easter Bunny ears forced upon my head so that the public can laugh at my expense. I do not particularly enjoy having things placed on my head, but I will do anything for my fans. So, enjoy this bunny ear photo – it may be the last time you see it!

Even though I don’t like wearing things on my head, I don’t mind having a scarf draped around my furry neck! Most of you know, I wear a different scarf nearly every day of the year, thanks to Resident Marie Millar, who makes many of my scarves, and other friends of Saint Simeon’s like Revelle Clausing and Debbie Baker, who have contributed to my collection over the years. Recently, my “Mom” Kathy Hinkle and Executive Assistant Donna Mayotte had the bright idea to dress up to match my scarf! Here they are, along with Wellness Director Mary Nole, and me, all dressed in jungle gear! I really appreciate their efforts to look like me!

Simone