At Saint Simeon’s second annual Blessing of the Animals on Monday, Oct. 6, six dogs (including our own Saint Simeon’s dog, Simone) and one peacock received blessings from our chaplain, Father Bill Holly.

The Blessing of the Animals is held at many churches at the beginning of October, and since Saint Simeon’s is home to many creatures, our community joyfully celebrates this event. The Blessing of the Animals is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures. Francis, whose feast day is Oct. 4, loved animals. He wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God’s living things. “All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures.”

At this year’s Blessing of the Animals, the Tulsa SPCA brought four adorable, adoptable puppies. The SPCA also brought puppies to last year’s Blessing, and Terry Walker, volunteer manager, announced that every single one of those puppies were adopted shortly afterward! We are hoping that each one of the special puppies brought to this year’s Blessing will also find loving homes.

The most unique creature to be blessed this year was Rocky the Peacock. You may remember the story of Simone and Rocky’s special bond that was featured in the Quill and on KOTV Channel 6 a few months ago. Rocky is our “miracle peachick,” a special fighter who survived even after momma peahen had to leave her nest because only one of her eggs hatched. Kathy Hinkle, Simone’s “Mom”/Saint Simeon’s

Fur & Feathers

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GETTING TO KNOW:
Joshua Smith

“Josh Smith, who is a CLEET licensed security officer, demonstrated a willingness to help out in a pinch with virtually no notice. He then showed responsibility for his position in Maintenance, and arrived much earlier than expected, ready to work, and without complaint. Thank you, Josh, for demonstrating the values of dedication, accountability and humility. It is good to have you back.”

— Tadd Weese, Director of Facility Management

It is quite possible that Joshua has held more jobs at Saint Simeon’s than any other employee! He first started working here on Valentine’s Day in 2006 as a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA). He found Saint Simeon’s while doing his clinicals here to become a Geriatric Technician (192 course hours including six hours of college credit from Tulsa Community College). Recognizing Joshua’s ability, Saint Simeon’s later paid for his training to become a Certified Medication Aide (CMA) and he worked in the Memory Center as a CMA for a year. He later served as the supervisor of Saint Simeon’s Adult Day Services located at Saint Dunstan’s until the decision was made to close it and he returned to this campus working in the Maintenance Department and also, occasionally as a CNA/CMA.

After being gone for a while, “I thought that I saw some greener pastures, but I found out that they didn’t taste very good.” Joshua came back to us in June and he is a Maintenance Technician in our Facility Management Department. “I like the hands on approach that Maintenance gives to every inch of the building. We get to know every nook and cranny in a way few people will ever appreciate. For example, if you lift a ceiling tile on the second floor and look up, you would be amazed how far away the roof is. My current big project is helping build a new nursing station in the Memory Center. Working here is not a job; it is an adventure – there is always something going on.

Joshua was born and grew up in Tulsa, attending Owen Elementary, Bell Junior High, and graduated from Will Rodgers High School in
1989. He has three older brothers, all in Tulsa. His brother Bobby wasn’t expected to live when he was born because their mom had German Measles. Bobby had open heart surgery when he was three months old and, though mentally handicapped, is able to live in a private home.

Joshua joined the army after graduation and served in the Gulf War in 1991. He also visited Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirate and Jordan. He was stationed at Fort Sill and learned to drive 18-wheelers. Joshua has been in 48 states! He has also been in construction all his life – like his dad. That’s where he got the experience needed to join the Maintenance team. “I can build a house from the dirt on up. I built a two-story cabin for my aunt to pay for CNA School so I would not have to work while I was in school.”

“My wife, Jamie Elizabeth, and I were married in 2012. She is the girl I fell in love with back in high school. We went our separate ways and lost contact with each other until one day on Facebook, I got a message, ‘Is this my Josh Smith?’ Jamie has worked for the Rich and Cartmill Insurance Company for 21 years. We now have a daughter, Kristina, who is two years old this month, going on 18...

“We live in north Tulsa, having bought a house just down the street from my parents. With a 2-year old at home, I don’t really have much spare time. I am an OSU fan – Go, Pokes!”

“I’ve been fortunate to travel to Central America, twice to both Belize and to Guatemala. I was so glad to be able to take one of my brothers and my sister-in-law to show them Belize. Someday in the future, I hope to travel to Israel.”
The Chaplain’s Chat

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

Seasons are wonderful! Most are centered in celebrations. Historically, the celebration was often tied to the land and our work associated with it. However, as most of our society moved from agricultural to industrial and beyond, the celebrations and seasons retained their significance, but it was modified for our newer cultural life.

For instance, it’s November and historically the harvest time was reaching its completion. At its completion was a celebration. The work is done! The harvest is in! Let’s party! The heart of the celebration was thankfulness for work well done, a good harvest, and the enjoyment of life because of those things. As we moved away from agriculture as a society, there was still work to be done in various occupations, and thankfulness is something still experienced from the fruit of our labors. We still find it appropriate to be thankful this time of year.

Of course, we all know that nationally we memorialize this expression of thankfulness by celebrating that thankfulness on Thanksgiving Day. The key word in all this is thankfulness. Many people have a tradition of going around the table just before Thanksgiving dinner and naming something for which they are thankful. However, if you haven’t given any thought to the matter, you might find yourself “on the spot” and struggling to give something more meaningful than, “I’m thankful for Boots, the cat,” because you just happened to see Boots going past the table at that moment.

Don’t get me wrong – I am thankful for pets and the meaningful part they play in our lives. The point is to be mindful in our reflection upon our lives and the many reasons we have to be thankful.

While this is a good thing to do throughout the year, I offer the suggestion that you focus your thoughts this month on those reasons you have to be thankful. Spend time thinking about the people who have enriched your life. (You get extra credit and advanced spiritual placement if you can also truly be thankful for people who have been challenging to deal with, or posed problems for you, recognizing the harvest of personal growth you have attained because of them.) Think of the joyful events of your life, the things accomplished, the goals met or even well underway, and the benefits you have received. (You get extra credit and advanced spiritual placement if you can also truly be thankful for your failures and for difficult events in your life, recognizing the harvest of lessons learned, and again, personal growth you have attained because of them.)

In all your reflections, be sure to focus on why you are thankful for these people, accomplishments, failures, and events in your life. If you do so, you will find that you are truly thankful. You might also discover the hand of God, busily making your soul – a pearl of great price.

God’s Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
Aren’t ears interesting? I’m not talking about human ears (that’s another story), but the amazing world of animal ears. We have three different plants named for animal ears growing at Saint Simeon’s.

**Elephant Ears**

This spring, Dorotha Williams in Facility Services donated to us three Elephant Ear bulbs (actually called tubers) and they have lived up to their name—the leaves are huge! Probably not as big as an adult elephant’s ears, but this is just their first year to grow here. Elephant Ears are native to southeastern Asia, and we will need to dig them up to store for the winter until next spring. There are two locations that you can still see them—in the Perennial Garden in Reflections Courtyard and also in the Chapel Garden.

**Donkey Ears**

We have Bustani Plant Farm to thank for getting us started growing Donkey Ears, a succulent native to Madagascar. The leaves are as long and thick as a donkey’s. At the end of the growing season, little miniature plants (plantlets) appear on the tip of the largest leaves. They grow and further weigh down the leaves, eventually touching soil and start producing roots. Donkey Ears also can’t live outside over the winter. The very large plant in the raised bed in the Gazebo Courtyard was potted up last year, brought inside and replanted in the spring. The smaller specimen in the Perennial Bed in the Reflections Courtyard was one of the plantlets from last year.

**Lamb’s Ears**

Lamb’s Ears is a hardy perennial, native to Turkey and Iran, with thick gray or silver wooly leaves. It is named Lamb’s Ears because of the curved shape and white, soft, fur-like hair coating on its leaves. It definitely doesn’t need to be brought in and is a great spreading, bedding plant. It does put up pink-purple flower spikes during the summer season, but it is the leaves with their unique velvety soft texture that make it irresistible. Our Lamb’s Ears was planted by one of our most devoted gardeners, Ruth Staudt, when she lived here, and her bed is still thriving. We transplanted some this spring to the Reflections Courtyard.
Day of Remembrance

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 | 1:30 p.m. Common Room
Please join us for a celebration of the lives of our Residents who have passed away since November 2013

Florence Katz
Susie Nichols
Rose Mitchell
Alice West
Velda Hazeley
Emilie Burr
Lucille McKay
James Wells
Russell McCarty
Douglas Perry
Elizabeth Failing

Edith Bishop
Geneva Goff
Clem Moody
Esther Dyck
Frances Hansen
Marilyn Lane
Evelyn Williams
Jimmy Gizzi
Ruth Matlock
John F. Lawhon
Velma Austin

Ninette Allen-Maples
Irene Cannon
Martha Dyer
Wanda Sadoris
Arthur Rubin
June McCall
Edward Buddrus
Marcia Lewis
Paul Stringfield
Patricia Romero
Charlotte Stewart

Ann Leander
Priscilla Worden
Brooks Edward Jenkins
Douglas Henson
Jack Paul
Richard Zwart
Earlene Baldwin
Nancy Cunningham
Vera Zwart
Mary Rowin

Fur & Feathers ... continued from page 1

Education Director, decided to bring the eggs into her office, and lo and behold, a couple

days later, Rocky hatched! One of the first sights Rocky saw after hatching was Simone, so Rocky has come to believe that Simone may very well be his momma!

These days, Rocky lives with Barbara Ann Bartlett, daughter of Resident Pat Bartlett. Barbara Ann already owns several peacocks from previous hatchings, and Rocky is becoming quite the local celebrity. He goes everywhere with Barbara Ann – even Utica Square! So naturally, Rocky needed to be blessed to ensure his continued blessedness in the glorious peacock life he’s enjoying!

Resident Betty Ogelsby enjoys holding an SPCA puppy and visiting with Nikki Calvert from Prohab Physical Therapy.

Simone, our Resident Canine at Saint Simeon’s, receives her blessing from Father Holly.

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Welcome to our Family!

Herschell Daney
Grace Hartzell
Anne Heisler
John Heisler
Loretta Jones
Ann Maddux
Mary Nelson
Betty Oglesby

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

11/2  Stella Hanesworth
11/2  Evelyn Patterson
11/8  Craig Doennecke
11/9  Elizabeth Turnbull
11/9  Jean King
11/10 Nan Balman
11/14 Jo Donna Waller
11/14 David Maher
11/16 James Smith
11/19 Melvin Bailey
11/20 Betty Ammann
11/21 Charles Howard
11/21 Frances Warnock
11/21 Robert Brush
11/29 Margery Hutson

Gobble, Gobble!

THE THANKSGIVING MEAL WILL BE SERVED ON THANKSGIVING DAY, NOV. 27, AT 11:30.

Thanksgiving meal tickets for visitors are $12.

Seating reservations will start in The Bistro and Valley View Dining Room, but family will also be seated in D-Hall, the HealthCare Center, or Memory Center upon request.

Guest reservations are required by Nov. 21.

Call Becky at 918-794-1903.

If you no longer wish to receive the Quill by mail or if you wish to switch to a color, e-newsletter subscription, please contact Lindsay Morris at lmorris@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1945.
Fall Outings

Saint Simeon’s Residents have enjoyed a number of outings this fall, including trips to Krispy Kreme, the Linnaeus Teaching Gardens, Western Days, the Jazz Hall of Fame, and the Tulsa State Fair!

Doris Stanton enjoyed her donuts and paper hat at Krispy Kreme!

Fran Warnock says the coffee is A-OK at Krispy Kreme!

Rocky the Peacock with Bob Snow and Patty Flint at the Linnaeus Teaching Gardens.