Karen and Rick Garren are long-time friends of Saint Simeon’s and have supported Western Days since 1998. The Garrens have been a vibrant part of Western Days’ success: Karen has organized the Silent Auction all of these years, along with her friend Judy Lawson.

Both Karen and Rick have family ties to Saint Simeon’s. Karen’s mother Dorothy is an Assisted Living Resident. Rick’s mother Adele is also an Assisted Living Resident, and his late father, Bennie, lived at Saint Simeon’s in the late 1990s. Even before his father lived at Saint Simeon’s, Rick remembers visiting campus as a child since his mother Adele was a charter member of the Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary.

Outside of Saint Simeon’s, Karen is a retired elementary special education teacher from Tulsa Public Schools and also worked for Saint Simeon’s Foundation for five years after leaving the classroom. Rick is very recently retired from a successful law practice, having practiced solo for 20 years and joining Riggs Abney for 19 years. Nowadays, golf is a full-time passion of Rick’s, and so far, he’s had three hole-in-ones.

Karen and Rick met while they were students at The University of Tulsa when one of Karen’s sorority sisters arranged for them to go on a blind date.

Rick’s law school education while they were newlyweds wasn’t always easy — he paid for law school by working a newspaper route. Each day, he delivered papers from 2 to 3 p.m. and again from 2 to 3 a.m. “I learned to sleep in four-hour intervals,” Rick said, “a habit that I still have today.”

They have now been married 45 years and have one son, Justin, who lives in Colorado. They are members of St. John’s Episcopal Church.

The Garrens enjoy traveling. One of Rick’s favorite trips was a golf trip to England, Scotland, and Ireland, where he played 270 holes in 10 days.

Saint Simeon’s is grateful to Karen and Rick for their many years of dedication to Western Days, and we look forward to honoring them on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Western Days 2015: Celebrating Saint Simeon’s, Where Caring Really Matters.

It’s not too late to purchase your tickets for Western Days 2015: Celebrating Saint Simeon’s, Where Caring Really Matters! Visit www.WesternDaysEvent.com for all the details, or call 918-794-1977.

And don’t forget raffle tickets for the $2,500 Utica Square shopping spree – 1 for $20 or 6 for $100. You do not need to be present at Western Days to win the raffle.
Saying Goodbye:
Stella Reynolds

Stella Reynolds recently retired from Saint Simeon’s just short of completing 29 years of service. She was honored at a Retirement Party on August 26th attended by Residents, current and former family members, Trustees, and Co-workers. Every Resident who has been lucky enough to have Stella in their lives says they feel fortunate. She is also much loved by generations of family members. Her kindness and dedication extended to everyone.

“I first started working at Saint Simeon’s in 1986 in the Dietary Department, where two of my sisters were already working. I ended up cooking and waitressing in all areas of Saint Simeon’s. In 1995, I became the Residential Service Aide, and that was my assignment for several years. My last job here was as a Certified Nurse Aide on Casey and Chapman Halls in the Dotson Assisted Living Center. I had a little work room that I shared with the other CNAs with an ironing board and sewing machine for when I helped Residents with their clothes.

I was born in Buford Colony, which is south of Sand Springs between Prattville and Sapulpa. My dad, King Brown, worked for the Vigo Dog Food Company in Sand Springs. I remember my mom, Marie Brown, going to get people and taking them to vote on election days. Her main job was taking care of us 14 kids—I was the 13th child. I had nine brothers, and they have all since died of heart attacks—the youngest when he was only 45 years old. I attended Booker T. Washington School in Sand Springs, which had grades from 1st to 12th. When I was in the 11th grade, the Sand Spring Schools were integrated, so in my senior year, I transferred to Charles Page High School.

I have a wonderful family. I am blessed with sweet children who have never caused me any trouble. They love their mother, and they love the Lord. And I’m lucky to have a wonderful husband—Herbert—we’ve been married for 48 years. He worked at Southwest United painting airplane parts until he retired. Prior to that, he owned his own auto body shop.
We have three boys and two girls. Our oldest son, Herbert, Jr., has worked at the post office for 23 years. Marco got a degree in Hotel Management from Oklahoma State University, worked at the Hilton Hotels in Hawaii and Las Vegas and is now the Supervisor at the Hampton Inn Tulsa Hills in Tulsa. LaTanya started as a counselor at the David Moss Correctional Facility (City/County Jail) and is now a Sergeant there. Tyrone works at T & W Tire Company fixing those huge tires on 18 wheelers. LaShonda, the youngest, got a degree in Childhood Development from OSU and provides day care in her home. Her dream has always been to entice her mom to come and help, and that is about to come true! I also am blessed with eight wonderful grandchildren and one great-grandbaby, who just turned 1 year old.

Saint Simeon’s has been a wonderful place to work, and I have enjoyed every moment of it. I hate that I’m retiring, but the time has come. I’m not retiring to travel. I’m just not a traveling woman, but I did make one exception to go to Hawaii. It was just ‘us girls’—my two daughters and a granddaughter. I didn’t care for the plane ride, but I enjoyed being there. The one place I really do hope to visit someday is Israel. I want to see those places I’ve read about in the Bible all my life.

I look forward to being able to work outside more, taking care of my flower beds, pulling weeds, digging in the dirt, planting flowers, even trimming the hedge. I’ll always love to sew. At home, I enjoy making sheets and blankets for my daughter’s cribs and cots at her day care center. The children there are so special—they call me Maw Maw. I am looking forward to spending more time with my sisters. I have three living sisters in the Tulsa area. We get together from time to time and talk a lot on the phone.

The Residents have always been the best part of my job. They are like members of my family. One reason I didn’t retire before is that I would get attached to a Resident who would ask me to promise that I wouldn’t leave until they passed. But by the time that happened, I had promised another Resident! Finally, I said, right now I have promises to three Residents and I’m not going to make any more. Those last three promises were to Ellen Henneke, Dr. Ben Henneke, and Ruth Staudt.

All these years, so many, many sweet Residents. I can still remember them all…”
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

This is a reprint of an article I wrote for the September 2009 Quill. I thought it time to remember this great person again, so I re-offer this, hopefully for your edification!

Throughout history, we have been blessed with persons who were great examples of the Christian faith. They came from a variety of backgrounds, and were engaged in varied ministries and faithful endeavors. Historically, we have referred to such folks as “saints” and there was a specific set of rules and procedures by which the Church came to acknowledge someone with that title. Some parts of Christianity still follow those rules and procedures. In the Episcopal Church, we keep a calendar of feast days, remembering the earlier saints on their traditional day, and adding new folks as our church becomes aware of their contribution to the whole of Christianity. You might be surprised to learn that an Oklahoman was honored with a feast day several years ago.

September 1st is the feast day of David Pendleton Oakerhater. Oakerhater was a Cheyenne warrior who led many into battle with the U.S. government forces over tribal land rights in the late 1860’s and early 1870’s. He was captured along with several of his companions in 1875 and taken to a prison in Florida. While he was there, an Army Captain took interest in him and other Indian prisoners, and set up a program to educate them. Oakerhater, impressed by the example of many Christian benefactors, became a Christian himself. He was sent to Syracuse to study for the ministry. He was baptized and took the name David Pendleton Oakerhater to honor Mrs. Pendleton who had provided the financial assistance for his ministerial education. In 1881, David Pendleton Oakerhater was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, and was sent back to Oklahoma to do missionary work among the Cheyenne people. For fifty years, he labored to help establish schools and missions, and provide pastoral care with little or no help from the church, and resistance from the government. He faithfully exercised this ministry until his death on August 31, 1931.

David Pendleton Oakerhater is a shining example for all people of God’s grace and power to transform lives. Through God’s grace, he was able to set aside his own anger and hatred and lead a heroic life of service patterned after Christ whom he referred to as his Captain. When he first returned to Oklahoma as deacon and missionary, he is reported to have addressed his people as follows:

“You all know me. You remember when I led you out to war I went first, and what I told you was true. Now I have been away to the East and I have learned about another captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is my leader. He goes first, and all he tells me is true. I come back to my people to tell you to go with me now in this new road, a war that makes all for peace.”

The Collect for the Feast of David Pendleton Oakerhater

O God of unsearchable wisdom and infinite mercy, you chose a captive warrior, David Oakerhater, to be your servant; and sent him to be a missionary to his own people, and to exercise the office of a deacon among them: Liberate us, who commemorate him today, from bondage to self, and empower us for service to you and to the neighbors you have given us; through Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

God’s Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †

I am indebted to Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2003 for the Collect, quote, and most of the information above.
We have many attractive gardens at Saint Simeon’s. Some can be seen as you drive in (front yards of the Cottages, Eckel Park, and Oxley Circle). Others, in the various courtyards, can only be seen and accessed once inside.

Starting from the south end of the bed (as you exit from the main hall into the Gazebo Courtyard), the first two plants you see are Donkey’s Ears and Carrion Flower. Both need to come inside for the winter but grow bigger each summer when they are returned to the outdoors. Note the new babies (plantlets) on the thick Donkey’s Ear leaves. Look for the large blooms on the Carrion Flower. It attracts flies as its pollinators (rather than bees), and what attracts flies? The smell of rotting meat. Only the brave should get close enough for a sniff.

We also have two varieties of Penstemons. These came as transplants and are ready to provide transplants for someone else. Next is our Wild Senna (ingredient in many laxatives), followed by the Giant Pineapple Lilly. Both are from Bustani Garden. Wild Senna is native to Oklahoma, but the Pineapple Plant comes from South Africa. It is growing bigger every year but hasn’t flowered yet. We can wait.

Then there are the Moonflower Plants, a native, wild-growing, vigorous plant that invited itself to the party. Next is the Rattlesnake Master Plant (another Bustani). It gets its name because some Native Americans used its root as an antidote for rattlesnake venom. This is followed by the Giant Coneflower, which is described as a Black-eyed Susan on steroids. The last plant is a Russian Sage, the size of a small bush. We’re not sure if and when it was planted, but it clearly is thriving. Pinch a leaf or two to appreciate its aroma.

See something you like? Several plants have multiplied, outgrown their location, and need to be thinned. Some start new plants from cuttings. And others have generated baby plants right in front of our eyes and are just hoping someone will take them to a new home. Just check with us first.
Saint Simeon’s lost a long-time friend, Patricia Deisenroth, on July 14. Pat and her husband, Malcolm Deisenroth, Jr., have been long-time friends and supporters of Saint Simeon’s and are responsible for the exquisite Deisenroth Bistro in the Dotson Family Assisted Living Center. Pat was frequently seen volunteering at Resident events like the Christmas parties.

Pat was a native of Ponca City and attended the University of Oklahoma and Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Missouri. Pat met Malcolm at a party in Ponca City, and they were later married on February 4, 1950. While a wife and mother of four, Pat returned to education and received both an undergraduate degree and a Masters degree from the University of Tulsa in speech pathology. She then opened a private practice providing speech pathology services to individuals in both Tulsa and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Her practice remained active into her 80’s. Pat had a strong dedication to serving others, as demonstrated by her participation in Saint Simeon’s, the Junior League of Tulsa, St. John’s Episcopal Church and various Tulsa charities.

Pat will truly be missed by Saint Simeon’s.

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!

Resident Martha Myers and Marjorie Dew celebrated the 4th of July by sporting lots of red, white, and blue!
Welcome to our Family!

Julia Ayres
Rita Bell
Alicia Caughlin
Peggy Freeman
Jo Goff
William Mangan
Irene McWha
Armada Weaver
Clifford Weaver

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

JW Childs
Charles Duffy
John Heisler
Pauly Lowery
Laverne Suit

DID YOU KNOW?

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

The Assisted Living front desk sells meal tickets. Guests should bring their tickets to the dining room. The server will ask for the ticket before presenting a plate.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
JOSEPH ARNDT, ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH’S ORGANIST
TUESDAY, SEPT. 30 | 2:00 | COMMON ROOM
RSVP by calling 918-794-1903

Joseph will be performing music from Handel’s Water Music, Bach, and will finish with a hymn sing.

Joseph Arndt began as Organist/Choirmaster at Saint John’s Episcopal Church, Tulsa, in June 2015. He was previously Director of Music at Grace Church in Newark, New Jersey and an organist for daily services at Trinity Wall Street in New York City. He received his master of music degree from The Juilliard School in 2009 and his bachelor of music degree from Westminster Choir College in 2007.
Are you ready for Western Days: *Celebrating Saint Simeon’s, Where Caring Really Matters* on Tuesday, Sept. 15? Be sure to make time to browse all of the wonderful handmade items by Saint Simeon’s Residents such as those pictured here! There will also be baked goods and other items made by Saint Simeon’s staff.