Christmas is a big deal at Saint Simeon’s! Residents of each area enjoyed a big Christmas party. Assisted Living Residents were treated to Christmas tea with Santa on Friday, Dec. 11. Tea with petit fours, quiche and treats prepared by Teresa Reno and the Residents’ Culinary Group were served. Music was provided by Barron Ryan on the piano. Santa visited and posed with Residents for pictures.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Health Care Center and Memory Center Residents enjoyed two separate parties. HCC and MC parties featured eggnog, hot cider and specially decorated cookies. Residents also enjoyed sing-a-longs led by Karen Stanhope on the piano, and Santa visited to pose for pictures.

Thank you to all of the family members and volunteers who made these parties successful!
“I am a Charge Nurse in Assisted Living, working in both the Dotson Assisted Living Center and the Assisted Living Plus Wing. Most days I work a 7-3 shift but sometimes 7-5. When I was completing my nursing training, Saint Simeon’s was where I had my clinicals, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time here. Later, moved to Minnesota where I lived until I was 18. With both parents working and being new to everything about this country plus not knowing anyone, my family (especially my parents) stayed at home much of the time. We also changed homes a lot – different apartments or towns and even states. I have three brothers, Kong, Jeff and Demark, and one sister, Doris. I was the middle child. My brothers are all ‘Techies’ – engineers and such. I’m the odd one, a nurse. I’m not sure what first attracted me to the field. Maybe I was just watching ‘ER’ on TV? I see every day as a challenge. Each day is different and exhausting and I love it.”

In Minnesota, we first lived in St. Paul but then moved to a little town called Spring Lake Park. I was a senior in high school when we moved again to Siloam Spring, Arkansas and I graduated from high school there. Before getting into the healthcare field, I worked in retail at Super Target, For Your Entertainment, Sports Authority, and Dick’s Sporting Goods. I know retail!

I attended the University of Arkansas for a couple of years before moving to Oklahoma. Tulsa Technology Center is where I received my Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) training and Tulsa Tech is where I became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

I first saw my future wife while at a party. I waved but she didn’t wave back. Later we found each other on Facebook.

We have a home in the ‘suburbs’ of Collinsville which pretty much connects now to Owasso. We both work (Amy is a Medical Assistant at St. John’s Clinic) and are
pretty tired when we get home, so we do exciting things like sit on the couch and look at bills. We watch Netflix, and one of my favorite shows right now is a British series, ‘Black Mirror.’ I’m also a ‘Doctor Who’ fan since the Matt Smith and David Tennant days. I enjoy reading science fiction and fantasy and a thriller now and then. I’ve made it a goal to watch all the Oscar-nominated movies each year.

We have one dog, a black lab named Samwise Gamgee the Brave because he is the best sidekick ever, just like Samwise was to Frodo in The Lord of the Rings. I like to listen to Jack Johnson’s music. I enjoy watching all sports, and I’m wishing for a hoverboard for Christmas.

Amy and I have known each other for three years, got married in April, and we’re pregnant! We didn’t really plan to have a baby but we also didn’t really plan not to. We welcomed whatever might happen and are excited about our baby due in March. Amy hopes to be able to stay home for the first three months, and I hope to be there with her for the first month. I’m not much for traveling, probably because my family moved around so much when I was growing up. But if Amy wants to travel, I’ll go wherever she takes me. I’m all about keeping the wife happy!”
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 became 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. 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 84-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 Holly †
PEAFOWL GENETICS

Saint Simeon’s is blessed with eight of what are, and have been throughout history, considered to be the most beautiful birds on the planet: peafowl. The boys are peacocks, and the girls are peahens. While the girls of all peafowl are mostly white-ish with drab colors mixed in for camouflage (while sitting on the eggs), the boys have no such necessity, so they proudly display the spectacular colors for which they are famous. They drop their tail feathers one by one near the end of summer. Lucky for all who collect them!

There are three types of peafowl. Blue ones (Indian Blue) come from India and Sri Lanka. Green ones (Java Green) come from Burma, Indochina and Java. The green ones are known for unpleasant dispositions,

White peacocks (not to be confused with peahens, which are naturally white-ish) come from selective breeding of the ‘blue’ peafowl to create a genetic mutation called ‘leucism,’ which is a loss of pigment. The white peacock is not albino – they do not have red eyes. Even though there have probably been albino peacocks, that phenomenon is very rare. Saint Simeon’s had a pair of white peacocks living here for a short time. They were both pure white and the peacock’s tail looked like a giant snowflake.

The ‘blue’ peafowl are harder than the other two varieties and can survive our winters. That is why in North America, you mostly see them. Ours roost up in trees at night year round and don’t require any shelter other than maybe spending time on the patios when it is raining. Breeders in the states have created all sorts of color variations (hybrids) like the Opal Silver Pied and Spaulding Purple.

Guest columnist Barbara Ann Bartlett with her peacock, Rocky, who was adopted from Saint Simeon’s in 2014.

The kind of hybrid living at Saint Simeon’s is called black-shouldered. Three of our males have black shoulders. You see that one of our males is different. His shoulders and wings are a brown-flecked color, and he has white, rather than blue, pantaloons. The white around his eyes go all the way around, rather than being broken up like the others. He was born here from a black-shouldered father and a white mother. Because both parents carried the
For about a year now, Resident Patty Flint has been hosting a monthly ladies’ luncheon in the Bistro. With the help of her friend Carol Crews, Patty hosts a lovely luncheon that always has festive centerpieces and honors the ladies of Saint Simeon’s, and many times, their daughters and even granddaughters.

Carol Crews’ concept for the luncheon is to make a recreation of what The Garden at Utica Square once offered. She remembers high society ladies enjoying an elegant luncheon with a style show and party favors.

The theme at the December Luncheon was peacocks – particularly white peacocks. The tables had white linen tablecloths, shimmering white napkins, crystal wine and water glasses, and white china. The centerpieces were bird cages outlined with tiny white lights and a flameless candle in the bird cage and also on the tables.

The luncheons grew out of the monthly Flora and Fauna meetings, which are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. Many of the members thought it would be fun to have lunch together, so Patty and Carol organized the monthly Ladies’ Luncheon, which is always right after Flora and Fauna on the second Saturday from 11:30 to 1:00.

During the luncheon, Patty welcomes everyone, and Resident Lois Gatchell, who was one of the first female elder in the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, says the blessing.

Residents and family members who are interested in attending the monthly ladies’ luncheon can RSVP with Attrell at 918-794-1903. Note that space is limited!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

- 1/01 Patricia Fowler
- 1/02 Doris Stanton
- 1/06 Robert McGuire
- 1/07 Adele Garren
- 1/08 Duke Iseley
- 1/17 Geraldine Yoakley
- 1/19 Joan Sivadon
- 1/19 Colleen McKee
- 1/21 John Cagle, Jr.
- 1/22 Arling Christensen
- 1/23 Betty Hitzman
- 1/24 William Cox
- 1/25 Nora Ferguson
- 1/26 Elizabeth Stambaugh
- 1/26 Jim Dempster

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

Dane Matthews
Eugene Ker

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Ethel Grigg
Jean Jones
Winston Summers

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.

SURVEY KINDLE WINNER

Many thanks to all of the Residents and family members who took the time to fill out the annual Resident Satisfaction Survey in the fall. As promised, we drew the names of one Resident and one family member for the Kindle drawing for participating.

THE WINNERS WERE:
Family: Margaret Martinson, Resident Kathleen Beard’s daughter
Resident: Vern Stanton!

alzheimer's association

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28
6:00-7:30 P.M.

SAINT SIMEON’S SMITH CONFERENCE ROOM

This group meets monthly on the 4th Thursday. Complimentary dinner will be provided.

Please RSVP by Jan. 25 to Lindsay Morris at lmorris@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1945.

Simone is on a Mission!

Simone, our beautiful “Chief Executive Cuddler,” is on a Facebook mission! Her goal in 2016 is to find a Facebook friend in all 50 states! Won’t you go on Facebook and friend her?

www.facebook.com/simone.saintsimeons

So far, she has friends in Oklahoma, Arizona, Texas, Virginia, Indiana, Montana, Arkansas, Connecticut, and Maryland. When you friend her, be sure to comment on her wall with the name of your state, so we can add you to the list!
recessive gene for the original Indian Blue, genetics caused the chicks to revert back and be Indian Blues. We kept one boy, and even though he is younger and slightly smaller than the other boys, watch how all the other birds defer to him. He is definitely the “Cock of the Walk,” especially during the breeding season.

Peacock tails, their main feature, are displayed in courtship to show virility. The female risks her life raising only one brood every year, so she wants to be picky. It was most unusual for us to have a second brood this past summer. When the weather starts to turn warm, the courtship rituals will begin and last for weeks — along with the famous peacock cry! If you go outside, you can hear the sound the tail feathers make as they vibrate. The actual mating happens so quickly that it is almost never observed.

We are out of room for any more peafowl, so after the chicks are hatched, we get to enjoy them for about a month each summer before they are sold to loving families ($50 each). If you know anyone who might be interested, let them know.