The annual Blessing of the Animals by Father Bill Holly took place at Saint Simeon’s on Tuesday, Oct. 3 in observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Residents, staff, guests who came to watch, and family members who brought dogs, a turtle, a Bearded Dragon, and a black and white Tegu lizard named Alphys were present at this annual event. Special guests also came - 5 adoptable dogs, brought by the Tulsa SPCA.

As Father Holly laid his hand on each animal, he said the pet's name and the name of the owner along with saying the prayer for the Blessing which recognizes every animal's importance in their own right.

Eleven dogs, from our Golden Retriever, Simone, to German Shepherds, mixed breeds, and several terriers that were rescued by the Tulsa SPCA from a hoarding situation were blessed on this day. Thirty-one people were present for this special yearly event. Thirty-one people came away with a more intense, special love for a pet.
“Courtney took on the Western Days General Store with a happy heart. The display was gorgeous – and effective! She grossed over $2,000 in General Store sales. The Residents were delighted, the patrons were anxious to buy, and she did it all with a smile.” — Carolyn Blair, Foundation Director

“I started at Saint Simeon’s on Dec. 19, 2016. I love it here – I can’t think of anything I don’t like. I do all of our purchasing and receiving and work in the basement. I don’t get a lot of interaction with Residents typically, but I did get to know Resident Marie Millar while I was planning the General Store for Western Days.

I have two children who are 19 and 17. My son Jacob works for Imperial Vending loading their trucks at night and is planning on going to college in the Spring. My daughter Hannah is a Senior at Coweta High School. She is a varsity libero volleyball player and thrower for Coweta Track and Field. She is currently looking into her different college options.

My husband has two daughters who are 19 and 15. Allie currently works with autistic children at The Griffin Promise and plans on pursuing a career in Speech Pathology. Emily is a Freshman in high school and is very involved in choir.

I graduated from Broken Arrow High School and am an only child. Past employment has included inventory and purchasing for the aviation and healthcare industries, including American Airlines, Preferred Pediatric Home Health, and Worthington Aviation.

My life revolves around my kids. When my son was in school, I took him to all his soccer games and tournaments. Now I’m a volleyball mom with my daughter. My husband and I enjoy Harley rides in the fall to Eureka Springs.

I have three “fur babies” – two labs and a lab/German Shephard mix – Cowboy, Midnight, and Penelope. They keep us busy and are like children to us – they even sleep in the bed with us.”
COMMON ROOM AND CHAPEL AREA

Undergoes Renovations

Saint Simeon’s is grateful to the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma for its recent three-year capital support. This support has allowed us to make extensive repairs and replacements in the Common Room/Chapel area.

These repairs include:
1. Exterior wood repair/replacement, and exterior insulation and finish system repair and repainting.
2. Roof replacement, and installation of new gutters and down spouts.
3. Replacement of the windows and doors in the Common Room and Chapel.
4. Replacement of the Common Room ramp.
5. Replacement of the Common Room flooring.

In addition, the support has also allowed us to replace two small natural gas generators with a combined power output of 225 KWs with a new diesel-fired generator with a power output of 600 KWs. This will help ensure that we still have power in the building after electrical outages during storms.
Dear Residents, Families, and Friends of Saint Simeon’s

I get really excited about the autumn season! My soul seems to wake up in the fall! There’s something about the crisp air, the hue of the sun, the amazing colors of foliage, even the leaves falling and the daylight receding, that just enlivens me. There’s movement going on in nature, and it is exciting!

We get lots of oranges, reds, and golden colors. We get pumpkins and gourds of every shape, size, texture, and of course, color. The ideas for fall house decorating abound with the earth producing everything needful. Not the least of the gifts of the earth are the wonderful things to eat! In this part of the country, pecans have and continue to be harvested, and will make their way into so many dishes from appetizers all the way to dessert. All kinds of nuts are harvested in the fall, as well as many varietals of apples, corn, squash, the list is endless.

The fall also reveals that which has been hidden over the spring and summer. In the woods behind our home, there is an old barn. While it is less than 150 feet from our house, it is completely obscured until the trees lose their leaves and the tall grasses, weeds, and summer flora die back. Slowly a structure begins to emerge until it is completely uncovered. We also get to see the animals that move around through those woods once the foliage subsides. Occasional deer, coyotes, owls, hawks, and other life wander through, there to be seen and appreciated. Even the trees themselves take shape and one can see their form in the space that is provided by the fall.

The aroma of piñon wood burning in chimineas in our neighborhood is just one of the many fall scents which complete this amazing collage of the autumn season. I am so grateful to God for this time of the year! It brings quietness and peace that fills me and blesses my life with its life. My response to this outpouring from God: Thanksgiving.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all His love.

*The Hymnal 1982, #291*

God’s Blessings to you,
Fr. Bill Holly †
"Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky."
— Kahlil Gibran

This time of year there can be such beauty in a single special tree or a whole horizon of trees all decked out in their Autumn colors. Seeing the late afternoon sky the other day with the incredible colors and shapes of the towering cumulus and nimbus clouds I wished that I could just pull over to sit and watch the storms unfold. If Trees are poems written upon the sky, then Clouds must be symphonies.

We have a “birth announcement.” Our young Blue Spruce planted in honor of Saint Simeon’s Trustees’ honor in 2012 located between the Memory Center and Oxley Circle is proudly displaying its first pine cone. I think it wants to hold on to it as long as possible. You may remember that this is a variety of Colorado Spruce named “Fat Albert” because of its dense compact foliage and wide frame.

Another tree in the conifer family is the Bald Cypress. We have several at the front gate plus the three pictured here located between the Memory Center and the Administration Entrance. Unlike almost every other “evergreen”, the Bald Cypress drops its needle-like leaves in the Fall like a deciduous tree. You could be forgiven for thinking you were seeing the tree die — I know I did the first time I saw one losing its leaves. But you can certainly see how it got its name! These three are even growing “knees” like they would growing in the Mystical Cypress Swamps in the southeastern corner of Oklahoma.
Pumpkin Decorating

Our Residents had a great time preparing for Halloween by decorating pumpkins! We had some creative pumpkins, including a gypsy pumpkin, a purple people eater pumpkin, and an alien pumpkin.

Assisted Living Christmas Tea
FRIDAY, DEC. 15 – 2:30 P.M.
COMMON ROOM

Healthcare Christmas Party
SATURDAY, DEC. 16 – 10:00 A.M.
HCC BISHOP'S PLAZA

Memory Center Christmas Party
SATURDAY, DEC. 16 – 1:30 P.M.
MEMORY CENTER COMMON AREA
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Evelyn Patterson | 1/02
Peggy Koch      | 1/06
Gail Hardy      | 1/07
Craig Doennecke | 1/08
Jean King       | 1/09
Nan Balman      | 1/10
David Cordell   | 1/11
David Maher     | 1/14
Betty McGowan   | 1/16
John Shields    | 1/21
Margery Hutson  | 1/29

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**Welcome to our Family!**

Bennie Stephenson
Betty McGowan
Bill Hinkle
Charles Sasser
Norma Turnbo
Peggy Cardwell
Vincent Brown

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**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

Charles Noble
Dr. William Moore
Jackie Bowlin
John Lopp
Julia Kampen
Lillian Drvostep
Mable Rice
Thurman Pelt

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**Donations Needed for Dogs of the Homeless**

Winter and the cold weather are on the way. To help the homeless in Tulsa feed their dogs and cats, Saint Simeon’s will again be a collection site for dog and cat food beginning the weekend before Thanksgiving.

The unique dog house donation stations will be located by the Dotson Assisted Living entrance and the front entrance by the Administration Office from about Thanksgiving through Christmas. Saint Simeon’s partners with the Tulsa Animal Welfare Shelter to collect the dog and cat food. Our Residents re-bag the food, and it is then delivered to Tulsa Animal Welfare Shelter for distribution at Iron Gate on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings in downtown Tulsa. Food is the most requested donation. However, collar, leashes, toys and treats also make their way into the dog houses... after all, it is Christmas. Saint Simeon’s thanks you for your generous donations again this year!

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**THANKSGIVING MEAL**

Would you like to join your Resident for the Thanksgiving meal?

We are limited to 100 guests for any holiday meal, so please RSVP by Nov. 9 with Attrell at 918-794-1903.

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**Music Donations Needed!**

Saint Simeon’s is looking for donations of iPods, iTunes cards or Music CDs with popular music from the 30’s on. If you have something to donate, please contact Chris Gruszczki at 918-794-1940 or cgruszczki@saintsimeons.org.

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**Alzheimer’s Association**

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

**THURSDAY, NOV. 16**

6:00-7:30 P.M.

**SAINT SIMEON’S SMITH CONFERENCE ROOM**

Complimentary dinner will be provided.

Please RSVP by Nov. 13 to Brenda Haesloop at 918-855-1502 or bhaesloop14@att.net.

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**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.**

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**November 2017**
Our Residents Sprinted to San Francisco!

The Wellness Center recently hosted a “Race Across America – Sprint to San Francisco,” utilizing stationary bikes. From Aug. 7 to Oct. 9, Residents logged 1,957 miles from Tulsa to San Francisco. Wellness Center staff members tracked their journey on a colorful map and encouraged Residents to log miles by riding a bike or joining an exercise class.

Our Top 6 participants in the race were Ed Cizek with 253 miles, Wendy Metz with 208 miles, Rick Hiskett with 160 miles, Vern Stanton with 152 miles, Ray Bingham with 110 miles, and Marie Millar with 95 miles.