Nearly a half century ago, as a small child, I met a towering figure by the name of Father Louis Basso. As Rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, he was a spiritual leader in my hometown of Coffeyville, Kansas. Father Basso provided counsel on more than one occasion, chiding me for running in the Fellowship Hall, and showing me the way toward adulthood. Now that I’ve returned to the fold of the Episcopal Church as Executive Director of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation, I think of Father Basso often. He was an anchor in a family all too susceptible to choppy waters. From him, I learned about leadership, dignity, and respect for all, particularly those who came before me. I’ve always designated “secret mentors” from afar. A quick scan of names in the columbarium at St. Paul’s today reveals all those who had an impact on my life, including Father Basso.

When I moved to Tulsa after college, my first assignment as a young staff member at the University of Tulsa was to visit Saint Simeon’s to interview one of its residents – Dr. Ben Graf Henneke. Of course, I was first struck by the beauty of the place, as we all are. Then I had the privilege of looking up to another towering figure, who wove tales about his decades-long tenure as TU President, his beloved Vinalhaven Island off the coast of Maine, where he spent summers watching lobster boats come and go, and Ravenna, Italy, whose mosaics inspired Dr. Henneke’s volume of verse widely praised and which remains a popular item on the shelves of the Saint Simeon’s Library.

The greatest joy of my new position at Saint Simeon’s is listening to the stories of our residents, such as Dr. Pia Petculescu, who was born in Romania, completed medical school, and after becoming a U.S. citizen, enjoyed a long career as a physician in Tulsa. She speaks five languages. Or Jean Sinclair, who was a force in Tulsa County politics for several decades and who, as a weekend archaeologist, uncovered several historic artifacts in the Mooser Creek Basin north of Tulsa. And, finally, Tom Clark, who we lost just before Christmas. Tom was one of Tulsa’s last aviation pioneers, a highly successful businessman and community leader. I worked with Tom for several years at the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents and learned from him, among other things, how to tirelessly fight for support of higher education.

Speaking of towering figures, we bid farewell this year to the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny (Bishop Ed) as he retires from the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. We welcome Angela Green, who began her tenure as President and CEO of the Saint Simeon’s Senior Living Community, and Bishop-Elect Poulson Reed, who will be consecrated in April.

As we embark on our 60th anniversary at Saint Simeon’s, I am grateful to have met all of these individuals. Now, as I sit at my desk at the Foundation, it’s time to take a break and walk down the hall. I wonder who’ll I meet today?

Brent Ortolani

Brent Ortolani recently joined the Saint Simeon’s Foundation as Executive Director after a career in development and communications at the Tulsa Area United Way, Rogers State University, and the University of Tulsa.
1960 was a year of new beginnings. Little Debbie Cream Pies first appeared on grocery store shelves, the Coca-Cola Company introduced a new soda called Sprite, and the Etch-A-Sketch was born, much to the delight of children coast to coast. The Flintstones, the Xerox machine, Zip Codes, the pacemaker, the laser beam, the weather satellite... they all made their debut in 1960.

It was the year Chubby Checker gave us "The Twist," Alfred Hitchcock gave us Psycho, and Harper Lee gave us To Kill A Mockingbird. It was the year America elected its youngest president (John F. Kennedy) and saw a boxer named Cassius Clay (later to become Muhammad Ali) win his first professional fight.

In 1960, the dream moved one step closer to reality. After an extensive search for the right location, a 22.5-acre plot of land on a hill overlooking downtown Tulsa was purchased for $45,000. A few months later, Trinity parishioners donated enough funds to cover the entire cost. In today’s economy, that’s more than $391,000; an impressive amount to be collected from the congregation.

1961
Saint Simeon’s Auxiliary is formed, counting 300 members by year’s end.

1966
The infirmary is completed and a medical director is hired. The board purchases 19 additional acres adjoining the original site.

1972
A part-time chaplain begins, conducting two weekly services and visiting residents.

1981
All but two rooms are occupied. The waitlist grows to 105.

1986
Rev. Dr. John R. Norris is named first full-time chaplain.

1970
A part-time chaplain begins, conducting two weekly services and visiting residents.

1977
An additional wing is completed. The home serves 84 residents.

1981
All but two rooms are occupied. The waitlist grows to 105.

Continued on next page.
within two years had adopted plans for 34 additional resident rooms, a larger dining room and kitchen, a laundry, and an arts and crafts room.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’

As Bob Dylan sang on his classic released in 1964, things were changing. While there was certainly turmoil on the national stage, some good things came out of 1964 as well. Buffalo wings, bubble wrap, and a sporty new car called the Ford Mustang were all introduced in ’64. Roald Dahl published Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The Beatles held the top five positions in the Billboard Top 40. Closer to home, good things were happening as well. The University of Tulsa’s football team led the nation in scoring and had the Heisman runner up in Quarterback Jerry Rice. Tulsa’s tourism business saw a boom with the opening of the new, thoroughly modern, Tulsa Convention Center. Just down the road, Saint Simeon’s Home for the Aged was so strong, an additional residential wing—the E-Wing—was completed in 1977. As the ’70s progressed, it became clear that providing independent, active residential living no longer met the majority of residents’ needs. Infirmary-care tenants made up 50 percent of Saint Simeon’s population and the waiting list showed 90 percent in need of such care. The times they “were a changin’” and Saint Simeon’s was changing with them.

GROWING INTO A NEW ROLE

President Ronald Reagan may have famously challenged Mr. Gorbachev to “tear down this wall” in the 80’s, but for Saint Simeon’s the decade revealed quite the opposite: the need to build up. It was during this time that two additional residential wings were added, along with two duplexes and a new medical center/infirmary. Still, the Home was near capacity as the waitlist swelled to more than 100 applicants.

Construction continued, adding Saint Anna’s Chapel and the Common Room. But room wasn’t all that was required. As the residents’ needs continued to change, the Home kept pace and embraced its new role, filing a Certificate of Need to upgrade Wings F and G to “intermediate medical facility care.” In addition, a formal task force was convened to develop guidelines for future expansion and a strategy on how to strike a balance between retirement-living facilities and higher care levels. This group also began studying the growing need to provide care for senile dementia and Alzheimer’s, both afflictions that were beginning to show between retirement-living facilities and higher care levels. This group also began studying the growing need to provide care for senile dementia and Alzheimer’s, both of which were beginning to show up. The Home was so strong, an additional residential wing—the E-Wing—was completed in 1977. As the ’70s progressed, it became clear that providing independent, active residential living no longer met the majority of residents’ needs. Infirmary-care tenants made up 50 percent of Saint Simeon’s population and the waiting list showed 90 percent in need of such care. The times they “were a changin’” and Saint Simeon’s was changing with them.

1990
Saint Simeon’s enters the Great Raft Race.

1996
The first Western Days fundraiser is held (a great success!)

1994
Saint Simeon’s opens (debt-free) a new $5 million facility to care for those with Alzheimer’s and other forms of senile dementia.

1997
Simone, the Golden Retriever joins Saint Simeon’s.

2001
The Saint Simeon’s Foundation is created.

2005
A “Great Room” in the Health Care Center provides new bathing area.

2007
Construction begins to replace three wings with a new Assisted Living Center with 60 apartments, a Wellness Center, plus new activity, entertainment and dining areas.

2009
The $23 million campaign to fund the construction of a new assisted living center started in 2007 is successfully completed. The project is debt-free and is named the Dotson Assisted Living Center for generous benefactors.

Simone brought joy to everyone on campus. The dog was more than a mascot to Saint Simeon’s residences. In fact, in 1997, Dr. Eckels wrote to a friend, “We don’t want to neglect our sick.” In the spring of 1966, yet another of Dr. Eckels’ visions became a reality: a 21-bed infirmary was completed and a registered nurse was hired as medical director. By 1970, 21 of Saint Simeon’s 68 residents were in the infirmary.

Saint Simeon’s was growing. The Board had purchased an additional 19 acres adjoining the property to allow for future growth. The Auxiliary had grown so large (more than 400 members) that meetings had to be held off-campus. The waiting list for the Home exceeded 30 applicants. In fact, interest in the Home was so strong, an additional residential wing—the E-Wing—was completed in 1977. As the ’70s progressed, it became clear that providing independent, active residential living no longer met the majority of residents’ needs. Infirmary-care tenants made up 50 percent of Saint Simeon’s population and the waiting list showed 90 percent in need of such care. The times they “were a changin’” and Saint Simeon’s was changing with them.

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Expanding beyond the main campus, Saint Simeon’s established an Adult Day Center at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church in south Tulsa. The program, which served elderly persons suffering from Alzheimer’s and other dementia-related illnesses, also provided a welcomed relief for family and other caregivers.

Back at Saint Simeon’s, the nearly bare Health Care Center Courtyard was transformed with the addition of a water garden pool, bronze statue, new plantings, and two beautiful peacocks donated for the enjoyment of Saint Simeon’s residents. Other courtyards soon received makeovers as well. In 2005, residents were treated to even more upgrades. A “Great Room” was added to the Health Care Center, offering a beauty/barber shop and a spa-like bathing area, as well as audio, visual and physical stimulant areas. The end of the decade, however, saw the Home’s most ambitious plans. In 2009, a $23 million campaign to replace three wings with a new Assisted Living Center including 60 new apartments, a state-of-the-art Wellness Center, plus new activity, entertainment, and dining areas, was successfully completed.

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Because of the generosity of Saint Simeon’s donors, the Dotson Assisted Living Center could be completed debt-free. The next year, 50 years after the home’s first four residents occupied them, the original A, B, and C wings were razed as part of the project. The last 10 years of the 2000’s have seen dynamic growth. Saint Simeon’s has continued to upgrade and improve, including the renovation of 5,300 square feet of communal living and dining areas in the Health Care Center known as the Bishops’ Plaza. Skilled Nursing covered by Medicare Part A has been added. Most recently, Saint Simeon’s has taken a leading role in Parkinson’s Disease care in Northeast Oklahoma. In 2019, Saint Simeon’s became the first Struthers Parkinson’s Care Network – Certified Community in Oklahoma. A grant provided Parkinson’s-specific exercise equipment and, as a Struthers partner, staff receives specialized Parkinson’s training, undergoes performance audits, and maintains a specific standard of care unmatched in the area.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Today, we see the fruits of Dr. Eckel’s vision, his tenacity, and his heart for ministry every time we drive through the gates onto the beautiful campus at 3701 North Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Just as important, however, have been the generous gifts of our donors. A non-profit from the start, Saint Simeon’s is built on the belief that we can provide the best care at reasonable costs. Residents’ fees pay operating costs and generous contributions handle everything else. That’s what has made our history so successful... and it’s what we rely on for a bright future. –

2010
The original A, B, and C wings are razed to make room for the expansion.

2014
Renovations are completed for 5,300 square feet of communal living and dining areas in the Health Care Center, known as the Bishops’ Plaza. The same area of care also adds Skilled Nursing covered by Medicare.

2019
Saint Simeon’s becomes Oklahoma’s first Struthers Parkinson’s Certified Care Center.

2020
In 2020, Saint Simeon’s will be moving further into the digital age, seeking support for a variety of technology needs to enhance resident care.

2019
Saint Simeon’s becomes the first Struthers Parkinson’s Care Network – Certified Community in Oklahoma.
OKLAHOMA’S FIRST STRUTHERS PARKINSON’S CARE NETWORK—CERTIFIED COMMUNITY

In 1994, Saint Simeon’s opened a state-of-the-art Memory Center for residents with Alzheimer’s and other forms of senile dementia. This unique facility attracted attention nationwide, as medical professionals in the field praised the amount of freedom it gave residents without sacrificing the watchful oversight of qualified staff.

More recently, Saint Simeon’s has made a concerted effort to build on its authority in providing Parkinson’s care. Spearheaded by Parkinson’s Specialist Mary Nole, Saint Simeon’s has become the area’s leading Parkinson’s care facility through a partnership with the renowned Struthers Parkinson’s Center.

The Struthers Parkinson’s Center, located at Park Nicollet Hospital in Minneapolis, has been recognized as a leader in Parkinson’s care, education and support since the late 1970’s. Struthers is a National Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

The Struthers Parkinson’s Center presented research at the World Parkinson Congress detailing the results of a professional health survey conducted within the center’s five-state service area. The data showed that nearly 60 percent of health professionals had no Parkinson’s-specific training within five years of the survey and did not regularly work with Parkinson’s patients. In that study, 66 percent of participants who responded they felt they did not have sufficient Parkinson’s educational resources and the average confidence rate for working with Parkinson’s patients was only 56 out of 100. As a result, not only were individuals with Parkinson’s having difficulty finding proper care, but providers (and assisted-living facilities) were hesitant to welcome such individuals.

In response to this, the Struthers Parkinson’s Center launched a Care Network in 2012. The Struthers Parkinson’s Care Network helps to bring expertise in Parkinson’s care to independent living, assisted living, and long-term care communities. This unique partnership allows facilities like Saint Simeon’s to gather additional insight into the complexities of Parkinson’s through training and education.

Saint Simeon’s was accepted into the network in 2019—the first in Oklahoma. As a Struthers Parkinson’s Care Network—Certified Community, Saint Simeon’s received specialized Parkinson’s training, undergoes site visits and performance audits, and must maintain a specific standard of care for Parkinson’s residents and their families.

“Parkinson’s affects each individual differently, the course of the disease varies from one person to the next, and symptoms come and go erratically,” says Nole. “That’s why specialized treatment, tailored to each resident, is vital. Without a thorough understanding of Parkinson’s disease, staff may associate symptom inconsistencies with being stubborn, and not be able to provide suitable care. Our residents have experienced that at other facilities in the area.”

As a Struthers Parkinson’s Care Network—Certified Community, Saint Simeon’s has invested heavily in the latest training and education for Parkinson’s care. Through the partnership, staff receives training each and every month on how to best serve and care for Parkinson’s residents. The nursing staff and therapy team have received Parkinson’s education and training on the disease process, including symptom management and medication regimens, as well as the benefits of therapeutic exercise and its positive effect in potentially slowing down the effects of Parkinson’s disease. Several staff members have undergone training in PWR! Moves and Delay the Disease Parkinson’s-specific training programs to maintain or restore skills that may have deteriorated. In addition to ongoing training through Struthers, Saint Simeon’s has many pieces of equipment in its Wellness Center specifically designed for those individuals in need of Parkinson’s disease care.

“It takes more than talk to provide the care Parkinson’s patients and their families need,” says Nole. “That’s why we go the extra mile, making sure everyone here who works with our residents knows something about Parkinson’s care: from the CEO to the guys on the maintenance team. We have a soft spot in our hearts for Parkinson’s patients, and it shows.”

As the only Struthers Parkinson’s Care Network—Certified Community in Oklahoma, we provide a higher standard of care for our Parkinson’s residents and their families,” Green says. “But don’t take my word for it. Visit SaintSimeons.org/Parkinsons to hear from those who experience it every day.”

It’s true, some area facilities claim to provide Parkinson’s care, but a close look shows a vast difference in care levels. As residents can attest, Saint Simeon’s is truly committed to providing a higher quality of life for those in need of specialized Parkinson’s disease care.
**Q&A WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO ANGELA GREEN**

**Q:** What prepared you for the role of President and CEO?  
**A:** I have served as Administrator and Executive Director for many years at several senior living communities, providing me with a diverse range of experiences from which to gain knowledge and a solid understanding of the senior living and healthcare environment.

**Q:** What are the most important aspects of your job?  
**A:** To ensure that Saint Simeon’s provides the best care and services to all individuals while promoting dignity and independence and that we operate as an exceptional work environment for employees who are committed to loving and serving the individuals with which we have been entrusted.

**Q:** What led to you become CEO of Saint Simeon’s?  
**A:** I love Saint Simeon’s and working with this incredible team as the Administrator, so when the Board approached me to consider serving as CEO, I was honored to assume the role and continue the great work that was already being accomplished.

**Q:** Why did you select senior living as your life’s work?  
**A:** I have always loved people and service through various ministries, but I was truly led by God to my first job in senior living. I was offered an opportunity, and as soon as I accepted it, I realized this was exactly where I was supposed to be.

**Q:** What makes Saint Simeon’s different than other senior living communities?  
**A:** The strong sense of family and the genuine love for our residents sets Saint Simeon’s apart from other communities. The support that we enjoy from our Home and Foundation Boards of Trustees, the Episcopal Diocese, and a long list of generous donors enables us to provide services and amenities that greatly enhance the residents’ quality of life and wellbeing that are not available in other communities.

**Q:** What do you think are major growth areas for Saint Simeon’s in the next three to five years?  
**A:** We will distinguish ourselves as the leading healthcare provider for Rehabilitation, Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care, and Parkinson’s Care in Tulsa. The future for our residents truly looks bright!

**Saint Simeon’s Senior Living Community is poised for “tremendous growth” in 2020 and beyond, according to Angela Green, President and CEO.**

For the first time in recent history, Saint Simeon’s has altered its model of care to focus was on independent living, which was in demand in the marketplace. That environment has changed through the years. Today, more seniors are living and receiving care at home.”

“The average length of stay of our residents has been decreasing and our residents have a higher level of acuity and require more care.”

From a business standpoint, the market segments that Saint Simeon’s serves include varying levels of assisted living, memory care (those with a form of dementia or Alzheimer’s), health care, and Parkinson’s care.

Saint Simeon’s, see pages 10-11.) “Solid health from a business and financial standpoint is important for the long-term success of Saint Simeon’s,” she says. “This strong foundation will allow us to continue to set the standard for compassionate care in a non-profit environment and promises to pave the way for tremendous growth in 2020 and beyond.”

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020**

**SAINT SIMEON’S POISED FOR ‘TREMENDOUS GROWTH’**

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PREPARING TO SAY FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

“in the past, there has been some distance between the Diocese and its institutions, not just at the corporate level, but in terms of personal relationships,” says Bishop Ed. “We have worked hard to reinvigorate those relationships while strengthening the institutions.” When he re-established those relationships, they were re-energized our work and ministry,” he added. “The Episcopal Church is not just about its congregations; the Church has a larger mission in the world and our communities. Much of our outreach and service is achieved through our schools and institutions.”

Bishop Ed in the Chairman of both the Saint Simeon’s Senior Living Community Board of Trustees and the Saint Simeon’s Foundation Board of Trustees.

“Trustees from both the Home and Foundation Boards have provided exemplary leadership through the years, and recently, have admirably steered Saint Simeon’s through some challenging times. Their leadership and hard work have paid off – Saint Simeon’s now enjoys a balanced budget, healthy and consistent census in the upper 90 percent range, and a committed and compassionate staff.”

That achievement is the result of a highly professional and caring staff and dedicated Foundation donors, he said.

In the next several months, Bishop Ed will continue his mission and church administrative work around the world. He also will spend a significant amount of time with the new Bishop of Oklahoma – only the state’s sixth Bishop. “I encourage the new Bishop to continue to nurture these strong relationships with our institutions, remain active and fully participate in their mission.”

The Bishop and his wife plan to make Oklahoma their permanent home in retirement. Debbie will continue working with the Diocese and its affiliated schools including Holland Hall in Tulsa and Casady in Oklahoma City.

Bishop Ed was consecrated as Oklahoma’s fifth Episcopal Bishop in 2007. He will officially retire on Jan. 1, 2021, following a time of transition with the new Bishop who was elected in December 2019. (For more on the new Bishop, see facing page.)

Relationships and service are common themes for Bishop Ed as he looks back on his tenure and proudest achievements. Those values are what make Saint Simeon’s so special, he says.

“My wife Debbie and I have always felt part of the Saint Simeon’s family,” he says. “We have been privileged to participate fully in the life of Saint Simeon’s and have formed important relationships with its residents, staff and board members.”

Today, he views the mission of the Saint Simeon’s Home and Foundation boards as perfectly aligned, as it is with the diocese. “The mission of the church has always been about being present with people in their daily lives,” he says. “This is the gift that Saint Simeon’s provides to its residents – quality of life.”

“You can see the joy in the eyes of its residents despite the challenges of the transitions they face. Saint Simeon’s has indeed set the standard for adult living and care in Oklahoma. We are the state’s leading non-profit senior living community.”

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LIFE ENRICHMENT
AT THE HEART OF THE SAINT SIMEON’S EXPERIENCE

Saint Simeon’s often receives recognition for its beautiful campus, flora and fauna, and of course, the highest standards of care. All are important components of the Saint Simeon’s Experience. But just as important are the fun and educational activities, inside and outside the building.

Saint Simeon’s has long been recognized for its Life Enrichment Program, which includes a wide variety of social, physical and recreational programming.

“We do our very best to provide an environment in which all residents are engaged on a daily basis,” says Katie Huebsch, Life Enrichment Coordinator. Several area families and foundations provide support each year for the life enrichment program. On the next page is a sampling of what you’ll find happening at Saint Simeon’s every day.

YOGA – trained instructors lead regular classes for residents at all levels of ability

FILM SERIES – regular evening screenings and afternoon matinees complete with popcorn

CONCERT SERIES – weekly concerts provided by area musicians, including renowned pianists, popular bands and members of the Tulsa Symphony

AQUA FIT – exercise classes in the warm-water saline pool located in the Bishop Robert M. Moody Wellness Center

OPEN POOL & GYM – featuring exercise equipment specifically designed for the needs of the aging population and a variety of physical fitness programs to improve balance, stamina, mental performance and pain reduction in the Bishop Robert M. Moody Wellness Center

WALKING CLUB – our residents take advantage of miles of indoor corridors and beautiful outdoor trails on the Saint Simeon’s campus. Body Awake and Sit and Be Fit are exercise programs held at several locations at Saint Simeon’s for those seeking a gentler form of movement

COCKTAIL HOUR – old-fashioned favorites and new craft cocktails or “mocktails” served in the Bistro in the Dotson Assisted Living Center

GAMES & COMPETITION – billiards, card games, board games and more keep the mind sharp and the competitive spirit alive!

CULINARY CLUB – cooking demonstrations, classes, and of course, lots of sampling in the Saint Simeon’s commons areas

ART EXPRESSIONS – regular classes led by area artists in a variety of media

Bishop Robert M. Moody Wellness Center

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, almost all older people could benefit from more physical activity. Studies have shown regular exercise prevents chronic disease, improves mood and lowers the chances of injury. Of course, seniors need to take a very different approach to physical fitness than they did when they were younger. That’s why Saint Simeon’s has specialized facilities with age-appropriate activities, supervision and instruction for residents. No matter the fitness level, our Wellness Center staff can customize an exercise plan specific to each resident’s needs.

LET’S GO! Excursions

Saint Simeon’s offers regular excursions to area museums, parks and concert venues to keep our residents connected to cultural events and activities in the Tulsa area. Recent trips have included the Gathering Place, Tulsa Air and Space Museum and Tulsa Zoo.

Religious Services

Saint Simeon’s is affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, and offers several services each week, including Holy Communion in the Chapel of St. Anna, mid-week services in the Memory Center and Health Care Center, and regular Bible Study. Catholic mass is held monthly. However, all faiths and backgrounds are welcome at Saint Simeon’s.
Western Days – Saint Simeon’s annual fundraising gala – continues to be one of Tulsa’s most beloved and popular annual events. Last year, the 23rd annual Western Days celebration recorded its highest level of success in Saint Simeon’s history, raising more than $800,000. More than 700 guests attended the festivities at the Cox Business Center in downtown Tulsa. The theme for the evening was “Fiesta!”

“The success of Western Days in 2019 can be attributed to dozens of volunteers, including Foundation and Home board members, Western Days committee members, resident families, and Saint Simeon’s staff,” says Melissa Stallcup, who served as Co-Chair of the event, along with her husband Mac. “The entire Saint Simeon’s family came together to celebrate and honor the home, its residents, and our dedicated supporters.”

The event also featured the “Lots of Love” campaign in which guests kicked in $97,000 to purchase a new bus that can accommodate up to six passengers in wheelchairs.

Western Days also featured the popular Mid-Life Crisis Band, general store, photo booth, a fantastic meal and hundreds of interesting silent and live auction items.

“We would like to thank the many members of our Patron and Advisory Committees for all their hard work in making Western Days the best ever,” says Melissa Stallcup.

The 24th annual Western Days will take place on September 15, 2020. For more information, please visit www.fundyourorg.com.
When the Rev. Edward H. Eckel, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Tulsa, and his wife, Emily, envisioned a Christian senior living community that would attend to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of its residents, they could not possibly have imagined what would happen in the 60 years that have unfolded since its opening. From a lovely retirement community nestled in the Osage Hills in 1960, Saint Simeon’s has expanded its facility and services to include a premier HealthCare Center, an Assisted Living Center with four levels of care, a Memory Center that brought the very latest in Alzheimer’s disease and dementia care to Oklahoma, and a Wellness Center complete with a warm saltwater pool and the latest in exercise equipment designed for seniors. Most recently, Saint Simeon’s has undergone a major commitment to the latest learnings, best practices, and certification for providing care to those suffering from Parkinson’s disease.

It’s true, we have come a very long way to achieve the current state of excellence in nursing care and services that continue to define Saint Simeon’s. But, as the old commercials used to say, that’s not all! From the beginning to the present day, Saint Simeon’s has also been very committed to spiritual care. From day one, there have been Episcopal clergy providing Chaplain services to the Saint Simeon’s community. Initially, our founder, Fr. Edward Eckel, retired as Rector of Trinity, lived here as a member of the community, and served as Chaplain from 1960 until his death in 1969. Then a series of vicars of Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church also took on responsibilities as Chaplain of Saint Simeon’s. These were: The Rev. Arthur Tripp, 1969 – 1972; The Rev Ernie Anderson, 1972 – 1976; and The Rev. Richard Brewer, 1976 – 1985. In 1986, The Rev. John Norris left his position as Rector of Saint Peter’s Episcopal Church, Tulsa, to become the first full-time Chaplain of Saint Simeon’s. This was a significant upgrade and commitment to spiritual care provided to the community as both Saint Simeon’s and the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma worked to create and maintain that position. Fr. Norris served as Chaplain from 1986 until Christmas Day, 2005. The following day, I became the sixth Chaplain and the second to hold that position as a full-time member of the staff. The changes I have seen to the physical facilities and services we provide have been many, significant, and amazing!

The real story of Saint Simeon’s, however, isn’t the buildings, staff, or accomplishments, as wonderful as they are. The real story is in the people who have lived here over the past 60 years – people from every walk of life who have actually given life to these buildings and purpose to our staff. One can feel the legacy they left as they helped to give Saint Simeon’s its soul. That legacy is being added to daily, and it is and always will be the very heart of this magnificent place.

May all who enter here be blessed,

Father Bill Holly
SAINT SIMEON’S
A LEADER IN ALZHEIMER’S, DEMENTIA CARE

Raising awareness, making lives better, and finding a cure for Alzheimer’s and dementia are part of Saint Simeon’s outreach into the community.

Several Saint Simeon’s staff members are active in the local chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association as well as the Dementia Friendly Tulsa initiative, coordinated by Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum. The Mayor hosted a symposium in 2017 to launch the all-volunteer, grass-roots initiative.

“It’s so important to educate the community, as well as clergy and parishioners, about memory care offered at Saint Simeon’s,” said Charlie Redding, Saint Simeon’s Director of Community Relations.

Recently, Saint Simeon’s served as a sponsor for the Alzheimer’s Association annual Memory Gala and Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Redding serves on the Association’s Executive and Recruitment Committee, and Katie Huebsch, Life Enrichment Coordinator, served as Volunteer Coordinator for last year’s Walk. Several Saint Simeon’s employees participated in the Walk. In addition, Saint Simeon’s recently partnered with the Alzheimer’s Association to offer a community presentation titled “Estate Planning and Caring for a Loved One with Dementia.”

“Tulsa is fortunate to have a very strong chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and Saint Simeon’s is proud to serve as a vital community partner,” Redding says. Redding also serves as a certified trainer for the Dementia Friendly Tulsa initiative, representing Saint Simeon’s and providing dementia training for organizations across the city.

Last summer, Saint Simeon’s brought in experts from Living Well with Dementia, LLC, to provide hands-on dementia training for all Memory Center staff. This was the first installment of a four-session intensive training experience. The second phase of training took place in December, and training will continue in 2020.

Saint Simeon’s also partners with Life Senior Services to offer continuing education for nursing administrators, social workers, case managers and other local health care professionals.

“We have a deep bench of senior care experts on the Saint Simeon’s campus,” says Angela Green, President and CEO. “It’s important for us to bring in the best qualified professionals, and of course, compassion, Sharp says. All frontline staff, including nurses and assistants, benefit from extensive training in dementia and Parkinson’s care, and certification in administering IVs and CPR, she says.

“Education, education, education is our mantra,” Sharp says. “We are committed to lifelong learning among our staff. More than anything else, that contributes to the Saint Simeon’s Experience.”

Education and training sessions are held in the new Lindsay Hurley Fick Education Center on the Saint Simeon’s campus.

Care begins with education and training, hiring the best qualified professionals, and of course, compassion, Sharp says. All frontline staff, including nurses and assistants, benefit from extensive training in dementia and Parkinson’s care, and certification in administering IVs and CPR, she says.

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Saint Simeon’s is proud to serve as a vital community partner,” Redding says.
Our residents are inspired by the bounty of life that exists at Saint Simeon’s, including the wildlife that thrives in the surrounding forest and of course, the beloved peacocks. It’s easy to take for granted the beauty of our campus. But take a closer look and the flora and fauna have secrets to tell.

**HISTORIC MAGNOLIA**

An historic “Andrew Jackson” magnolia tree grows near the entrance of the Saint Simeon’s campus. This tree originated as a sapling from the magnolia tree President Jackson planted in honor of his wife on the White House grounds. Not familiar with the Andrew Jackson magnolia? Just look at the back of a twenty dollar bill and find the magnolia growing next to the White House. Ruth Staudt also donated the tree to Saint Simeon’s.

**DAWN REDWOOD**

Several years ago, a dawn redwood tree was planted on the Saint Simeon’s grounds. A cousin to the towering redwoods that grow in northern California, the dawn redwood is the only variety of redwood able to survive in Oklahoma. In several years, it will be the tallest tree on the Saint Simeon’s campus. The redwood was provided by Art Rubin.

**COUNCIL OAK**

The story of the Council Oak tree near downtown Tulsa is well-known to most residents. A sapling from that historic tree near 18th and Cheyenne Ave. was planted on the Saint Simeon’s campus – an offspring of the original Council Oak. Ruth Staudt also provided the sapling.

**BALD CYPRESS**

The bald cypress tree thrives in the swamps of Louisiana and is easily recognizable by the “knees” it grows to draw water and nutrients from muddy waters. Several bald cypress trees on the Saint Simeon’s campus also have grown “knees” – an unusual occurrence in our climate, the result of several wet seasons – and a much-used sprinkler system! These trees were donated by Jack Ward, master gardener.

Trees can be planted on the Saint Simeon’s campus and dedicated to loved ones by contacting the Saint Simeon’s Foundation at 918-794-1977.

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**SIMONE CAPTURED ON CANVAS**

A colorful portrait of our beloved Simone balancing a tennis ball on her nose is the most recent addition to the art collection at Saint Simeon’s. The painting was created by Hillary Clark, member of the Saint Simeon’s Foundation Board of Trustees and longtime Saint Simeon’s volunteer and supporter. It joins a substantial art collection that adorns the walls throughout Saint Simeon’s. Many pieces of art have been donated by residents and families through the years.

The painting of Simone was purchased by Melissa and Mac Stallcup in the Silent Auction at Western Days last year. The Stallcups, who served as Chairs of Western Days, donated the painting to Saint Simeon’s, where it has been permanently mounted in the Ice Cream Parlor.

“It’s such a colorful and playful portrayal of Simone,” says Melissa. “Residents, families and visitors to the Ice Cream Parlor really seem to enjoy it.”

Simone, 11, is cared for by Saint Simeon’s volunteer and former staff member Kathy Hinkle, who brings the beloved friend and mascot to spend quality time with residents at Saint Simeon’s on a daily basis.

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Providing Exceptional SENIOR LIVING For 60 Years.

Nestled on 50 secluded acres just outside downtown, Saint Simeon’s has been exceeding expectations in senior care and living since 1960.

Come see for yourself.

Call Donna at: 918-794-1902 for your free tour today.

Saint Simeon’s

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

SaintSimeons.org
A new bus capable of transporting up to six passengers in wheelchairs at one time recently was purchased by the Saint Simeon’s Senior Living Community. Guests at Western Days 2019 who participated in the “Lots of Love” campaign contributed more than $97,000 toward the purchase of the bus.

“This terrific new vehicle will allow us to transport more passengers in wheelchairs for social, recreational, and educational excursions,” says Angela Green, President and CEO of Saint Simeon’s. “We are so grateful to Western Days guests who stepped up to show ‘lots of love.’”

Recently, residents toured fall foliage, visited the zoo, and participated in several Christmas light tours, according to Katie Huebsch, Life Enrichment Coordinator.

The 2020 Diamond VIP 2500 bus will join the Saint Simeon’s vehicle fleet, which includes several other accessible vans and cars. The new bus features a Ford E-450 engine with six-speed automatic transmission, top-level equipment, and all the “bells and whistles,” including floor heater, sound system, and branded exterior wrap.

Most importantly, the bus features the latest in wheelchair accessibility, including six chair positions with lift. “Now, nothing can stop us from providing fun excursions for more residents, even those with some mobility challenges,” Huebsch says. “This really does open up the world to our residents.”

TRAVELING IN STYLE
RESIDENTS ENJOY NEW BUS THANKS TO ‘LOTS OF LOVE’

Original station wagon in the 1960's

EVEry HOME NEEDS A SOLID FOUNDATION

Building a home starts with the foundation. At the Saint Simeon’s Foundation, we provide support for Saint Simeon’s - Oklahoma’s leading nonprofit senior living community. It’s what makes the “Saint Simeon’s Difference.”

RECENTLY, THE FOUNDATION AND ITS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS PROVIDED:

- PARKINSON’S GYM
- MEDICAL TRANSPORT VAN
- ELECTRIC BEDS FOR ALL LONG-TERM CARE ROOMS
- THERAPY EQUIPMENT & PROGRAMMING
- WELLNESS CENTER POOL
- LIFE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

At the Foundation, we offer a variety of opportunities to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Saint Simeon’s, including unrestricted gifts for a broad array of needs; restricted giving for specific needs such as art, music and therapy programs, or employee education; and planned estate giving to ensure expert, compassionate care for future generations.

For more information, please visit www.saintsimeon's.org or call 918-794-1977.

St. Simeon’s Auxiliary

HARVEST MOON ROUNDUP AND CHUCK WAGON SUPPER

on Thursday, September 9, 1965… 6:30 pm

at the

BLUE MOON • 4000 North Cincinnati

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING FOR YOUR PLEASURE

reservation, please, by September 7

Mrs. J. D. Whitmire
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Gourmet cookout $1.75 per person

Invitation from 1965
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