

OKLAHOMA'S MISSION



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Saint Simeon's Kicks Off 50th Golden Anniversary Year with Luncheon and Announcement of Special Events

by Karen Garren,

Saint Simeon's Episcopal Home is celebrating 50 years of loving service to the Residents and their Families. On February 18 the Home began its year long celebration with a 50th Kickoff Anniversary "Gold Standard for the Golden Years" Luncheon chaired by Phyllis Dotson, a member of the Saint Simeon's Foundation Board of Trustees. Special guests included The Rt Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of The Diocese of Oklahoma and Jan Ridle, Presiding President of the Episcopal Church Women. Other attendees included Trustees of the Saint Simeon's Foundation and the Saint Simeon's Episcopal Home and other key volunteers who are working to make the Home's 50th Anniversary a celebration for the Tulsa community and the many friends of the Home.

50th Golden Anniversary Celebration Committee Chair, The Rev. Robert Evans, a Resident of the Home, introduced the chairs for the 50th Anniversary Projects and Events. Special projects in 2010 include publishing the Home's 50 year history written by a committee of volunteers chaired by The Rev. Canon John C. Powers. Bob and Millie Millspaugh, members of the Society of Saint Simeon's are chairing the special "50 for 50" campaign to encourage supporters to include Saint Simeon's in their estate plans.

Special events in 2010 include the Auxiliary Annual Luncheon on April 20, Debbie Baker & Revelle Clausing, Chairs; the Auxiliary Ice Cream Social on May 27, Bud & Pat Martin and George & Jana Harrington, Chairs; and Western Days 2010 on September 14 at Central Park Hall, EXPO Square with Honorary Chairs, Episcopal Diocese of OK and Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of OK; and Event Chair, Will Smith.

Other events being planned include a Financial & Estate Planning Workshop, Tony Jezek, Chair; a Homecoming Picnic, Saint Simeon's Staff, Chairs; a Western Days Residents' Party to be held in the Home, Elaine Hanner, Chair; and, a year-end "Giving of Thanks" Celebration, Frances Chandler & Anne Cleveland, Chairs.

Lindsay Hurley Fick, President and CEO of the Home states, "As in the early tradition of the Home, our loving and creative volunteers are working together to help make our 50th Year Anniversary fun and uplifting for our Residents and their Families. The founders of Saint Simeon's would be pleased to know that so many are working to keep their dreams for the Home a reality for today and into the future."

The Home's original apartments opened in 1960 welcoming 12 Residents in the first year. Today, the Home serves more than 175 Residents and is recognized as a leader in senior living care and services. The Home has four distinct home-like living areas which includes the recently opened \$23.3MM, 60-apartment Assisted Living Center that replaced the Home's original apartments. The other living areas at Saint Simeon's are the Memory Center, the Health Care Center and the Cottages. The Wellness Center, featuring a warm, water saline pool and exercise equipment, represents the Home's latest addition to the many amenities and services offered to improve the quality of life for each Resident.

For further information about Saint Simeon's 50th Anniversary contact Stephen Mason, Saint Simeon's Foundation Executive Director, at 918.794.1937 or smason@saintsimeons.org.



L-R: Lindsay Hurley Fick, Saint Simeon's President/CEO; Bishop Ed Konieczny, Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma; Fr. Bob Evans, 50th Anniversary Committee Chair; Jan Ridle, Presiding President, Episcopal Church Women of OK; Phyllis Dotson, Kickoff Luncheon Chair & Foundation Board Trustee; and George Dotson, Home & Foundation Board Trustee.



The Rev. Joseph Farber, pictured with his wife, Jan, was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on January 23, 2010, at St. Michael's, Norman. He is a seminarian at University of the South at Sewanee.

Transitions

New interim directors for St. Crispin's

It was announced recently that The Rev. Bob and Georgia Gates have agreed to serve as Interim Directors of St. Crispin's as a search for new directors is completed. Bob and Georgia have a long history of service at St. Crispin's and was the logical choice for this time of transition. The search for new directors is in the early stages and will hopefully be completed in the near future. St. Crispin's does not anticipate any changes in summer camp programs or other conferences and will continue to operate fully on a year round schedule.

Requiescant in pace

The Rev. Robert M. Shaw, Rector Emertus of All Souls' Church, Oklahoma City, July 25, 1918–February 23, 2010. He was called in 1962 to be the Rector of All Souls' where he served until his retirement in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Jordie, three daughters, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at All Souls' Church on February 27. Memorial gifts may be made in Fr. Shaw's name to: All Souls' Memorial Fund, 6400 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

Welcome new Clergy

The Diocese of Oklahoma welcomes The Rev. Robert (Bob) Wickizer and his wife, June. Fr. Wickizer has been called to serve as Rector of Grace, Muskogee. He previously served in the Diocese of Washington.

Events planned in honor of Dean Back

The **St. Paul's Cathedral** congregation has planned several events for the weekend of May 15-16 in honor of the retirement of Dean George and Margaret Back.

Dean Back, 67, has been at the Cathedral for 28 years. His last official day is June 30.

Plans to date include:

- Picnic at the Harn Homestead, 4-7 p.m. Saturday, May 15, including food, live music and activities for the children;
- Receptions following the 9 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, May 16;
- A memory book is being assembled, allowing friends to contribute their memories and photos;

To RSVP for the picnic, or for more information about the events or to share stories, please e-mail retirement@stpaulsokc.org.

**Oklahoma's Mission
Episcopal Life
The Rt. Rev. Edward J. Konieczny
Bishop of Oklahoma**

**Diane M. Ellsworth
Editor**

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The Bishop's Page

For my article this month I wanted to address a situation in the diocese that is difficult, but needs some explanation for the well being of our church.



By now many of you have become aware of some recent changes at St. Crispin's. As with many situations of this nature rumors can spread that are not helpful, and in many instances can be hurtful to unintended persons. While it would be inappropriate for me to offer details, I wanted to share some basic information that can hopefully help us to understand what has transpired and begin the process for moving forward in a positive and healthy way.

Over the last year, the Comptroller, St. Crispin's Board, and I have been working to address some institutional issues at St. Crispin's in order to improve our programs, operations, and service to those who utilize our camp and conference facilities. As part of that work a number of accounting and operational concerns were discovered that necessitated a change in directors for the camp.

At my request The Rev. Bob and Georgia Gates have agreed to serve as Interim Directors until a search for new directors can be completed. We are in the early stages of that search; however anticipate it will be completed in the near future.

I want to assure all in our diocese that St. Crispin's is fully functional and all summer camp programs, conferences and other events will continue as scheduled. We are blessed to have a wonderful staff at St. Crispin's that is very supportive of our mission and vision for that place.

In the days ahead I would ask us all to refrain from speculation or rumors of what may or may not have happened at St. Crispin's and to instead keep our diocese and all those associated with St. Crispin's in our prayers.

I pray God will continue to bless the life, work, and ministry given to us in this part of God's Kingdom.

Faithfully,

+*Bishop Ed*

Diocesan Calendar

April

- 2 Diocesan office closed in observance of Good Friday
- 4 Bishop's Visitation at St. Paul's Cathedral
- 10–11 New Beginnings, St. Crispin's Conference Center
- 11 Bishop's Visitation at St. Barnabas, Poteau
- 15 Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Center
- 16–17 DOK Spring Assembly, St. Dunstan's, Tulsa
- 18 Bishop's Visitation at Grace, Ponca City
- 18 ECW Southeast Regional Meeting, All Saints', McAlester
- 24 Acolyte Festival, St. Paul's Cathedral
- 25 Bishop's Visitation at Trinity, Tulsa

New Playground at Oakerhater Episcopal Center



Photo provided by the Rev. Jim Kee-Rees

by the Rev. Jim Kee-Rees, Diocesan Native American Missioner

It's exciting to see the playground completed after two years of planning at the Oakerhater Episcopal Center in Watonga, Oklahoma. The majority of the money for the project came from a New Opportunities Award granted last year. The St. Nicholas Guild of St. Paul's Cathedral and private donors also gave towards the development of the playground.

Over twenty volunteers showed up to help install the playground including members from **St. John's, Oklahoma City**, **All Saints'**, **Duncan** and members of **Whirlwind Mission of the Holy Family**. Local children were already giving it a test run as we completed the cedar boarder around the play structure and built a gravel path. We ended the day with a feast of Indian Tacos cooked by Daisy Starr, Pat Gonzales, and other members of the mission.

The new playground will enhance our ongoing ministries with Cheyenne-Arapaho children as well as other local children including those of Hispanic and African American heritage. It's a safe and welcoming space for families and children to use throughout the year and will be central to our ministries for kids on Sunday mornings and during our summer camps. A big thank you goes out from the Oakerhater Episcopal Center to everyone who helped!

Vestry Academy 2010



Vestry members from around the diocese traveled to St. Crispin's Conference Center to attend the 18th Annual Vestry Academy to learn more about their role as leaders in their congregations. The event was led by Bishop Ed and presentations were made by John Sorensen, Diocesan Comptroller, Bill Cathcart, Diocesan Chancellor and Charlene Fabian, Diocesan Stewardship & Planned Giving Director.

www.episcopaloklahoma.org



Photo courtesy of Diana Herman, Redeemer, Okmulgee

Church of the Redeemer, Okmulgee, celebrated on March 17, the first anniversary of their food program, Open Gate Meals. Members of Redeemer and the Okmulgee community serve a nutritious, hot meal every Wednesday to approximately 100 guests in Redeemer's Parish Hall. Open Gate was initiated in response to the poverty and food insecurity of Okmulgee County. Open Gate also helps with bags of canned food to families with emergency food needs.

Black Heritage Celebration at Iron Gate



Photo courtesy of Connie Cronley, Trinity, Tulsa

Trinity parishioner Maxine Urquhart and Fr. Joseph Alsay dance behind the serving line at Soul Food Day at Iron Gate.

In recognition of Black Heritage Month, Iron Gate at **Trinity, Tulsa** served a traditional soul food meal Feb. 16. Almost 700 hungry and homeless came for the home-cooked meal.

In her nine years as the soup kitchen cook, Debra Dixon has prepared 1,569,000 meals. She has cooked special menus for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Fourth of July and Native American month, but this is the first soul food meal. A black cook herself, Ms. Dixon researched African American cuisine and found the roots of soul food in American slavery. Recipes were exchanged verbally, she said, because slaves were prohibited from writing. This is how soul food is still prepared, she said, from memory and by taste.

Iron Gate, located in the basement of **Trinity Episcopal Church** in downtown **Tulsa**, is beginning its 26th year of operation.

Sacred Celebrations: Honoring Our Elders

With the ancient is wisdom, and in length of years, understanding.
Job 12:12

This is to encourage you and your parish to celebrate Older Americans Month in May. Consider including special prayers to honor your elders during a service, or setting aside a special Sunday to celebrate Older Americans Month. Check out the diocesan website www.episcopaloklahoma.org and click on "Ministries" and "Older Adults." This new webpage will include ways to develop an intentional ministry by, for and with older adults.

Special celebrations for older parishioners honor all generations, as our elders are wisdom keepers, a living bridge between generations to come and those who have gone before. In parishes, a substantial percentage of leadership, presence, gifts and services are provided by older parishioners, the fastest growing age group everywhere.

Every hour, 330 Americans reach the age of 60. Now "baby boomers" (born 1946 to 1964) will be turning 65. In the next few years, the age 85+ population will nearly double. At the marker age 85+ there is increased risk for frailty, depending on an individual's heredity, chance and lifestyle. However, with a little help, a majority of elders remain independent throughout a good long life www.aoa.gov. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow expressed his appreciation of aging:

*For age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another dress,
And as the evening twilight fades away
The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.*

For more information, Contact Rev. Dr. John Belzer, and Dr. Alma Belzer, jabelzer@allegiance.tv, (405) 273-6779.

St. Cripin's Summer Camp 2010 With Arms Open Wide

Senior High	June 6–12
Grades 3, 4, 5	June 13–19
Grades 8, 9	June 20–26
Grades 6, 7	June 27–July 3
Grades 3, 4, 5	July 11–July 17
Grades 8, 9	July 18–24

Family Camp, the camp experience for the entire family will be held July 4–7.

The cost for Summer Camp is \$250.00. Information and registration forms can be found on the website: www.episcopaloklahoma.org, click on Camps, followed by a click on St. Crispin's Summer Camp. Questions may be referred to Interim Camp Director, the Rev. Art Scrutchins at 405-388-7647.

*All are invited to the Dedication
and Celebration for the new
church home of*

***Santa Maria de Virgen
Saturday, April 10, 2010***

*Service of Dedication and Consecration at
11:00 a.m.*

*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny
Bishop of Oklahoma
Celebrant*

*Festival celebration with food and music
following the service*

*Santa Maria de Virgen Episcopal Church
5500 S. Western Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109*

Clergy: Red Stoles

Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat

The 13th annual multi-denominational Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat will take place at The Catholic Conference Center in Dallas from Wednesday, June 23, to Sunday, June 27, 2010. This retreat is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, Washington, D.C., and endorsed by The Benedictine Community of the Holy Savior, which meets at St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral. Participants will live at the conference center for five days, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work, and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality. Please e-mail dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com or call 214-339-8483 for more information.

The retreat will be led by two nationally-known religious figures. Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B. Cam., is the Superior of Transfiguration Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, New York. A Camaldolese Benedictine nun, she is returning for the sixth time as a leader of the Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat. Sister Mary Donald holds the Ph.D. in Theology from Fordham University. She has directed the M.A. program in spirituality at St. Louis University and has taught in the summer spirituality program at Fordham. She serves on the Board of Directors of In the Spirit Foundation, and is a well-known teacher, writer, and leader of Benedictine retreats all over the country.

Father Dwight Longenecker is a prolific author. His religious books include *Listen My Son: St. Benedict for Fathers*; *St. Benedict and St. Therese: The Little Rule and The Little Way*; *More Christianity*; *Adventures in Orthodoxy*; *Christianity Pure & Simple*; *How to Be an Ordinary Hero*; *The Gargoyle Code* (a book in the tradition of C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*); and *A Sudden Certainty* (a book of poems). Renowned as a retreat leader, he now works as the chaplain of St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville, South Carolina, and also ministers in the Roman Catholic parish of St. Mary in Greenville.

Both Sister Mary Donald and Father Dwight will give presentations on Benedictine values and their applications to life today. They will also offer spiritual direction for those who wish it. This retreat is open to anyone from any denomination who is interested in learning Benedictine spirituality.