

Saint John's and Saint Simeon's Enjoy Decades-Long Partnership



When the Rev. Dr. Edward Eckel arrived in Tulsa in 1929 to serve as the fifth rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, his dream was to establish four parishes in the region, named for Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Of course, that dream led to several suburban parishes and Saint John's Episcopal Church, which originally served residents in what was then known as South Tulsa.

He also had a dream to establish a "home for the aged," where older parishioners could live out their days in fellowship with their peers, and with a little help when they needed it.

He shared his vision with Oklahoma City banker Roy Hoffman, a leader in Oklahoma Episcopal affairs. In the 1950s, Dr. Eckel, Mr. Hoffman and a group of Episcopal women started a fund drive and the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma established a non-profit corporation for the project.

The rest, as they say, is history, and Saint Simeon's Episcopal Home opened in 1960 on a wooded campus overlooking downtown Tulsa, with 12 residents. Today, Saint Simeon's is one of Oklahoma's leading nonprofit senior living communities with 175 residents, and known for its high quality of compassionate care. The Home remains a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma.

Since then, Saint John's and Saint Simeon's have enjoyed a close, symbiotic relationship that has spanned the decades and continues to flourish. Many Saint John's parishioners have been residents at Saint Simeon's and many families have loved ones in the Home.

Over the years, several Saint John's parishioners also have served as devoted Trustees. Currently Phyllis and George Dotson, Tony Jezek, and Marilyn Morris serve as Foundation Trustees. In addition, Saint John's members serve on the Saint Simeon's Home Board of Trustees: Tom Schooley, Board Executive Chairman, Steve Lake, Secretary, Bill Chevallier, J.P. Culley, George Dotson, Richard Garren, Greg Gray, Debbie Swan Hensley, Dean Luthey, Jr., Marilyn Morris, and Susan Walker. Home Board Emeritus Trustees include Don Atkins, Deane Oven, Gene Starr, and Priscilla Tate.

In 1996, the Saint Simeon's Auxiliary began an annual fundraising event which was called Western Days in honor of the region's heritage. Since then, Western Days has become one of Tulsa's most popular annual events.

The theme of this year's Western Days is "Cheers to 60 Years" in commemoration of the 60th anniversary.

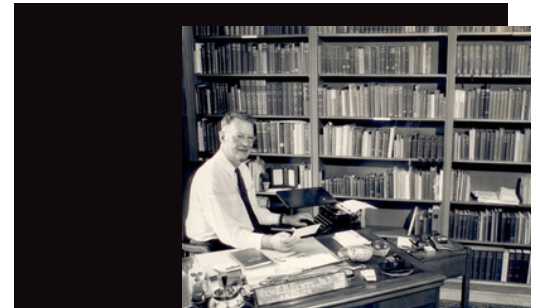
Due to the pandemic, Western Days 2020, the 24th annual event, has been moved to a video format, which will feature Saint Simeon's "Heroes and Saints"—the front line workers who have provided care for its residents and our six decades of compassionate care. The video will premiere on Sept. 15, the original date of the event.

Honorary Chairs of this year's Western Days are Phyllis and George Dotson and Event Chairs are Beth and Scott Brown.

Western Days leadership team are seeking sponsorships and contributions for the annual Western Days celebration, in an effort to continue Saint Simeon's high level of care and increased needs during the pandemic.

For more information, contact Brent Ortolani, Executive Director of the Saint Simeon's Foundation, at bortolani@saintsimeons.org or 918-794-1977.

www.saintsimeons.org



Rev. Dr. Edward Eckel, resident of Saint Simeon's



Saint Simeon's Staff



*Phyllis and George Dotson,
Western Days Honorary Chairs*

