



FOUNDATION

# Digest

## NEW CHAPEL TO OPEN IN MAY

"BLESSED ARE THE  
MERCIFUL FOR  
THEY WILL BE  
SHOWN MERCY."

Matthew 5:7

When recent plans for expansion of the hospital presented a unique opportunity to build a larger and more accessible chapel, everyone involved in the planning and design shared a common vision – to create a place of comfort and peace. That vision will soon be reality as construction of the new St. Vincent's Chapel nears completion.

Seven magnificent stained glass windows span the curve of the altar wall. The imposing center window soars 15 feet high and measures 19 feet in width and is composed of three sections. The universal symbol of the Christian faith – the cross – is the solitary element in the center.

Inspiration for the remaining six windows is found in the **Beatitudes** from the book of *Matthew*. The windows reflect different verses of the scripture with simple figures of ordinary men and women to represent humanity. The colorful windows enhance the well-known exterior profile of St. Vincent's Hospital.

Visitors to the chapel enter from the hospital's main lobby through a connecting corridor. Twenty pews accommodate up to 100 with additional seating space in the balcony. New furnishings for the enlarged space are being carefully fashioned, and finishes will match older pieces brought from the former chapel, many of which were handcrafted in the St. Vincent's carpentry shop years ago.

Building the new chapel offers friends of St. Vincent's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support the hospital's ministry through gifts to the New Chapel Fund. The architectural elements, furnishings and religious pieces each represent a different level of giving. Plaques affixed to pews, windows, and throughout designated areas of the chapel, as well as a special recognition center, will identify benefactors. For a complete list of recognition opportunities please contact the Foundation office at 205-939-7825.

A special service to dedicate the chapel and receive the Bishop's blessing is scheduled for May 22. An Open House for the public will be held that afternoon from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.



Above image is one of six side panels featuring the Beatitudes from Matthew.



William M. Moran,  
Executive Director



I've often mentioned the importance of planned gifts to an organization like St. Vincent's. Allow me to share with you the story of one such gift we recently received through the will of Miss Grace McNelis.

Grace was 19 in 1932 when she joined the St. Vincent's family as a switchboard operator. She held several jobs at the hospital before retiring in 1978 as Director of Medical Records. Retirement didn't end Grace's relationship with the hospital, though. She attended the annual retirees' luncheon and made financial contributions throughout her remaining years. And now, after her death, Grace continues to support the mission of St. Vincent's because she so generously left one-third of her estate, valued at nearly \$1 million, to the Foundation.

Grace's story is a wonderful example of how a simple bequest can make a profound – and lasting – impact on an organization.

Sincerely,

## Anniversary Tribute

### BRUNO'S SUPERMARKETS, INC., SELECTS ST. VINCENT'S FOUNDATION

December 11, 2001 marked the 10th anniversary of the plane crash that took the lives of St. Vincent's benefactors Angelo and Lee Bruno of Bruno's Inc., and seven others. To commemorate the anniversary, Bruno's Supermarkets, Inc. donated \$10,000 to St. Vincent's Foundation.

Interestingly, Ronald Bruno, son of Angelo Bruno, and Vincent Bruno, son of Lee Bruno, both serve on the Foundation Board. The corporation, which currently has no relationship with the Bruno family, announced the gift in a full-page newspaper advertisement. "We are pleased to make this donation on behalf of Bruno's Supermarkets to this worthwhile Foundation in memory of those who lost their lives December 11, 1991," said James A. Demme, president and CEO of Bruno's Supermarkets, Inc.

The crash occurred during a traditional Christmas-time tour of Southeastern stores. Victims were Bruno brothers Angelo and Lee, Karl Mollica, Sam Vacarella, Edward C. Hyde, R. Randolph Page, Jr., Mary Faust, and pilots John Tesney and Rob Stamps III.

"Our family was honored and humbled by the kind and generous memorial gift by Bruno's Supermarkets to St. Vincent's Foundation in memory of Angelo and Lee Bruno and all the other valued associates who were lost on the plane. Ten years after their tragic deaths, it is touching to know that they are fondly remembered and missed by their friends and co-workers at Bruno's," Ronnie Bruno said.

The donation will be used to help build St. Vincent's new chapel.



At Bruno's headquarters, pictured left to right, are Jim Demme, Vincent Bruno and Ronnie Bruno. The bell fountain and sculpture, "Soaring" by artist Charles Fageh, was commissioned to honor the memory of those lost in the crash.

## FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER TAKES THE EARLY SHIFT – MEET

# Leo Karpeles

Leo Karpeles is almost as modest as he is quick with a joke and a hearty laugh.

On Tuesday mornings the stock broker from Salomon Smith Barney arrives at St. Vincent's a little before 6 a.m., ready to give a friendly hello and assistance to arriving patients.

"It's mostly people who are coming in for one-day surgery or a diagnostic test," Karpeles says, "and a lot of them are apprehensive." The volunteer greeters are there to help give directions, answer questions or simply help make the experience easier for the patients. "I want them to feel comfortable," Karpeles says. "I want them to know that someone cares about them."

The volunteer greeter concedes he doesn't have a Wal-Mart-style vest, but jokingly says, "I want one! All I have is a Foundation name badge."

Although obviously good-natured, Karpeles shies away from attention for his early morning helpfulness. "I get a lot of personal satisfaction out of doing this," he demurs.

A native of Birmingham, Karpeles attended high school at Baylor in Chattanooga and then the University of Alabama. To this day, he remains a big fan of Alabama football.



Leo Karpeles on a typical Tuesday morning greeting patients as they arrive at St. Vincent's.

Karpeles also enjoys traveling. Some of his most memorable trips include a jaunt to Memphis, Tenn. to see Graceland (he's a serious Elvis buff), and, most recently, a cruise down the St. Lawrence Seaway with his wife Laide. The trip began in Montreal, Canada, and ended in Boston, Mass.

Karpeles has served on the St. Vincent's Foundation Board of Directors off and on for more than 10 years. "Harvey 'Red' Terrell got me involved with the Board," Karpeles said, "and it's always been a privilege to serve on it. As a board member, being a greeter was an aspect of volunteering that really appealed to me."

But Karpeles is quick to downplay his contribution. "I'm just one of many volunteers," he says. "I would rather not be in the limelight, but I do hope articles like this will encourage other people to volunteer."

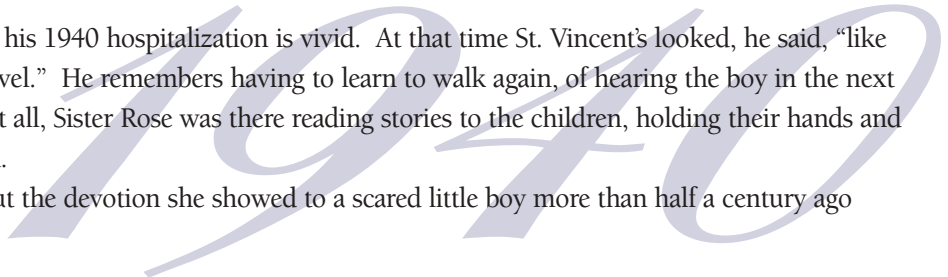
## DONOR REMEMBERS SISTER ROSE

# More Than a Half Century Later

The United States was just entering World War II when a gruesome injury and subsequent surgery brought five-year-old Charles Regan to St. Vincent's Hospital for a month-long stay. Sixty-two years later, his memories of the loving care he received from Sister Rose during those frightening weeks prompted his recent gift to the Foundation.

Mr. Regan's recollection of his 1940 hospitalization is vivid. At that time St. Vincent's looked, he said, "like something out of a Hemingway novel." He remembers having to learn to walk again, of hearing the boy in the next bed take his last breath. Through it all, Sister Rose was there reading stories to the children, holding their hands and providing all the comfort she could.

Sister Rose is gone now, but the devotion she showed to a scared little boy more than half a century ago lives on today.



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## THE WILSON FAMILY:

# *Four Generations of Dedication*

Since the day it opened its doors, St. Vincent's has been enriched by the uncommon commitment of a family of physicians that spans the entire history of the hospital. **Dr. Cunningham Wilson** began the tradition when he joined the medical staff of the newly-opened hospital a few years after his 1884 graduation from the country's first medical school at the **University of Pennsylvania**. He was the first to be named chief of surgery at St. Vincent's and also served as the first president of its medical staff.

When Dr. Wilson retired in 1927, both his son, **Dr. Frank Cunningham Wilson**, and son-in-law, **Dr. Thomas Magruder**, had joined the medical staff. By the late 1950s, Dr. Cunningham Wilson's grandsons **Dr. Frank C. Wilson, Jr.**, and his brother **Dr. Thomas Alex Wilson** had also followed in the family footsteps. Today, neurosurgeon **Dr. Thomas A. Wilson, Jr.** is the only family member still practicing at St. Vincent's.

Dr. Frank Wilson, Jr., fondly recalls his grandfather and the stories he told of the South in the aftermath of the **Civil War**. Those tales have been collected, bound, and published by another of

Dr. Cunningham Wilson's great-grandsons, pediatrician **Dr. Bill Whitaker**.

The hospital library is named for Dr. Cunningham Wilson as a tribute to this family of fine physicians and was recently rededicated when renovations to the library and the physicians' lounge and dining room were completed. His portrait hangs in the library.

*Below left, Dr. Frank C. Wilson, Jr. and brother Dr. Thomas A.S. Wilson (center), display portraits of their grandfather, Dr. Cunningham Wilson and father, Dr. Frank C. Wilson (right). Assisting them is Dr. Thomas A. S. Wilson, Jr. The portraits were painted by renowned artist and third brother William W. S. Wilson prior to his death 16 years ago.*



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## *Tax Savings Possible for Retirees*

### DEFERRED GIFTS OFFER TAX ADVANTAGES NOW AND INCREASED INCOME LATER

Individuals over the age of 70-1/2 are required to take distributions from their retirement plans even though they may not have a need for the funds. They might prefer to receive an income supplement in later years instead. There is a way to put these funds to work now and get a charitable income tax deduction, with a "deferred charitable gift annuity."

Someone age 70 who wants to defer receiving income can receive a rate of 15% at age 80, and get an income tax deduction now. A gift of \$5,000 made at age 70, would return to the donor an annual payment of \$750 at age 80! Perhaps just as important, the donor could get the satisfaction of helping further the ministry of St. Vincent's with this deferred gift.

# News Briefs



*Moran, Yardley and Young*

◆ **EL PASO CORPORATION FUNDS LODGE.** The lobby of Centennial Lodge at St. Vincent's Hospital was the gathering place for (left to right) **Bill Moran**, executive director of St. Vincent's Foundation; **James C. "Jim" Yardley**, president of Southern Natural Gas Co. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of El Paso Corp.); and **David Young**, manager – Birmingham Operations, Mustang Engineering, L. P., and a member of the Foundation Board. The occasion was the unveiling of a plaque outside the door of one of the guest rooms recognizing the \$60,000 financial contribution of El Paso Corporation.

Many employees of **Southern Natural Resources** and their families have long depended upon St. Vincent's Hospital for their health care needs. Now, should family lodging be needed, an overnight stay in the **El Paso Room** is a possibility.

◆ **TRAVEL VACCINATIONS.** Planning a trip out of the country? St. Vincent's Occupational Health Clinic (OHC) offers a special service to help keep international travelers healthy. OHC provides physician consultations, travel education and travel vaccinations tailored to recommendations issued from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) for your planned destination.

To schedule a travel medicine consultation call **Michelle Farley** at 205-930-2959.

◆ **FOUNDATION HELPS SPONSOR DIABETES FAIR.**

A Foundation grant of \$1,400 funded blood sugar screenings for diabetes patients attending the second **St. Vincent's Diabetes Wellness Fair**, held in the **Bruno Conference Center** Jan. 19. Screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure, foot health and flexibility testing were also provided during the event. A panel of health professionals discussed topics of importance to diabetes patients and vendors' representatives demonstrated products related to diabetes care. Approximately 150 people attended the fair.

◆ **ALABAMA CIVIL JUSTICE FOUNDATION UNDERWRITES SCREENINGS.**

A \$5,000 grant from the **Alabama Civil Justice Foundation** will help fund cholesterol and glucose screenings administered through the **St. Vincent's Mobile Wellness Van**. Screenings are provided during monthly mission days when the van visits underserved areas of the Birmingham community. The **Alabama**



*Owens and Newton*

**Civil Justice Foundation** was established by the **Alabama Trial Lawyers Association** and is funded by interest earned on plaintiff judgments placed in trust. Foundation board member **Alex Newton**, represented ACJF in presenting the check to **Suzu Owens**, coordinator of the Wellness Van.

◆ **VAN DRIVERS SPORT NEW UNIFORMS.**

The Foundation recently funded the purchase of new uniform shirts bearing the St. Vincent's logo for members of the hospital's **Transportation Services Department**. The department transports senior citizens and cancer patients who live within a 10-mile radius to and from hospital-related appointments. Funds for the uniform shirts were generated from donations made by grateful passengers.

## FOUNDATION AND AUXILIARY TEAM UP TO PROMOTE

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast cancer programs at St. Vincent's will benefit from the just over \$8,000 raised through breast cancer awareness month special events sponsored by St. Vincent's Foundation and St. Vincent's Auxiliary. A highlight of the festivities was an exhibit of images from



Joining Melissa Springer at the book signing are Kathryn Harbert, center with her mother Jo Dunn, president-elect of St. Vincent's Auxiliary, seated right.

local photographer Melissa Springer's book, *Breast Cancer Survivors: A Tribe of Warrior Women*. Borrowed from UAB, the exhibit was on display in the hospital throughout October. Bringing the exhibit to St. Vincent's was the brainchild of Auxiliary executive vice president/president-elect Jo Dunn.

In conjunction with the exhibit, copies of Ms. Springer's book were sold in the St. Vincent's Gift Shop. A special book signing gave guests an opportunity to meet the woman who produced the much-acclaimed inspirational tribute to breast cancer patients.

A pep rally to generate interest in the annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation "Race for the Cure" was another of the month's special events. St. Vincent's associates were encouraged to participate in the Birmingham Affiliate's local race which is part of a nationwide network.

The Auxiliary's jewelry sale was the source of the majority of the funds raised during the month. The sale gave hospital associates a head start on their Christmas shopping as they selected gifts from the assortment of fine gold and sterling silver accessories.

A booth featuring items from Avon's Breast Cancer Crusade sold items on another day, with proceeds going to the hospital.

The month's special events culminated in an afternoon tea featuring local broadcast celebrity and breast cancer survivor Brenda Ladun of ABC 33/40. Guests were treated to an inspirational message from Ms. Ladun, who has been candid in sharing her experience with the disease. She spent a generous three hours of her tightly-packed schedule with the group.

A multi-disciplinary committee representing several hospital departments coordinated the events. The programs were designed to create awareness of the importance of early detection, and were underwritten by the Linn-Henley Charitable Trust.

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