

## St. Joseph of the Pines

founded 1948

St. Joseph of the Pines had its origins in the five-story Tudor Revival building overlooking Midland Road between Southern Pines and Pinehurst that opened as the Pine Needles Inn in 1928. Closing during the Great Depression, the inn and surrounding golf course were leased to the military from 1942-1947 for use as a recreation center for officers at the nearby base and air station.

With the support of local physician Francis L. Owens, Bishop Vincent Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh purchased the inn from the Patuxent Development Company for \$406,000 and ordered its conversion into a general hospital. From its opening on July 1, 1948, under the direction of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital served people of all faiths, races and income groups. While the original purchase included approximately 500 acres, the Diocese sold the golf course and surplus land in 1953 retaining 19 acres for the hospital.

With the commitment to care for people regardless of their ability to pay, donations from individuals and foundations as well as the Diocese were critical in furnishing and funding the operation of St. Joseph of the Pines as an acute care hospital. Audrey Kennedy, founding president of St. Joseph of the Pines Guild, was a longtime major donor as was the foundation she established in memory of her father. Likewise, through the years the Guild provided major funding for improvements and equipment for the hospital.

By fiscal year 1964, just over 42% of the hospital's operating costs were being funded by donations. Extensive renovations were also funded to enhance the building's safety and efficiency. Previously, visitors entered the hospital from Grove Road through a large "motor porch" at the west end of the building into the elegant round room that had served as the hotel's lobby. The emergency entrance to the hospital was located at the east end of the building. The south side of the building opened onto a grass lawn that overlooked the golf course.

With the construction of a new entrance road off Central Drive and relocation of the main entrance to the south side of the building in 1963, the motor porch was enclosed and the round lobby was converted for use as a chapel. A small addition was added for the tabernacle while stained glass crafted at the Trappist monastery in Conyers, Georgia was installed. Constance Matheson donated the funds for the chapel renovations as well as a new emergency department, pharmacy and medical staff library in memory of her husband who had been a patient at St. Joseph of the Pines.

During the same period, Matthew H. McCloskey of Philadelphia funded the installation a large statue of St. Joseph and two crosses on the roof and assisted with the installation of an elevator that could accommodate beds and large equipment. Meanwhile, the building was air-conditioned, rewired and oxygen was piped to each room.

In 1962, Bishop Waters transferred ownership of St. Joseph of the Pines to the Sisters of the Third of Order of St. Francis who had operated the facility since its founding in 1948. When the Franciscan sisters concluded their ministry in North Carolina, the 80-bed hospital was returned to the Diocese and sponsorship was transferred to the Sisters of Providence on January 1, 1967.

From its inception, St. Joseph of the Pines served primarily the needs of local residents, many of whom lacked health insurance. Simultaneous with the founding of the hospital in 1948, Blessed Martin Clinic was opened on West Connecticut Avenue in Southern Pines. Guided by the Sisters of Providence, a home care agency was established in 1969 that grew to be the largest in the state. In response to evolving local needs, St. Joseph of the Pines shifted its focus from acute care to eldercare in the 1970s.

The first of three residential wings was constructed on the north side of the original building in 1984 followed by construction of residential cottages around the perimeter of the property. After skilled nursing care moved into a new facility on Camp Easter Road in 1992, the original building and pro shop were used for administration before being converted into independent living apartments. The Belle Meade life care community on Camp Easter Road opened in June 1999, featuring a clubhouse, cottages and apartments for independent living. The Coventry and family care homes for assisted living were added to the Belle Meade campus.

Beginning in 1994, with the encouragement of Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, more than 200 apartments were constructed in Aberdeen, Red Springs, Carthage and Robbins for elders with low incomes. In 2011, St. Joseph of the Pines opened the state's largest PACE program in Fayetteville, an innovative model of care for hundreds of elders who needed skilled care but who wish to stay in their homes. The following year, a half-million dollar federal grant made possible the acquisition of mobile clinic for the provision of free medical and dental care in Moore and surrounding counties.

The Diocese of Raleigh resumed ownership and management of the facility 1971- 1984, while the Sisters of Providence maintained an active and visible presence thorough out those years. In 1984, Bishop Gossman invited the Sisters of Providence to resume management of the facility and transferred half ownership of the ministry to them as St. Joseph of the Pines joined the Sisters of Providence Health System. The Bishop of Raleigh and the Sisters of Providence transferred sponsorship of St. Joseph of the Pines to the newly formed Catholic Health East in 1999, which merged into Trinity Health, a Catholic health ministry in 2013.

Since then, the legacy of the sisters and the Diocese continues, as St. Joseph of the Pines with the help of its benefactors provides housing and care on seven campuses for 1,500 elders, approximately 70% of whom have low incomes.

### **Named Facilities at St. Joseph of the Pines:**

- Franciscan Court, named in honor of Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis.
- Caritas Court and the Caritas at Coventry, named in honor of Sr. Caritas Geary, President of Sisters of Providence, CEO of Mercy Hospital in Springfield, MA, and member of the Board of St. Joseph of the Pines.
- Constance Cottage, named in honor Sr. Mary Constance O'Brien of the Sisters of Providence, director of Nursing Services, anesthesiologist, pharmacist, director of The Villas, assistant manager of Providence Place, and member of the Board of St. Joseph of the Pines.
- Gossman Drive, named in honor of Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, 1975-2006, and President of St. Joseph of the Pines.
- Mary Manor, named in honor of Sr. Mary Zeno McGuirk of the Sisters of Providence, Administrative Secretary and Assistant Activities Director at St. Joseph of the Pines.

- Matheson Memorial Chapel, named memory of George Matheson, husband of the donor of funds for the conversion of the lobby in the 1928 building into a chapel.
- McMillian Court, named in memory of Dr. Robert McMillian, physician at St. Joseph of the Pines
- O'Connor Court, named in memory of Monsignor Charles J. O'Connor, priest of the Diocese of Raleigh and administrator of St. Joseph of the Pines after ownership of the hospital was returned to the Diocese in 1971.
- Owens Drive, named in memory of Dr. Francis Owens, co-founder and first medical director of St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital.
- Providence Place (Aberdeen, Carthage, Robbins and Red Springs), named in honor of the Sisters of Providence.
- Waters Drive, named in memory of Most Reverend Vincent S. Waters, Bishop the Diocese of Raleigh, 1945-1974, founder and President of St. Joseph of the Pines.

### **Major Donors to St. Joseph of the Pines**

- Diocese of Raleigh
- Sisters of Providence
- Audrey K. Kennedy
- Fredrick J. Kennedy Memorial Foundation
- Guild of St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital
- Duke Endowment
- Irene Heinz Given and John LaPorte Given Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Kate B. Reynolds Foundation
- Raymond Firestone
- Constance Matheson
- George W. Matheson Memorial Fund
- Matthew H. McCloskey
- Anonymous Donors