

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

March/April 2007



From the Abbot's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you, and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. I hope this letter finds you well.

I want to thank Brother George Crisp for taking my place with the opening column in the January/February issue of *The Font*, for his fine reflection on the rhythms that we keep within the Order.

Discussions of community life continue to emerge throughout the Order of Saint Luke; as well they should, given our contemplative-monastic heritage. In the September-October issue, I discussed the Community of Saint Luke. I also referred to Brother Don Brown (of New Jersey) and the memories that he shared with us at the May Council meeting regarding a discussion about community life that occurred during the 1970s among some members in Illinois. I'm aware that the Community of Saint Luke had their gathering at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina during February. I'm eager to hear what they learned during their gathering and hope that their continuing fellowship proves fruitful.

As I noted in that September-October article, in the early 1990s there had been discussion about purchase of land by the Order, perhaps for some sort of "mother house." The proposal did not gain wide support in the Order. In retrospect, perhaps the problem lay in an unspoken assumption that the Order had to decide and vote on one form of community life that would occur in one set place. As I continue to think about the future of the Order, I am coming to realize that there is nothing to stop various groups of sisters and brothers from discerning forms of community life that could be related to the Order and its Rule, either formally or informally. I'm thinking, for instance, of Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California, a vibrant community of faith and witness that contains a growing number of Order members. Through those sisters and brothers, the community life of Pilgrim Place blesses and shapes ours.

Other communities like it may be touching the Order even now, and more may emerge.

I wish you all a blessed Lenten journey, praying that God will help you deepen your participation in the baptismal covenant. I pray also that God will bring you ever closer to those who walk with you in the Order and in your various other communities of faith.

Your brother,

Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

From the Provincial General

Br. George R. Crisp, O.S.L., Provincial General revgrc@prodigy.net

There is some new formation activity in The Order to report. A group of six gathered in February to explore starting a new chapter, separate from the Perkins Seminary Chapter, in North Texas. The Philippine Association also met in February at Union Theological Seminary (Philippines).

The summary of chapter reports, printed in *The Font* on a rotation basis, continues with this issue (updated as of October 2006). A request for chapter updates will be made after Easter and prior to our May Council meeting.

To provide the latest information (or corrections) about your chapter's events, you may directly submit an article to *The Font*. Reminder: If you are the contact person for your chapter or association, and you move to a new assignment or change your internet service provider, be sure to provide your Provincial General with updated contact information.

– Br. George R. Crisp, Provincial General
revgrc@prodigy.net

Chapter News

The **Boston University Chapter** of the Order of Saint Luke meets on the third Monday of each month during the academic year. In October, they renewed vows, elected officers, and shared in worship and fellowship. Officers are Srs. Cheryl Gates, Prior and Sarah Mount, Chancellor.

The **East Ohio Chapter** meets every month on the fourth Monday. Every other month is a day meeting, and the other months are evening meetings. Brother David [Houdeschell] has been leading the chapter through a study of the book, *Food for Pilgrims*. Chapter officers are Br. Steve Sullivan, Prior; Br. O. French Ball, Sub-prior; Br. Barry A. Wolfe, Chancellor; Br. David E. Houdeschell, Spiritual Formation.

A report on the **Little Rock Chapter**, promised for May 2006, was never received. Likewise, the last report we had of the **Missouri Chapter** was in October 2004. If anyone has knowledge about the status or activities of these chapters, please contact me [Br. George Crisp].

As of last fall, the **Oklahoma Chapter** was in the process of re-formation. Abbot Mark Stamm conducted the profession service and installation of officers on October 28. At that meeting, in addition to electing officers and ratifying our constitution and by-laws, the chapter had a discussion of the theology of the open table, using Br. Stamm's latest work. They also established a regular meeting schedule and began to plan a retreat for the chapter.

The **St. Francis Chapter** in West Ohio is now inactive, but Sr. Barbara Lee reports the hope of re-organization and the need for leadership to emerge. In addition, Br. Vince Eller, a recent graduate of Garrett-Evangelical now serving a church in Grosse Pointe Park, has been working to re-organize the **Wesley-Allen Chapter** in the Detroit Area.

The **Boston University Chapter** of the Order of St. Luke held its eighth annual Lenten Retreat under the leadership of the Rev. Sarah Mount, Chapter Prior, on February 22-25, 2007 at (Episcopal) Society of St. Margaret/St. Margaret's Convent in Boston, MA. The Rev. Cherlyn Gates, Spiritual Formation Officer for the Chapter, served as retreat leader.

During the retreat, the seven participants attended Morning Prayer, Eucharist, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline with the Society of St. Margaret and held relaxed plenary sessions within the William Lloyd Garrison House. In addition to sharing, participants were encouraged to explore individual arts such as drawing. The traditional ice cream cake was served on Saturday evening.

During one of the Eucharist services, the Chapter had the privilege to hear the Rev. Carl Daw, Jr. of The Hymn Society preside and preach. His hymn WHEN OUR LIVES SEEM ROOTLESS was featured during the service.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey M. Cox

OSL Constitution and By-Laws - REMINDER

Br. Canon French fball@bright.net

In the year 2000 the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order were extensively revised. During the recent meeting of the Council of the Order in October, 2006, it was determined that this might be a good time to re-open the discussion on these documents. The documents can be found on the Order's web site using the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/y5pmh2> or on the Cyber Chapter documents site: <http://tinyurl.com/ybmbo3> . Note that clicking either link requires signing in with your user account(s).

Send your suggestions directly to fball@bright.net . Please *do not* use the Cyber Chapter for this purpose.

From the Office of the Prior General

Br. Stanley Tanner, O.S.L. stanols@aol.com

Keep these dates open! The 2007 Retreat of the OSL will meet **October 15-18** at the **El Carmelo Retreat Center** in Redlands, California. The retreat center is on a hill top in the midst of orange groves. The chapel has large windows looking east to the hills, an inspiring and beautiful view.

The presentations will be even more inspiring. The Rev. **Karen Ward** will be with us for a day to share with us about worship in the emerging church. She is the pastor of one of these congregations, The Church of the Apostle, in Seattle, Washington. We will learn from presentations from Br. **Dan Benedict**, recently retired from the staff of the Worship Section of the General Board of Discipleship (UMC), and Br. **Taylor Burton-Edwards**, presently on the staff of the Worship Section. Our Abbott, Br. **Mark Wesley Stamm**, who is also Associate Professor on the faculty at Perkins School of Theology, will be sharing daily reflections on the presentations as well as a more extensive reflection on the topic toward the end.

Add in the lovely Southern California weather (Br. Bill Beasley has guaranteed it!), our fellowship together, and the joys of our community in worship, and you won't want to forget it.

From the Officer for Pastoral Care

Br. Tom Beveridge, O.S.L. ta891josl@aol.com

Brothers and Sisters:

Our News section for *The Font* is a little over a year old. At the Fall Council meeting in Greensburg, feedback on this effort included the following: “The News section shows how our Order is a community of brothers and sisters who care for one another.” Among the things I’ve learned in forwarding this news through *The Font*, the most important – surely the most moving – has been to come to realize how very deep that goes. How much that means. “Stuff happens,” as the saying goes. How important, therefore, that we make each other aware of our need for each other’s prayers – whether that be for happy stuff, like an ordination, a marriage, a new baby ... or the more difficult stuff, being ill, suffering loss, feeling overwhelmed by ...

Lately, this has been brought home to me in a particularly personal way. Many of you already know the chronic stress I have been under for many years with my son’s illness, chronic health problems, disability and lack of health insurance. Now, I find out, my doctor has been worrying for several years because I have been showing a high count of one particular type of white blood cell (monocytes). He’s concerned about leukemia -- though this is the first that he has mentioned it to me. Needless to say, when he first told me this I was rattled!

Leukemia or not, I think this is a reaction to chronic, long-term stress. But the fact is, until I see a hematologist at the end of this month (February) I cannot be sure what I am really dealing with or what I need to do about it. Meanwhile, it’s just there hanging over me. Needless to say, during this time of uncertainty I covet your prayers even as I hold all of you in mine. We are, indeed, “a community of brothers and sisters who care for one another.” And pray for one another. And how wonder-full that is!

Some other news of our community follows. As always, do be in touch with me if you have news you wish to share or if you desire pastoral contact with me. Contact me at ta891josl@aol.com Call me at (860) 243-3388. Or write me at PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891. For the sake of accuracy and to protect confidentiality, items are read and OK’d for publication by each brother or sister concerned.

Peace,

Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care.

News:

Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards has announced that on January 28, 2007, his wife Dr. Grace Burton-Edwards was ordained as a (transitional) deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis. He writes, “Thanks to all who have prayed with us in these days of preparation and waiting.” burtoneidwards@gmail.com

Sr. Jennifer Tait and her husband Edwin (a) received their Ph.D.’s in December, 2005, (b) moved from New Jersey to Indiana, where Edwin has taken a tenure-track position at Huntington University in August, 2006 and (c) welcomed their first child, Catherine Elanor Woodruff Tait, in November 2006. Sr. Jennifer was previously the director of the Methodist Library at Drew University (where the OSL archives are!). Her doctorate is in American church history; Edwin is a Reformation scholar. As of the beginning of this year, she was still recovering from the move and a C-section. She asks our prayers for those issues as well as ministry discernment questions. profjenn@juno.com

Sr. Cindy Loomis began a new job in February that uses her new congregation start-up skills in a business setting. This will significantly relieve the burden of financial distress for Cindy and her family. She is also working on a degree in non-profit management and the work for that is going very well. She is also assisting her local Episcopal parish in the Total Ministry process. And she is eagerly anticipating a visit with her husband John over the Easter weekend in Calgary, Alberta, Canada- the first such visit in four months! She writes: "Thanks to all of you who have supported my efforts, both in ministry and outside of it, our struggles and challenges as well." annaughswell@yahoo.com

Br. Ronald Feeser is a chaplain with the US Air Force and pastor of the Portland, Wilmot and Dermott UMCs in Arkansas. In January, he left for six weeks of training at the Air Force Basic Chaplain Course, graduating on February 15th. He has been picked up for active duty recruiting and expects an assignment in July. He has asked for prayers for his wife Amanda and their two children, Price and Wesley, 2½ and 2 months, through this time of transition. fearnott@ipa.net

Sr. Amy Beveridge is a member of Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Hartford, CT and recently began a new term as Vice-Chair of the Parish Committee. **Br. Tom Beveridge** has been named Ecumenical Associate of the Cathedral where he has attended with Amy in the 4½ years since his retirement as a United Methodist pastor. He works with the Cathedral Chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and also represents the Cathedral to the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition on Equity and Justice. He currently serves as Co-Chair of ICEJ's Health Care Task Force. Ecumenical Associate is a non-stipendiary position on the staff of the Cathedral which gives formal recognition to his ministry and, in addition, carries some liturgical responsibilities. ta891josl@aol.com

Sr. Sue Moore has announced her retirement, effective this summer. She currently serves the Frenchtown and Kingwood (NJ) United Methodist Churches and serves the Order as Prior of the New Jersey Chapter and editor of *The Font*. esmoore45@msn.com

Br. Guy Camp thanks our OSL extended family for their concern and prayers. His mother, Jane Inman, has had a stroke and faces a long road ahead of PT, OT, speech therapy and many decisions. goeeycamp3@yahoo.com

Br. Jerry Wilson is battling leukemia and is again a patient in the Cancer Center at Roanoke (VA) Memorial Hospital. He and **Sr. Ruth** are in good spirits. They covet your prayers. Greetings will reach Sr. Ruth at rnjwil@charter.net

Br. Joe Piccirillo's wife Sandy recently received a stem cell transplant designed to help her in her battle with multiple myeloma. Joe and Sandy ask for our prayers for God's healing mercies in the days ahead. revjpic@snet.net

Sr. Georgianna Burkhart underwent hernia surgery on January 10th. The surgery was to be complicated enough to require about a week of hospitalization and about 4 weeks of recovery. Please keep Sr. Georgianna in your prayers. gmburkhart@gmail.com

Br. Fred Marvel underwent gastric bypass surgery on January 15th. He is healing well and at last word was easing back into his duties at the church he pastors in Roanoke, VA. He appreciates our prayers. fgmarvel@aol.com

Sr. Carol Gathagan reports that her shoulder has healed well from the surgery she underwent shortly before joining us in retreat in October. However, her youngest daughter Suzanne, 38 years-old, married and mother of three children, is battling breast cancer. She writes: "Please keep Suzanne and family in your prayers, she is a marvelous Christian and standing firm in her faith." rvcaryl@verizon.net

Br. Jim Reed's father, Harry Reed, entered Life Eternal on Wednesday, January 3, 2007. Please keep Br. Jim and his family in your prayers. pastor.spumc@verizon.net



From Hermolean.com

A Message received from Br. Ted Hoffman:

Oh, the lengths we go to to keep our vows.

My pastor asked me, a retired clergy, to take the role as pastor to the Stephen Ministry in our church. His reasoning (excuse ?) was that I had served as chaplain to a CCRC (continuing care retirement community) for thirty one years. I accepted, which meant thirty five hours of training in a one week period. I attended the training meeting in Orlando Florida since I could also visit my brother, who is an OSL brother, in Lakeland, Fl. after the training,

All this is said to report that the first thing I did with my new "authority" was to tell the other leaders that I would teach, the then in training, new Stephen Ministers a short lesson based on This Holy Mystery, not part of their normal training.

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

MARCH

T	1	P
F	2	John Wesley W
S	3	P
S	4	2nd Sunday in Lent P
M	5	William Mc Kendree P
T	6	P
W	7	Perpetua and her Companions P
T	8	P
F	9	Gregory of Nyssa P
S	10	Harriet Ross Tubman P
S	11	3rd Sunday in Lent P
M	12	Gregory The Great P
T	13	P
W	14	P
T	15	P
F	16	Lucy Rider Meyer P
S	17	Patrick P
S	18	4th Sunday in Lent P
M	19	Joseph, Mary's Husband W
T	20	P
W	21	P
T	22	Jonathan Edwards P
F	23	Martin and Henry Boehm P
S	24	Ida Bell Wells-Barnett P
S	25	5th Sunday in Lent P
M	26	The Annunciation W (transferred)
T	27	P
W	28	P
T	29	Charles Wesley W
F	30	P
S	31	John Donne, Francis Asbury P
		Eve of Passion/Palm Sunday R/P

APRIL

S	1	Passion /Palm Sunday R/P
M	2	Monday of Holy Week R/P
T	3	Tuesday of Holy Week R/P
W	4	Wednesday of Holy Week R/P
T	5	Holy Thursday R/P, W for Eucharist
F	6	Good Friday R (stoles only)
S	7	Holy Saturday R/P- am (stoles only) W - pm Vigil of Easter
S	8	Easter W
M	9	Easter Monday W
T	10	Easter Tuesday W
W	11	Easter Wednesday W
T	12	Easter Thursday W
F	13	Easter Friday W
S	14	Easter Saturday W
S	15	2nd Sunday of Easter W
M	16	W
T	17	W
W	18	Francis Burns W
T	19	Philip Melancthon W
F	20	W
S	21	Anselm W
S	22	3rd Sunday of Easter W
M	23	W
T	24	Samuel Wesley W
W	25	Mark R
T	26	W
F	27	Peter Boehler W
S	28	W
S	29	4th Sunday of Easter W
M	30	W

Please note the following:

- All Sundays, Solemnities and Feasts are in **bold** type and followed by the proper liturgical color for the day or part of the day.
- Commemorations are noted but the seasonal color is kept. Those who wish to solemnize a particular commemoration should use Red for martyrs and Holy Cross Day and White for all others.

- The color code is: W- White, R- Red, B- Blue, P- Purple, G- Green. Gold may be substituted for White.

*ORDO prepared by Br. John P. Fahey, Prior
New York Conference Chapter*

A Message received from Br. Charles Wiggins:

Dear OSL Siblings,

I was surprised to find an old article I had written years ago included in the January/February issue of *The Font* regarding my wearing of a clergy collar. I still wear my collar all the time, but there have been a few changes in my life.

I am now (and will be until I die) a General Board of Global Ministries Individual Volunteer missionary (volunteer means I am officially blessed by--but not supported financially by the denomination or conference or any specific church and live on my Social Security with no insurance--and no complaints) in Bunda, Tanzania. Bunda is a small town at the western edge of the Serengeti National Park (you know, lions, leopards, elephants, etc.) and on the south shore of Lake Victoria. Almost all the clergy in Tanzania wear collars: Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Africa Inland Church, and even some Baptist pastors.



The clergy here are highly respected members of society (unlike some places I have served) and are all called *Mchumgaji* which is Swahili for "shepherd", so I am Mchumgaji Charles (last names are seldom used) and wearing my collar usually means I am greeted by everyone and waved through the frequent police stops on the main roads. In fact, when I am stopped, it is most often to ask me for one of the many Bibles I always carry for just such occasions. I have made some adjustments for my new status here. My wife had a local *fundi* (seamstress) use one of my Friar Tuck clergy shirts as a model and made me several collared clergy shirts from our colorful local fabrics. I have included some pictures, but don't know if or where you may view them. I still have my OSL scapular, but that is too hot for conditions here, so I wear an African preaching robe (which is much cooler) for worship services.

I preach, baptize, and celebrate the eucharist at all the little churches out in the bush--most without buildings which they call "praying under a tree". At one such church on one Sunday, I baptized thirty-eight children and adults and celebrated the first eucharist they had had in four years (only the ordained can do this and the three ordained pastors do not get around much). I have always been proud to be a life member of OSL and am still keeping the rules of the order here in equatorial Africa.

My wife and son and I came here two years ago to establish a training and leadership center for the fledgling Methodist Church of Tanzania (first church established in 1995--there are forty now) which has many members and only three pastors, so almost all churches are led by lay pastors called "evangelists" who have little education and no training. These wonderful men and women serve with no pay but full hearts. One such "evangelist" in a small village about thirty miles from here has grown his church to 142 members and started three more churches in nearby villages all within the last two years. There are only three pastors to serve all the churches and unfortunately these spend more time at home than covering their circuits.

Since the church's growth and polity depends on these "evangelists", I hold training sessions four times a year here at our compound called *Maisha Na Maji* (Swahili for "Living Water"). It is not yet complete, but we have a meeting hall and guest cottages with western plumbing and hot showers and can sleep and feed up to sixteen. We host three or four mission groups each year for teaching, construction, water well drilling, and medical/dental work. We work with funds raised for us by the One Book Foundation headquartered at Sequoyah United

Methodist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The board members (all but two have spent time here) as well as former mission workers make presentations and raise money from mostly small churches and individuals in Arkansas and western Oklahoma.

When we came here two years ago, we came with only two suitcases, a lot of faith, and enough money to dig one well and build the meeting hall. Thanks to generous United Methodists, we now have a home for us, two wells, the meeting hall, two guest cottages, a prayer chapel, a security hut, a small kitchen for the meeting hall, and two outdoor, African style toilets with a shower. God has been good to us.

My wife is starting the first ever library in Bunda, and my son will be teaching computers once we get the money to build the computer lab. It's a lot of work, but we love it, we love the people, and we love serving God here. We would love to host any OSL brothers and sisters who would like to come teach, build, or learn.

Rev. Charles Wiggins, O.S.L. (revwigg@mac.com)

(Note: Br. Charles also sent some other wonderful photographs which I will attempt to post on the web. Sr. Sue)

Does this space look rather blank to you?

In truth, it is a stealth announcement of the upcoming **Spring Council meeting**, which will be held in Chicago **May 21-23**. The Northern Illinois Chapter will be our hosts.

Any day now, Chancellor-General Br. Brent Sturm will get a real, live person to respond to his inquiries about hotel rooms for the meeting – and we will then send you the actual announcement, which will include information about the schedule and about how to make your own reservations for a room.

(Both the hotel and the church where we will be meeting are close to O'Hare Airport.)

Meanwhile – be patient, and start to make you travel plans.

See you in Chicagoland!

The Font

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Published bi-monthly, beginning July/August 2003
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Join the cyber chapter: Send a message to osl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, with “subscribe” as the subject line

Information for *The Font* can be sent to me via email: esmoore@alum.mit.edu, or to:
P.O. Box 6, Durham PA 18039.

If your email address changes, please notify the Chancellor-General at chancellor@saint-luke.org and the Font editor at esmoore@alum.mit.edu in order to keep our records accurate.

Grace and Peace,
Sr. Sue Moore

Deadline for submissions for the May/June issue of <i>The Font</i> is April 17, 2006.
