

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

January/February 2008



From the Abbot's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

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

I am grateful to Sister Colleen Gilrane for her willingness to chair the process that will nominate candidates for our elected national offices: Abbot, Prior General, Chancellor General, and Provincial General. The nominating committee will meet during the Spring Council meeting, scheduled for May 19-21 at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. A ballot will be mailed to you sometime across the summer, and a deadline set for your returning it. Officers will be invested at the Convocation (October 13-16), to be held at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and will serve a four year term. Elsewhere in this issue, Sister Colleen provides further details on the nominations process.

There are several matters that I want you to consider about nominations and the election process: (1) Pray for discernment. (2) If you want the nominating committee to consider someone, please discuss it with that person before you submit his/her name. (3) Please understand that offices in the Order are working offices.

High on the list of requirements for office holding is a willingness to arrange one's schedule—a three-day meeting every spring and a five-day meeting every autumn-- and then travel around the country to those meetings. I began attending Council meetings in May 1992, as Prior of the newly formed Boston University Chapter. During my time, Council has met in the following states: Alabama, California, North and South Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

I want to lay one matter to rest at this point. I have decided that I will not accept a nomination to run for the 2008-2012 term. Several of you have been kind enough to inquire as to whether I would serve again, and I am grateful for your confidence in me. I did not take your queries lightly. I am, however, now in my second term as Abbot, having been elected in 2000 and 2004, and I served a term as Prior General before that, from 1996-2000. So, I'm in my twelfth year as an elected national officer, and I sense that's probably enough. Our founder, Brother Romey Marshall served sixteen years (1946-1962) and Brother Michael O'Donnell served twelve (1984-1996), so my length of service is in the same neighborhood as theirs. And, as I said, these are working offices.

Leaving office is not, of course, the same as leaving the Order. It's far from it, in fact. The Rule of Life and Service both shapes my life and reflects my priorities, and it does so more and more all the time. Through my teaching and writing, and my ongoing pastoral work, I promote the corporate worship of the church, magnify the sacraments, and seek the sacramental life on a

daily basis. My scholarship continues to develop and unfold. These are deep blessings and privileges. I will continue as faculty advisor of the Perkins Chapter. Exactly what institutional role I will play on the General Chapter level will be a matter for discernment, both mine and yours, and I'll want to take some time and space to figure that out. You should do the same.

In the meantime, it has been an honor to serve as your Abbot, and I thank you for calling me to this privilege. I look forward to continuing that service until I have the further honor of investing my successor at the Convocation this coming October.

Your brother,

Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

Reprint of Sr. Coleen's Article from the November/December Font:

2008 Election of General Officers

Colleen P. Gilrane, OSL 411 Westbridge Drive
gilranec@bellsouth.net Knoxville TN 37919-7480

Abbot Mark has appointed me to oversee the work of the nominating committee for the 2008 election of the Order's four elected general officers: Abbot, Prior General, Chancellor General, and Provincial General. The OSL constitution describes the process as follows:

Section 7 - Election of Officers

Nomination for the four elected general offices will be made by a Nominating Committee composed of the Priors or representatives of Chapters and Associations in attendance at the Spring meeting of the Council prior to the General Convocation. The Nominating committee shall prepare a slate that will be mailed to the membership. All members in good standing shall be eligible to vote. Unless otherwise determined by the Council, the officers shall be invested at the next General Convocation.

The nominating committee will do its work at the Council meeting in Charlotte, NC, May 19-21, 2008. In preparation for that, I invite all members of the Order to prayerful consideration of each of the offices, its responsibilities, and the gifts and graces that might suit individual persons to particular offices. As in the past, members of the Order will have the opportunity to submit names to the Nominating Committee for its deliberations. There are two ways for you to do this if you wish:

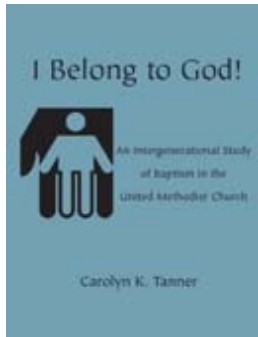
- Give the information to your Prior or representative, to bring to the Nominating Committee for you, or
- Send the information to me, via email or USPS, and I will bring it to the Nominating Committee for you.

It would be most helpful to the Nominating Committee if you would (1) check with persons about their willingness *before* you submit their names for the Committee's consideration, and (2) send information about the person's gifts and graces and how they are suited to the office for which you believe they should be considered a nominee.

The chart below, listing the officers and their job descriptions from the OSL Bylaws, may assist you in this process. More information about the process, including a prayer vigil surrounding the work of the Nominating Committee, will be in future issues of *The Font*.

Office (support provided by the Order)	Responsibilities
Abbot (\$250.00 for expenses)	The Abbot is the spiritual and temporal leader of The Order. In carrying out these duties, the Abbot shall: a) Perform such liturgical duties as specified in The Book of Offices and Services; and b) Preside at all meetings of the Convocation and Council, and shall be a member Ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and c) Have authority to grant approval of formation of Chapters and Associations, in accordance with “Guidelines for Relationship with The Order of Saint Luke”; d) Delegate responsibility and authority and appoint as needed to meet the needs of The Order, and e) May initiate and terminate appointments of editors of publications, in consultation with the Director of Publications, and the approval of the Council, and f) In concert with the Council, interpret the Rule of Life and Service for the good of The Order.
Prior General (\$800.00 for Hickman Awards)	The Prior General shall a) Perform the duties of the Abbot in the Abbot’s absence or inability to serve; and b) Support the work of the appointed officers; and c) Administer the Hoyt Hickman Award; and d) Undertake such other mutually agreed responsibilities as are designated by the Abbot or the Council.
Chancellor General (\$2000.00 for expenses \$500.00 for membership services)	The Chancellor General is the secretary, treasurer, and statutory agent of The Order, and custodian of the financial and historical documents. In carrying out these duties, the Chancellor General shall: a) Conduct the official correspondence of the General Chapter, keep the minutes of the Council, maintain financial and membership records for the Order, and attend to the legal matters of The Order. Financial records of The Order shall be available for annual audit by designation of the Council. b) Maintain the official mailing list of members of the General Chapter and, as specified in “Guidelines for Relationship with The Order of Saint Luke,” notify the appropriate Provincial Companion of new members, and c) Make semi-annual reports of financial and membership data to the Council.
Provincial General (\$125.00 for expenses)	The Provincial General shall: a) Provide spiritual support to the Provincial Companions; and b) Publish and distribute recruitment and formation materials; and c) As specified in Guidelines for Relationship with The Order of Saint Luke, work with the Abbot, Council, and Provincial Companions for the application, recognition, and change of status of Chapters and Associations, d) Receive and maintain copies of appropriate documents concerning the life and conduct of Chapters and Associations; and e) Provide semi-annual reports to the Council regarding matters of Chapter and Association formation; and f) Undertake such other mutually agreed responsibilities as are delegated by the Abbot or Council.

From OSL Publications



Review of *I Belong to God*
Taylor Burton-Edwards, OSL

Baptism in the United Methodist Church is still most commonly administered to infants and young children. Until now, however, study guides to help pastors and congregations understand the denomination's official teaching about baptism ("By Water and the Spirit") have been limited to an excellent resource by Gayle Carlton Felton which is designed primarily for the vocabulary and learning styles of older youth and adults. With *I Belong to God*, Carolyn Tanner has offered the United Methodist Church a truly intergenerational study guide, one that can engage parents, older members of the congregation, youth, and the children and their siblings who may be preparing for baptism or wish to learn more about the

baptism they have already experienced.

As she did in *The Holy Mystery*, a study guide for children and younger youth, Tanner presents the entire text of the official study document in one column, with teaching guides that incorporate all the senses and learning styles of children and adults in another, with a comprehensive set of handouts and activity guides in the appendix. Each of the sessions of the study guide corresponds to a section of the original teaching document, a total of six sessions in all.

Though young children are included as significant participants in this study, the hands on learning and worship experiences Tanner has designed involve no "dumbing down." Instead, there are creative suggestions for each age and stage of learner that can help each understand the core message of each section of "By Water and the Spirit" in ways they can most effectively relate to it. Learn by doing segments in each study can include music, bible study, creative use of water, discussion or discovery of mission, and crafts, and the appendix includes many examples for each of these activities for each session.

I Belong to God could easily be used as a six week, perhaps Lenten, Sunday School setting, or as a "stand-alone" study at any time of the year when candidates of several ages are preparing for baptism, or as a guide for a church baptismal retreat. Its intergenerational and flexible format also makes it ideal for several small churches to share in a common time of learning and affirmation of God's gift to us in baptism.

Br. Taylor is Prior for the CyberChapter of the Order of Saint Luke, and Director of Worship Resources with the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church.

From the Community of Saint Luke

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L.

The 2008 retreat of the Community will be held February 9-16, 2008 at the home of Br. Stephen McGucken and his gracious wife Betsy in Dadeville, AL. Each participant will be expected to prepare a meal for the community during the retreat. We also share in the Eucharist daily, offer morning and evening prayer, sharing in service ministry, and spend time in community. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the goals of our Community, please contact Br. Stephen at OSLGUCK@aol.com to make reservations. The cost of the lodging will be divided evenly by all the participants if we exceed the capacity of the McGucken's home.

From the Provincial General

Br. George R. Crisp, O.S.L., Provincial General revgrc@yahoo.com

The summary of chapter reports, printed in The Font on a rotation basis, continues with this issue (updated as of October 2007). 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.

Chapter News

J. Warren Smith, Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, writes: "The Duke [Divinity School] Chapter remains inactive. The hopeful part is that I've been approached by one or two students who've inquired about the Order. We shall see what comes of it. Know that I will remember you and all in the Order on Luke's Feast Day."

The Illinois Great Rivers Chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday, September through May, excluding December, at the United Methodist Center in Springfield. Br. Rusty Beals, Prior, reports: "We begin with morning prayer, usually from the Book of Common Prayer, at 10:00 a.m. We then discuss any business pertinent to the Order. A seminar led by one of the members follows. Last year we discussed one of the spiritual disciplines at each seminar. We celebrate the Eucharist at 11:45, inviting the conference staff. We share lunch at a local restaurant. Some of our members are meeting at 9:00 a.m. as a covenant group. This year we celebrated the Eucharist each morning before annual conference sessions began, inviting all conference members and guests to join us. We coordinated the Eucharist at two conference worship services. We have a luncheon each year at annual conference."

"I am sorry to report no change in the non-chapter organization here at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. However, we did graduate several students who I believe have become OSL members in the last year or so, Mark Parsons and Paul Archdeacon." [Reported by Robin Knowles Wallace, Faculty Advisor.]

The Northern Illinois Chapter held its annual retreat at the John Wesley Theological Institute (at the Aylesford Retreat Center in Darien, IL) and about 8 members attended. We did participate in the Ordination service, wearing OSL garb, in June and had brief conversation. Br. David Eichelberger, Prior, will convene the chapter in November to discuss the fall retreat in California. Sr. Catiana McKay will be hosting a Pan-Methodist worship service in Chicago in November. Sr. Lana Sutton will be relocating this month upon her retirement from active ministry. Br. Noah Panlilio was transferred to First UMC, Lockport and Brother Jonathan Hutchinson was transferred to First UMC, Elgin.

Br. Guy W. Camp III, Prior, the informal Susquehanna Chapter (of one woman and four men) meets weekly for a lectionary study. We celebrate Eucharist on the first Wednesday at First UMC, in Chambersburg. "There is no formal organization of a chapter here, although they have discussed the matter."

The Wyoming Conference Chapter has not met in a year. Br. Richard A. Santella noted, "Last week (10/6), I had a conversation with Br. Graig Gommer asking him if he would consider taking office of Prior, and if he would be willing to put energy into reviving the chapter." Interested members in the area should contact Br. Richard (rsantella@aol.com).

News from Texas

Br. John Taylor, jetvct@att.net

The Perkins [S.M.U., Dallas] Chapter had an installation of new officers on 8 November in the Perkins Chapel. Abbott Mark led the worship and presided at table.

Scot Bontrager is the new prior, Laura Browning the new sub-prior. Others of the chapter present were: Celia Kitchens, Eduardo Trevino, and John Baldwin.

Br. John Taylor and Br. Lewis Worthington and Sr. Cynthia Astle were guests of the chapter and participated in the installation. [The three live too far out from the campus to be a regular part of the Perkins Chapter. That chapter celebrates Eucharist one morning a week, very early!]

Brs. Lewis and John are organizing a chapter, inviting many who might be interested and live in the northern suburbs to gather for information, the last week in November or first week in December. It is anticipated that the chapter can be constituted in early spring.

Maine Announces January 26 Saturday Away

Br. Thom Blackstone (622-0843)

Is your New Year's resolution to slow down, find balance, and make room for God in your life? Join members and guests of the United Methodist Order of St. Luke (<http://www.saint-luke.org/>) for a day away to restore life's rhythms to a holier balance. Cycles of prayer, worship and sacramental celebration form a framework that counteracts our consumer culture's urges and re-centers life in its transformative, loving creator. From 10:00am to 3:00 at Readfield United Methodist Church's Torsey Church near Kents Hill School.

Reflection sessions led by the Rev. Thom Blackstone, OSL, Pastor of Green Street United Methodist Church in Augusta and by the Rev. Karen L. Munson, Pastor of Readfield United Methodist Church and Chaplain at Kents Hill School. Worship leadership by the Rev. Stan Tanner, OSL. Please bring your favorite sandwich fixings for a sandwich making buffet lunch. (bread and other lunch essentials provided). For more information contact Thom Blackstone (622-0843) or Karen Munson (685-4211).

Northern Illinois Announces February Retreat:

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L.

The Chapter met in Plainfield for a service of profession for Br. Carl Hood, O.S.L., a new member of the Order and the Chapter. Our host was Br. Craig Miller, OEF who talked to us about his Ecumenical Order of Saint Francis. Our next meeting will be in February when we hold our joint retreat with the John Wesley Theological Institute. This year's presentations will be on the Poetry and Hymnody of Charles Wesley.

Rev. Fernando Siaba is the registrar. He can be reached at fsiaba48@yahoo.com, or 773-342-0178. The retreat begins with supper on Feb 24 and continues through lunch on Tuesday Feb 26.

The Chapter additionally gathers for Compline and Morning Prayer and concludes with a meeting and profession service on Tuesday after lunch. Br. David Eichelberger will be coordinating worship for the Institute this year. We welcome clergy and laity from other areas to join us. The retreat is held in Darien, IL just a few miles west of Midway airport along I-55.

From the Officer for Pastoral Care

Bro. Tom Beveridge, OSL tandaosl@yahoo.com

Sisters and Brothers:

Recently I passed by a church near here while returning home from my office. I noticed a sign out front giving notice of a “Blue Christmas” healing service that will be offered there on a week night during Advent. I’m sure that by the time you read this they will have sung the hymns of Christmas, about joy and peace. They will have exchanged many heartfelt greetings of “Merry Christmas.” But I can also see that they have not forgotten that even though they could sing “no more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground,” the sorrows are still real for many and the thorns of life hurt. They are a community that knows how to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep because that’s what Emmanuel – God-With-Us – does.

One thing I love about The Order of Saint Luke is the way in which we, too, both weep and rejoice with one another. We are generous with our prayers both for each other and for others when any is thorn-pricked and bleeding. I should know; Amy and I have been the grateful recipients of your generosity with prayer during what has been a very difficult year for us as our son Tom waited (along with 755,000 others like him) for a long-delayed hearing on his appeal for Social Security Disability benefits and the Medicare eligibility that goes with that.

Now, I can tell you that in November Tom was approved for SSD with a long enough period of retroactive eligibility to make it possible also to enroll him in Medicare. Though the mechanisms are not all in place yet, the relief is more than I know how to describe. Just recently, he was able to get some important testing done (also long-overdue) to pinpoint what are the causes of his persistent seizures and how these might be better controlled. And his beloved fiancée Lee has also won approval on her appeal for SSD. Perhaps, now, after being stuck for several years, they will be able to plan their wedding for sometime this year. The thorns still hurt. These things will not make their disabilities go away. But having a modest source of income and better access to medical care will help, and the sense of justice in that is a truly joyful thing.

So, we rejoice, even as we continue to weep and pray for the 754,999 others whose health continues to deteriorate while they wait. And no small part of our rejoicing is the comfort of your prayers.

Some 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. Write me at tandaosl@yahoo.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, it’s my practice to check all items ahead of time with the brother or sister concerned.

News:

Br. Joseph James has inaugurated a new blog entitled “Sacramental Dude.” Check it out at: <http://sacramentaldude.blogspot.com> josephjames1@comporium.net

And **Br. Joseph Matthews** has also reported a new blog called “CHURCH.” He’s part of a team at the Troy Wesley Foundation that holds a Sunday night Eucharist (simply called “CHURCH”). This blog is where you can find sermons preached there by students, alumni, the campus minister and clergy from local churches. Attendance varies, usually around a dozen, and the service recently passed its one-year anniversary. He asks that we keep this ministry in our prayers. Find the blog at: <http://troywesley.blogspot.com/> JosephPMathews@gmail.com

Sr. Karen McCorkle Thompson has been very active in ecumenical affairs this past year. In January, she attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity and participated in the first Lutheran-Episcopalian-United Methodist shared Eucharist. In May, she earned the first Certificate in Ecumenism from the Washington Theological Consortium. In the summer she attended a Faith in Order conference which was also attended by **Br. French Ball**. Both she and Br. French have been elected to be UM delegates to the NCC General Assembly for the 2008-1011 quadrennium. And then in November she attended the National Council of Churches' General Assembly as a proxy representing the UMC. She wrote that at the latter gathering she especially enjoyed the Women's Caucus luncheon, where she learned the history of efforts to get women involved in this group. SisterKaren@Verizon.net Br. French's e-mail is: fball@bright.net

Please keep **Br. Jack Womack** and his son Chris in your prayers. Chris was diagnosed with leukemia just before Thanksgiving. jack.womack@txcumc.org

Best wishes to **Br. Bill Olewiler** (who lost his beloved Mary two years ago) and Nancy Payne, who have announced their engagement. Br. Bill writes that they plan to marry on April 26, in Orange Park, FL (near Jacksonville), where Nancy owns a home. Nancy will visit and meet the people of the Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church in White Hall, VA where he is the pastor, and where there will be a ceremony of commitment in their presence. At the end of the Conference Year, he will take early retirement and move to Orange Park, FL. He plans to continue his ministry in physical space; also cyber space as a volunteer at AllExperts.com where he will answers questions about church and faith. He is also an industrial chaplain and will work with Industrial and Commercial Ministries (he is a National Board Member) on their Florida plans and training. WOLEWILER@AOL.COM

Joys and sorrows: **Sr. Cynthia Astle** asks our prayers for her brother and sister-in-law in their foster care and possible adoption of two wonderful little girls who have had a hard start in life. The children are doing well in their care, which is a joy. But there is also sorrow in the tragic deaths of her sister-in-law's two sisters in 2007. Please pray for this family as they seek to be comforted and kept together. cbastle@as-tex.net

Sr. Georgianna Burkhart has asked our prayers for her daughter Lori and granddaughter Lilli, age 7 who were assaulted in their apartment in early November. gmburkhart@gmail.com

Br. Barry Wolfe's beloved wife Theresa died late in November after a long illness during which she was an active member of the Dialysis Support/Care Group. She was the loving mother of two daughters and grandmother of six; and a committed Christian and partner in ministry with her husband. bawolfe43@yahoo.com

Br David Epps, OSL, was elected and consecrated a Bishop in the International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church. He will serve the Mid-South Diocese which includes Georgia and Tennessee. frepps@ctkcec.org.

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

JANUARY

T	1	The Holy Name W
W	2	W
T	3	Gilbert Haven W
F	4	John Seybert W
S	5	W Eve of Epiphany W
S	6	The Epiphany W
M	7	G*
T	8	Richard Watson G*
W	9	G*
T	10	G*
F	11	G*
S	12	G* Eve of the Baptism of the Lord W
S	13	Baptism of the Lord W
M	14	G
T	15	Martin Luther King Jr. (alt) G
W	16	Hiram Rhoades Revels G
T	17	Antony of Egypt G
F	18	The Confession of Peter W
S	19	Pseudo - Macarius of Egypt John Ernest Rattenbury G
S	20	2ND Sunday after Epiphany G
M	21	Agnes of Rome G
T	22	G
W	23	Sarah Ann Dickey G
T	24	Eli Stanley Jones G
F	25	The Conversion of Paul W
S	26	Timothy and Titus G
S	27	3rd Sunday after Epiphany G
M	28	Thomas Aquinas G
T	29	G
W	30	G
T	31	John Raleigh Mott G

FEBRUARY

F	1	G
S	2	The Presentation W Eve of Transfiguration of the
Lord W		
S	3	Transfiguration of the Lord W
M	4	Cornelius the Centurian G
T	5	Philipp Jakob Spener G
W	6	Ash Wednesday P
T	7	P
F	8	P
S	9	P
S	10	1ST Sunday in Lent P
M	11	Fanny Jane Crosby P
T	12	P
W	13	Absalom Jones P
T	14	P
F	15	P
S	16	P
S	17	2ND Sunday in Lent P
M	18	Martin Luther P
T	19	P
W	20	Frederick Douglass P
T	21	Ezekial Cooper P
F	22	Kanichi Miyama P
S	23	Polycarp P
S	24	3rd Sunday in Lent P
M	25	Matthias R (Transferred)
T	26	P
W	27	George Herbert P
T	28	P
F	29	P

* Some traditions continue to use white until The Baptism of The Lord

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*

The Font

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

More Ways to Stay Connected

Visit us on the web: <http://www.Saint-Luke.org>

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 March/April 2008 issue of <i>The Font</i> is February 15, 2008.
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