

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

July/August 2008



From the Abbot's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I attended Annual Conference this past week in my newly adopted conference, the North Texas Conference. At the end, we engaged in that old Methodist Annual Conference ritual, the reading of the appointments. Bishop Alfred Norris read the names of several hundred places (including Paradise and Paris) and persons (including Stamm and some other OSL siblings), each of whom stood in turn, in a process that took about an hour to complete. The venerable appointment reading ritual always gets me thinking about vocation and the places where I do it.

As to Perkins School of Theology, when I begin my ninth year of work there on July 1st, I will have lived and served here longer than any other place. As many of you know, I've been an itinerant in several realms—as a Methodist preacher's kid while growing up, in my own work as a pastor of churches in Kentucky and Pennsylvania, and in academia. Thus I am living in my twelfth home, in my fourth state. As I've worked with my spiritual director over the past two years, I've come to realize that I grieve for each of the first eleven places I've lived. And, it doesn't stop with physical places. A wise academic mentor once told me that, for him, graduation day is both time of celebration and time of mourning. After eight years of watching beloved students graduate, I think I understand what he meant.

I moved for the first time when I was nine months old, leaving the parsonage in Orbisonia, Pennsylvania for one in Duncansville, Pennsylvania. According to my mother, a similar light fixture hung in the kitchen of each house. As she tells the story, I looked up at the light in the new place, saw something familiar, but then noticed that everything else was different. According to her, I threw back my head and howled. Perhaps she was projecting her own grief on me—I presume she had her own—but remember that mothers are often adept at interpreting their baby's cries. For me, this memory, in some ways deeper than memory, is iconic.

As I said, I grieve for my first eleven homes, although I don't want you to think that I'm constantly sitting in a puddle of tears. Usually, it's not a debilitating grief, just an occasional awareness of places and people left behind. Acknowledging it as grief is actually liberating. Like much grief, mine is a function of loving deeply and then facing a change that cannot be reversed. The dynamic, I'm convinced, is deeply biblical. I read it in Hebrews: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb. 11: 8). Like him and others named in that chapter, our destination is a heavenly country (Heb. 11: 16) an eschatological (eucharistic!) place, if you will. And so, we commit to the Body of Christ in each place, while knowing that change (and thus, grief) is inevitable. Such is part of the Paschal dynamic.

Many of you, and not just the ordained folks, are moving through fresh transitions, vocational and otherwise. And most of us will face more transitions. My home and my work are here, at Perkins/SMU, in Texas, even in this Annual Conference, and I embrace them, both in joy and as a spiritual discipline. Will I always live and work here? I don't know, but I will do my best to remain obedient to God, to a journey of faith in the spirit of Abraham.

Wherever God places you, may you know your deepest home in the sacramental life, that foretaste of the heavenly country.

Your brother,
Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

From the Provincial General

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

We want to thank **Br. Ted Hoffmann** for his service as the Provincial Companion for North Carolina. At Br. Ted's request, our Abbot appointed **Br. Jason Constantine** as the new Provincial Companion for North Carolina. In addition, **Sr. Nancy Bryan Crouch** was appointed to serve as the Provincial Companion for eastern Tennessee.

Efforts are underway to establish a chapter in **Arkansas**. If you would like to participate, please contact Br. Terry L. Sager <tsager@centurytel.net>.

Anyone connected with the **Hiwassee Association** is invited to contact the Provincial General to provide an update on your group, following the departure of Br. Julius McCarter, Faculty Advisor.

The reports presented here continue our rotating pattern for sharing chapter news. These reports are up to date as of May 2008 (unless otherwise noted). The full Provincial General's Report, given at the Spring Council meeting, is posted on the OSL website in the "Members Only" section. To provide the latest information (or corrections) about your chapter's events, you may directly submit an article to *The Font*.

Perpetual 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 the Provincial General with updated contact information.

Chapter News

The **California-Pacific Chapter** meets approximately six times per year. We were pleased to be the host General Chapter for the 2007 Retreat. This January, the chapter held its Annual Retreat in Redlands, California. Meetings were calendared for 2008; brainstorming resulted in five topics/programs for implementation. Our 2009 Annual Retreat will be January 20-21, 2009. New officers were elected at the retreat: Br. Bob Davis, Prior; Br. Bob Nixon, Sub Prior for lay vocation (recruitment); Br. George Crisp, Sub-Prior for the life of OSL in Hawaii; Br. Bill Kintner, Chancellor; Br. Lee Cunningham, Chaplain. A sub-prior to reach out to others, particularly clergy, and if necessary, to act as a "VP" has yet to be determined. On March 26, nine members of the chapter met with six students and one faculty member on the campus of Claremont School of Theology. It was a fine event that exceeded expectations. Four pieces of OSL literature were distributed along with copies of *Sacramental Life* and a free copy of Br. Dwight Vogel's *Food for Pilgrims: A Journey with Saint Luke*. The meeting closed with Mid-Day Prayer. At least two and possibly four interested students were not present. They will be contacted.

The **Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Chapter** meets on the first Tuesday of March, April, May, October, November, and December. Each regular meeting has two parts (1) Service of Word and Table, and (2) Discussion about a topic related to the work and mission of the order. Sometimes discussions are led by someone outside the order with expertise in the topic being discussed. From time to time, we have also sponsored conference wide workshop. Officers are: Lloyd Speer, Prior; Art Rettew, Sub-Prior; and Dave Knotts, Secretary/ Treasurer.

Br. Sky Lowe-McCracken, Prior, reports that the **Memphis Conference Chapter** is “still in Diaspora regarding our membership and make-up. I know that Br. Dean (Sub-Prior), Br. Scott, and Sr. Barbara are finishing their first years at their respective churches, and Sr. Trina just had her second child. So I am being intentional about bringing us back together sometime this summer to re-organize and get a little more regular. My best to all in the Order. I miss all of you very much.

The **New York Annual Conference Chapter** meets annually at Annual Conference and in sub-chapter groups throughout the year. Recent meetings have been dedicated to studying *This Holy Mystery*, and how its teachings can be applied to local church as well as district and Conference worship. Officers are: Br. John P. Fahey, Jr., Prior; Sr. Rev. Vicky Fleming, Sub-Prior (Connecticut).

The last time the **Philippines Association** met was during the centennial convocation of our school, Union Theological Seminary (UTS) last November 2008. Perhaps this is the first time that ALL Filipino members of the OSL were present at one place – including Br. Noah Panlilio who flew in for the celebration. We have recently received a new member, Br. Israel Bangsil, who already sent in his affirmation form. At this moment, we students of UTS are on our summer exposure. Br. Jonathan Velasco is at Mary Johnston Hospital for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). I am in the Religious Arts program. Br. Bangsil graduated last March. [Reported by Br. Gilmartin Guerrero, Convener]

Br. Caro Russell reports: The **St. Stephen Chapter** meets each Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer at St. James UMC, Abilene, TX. (We use the OSL Daily Office Propers of the Day and Daily Lectionary.) In addition to the liturgy we share Br. John Wesley’s question, “How is it with thee?” – good times, tough times, hopes & dreams & plans & revelations. We meet each Wednesday, 5:15 p.m. at St. Paul UMC, Abilene, TX. for Holy Eucharist. (We use A Service of Word and Table I for the liturgy). We are geographically challenged in Northwest Texas and our chapter membership is all over the map, so those who can attend do and those who can’t don’t.

The **Wesley-Allen Chapter** has had a set back. Our Prior, Vince McGlothlin-Eller, has taken a job [Assistant Registrar] at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary [February 2008]. This has moved him out of our Conference, and we have had no direction since his leaving. I realize that I was voted as the sub-prior for the chapter, however, I was placed in a new appointment last October and couldn’t take on any leadership of the chapter. So, as of right now, nothing is happening with the chapter. [Reported by Alicea Williams, Sub-Prior]

Submitted by Sr. Jeanette Block, Provincial Companion for New Jersey: (revblock@aol.com):

The **New Jersey Chapter** met at St. John the Baptist Retreat Center in Mendham, NJ May 6-8. Our workshop leader, Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins of Drew, led discussions on Holy Space, Holy Time as well as discussion of our assigned reading, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* by Sara Miles. We renewed our vows, elected officers for the upcoming year, planned our calendar of retreats, and celebrated Sr. Fran Noll’s appointment to the Cabinet as the Northern Shore District Superintendent. Sr. Lin Smallwood and Sr. Gloria Smith professed membership to the Order and Br. Ken Smith was elected Prior and Sr. Shirley Mitchell elected Chancellor. At our council meeting in Charlotte, NC May 19-22, Sr. Sue Moore was nominated to serve as Prior General. Our early morning communion services were extremely well attended at Annual Conference May 29-31; we may need more space!

We will gather again on Monday, September 29 to Tuesday, September 30 in Ocean City, NJ. We will be reading *Patterned by Grace: How Liturgy Shapes Us* by Br. Daniel T. Benedict, Jr., and *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality* by J. Philip Newell for discussion at our monthly retreats held on the third Monday of the month.

Submitted by Br. John Caro Russell, O.S.L. Prior, Saint Stephen Chapter, Abilene, TX

Each Wednesday morning at 9:30 **Saint Stephen Chapter** meets for Morning Prayer at St. James U.M.C. in Abilene. This week after the Daily Office we shared Br. John Wesley's question, "How is it with thee?" Out came all kinds of thoughts, feelings, ideas, struggles: dynamic stability, balance, apostolic vocation, monasticism-in-community, heart-head unity vs. dichotomy. Then the sharing came together in a mutual assignment: intentional awareness this week of one of the seven OSL Rules of Life and Service: "Seek the Sacramental Life - we will seek to be a means of grace for all whom we meet and serve in Christ's Name." After two days I'm finding this to be a challenge and a celebration at the same time. I'm finding that Sacramental Life takes on flesh and blood for real when it reaches the level of personal awareness and action day by day. This is practical spirituality. The Benedictines seek it. The Franciscans seek it. And so do we. My question for the Order and myself is this: How do we not only seek the Sacramental Life - how do we find it and live it?
God's Grace and Peace.

Submitted by Br. Julio R. Vargas-Vidal, O.S.L.

I just wanted to announce to you and to the OSL in general, via "The Font", that last Tuesday we started the **Puerto Rico Chapter** of the OSL. Five members of the OSL (plus one in absence) comprised of 5 Methodist ministers and one Presbyterian minister met at the Santisima Trinidad (Holy Trinity) Methodist Church in Old San Juan for an instructional session, Service of Word and Table and Profession.

Submitted by Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L.

Northern Illinois Chapter will be holding our joint retreat with the John Wesley Theological Institute February 22-24, 2009 (Sunday evening to Tuesday midday). The speakers at the Institute will be Dr. Leslie Griffiths, pastor of Wesley Chapel in London and Rev. Patricia Farris, senior pastor of First UMC, Santa Monica, CA. Their topic of presentation will be "The Shaping of Early Methodism." The Chapter provides leadership for worship, holds compline and early morning prayer plus a profession service at the close of the Institute. The site is convenient to I-55 in the western suburbs of Chicago and transport from O'Hare and Midway can be arranged. We welcome participation from all chapters and conferences. Contact Fernando Siaba at 773-342-0178 if you are interested in registering.

No. Illinois Chapter will be holding a family picnic at the Wood Dale UMC on August 9 from 10-3. Bring whatever you wish to grill, plus a dish to share. Sr. Linda Deming is our host. Call 630-766-1805 for directions.

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

JULY

T	1	Anna Howard Shaw G
W	2	G
T	3	G
F	4	Jashwant Rao Chitambar G
S	5	Richard Whatcoat G
S	6	8th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	7	G
T	8	G
W	9	G
T	10	G
F	11	Benedict of Nursia G
S	12	G
S	13	9th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	14	G
T	15	G
W	16	G
T	17	G
F	18	G
S	19	Macrina the Younger G
S	20	10th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	21	G
T	22	Mary Magdalene W
W	23	G
T	24	Thomas a Kempis G
F	25	James the Elder R
S	26	Charles Albert Tindley G
S	27	11th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	28	Johann Sebastian Bach G George Frederick Handel G
T	29	Mary and Martha of Bethany G
W	30	Susanna Wesley G
T	31	G

AUGUST

F	1	G
S	2	G
S	3	12th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	4	G
T	5	G
W	6	<i>The Transfiguration</i> * G
T	7	John Mason Neale G
F	8	Dominic G
S	9	G
S	10	13th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	11	Claire of Assisi G
T	12	
W	13	Florence Nightingale G
T	14	John William Fletcher Maximilian Kolbe G
F	15	Mary W
S	16	Charles Grandison Finney G
S	17	14th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	18	Francis John McConnell G
T	19	
W	20	Bernard of Clairvaux William and Catherine M. Booth G
T	21	Georgia Harkness G
F	22	
S	23	
S	24	15th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	25	Bartholomew (transferred) R
T	26	
W	27	
T	28	Abba Moses of Scete G Augustine of Hippo
F	29	Maggie Newton Van Cott G
S	30	
S	31	16th Sunday after Pentecost G

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.

* If not observed on the Last Sunday after Epiphany (Note: The liturgical color is white.)

- 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*

From the Prior General

Br. Stanley Tanner, O.S.L.,

Sisters and Brothers:

You are called to come home...to join each other in **Convocation and Retreat 13-16 October 2008, at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh, PA.**

Wherever we go, there we are...there we are home. The place varies, but the gathering is where The Order takes on a reality and depth of meaning that embodies who we are, and whose we are. Those who have attended our annual gatherings before know what I mean, and I hope many more will join us to be renewed and strengthened for the work of The Order.

This year will be a particularly significant gathering. We will be enriched by the leadership of Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey, recently retired professor from Wesley Seminary. He will be sharing with us about the Great Fifty Days, out of the richness of many years of research and teaching, and out of his experience as a pastor in the local church. This is an opportunity not to be missed, if at all possible.

We will also be installing our officers for the next four years, including a new Abbot and a new Prior General. Those of us who can be present will affirm them and pray GOD'S blessing upon them in their leadership. It is a momentous occasion for us, and I pray that a great many will be able to gather for it.

Elsewhere in The Font you will find the registration form. Fill it out and send it in, make your plans to be in Pittsburgh. You'll be glad...and we'll all be glad you did.

2008 Hickman Award Winners

The Hoyt L. Hickman Award, sponsored by the Order of Saint Luke, is given to a graduating senior who, in the judgment of a faculty committee, has shown exceptional ability in liturgical scholarship, and exceptional ability in leading worship. The winners are presented a custom-made chalice and paten as a gift from the Order.

We are pleased to announce the winners of this award for 2008.

Asbury Theological Seminary: **Dale Scritchfield**, Asbury Theological Seminary

Bangor Theological Seminary: **Ned Crockett**,

Boston University School of Theology: **Nancy Jill Hale**

Candler School of Theology (Emory University): **Sara Pugh**

Christian Theological Seminary: **Ayana Garrett**

Claremont School of Theology: **Robert English**

The Theological School at Drew University: **Todd Pick**

Dubuque Theological Seminary (2 recipients): **Teresa Ingle** and **Lanette Van**

Duke University Divinity School: **Errick LaMont Baldwin**

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary: **Kelli Beard**

Iliff School of Theology: **Antoinette Stone**

Memphis Theological Seminary: **Sonia Walker**

Methodist Theological School in Ohio: **Victoria (Torie) Front**

Perkins School of Theology (Southern Methodist University): **Debra McKnight**

Saint Paul School of Theology: **Joel Kidwell**

United Theological School: No award

Wesley Theological Seminary: **Leighann Lynn Prothro**

Community of Saint Luke

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L.

The Community met in Charlotte following the Executive Council. We discussed our retreat in Alabama last February. We decided that we will return to Myrtle Beach in February of 2009 for our next week long retreat--February 7-14. This year we hope to have a resource person on hand. Watch for further information in the next Font.

Questions about the Community can be addressed to Br. Stephen McGucken, President of the Community or to Br. David Eichelberger, Vice-President.

From the Chaplain General

Sr. Anne Ferguson, O.S.L. anne.ferguson@garrett.edu

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

I know that it seems as if October is a long way off, but we cannot begin too soon to look forward to our gathering for Convocation and Retreat at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center in Pittsburgh (Monday, October 13th through Thursday, October 16th.)

Many of you have not heard the story of the *last* time the Order met in Retreat in Pittsburgh. For reasons passing understanding, (other than the letter "P" and a condition I can only characterize as travel-related dyslexia) I booked and boarded a flight to Philadelphia instead. Once I realized my mistake, I managed to correct it in time to gather with my brothers and sisters to praise God, to learn more about praying the Psalms, and to receive that gift of comfort and strength which always comes to me at the annual Retreat of our Order.

Let my mistake be a cautionary tale for you. Make your plans early. Check them twice. Do everything in your power to make it possible for you to come to Pittsburgh and gather with your brothers and sisters. It will feed your soul in ways that you cannot imagine. If you are interested in leading a worship service on Retreat, *register as early as possible*. I recruit our worship leaders from the list of those who have registered, which I receive from the Chancellor General.

Of all of the things that we do on Retreat, it is our times of common prayer and common worship that lie closest to the heart of our Rule of Life and Service. As your Chaplain General, it is my task to find ways to enrich and enliven our prayer and worship together, and I covet your assistance. I am calling upon those among us who are instrumental musicians, liturgical dancers, artists of all kinds, choral singers, solo vocalists, artisans and craftsmen. If you will be on Retreat with the Order this year, **please contact me**. I would like very much to include as many of your skills and talents as possible in our offerings of praise and thanksgiving. My email address is anne.ferguson@garrett.edu

Let me also give you an update on our Holy Hardware Acquisition Project. Through the generosity of many of our members, the Order now has a portable altar, paraments, eucharistic vessels and linens, an ikon of St. Luke, a bookstand, and a banner. We have also received the promises of new gifts: a processional cross from Sr. Hazel Shue, a Lucifer (candle lighter/snuffer) from Br. Tom Beveridge, and an ikon stand from Br. Dan Benedict. Some generous member also made a gift of cash, for the purchase of needed items.

Our still-outstanding needs include a thurible (swinging incense burner), an aspersorium and aspergillum (holy water pot and sprinkler), and oil stocks for services of anointing. If you have any of these items lying about, the Order would be happy to have them. We would also be happy to receive cash donations to be used for the purchase of these items.

Please excuse the big fancy jargon words in the preceding paragraphs – it's the only way I have to flash my liturgy-geek union card.

I hope with all of my heart to see you in Pittsburgh (not Philadelphia) in October.

From the Officer for Pastoral Care
Bro. Tom Beveridge, OSL tandaosl@yahoo.com

Sisters and Brothers:

“Comfort.” That and related words appear almost ninety times in the English Bible, together with a like number of references to healing, plus assorted other words like “balm.” When I think of this, my mind always travels first to the opening of Isaiah, chapter 40. “‘Comfort! Comfort my people,’ says your God” – usually sounding through my soul set to the music of Handel’s oratorio, *The Messiah*.

I thought of this again recently when Amy and I went to hear a performance of Brahms’ *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, that opens and closes with the choruses centered on the words *Selig sind* – “Blessed are those who mourn ... “ and “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord ... “ Two things in particular struck me. First was the lump in my throat forcing tears to my eyes as the music began. *Selig sind ... for they shall be comforted.*” The other, after the last notes fell into silence, was the, oh, so very long silence before a packed cathedral exploded into thunderous applause.

In composing his *Requiem*, Brahms abandoned the traditional text from the Latin Requiem Mass with its great *Dies Irae*, which portrays the Day of Judgment and concentrates on prayer for the souls of those who have died. Instead, he hand picked passages from his German Bible to bring comfort to the living. Writing in 1866, he may have composed the *Requiem* in memory of his mother, who had died, or perhaps his friend and teacher Robert Schumann, who had died after a tragic onset of mental illness. Either way, it’s clear that the biblical passages he chose spoke to him of the comfort he sought in his own grief.

Brahms’ intention, the lump in my own throat, the silence-before-applause of the audience at this performance all speak to me of the deep longing we all share for comfort. Some of us, depending on circumstances, are bearing quite a heavy load, but all of us live in the midst of the tragedies of our world.

Nevertheless (another biblical word I like very much), there is still blessing. There is still comfort. And I continue to wonder at the awesome ways God speaks through us to each other in the Order. To mention only a few examples: We validate one another’s concerns. (No, we’re not weird to want to magnify the sacraments and celebrate them with integrity.) We pray for one another. (Yes, Brother. Yes, Sister. I hear you. I care. And I lift you and your loved ones into the light of God’s healing grace right now.) We pick up the phone so we can hear each other’s voices across the miles of our dispersion. Many of us share thought and prayer via the Cyber Chapter. When we are fortunate to gather as at Chapter or General Chapter meetings and retreats, we know the comfort of both seeing and being seen through the eyes of faith. Most of all, whatever we may be experiencing at any given time and place when we come to the Lord’s

Table we may sense one another's presence there across the miles. To me, these are all very comforting gifts of grace.

And then there is the sharing of stories of our joys and sorrows. Some of that news 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.

Peace,
Br. Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care

News:

New baby in our OSL Family! **Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson** and her husband *Matt* have announced the birth of their new baby girl Seraphina Renee Cranson, on Sunday, May 4th. Sr. Heather writes, "Everyone was amazed at how quickly labor progressed, and I am grateful for the help that all my dispersed brothers and sisters (now aunts and uncles?) gave me."
hjosselyn@hotmail.com

Br. Bill Oleweiler, newly wed and renewed by a honeymoon with Nancy in the U.S. Virgin Islands, retired from active ministry at the Virginia Annual Conference session in Roanoke, VA, June 2008. He moved to Orange Park, Florida in July, where he and Nancy will reside. 1804 Cross Pines Drive; Orange Park FL 32003-4920. (904) 278 5987
billrev@crosslink.net

Having already lost their son *Harry* who died two years ago after a long illness, **Br. Bill Hunter** and his wife *Shirley* are understandably reeling under the impact of suddenly learning that their other son *Tim*, who was apparently quite healthy and fit, has been diagnosed with Stage Four metastasized cancer – and this along with multiple related complications. *Tim* has been undergoing massive chemotherapy. He has also been forced to return to work in the midst of that in order to avoid losing his medical insurance. The Hunters are asking our prayers for the Spirit's healing within *Tim* and guidance for his healing team. billhunter@juno.com

We have also just learned that **Br. Bill Hunter** was appointed to serve the Durham: Oak Hill UMC in the Catskill Hudson District of the New York Conference. Br. Bill is a retired pastor and was formerly the prior of the NY Conference Chapter.

Br. Christopher Rodkey has received his D.Min. degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. His dissertation was titled, "The Synaptic Gospel: A Neurological Paradigm for Worship and Christian Ministry." This fall, Br. Chris will begin a one-year lectureship at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA. cdrodkey@yahoo.com

Sr. Anne Ferguson has been named Dean of the Chapel at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary where she is a doctoral candidate. anne.ferguson@garrett.edu

Br. Steve Bibb asks our prayers for those laboring to rebuild their lives and minister to one another in the wake of the tornados that devastated several communities in north central Iowa in late May ... and then after the wind came the rain! Community after community began to flood in eastern Iowa, then spreading to the west. In Cedar Rapids' Salem UMC, the church where Br. Steve's wife *Linda* is the senior pastor, the water has reached about half way up the outside walls. They had sandbagged, but in vain. Several other churches have been lost. The Cedar River, the Iowa River, etc., a total of nine rivers in Iowa are at higher water levels than ever in history. In summary, Br. Steve writes, "What is hitting national news is a mere hint of the full picture," and he thanks us all for our prayers. The town of Dike, IA, where Br. Steve serves, has been spared, making them "an island of blessing," offering what they can to friends and neighbors. sjbcedar@yahoo.com

Br. Mark Stamm, now serving on the faculty of Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in Dallas, TX, has been received as an elder in the North Texas Conference by transfer from the Central Pennsylvania Conference. mwstamm@tx.rr.com

Br. John Earl Taylor has celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. He is a member of the North Texas Conference of the UMC. jetvct@att.net

Br. Guy Camp's wife *Nancy* surprised him with a luncheon in celebration of his 40th anniversary of ordination with many friends from past congregations, and pictures from over the years. Congratulations, Br. Gooey! gooeycamp3@yahoo.com

Br. Frank Coats was ordained elder on May 27th at the Texas Annual Conference. He is serving as associate pastor at Williams Memorial UMC in Texarkana, TX. Also ordained with him was **Br. Joshua Hale**, whose wife *Christina Hale* was commissioned as a probationary member of the Texas Annual Conference. frankcoats@gmail.com

Sr. Kristen Dunn was ordained a deacon by the New York Annual Conference in June. She is currently completing a 10-month residency as a chaplain at Hartford Hospital; will finish that in August and then be job seeking in earnest. kmd@lifeofaction.org

From the Chancellor General

Br. W. Brent Sturm, O.S.L., chancellor@saint-luke.org

A Quick Look at Demographics

Membership in The Order stands at 745. Of these, 591 are under annual vows, 59 under life vows, and 95 are on leave of absence. Our membership is about one-third female (236 members), 87% United Methodist (647 members), and 75% clergy (556 members).

112 persons were removed from membership effective December 31, 2007, having not affirmed The Rule since at least December 31, 2005. Some of those, however, have since affirmed. 169 persons were placed on Leave of Absence effective December 31, 2007, having not affirmed The Rule in 2007. Through the work of our Provincial General and the Provincial Companions, 74 of those persons (44%) have returned to active membership. Efforts to nurture the remaining 95 members on leave are ongoing.

Members under Annual Vows must reaffirm The Rule at least annually, in writing, to the Chancellor General. A form is provided each fall for this purpose, and folk are asked to submit that form by October 18th each year. (The form can be also found at the Order of Saint Luke web site by going to <http://www.saint-luke.org> and clicking on “Who We Are” and then on “Joining OSL”. A button for a pdf version of the form will be found at the bottom of this page.) Those who have not re-affirmed by Thanksgiving receive a follow-up letter. They are then placed on Leave of Absence effective January 1st and referrals are made to the Provincial Companions through the office of The Provincial General.

Members of The Order who have been under Annual Vows for at least three full years may make application to the Abbot to enter discernment toward the profession of Life Vows. This is a personal decision and many - indeed, most - members choose to remain under Annual Vows.

Actions Taken at the May Council Meeting

At the meeting of the Council on the General Chapter in Charlotte on May 19, the decision was made to increase the suggested giving levels for members. The new amounts, effective this fall, are:

Basic \$60.00 (was \$50.00)	Spouse (<i>no publications</i>) \$25.00 (was \$20)
Supporting \$90.00 (was \$75)	Student/Retiree Spouse (<i>no publications</i>) \$10.00
Sustaining \$180.00 (was \$150)	Benefactor \$500.00
Student/Retiree \$25.00 (no change)	

The Council also approved a preliminary budget for 2008-2009 to be presented for final approval at the October meeting.

Preliminary 2008/2009 Operating Budget

	2007/2008 Budget	2008/2009 Proposed
Income		
Baubles and Beads	1,000.00	1,500.00
Donations	3,550.00	2150.00
Interest	500.00	100.00
Member Support	28,000.00	33,000.00
Retreat	0.00	2500.00
Subscription Fees	950.00	750.00
From Reserves	2,000.00	0.00
Total Income	\$36,000.00	\$40,000.00
Expenses		
Abbot's Expense	250.00	500.00
Audit Committee	1,400.00	1875.00
Casual Labor	1,200.00	1200.00
Chancellor General's Expense	2,000.00	2500.00
Council Expense	7,000.00	8325.00
Hickman Awards	800.00	900.00
Honoraria	2,800.00	2800.00
Insurance	925.00	900.00
Membership Services	500.00	500.00
Misc.	0.00	1000.00
Periodicals	10,000.00	12,000.00
Promotion	1,000.00	1,000.00
Provincial General's Expense	125.00	500.00
Publications Support	8,000.00	6,000.00
Total Expenses	\$36,000.00	\$40,000.00

Election of Officers

Election of our international officers is taking place this summer. All those who are members in good standing of The Order as of June 15th are entitled to vote.

The slate reported to Council by the Nominating Committee at our recent meeting in Charlotte, NC is as follows:

- For Abbot: Brother Daniel T. Benedict
- For Prior General: Sister Elizabeth S. "Sue" Moore
- For Chancellor General: Brother W. Brent Sturm
- For Provincial General: Brother George R. Crisp, Jr.

When you receive your ballot in the mail, please pray for God's guidance and mark an "X" in the box beside the names of those for whom you would vote. While there are no contested elections coming from the nominating committee (they nominated one person for each office), there is space provided to write in a candidate of your choice should you wish to vote for someone other than the committee's nominee. A pre-addressed return envelope is enclosed in the mailing to be used in returning your ballot to the Clerks of the Election. In order to be counted, ballots must be received by the clerks no later than July 31st. Those elected will be invested into their office at the Retreat in Pittsburgh this October.

If you believe that you are entitled to vote, but do not receive a ballot, please contact Br. rent Sturm at , chancellor@saint-luke.org.

The 2008 Convocation and Retreat of The Order of Saint Luke

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Are you an OSL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is this your first time attending an OSL retreat? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Your first name as you'd like it to appear on your Nametag: _____

If you have any special dietary or mobility needs, please note them in detail on the reverse.

Please note that most rooms in the retreat center are private with hall baths.

We are not able to provide group accommodations for Sunday night, October 12th.

☐ Please register me for the **Convocation only** (dinner on Monday, October 13th, through lunch on Wednesday, October 15th) at a cost of \$195.00.

☐ Please register me for the **Convocation and Retreat** (dinner on Monday, October 13th, through lunch on Thursday, October 16th) at a cost of \$225.00.

☐ I anticipate arriving in Pittsburgh by air, rail, or motor coach. Please have the local transportation coordinator contact me concerning ground transportation.

Those who plan to stay over on Thursday night, October 16th, either to attend the Council of the General Chapter meeting, or because it better facilitates travel, are invited to reserve lodging at the La Quinta Inn Pittsburgh Airport. A special group rate of \$58.65 (plus tax) has been negotiated for up to four persons in a room (2 double beds). Please call 1/866-527-1498 to reserve a room under the Order of Saint Luke group. The special rate is not available by calling the property direct.

Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ My check is enclosed.

□□□□ – □□□□ – □□□□ – □□□□

Exp. □□/□□

Signature: _____

Registration deadline is September 15, 2008.

Please return a completed registration form for each individual attending to:

Brother W. Brent Sturm, O.S.L., Chancellor General

The Order of Saint Luke

25 Tressel Street

White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986-2568 U.S.A.

The Font

The Order of Saint Luke
25 Tressel Street
White Sulphur Springs WV 24986

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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 Sept/Oct 2008 issue of <i>The Font</i> is August 15, 2008.
