The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke



From the Abbot's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope this letter finds you well, living into the fullness of the Easter Proclamation.

As I near the end of the spring term and look at my fiftieth birthday in the rearview mirror, it occurs to me that this has been one of the most intense years of my life, if not the most intense. I spent several days in the hospital with pneumonia. My father died shortly thereafter, and I'm well aware that my grief continues. I finished a book manuscript, as well as three short articles and at least two book reviews, etc. My older son moved back home for six weeks, and my younger son became a teenager. Perkins is undergoing a building process of several years duration, which will include the complete renovation of my building. So, the next several weeks will include grading papers and posting course grades, preparing for the OSL Council meeting, *and packing my office for a move into temporary quarters*. By and large, my students have been a delight, but their delightfulness has included them asking more questions and for more office consultations than I've ever handled before. God has been in the midst of my year, but again, it has been intense.

I have been sustained in a variety of ways, but most notably by the quiet consistency of the weekly Lord 's Day Word and Table service at Cox Chapel, Highland Park United Methodist Church, and by weekly prayers with the Perkins Chapter of the Order, which meets for Vespers on Tuesdays and Morning Prayer (and occasionally Eucharist) on Wednesdays. I don't do that much for my chapter—our prior, Br. Scot Bontrager, does most of the work. On Tuesdays, I teach until 5:50 pm, and then make my way into the choir area at Perkins Chapel, where we light the candle and the incense, recite the canticles and the creed, hear the readings, and make our prayers. I am grateful to God for the Order and its office, and for sisters and brothers who gather and help make space where I can pray.

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

> 2008 Convocation October 13-16, 2008 St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center Pittsburgh, PA

**Dr. Laurence H. Stookey**, author of **Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church** will serve as retreat leader, focusing on The Great Fifty Days and how we experience this season in our corporate worship. Please come...and discover that our 'home' is in our gathering, wherever it may be.

### From OSL Publications

Sr. Nancy Bryan Crouch, O.S.L, <u>Nancy@saint-luke.org</u>
Please note the following address change for Sr. Nancy:
P O Box 5506, Maryville TN 37802, Phone & Fax. 865-233-2314



# Newest title - "Two Ways of Praying" by Paul F. Bradshaw.

Available mid-June from Discipleship Resources (1-800-972-0433 or <u>www.upperroom.org/bookstore</u>)

\$19.95 retail.

(Editor's note: Go to <u>http://liturgicsjay.wordpress.com/2008/02/26/two-ways-of-praying/</u> for a brief article about the two ways of praying that Bradshaw presents in this book.)

From the Provincial General Br. George R. Crisp, O.S.L, <u>revgrc@yahoo.com</u>

I have been making contact with our chapters as we get ready for our spring Council meeting at Myers Park UMC, Charlotte, NC. The reports presented here, continuing our rotation pattern for reporting, are the most up to date news from the chapters who have checked in with me this spring. 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 <u>move to a new assignment</u> or <u>change your internet service provider</u>, be sure to provide your Provincial General with updated contact information. – Br. George R. Crisp, Provincial General revgrc@yahoo.com

# **Chapter News**

The **Boston University Chapter** meetings have reduced this year due to shifts in the lives of the members. Our order had two installments of our annual October vow renewal during the week of St. Luke's day and we met two other times in the fall semester. In the spring semester we focused our efforts on our Lenten retreat which has been the only meeting time to date. Our Lenten retreat once again was with the Sisters of Saint Margaret in Roxbury. They welcomed us like family and this year we joined in with a special Lenten Day of prayer on Saturday. Otherwise we joined them for the daily office and meals, and we shared together both quiet times and times of spiritual companionship in the William Lloyd Garrison guest house. Besides members of the Order we open this retreat to the greater BU School of Theology community. Br. Jeff Cox contributed our annual Lenten Retreat ice cream cake. Our officers remain: Sarah Mount, Prior; Cheryln Gates, Spiritual Formation Officer.

The **East Ohio Local Chapter** continues to meet monthly, on the third Thursday. We have chosen to meet at a location that is central to most of our members: Trinity United Church of Christ, in Wadsworth, where Br. Dan Doty is pastor. We meet for Eucharist, Spiritual Formation, business and lunch. For the past two years we have alternated between morning and evening meetings, in the hope of being more accessible to those members unable to get away during the day. However, we have decided to return to a format of meeting in the morning, since none of the members who might have been better served by the evening meetings have taken advantage of that format. The chapter has just concluded a study of Br. Dwight's *Food for Pilgrims*, and has begun Martha Sterne's *Earthly Good*. We are considering a chapter retreat, but plans are only in the initial stages at this time. For 2008 the following officers were elected and installed: Br. Steve Sullivan, Prior; Br. French Ball, Sub-Prior; Br. David Powell, Formation Officer; Br. Dan Doty, Chancellor.

Sr. Monica Monk reports: I have not been successful in gathering the **Louisiana Chapter** together for meetings other than an annual lunch at Annual Conference. We do hold that lunch at Broadmoor UMC, so we can include the celebration of Eucharist (in the chapel) as part of our gathering. We have not had formal election of officers, but those functioning in those positions are: Sr. Monica Monk, Prior; Br. Juan Huertas, Sub-Prior/Chancellor; Br. Joseph Awotwi, Chaplain.

The **New Jersey Chapter** continues to meet each month to study and discuss *Emerging Churches* by Ryan K. Bolger and Eddie Gibbs. In January, we were blessed by discussion with Don and Pam Heatley of the Vision Faith Community in Warwick, NY. As the Provincial Companion, I have been working on the membership list to update it an invite all to our monthly gatherings and have published an article in our UM paper, *The Relay*, to offer invitation and testimony as to why I have joined the OSL. We gather again May 6-8 at St. John the Baptist Retreat Center in Mendham, NJ, with the Rev. Heather Murray-Elkins and have invited other OSL chapters from our jurisdiction. As our discussion with the Heatleys was so engrossing, we did not renew our membership vows in January and will do so in May. The [chapter] will be providing the Morning Prayers and Eucharist at Annual Conference, May 29-31, in Valley Forge, PA. We will take time to renew over the summer and meet again in September at the summer home of Don and Gail Brown in Ocean City, NJ. Chapter officers are Sr. Sue Moore, Prior and Sr. Hazel Thomas Shue, Chancellor.

The **Perkins (SMU) Chapter** of OSL meets several times a week: Monday evening table fellowship usually 4 - 5 participants; Tuesday evening Vespers usually has 6 - 7 participants and 2 - 3 non-OSL visitors; Wednesday morning prayer usually has 4 - 5 participants and a few non-OSL visitors; ad-hoc events (usually involving food) happen quite randomly and frequently. Lunch last Thursday, for example, had 5 members and two visitors. Our annual Easter Vigil in conjunction with Highland Park UMC was quite a success this year. The Perkins chapter had 5 people involved in the service and one or two members just observing. We are having a chapter meeting on May 15. We will also have a service of profession for new members. Officers are Scot Bontrager, Prior and Laura Browning, Sub-prior.

The **St. Paul School of Theology Chapter** is meeting once a month during the school year and only electronically during the summer months. We have been doing some updating of our campus, putting in equipment for meditative prayer music in the chapel, getting new communion sets, etc., as well as looking into having our Abbot, Mark Stamm, come and speak next fall. Our officers are: Robert Shawn Streepy, Prior; Sr. Morgan Whitaker, Sub-Prior [graduating this spring]; Andy Smith and David Elmore, Chancellors; Susan Hoover and Committee, Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

There has been a set back for the **Hiwassee** (**College**) **Association.** Br. Julius McCarter, Faculty Advisor wrote in February: "I am leaving Hiwassee College over the course of the next few days, so I will no longer serve as the faculty advisor. At the moment, the two members are in prayer and discernment about what to do next. Someone will be in touch with you over the course of the coming weeks to let you know the situation and their decision." [P.G. Note: At this point, this group's status or level of activity is unknown.]

#### *From the Prior General Br. Stanley Tanner, O.S.L.,*

As Prior-General, it is my responsibility to administer the Hoyt L. Hickman award, which is sponsored by the Order. This award is to be given to a graduating senior who, in the judgment of a faculty committee, who has shown exceptional ability in liturgical scholarship, and exceptional ability in leading worship. This award, of course, honors our brother Hoyt, who has served the United Methodist Church as pastor, writer, teacher, and denominational executive. The award is to be given in the following institutions in 2008: Asbury Theological Seminary, Bangor Theological Seminary, Boston University School of Theology, Candler School of Theology (Emory University), Christian Theological Seminary, Claremont School of Theology, The Theological School at Drew University, Dubuque Theological Seminary, Duke University Divinity School, Garrett-Evangelical Theological School in Ohio, Perkins School of Theology (Southern Methodist University), Saint Paul School of Theology, United Theological School, and Wesley Theological Seminary.

The names of the awardees are just now coming in. When I have all the names, I will share that information through The Font, so that you can contact any who might be in your area and extend an invitation to consider joining the Order, as well as extending your congratulations.

# From the Officer for Pastoral Care

Bro. Tom Beveridge, OSL <u>tandaosl@yahoo.com</u>

# Sisters and Brothers:

I had an interesting conversation with one of the pastors of our church yesterday. Allison showed life map, I think you could call it, entitled "It's Your Choice," by Marilee Adams, Ph.D. This piece depicts two paths for living, the Learner Path and the Judger Path. The gist of it is that it is the questions I ask myself as I interact with people that determine which path I am on.

On the Learner Path, as stressful interactions occur I may be asking such questions as "What happened?" "What assumptions am I making?" "What can I learn?" "What are my choices?" And so on. With the help of such questions, the Learner Path keeps me solution focused; helps me be with others to make thoughtful choices and arrive at Win-Win solutions.

On the Judger Path, if I'm honest with myself, as problems arise I will probably find that I am asking such questions as "Whose fault is it?" "What's wrong with me?" "What's wrong with them?" "Why are they being so irritating?" And so on. The Judger Path leads me to focusing on blame and Win-Lose relating. Ultimately, Adams says, it leads me to the "Judger Pit" where I may just end up asking myself "Why bother?"

Having spent so much of my counseling life trying to understand what makes people (including myself, sometimes) unhappy and how to change that, this makes a lot of sense to me. I share it with you thinking that perhaps it will ring true for you, too. Adams recommends that if you find yourself on the Judger Path, the way to switch paths is to start asking the Learner Path questions.

Jesus said that our love for one another is how our discipleship shows. And my thought is that whether you who read this are a pastor or a layperson one of the greatest gifts we can give each other in the Church is to do what we can to help each other stay on the Learner Path.

The title of Marilee Adams' book is, *Change Your Questions, Change Your Life*. Also, you can learn more her website at: <u>www.InquiryInstitute.com</u> First thing you'll see there is, "Great Results Begin With Great Questions." T

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 <u>tandaosl@yahoo.com</u> 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:

**Br. Mark Parsons** has been admitted into the Doctor of Worship Studies degree program at The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Orange Park, FL. He shares his excitement and asks for our prayers. Br. Mark is currently pastor of the Canaan UM Charge in Charleston, WV <u>umcpastormark@gmail.com</u>

**Br. Eric Nelson** is to be commissioned in June at the Wisconsin Annual Conference. He is on the Elder track. Br. Eric is currently serving the Johnson Creek UMC in Johnson Creek, WI as he completes CPE and certification studies in spiritual formation. jcumc@tds.net

**Br. Steve Bibb** is to be appointed to the First UMC in Fort Doge, IA. This will be a regular, rather than an interim, appointment. Br. Steve has been serving in Intentional Interim appointments for about the last 10 years. His wife Linda is also moving to become Senior Pastor

at Asbury United Methodist Church in Webster City, IA, only about 20 miles from Fort Dodge. They are looking forward to being able to live at the same address - a welcome change from their living arrangements of most of the last 13 years. <u>sjbcedar@yahoo.com</u>

**Br. Ken Van** will be changing appointments this summer, moving from the Cheny UMC to become pastor of the First UMC, Junction City, KS. <u>kvan403@sbcglobal.net</u>

**Br. Guy Camp** has been pastoring St. Stephen's UCC since the beginning of March. Better to let him tell it in his own words: ". I told them there were 2 requests: 1) all would not be sitting in the back of the church and so I moved the hymnals to the front half. All went well until this last Sunday when one moved a hymnal a row behind and I reminded her of my request and she moved up, and 2) I would not [be] coming to a dying church . I've invited others but they must also invite and bring some old ones back." As many of you know, Br. Guy also drives cars where dealerships need them to be delivered. He continues: "Yesterday I drove 2 Mustangs, a Toyota truck, a Jeep Wrangler and a Subaru sport with plenty of power and noise. Oh the life of a retired life. Ho hum!!!" **Br. Guy à ;-)** gooeycamp4@yahoo.com

Please welcome and join in Thanksgiving for a new baby boy in our OSL family. **Br. James** and **Sr. Gail Edmison** welcomed the birth of their grandson Carson James Wyatt Edmison on March 15, 2008. Parents are their son *James Wesley Edmison* and his wife *Sarah*. Carson's big sister is *Paige*. Br. James writes that "Carson is growing incrementally and all are doing well. edmisonjames@yahoo.com

**Br. Lewis Worthington** has proudly shared with us that, asked what gift she would like on the occasion of her confirmation, his daughter Madison replied, "Do you think I could join The Order of Saint Luke?" ;-) <u>lewisworthington@gmail.com</u>

**Br. Edwin Pun** has started a blog site; is asking for feedback. <u>Pun.edwinp@gmail.com</u> The site address is: <u>http://www.edwinser mons.blogspot. com/</u>

**Br. Marsden Kitley** died March 11, 2008 at the age of 74. Condolences may be sent to: Family of R. Marsden Kitley, PO Box 1162, Thomasville, NC 27361-1162.

Please keep **Sr. Lana Sutton** and her family in your prayers as they grieve the recent death of her husband Paul. A retired professor at UM related North Central College, Paul had been ill for many years. Last year, Sr. Lana retired to spend more time with him as his health challenges increased. Thankfully, he lived long enough to see the birth of his first grandchild last year. <u>Itsutton@comcast.net</u>

# From the Chancellor General

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

The Spring Council meeting will be May 19-21 in Charlotte, NC. We will be staying at the Best Western Airport Inn and meeting at Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, and they are providing all our meals. Shuttle service is provided by the motel to and from the airport. (call for the shuttle after you pick up your luggage.)

# Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke JUNE

MAY		
T F	<b>1</b> 2	Ascension Day W Philip and James the Less R (Transferred)
S	3	Thomas Coke W
S	4	7th Sunday of Easter W Ascension Sunday W (optional)
M T W T F S	5 6 7 8 9 10	Olaf Gustav Hedstrom W W Julian of Norwich W Gregory of Nazianzus W W Eve of Pentecost R
<b>S</b> M <b>T</b> W T F S	<b>11</b> 12 <b>13</b> 14 15 16 17	Pentecost R G G G William Nast G Harry Hosier G Eve of Trinity Sunday W
S M T W T F S	<ul> <li><b>18</b></li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li><b>22</b></li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ul>	Trinity Sunday W G G G Eve of Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist W Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist W G William Edwin Robert Sangster G
S M T W T F	<b>25</b> 26 27 28 29 30	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost G G John Calvin G G G G

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost G S 1 The Martyrs of Lyons G Μ 2 Т 3 G W 4 G Т 5 Boniface G F 6 G S 7 Chief Seattle G 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost G S 8 Columba and Aidan G Μ 9 Т 10 W Barnabas R 11 Т 12 G F 13 G S Basil the Great G 14 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost G S 15 Μ 16 G Т 17 G W Matthew Simpson G 18 Т 19 G F 20 G S Thomas Bowman Stephenson G 21 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost G S 22 Μ 23 G Т Nativity of John the Baptist W 24 W 25 G Т 26 G F 27 G S 28 Irenaeus G Peter Jones or Kahkewaquonaby G

- S 29 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost G M 30 Peter and Paul R

Please note the following:

31 The Visitation W

S

- 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** 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 <u>osl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com</u>, with "subscribe" as the subject line

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

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

Grace and Peace, Sr. Sue Moore

Deadline for submissions for the July/Aug 2008 issue of The Font is June 15, 2008.