

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

September/October 2008



From the Abbot's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
I hope this letter finds you well.

With thanksgiving, this week I received our Order of Saint Luke election results. At the investiture service on Wednesday afternoon, October 15th, the following officers will begin their four-year terms:

Brother Daniel Benedict, Abbot
Sister Elizabeth "Sue" Moore, Prior General
Brother George Crisp, Provincial General
Brother Brent Sturm, Chancellor General

They are beloved siblings, and I look forward to their leadership.

I thank all of you who responded to the call to service as I have tried to give it voice over the past eight years. Especially, I want to thank Brother Stanley Tanner, who answered your call to serve two terms as Prior General and whose term will also come to an end in October. Brother Stanley has served with deep piety and many hours of hard work. We are indebted to him.

And, I thank you, again, for calling me to service as your Abbot. It has been a high privilege and blessed journey.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Convocation in Pittsburgh.

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

Election of Officers

As Clerks of the Election, it is our privilege to announce that Br. Daniel T. Benedict, OSL, has been unanimously elected as the next Abbot of The Order of Saint Luke. Also called to service by the General Chapter through election are Sr. Elizabeth S. "Sue" Moore, OSL, as Prior-General; Br. W. Brent Sturm, OSL, as Chancellor-General; and Br. George R. Crisp, OSL, as Provincial-General.

We call upon our Brothers and Sisters of the Order to join us in prayer for our General Officers-Elect as they prepare to serve the Order, the Church, and the Lord in these offices.

Br. Stephen B. Ball, OSL
Br. Jason Constantine, OSL
Clerks of the Election

From the Provincial General

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

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” We have much about which to rejoice as we move into the months of fall. Two new chapters of the Order have come into being since my last Font report.

In July, the **Trinity Chapter** of north Texas was given birth at First UMC, The Colony. It was a diverse group of women, men, laity and clergy representing two annual conferences. Abbot Mark Stamm presided at the Table as the group came together, and Br. John Taylor is providing leadership. *(See story below from Br. John)*

A second chapter, the **Southeastern Ohio Chapter**, held its organizational meeting July 19; the group is planning monthly meetings. Br. Brian McKee will serve as Prior of a diverse group that includes two Episcopalians, two Continuing Anglicans, and a Melkite (Byzantine) Catholic. They also have two United Methodist prospects. All but one of the members of this chapter are laity. *(See story below from Br. Brian)*

The following reports 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 **Cyber Chapter** “meets” 24/7/366 (this and every leap year, at least!). Last spring they were discussing Holy Week, Eastertide, the Nicene Creed, and issues related to schism – as well as learning about new opportunities in study and ministry, and sharing in prayer with those who ask for intercession. Br Taylor Burton-Edwards continues to serve as Prior.

The **Estonia Association** has not met during the past year. They have been encouraged to hold at least one, preferably two meetings a year in order to keep their covenant relationship with the Order of Saint Luke. Br. Priit Gregorios Tamm, who teaches Liturgics at Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, remains the primary contact person.

The **Memphis/Memphis Theological Seminary Chapter** continues to be inactive, at the request of Br. Scott Alford, “allowing the Holy Spirit room for movement. The prayers of the General Chapter are appreciated.”

The **Northern Indiana Chapter** is currently inactive. Br. Tom Ream last reported in 2006 and was planning to schedule a November meeting for the renewal of vows.

Br. Julio R. Vargas-Vidal, of the **Puerto Rico Chapter** (which chartered May 22, 2007), reported that the group held an installation service on May 13, 2008 at the Santisima Trinidad Methodist Church, in

Old San Juan, PR. They have six official OSL members. Of these, five are Methodist and one is Presbyterian.

The **Sarum Chapter** of western North Carolina continues to be inactive. Although there is interest from OSL members who are in the area., no gathering of this chapter's remnants has been reported to the Provincial General.

Br. David Roberts, of the Carroll's-Gill's United Methodist Church in Lutherville, Maryland reported last May: "The **Baltimore-Washington/Wesley Seminary Chapter** of the Order is not functioning at the present. I hope to be able to get one if not both (or both together) active again in the near future."

News from Northern Illinois Chapter:

The chapter met in August at the home of Sr. Linda Deming in Wood Dale, IL for a good time of discussion of Br. Dwight's text: Food for Pilgrims. Following our discussion we held an delightful potluck picnic with all the good tastes of a summer picnic. We were sorry several members were unable to join us at the last minute, but those who attended had a good time. We plan to meet in September, but date and time will be sent out after our Prior, Br. David returns from his vacation trip to PA, NJ, VA and DC. Can you believe it, he is old enough to go to his 40th year High School Reunion!

News from the Trinity Chapter

from Prior John Taylor, O.S.L.

On a blistering hot day typical of north Texas in July a new chapter was given birth. Eleven OSL members gathered at First UMC, The Colony, for worship and planning, then adjourned for lunch at a local restaurant.

Though the gathered group was all UM's it was a diverse group: three women and eight men; two annual conferences; two lay, four commissioned on the elder track, three deacons, and two elders. The group was of one mind in seeking to form a chapter. There were reports of several others who wished to be a part of the chapter, but could not attend, including clergy from two other denominations.

Those present for the "birthing" included: Cynthia Astle, Scot Bontrager, Wally Butts, Rebecca Grogan, Terry Heislen, Mary Martin, Abbott Mark Stamm, Joe Stobaugh, John Taylor, Eddie Trevino, and Lewis Worthington.

Abbott Mark presided at table. Br. Scot is prior of the Perkins Chapter and will participate as time allows, thus giving us a firm connection between the two chapters. Sr. Rebecca, Br. John, and Br. Terry led worship.

Following worship a brief outline was given of establishing a chapter. The by-laws of the Order spell this out. Accordingly, Abbott Mark and Provincial Companion John declared the chapter in order. Officers and a statement of purpose will be finalized at the next meeting on 4 August. It is the intention to meet monthly on the first Monday. The new chapter will be named Trinity Chapter. The name comes not only from the order's emphasis on the Triune God, but also in remembering the Trinity Annual Conference, established in October 1867 meeting in Sulphur Springs, Texas, a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. [The name was changed a decade later to the North Texas Conference.] In addition the Trinity River is the main water stream through the conference.

With laughter, the swapping of stories, the making of new friends, the new Trinity Chapter of The Order of Saint Luke is a healthy newborn! Thanks be to Almighty God for this opportunity of life and service in Christ's name.

News from the Southeastern Ohio Chapter

from Prior Brian McKee, O.S.L.

The organizational meeting of the Southeastern Ohio Chapter of the Order of St. Luke was held on July 19 at St. Saviour By The River Anglican Church, Eagleport, Ohio. Three new members made Profession of Vows, one member made his annual Renewal of Vows. One member was unable to attend due to another commitment. We joined together in the service of Morning Prayer from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer including the chanting of the Canticles; followed by the Service of Profession of Vows; a picnic lunch (inside in the air-conditioned "Upper Room" [church parish hall]); concluding with a spiritual formation workshop on Praying the Daily Offices including using Icons for Prayer.

We have interest from an Old Catholic Bishop who is interested in becoming a member, as well. Our current members include 2 Episcopalians, 2 Anglicans, and a Melkite (Byzantine) Catholic. We also have 2 United Methodist prospects. All of our members are currently laity, with the exception of an ordained Permanent Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.

We plan to hold our next monthly meeting on Sat., August 16, 2008, at St. Saviour By The River Anglican Church @ 11:30 AM. More details later.

Our Chapter leadership is: Br. Brian McKee, Prior; Br. Robert Howell, Sub-Prior; Br. Farris Wilhite, Chancellor; Sr. Elissa Wilhite, Spiritual Formation Officer.

Community of Saint Luke

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L.

Community of Saint Luke:

The Community will be meeting at the site of the Convocation to finalize plans for our retreat in February in Myrtle Beach, SC. Please watch for an announcement of our meeting at the Convocation. We are not planning to stay an extra day at this retreat. Further details about the Winter retreat will be shared in the next issue of the Font.

From the Prior General

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

Sisters and Brothers:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! That's right, you can still register to attend the 2008 Convocation and Retreat of The Order of Saint Luke. Just email Br. Brent Sturm, our Chancellor-General, and let him know you'd like to come. Or you could use the registration form on page 9 in this issue of the FONT.

It will be a rich time for us all. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey will be discussing the Great Fifty Days with us. We will join in worship and discussion and install our new abbot, Br. Dan Benedict, and our new Prior General, Sr. Sue Moore, as well as re-installing Br. George Crisp and Br Brent Sturm to the positions they have filled so well over the last two election cycles. Attendance at Retreat is the best way to fill out one's sense of the Order. You really don't want to miss it.

Grace and Peace from StLukesintheWood
Stan Tanner, O.S.L.

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

Sisters and Brothers:

This has been a bittersweet summer for Sr. Amy and me. In July, we traveled to North Carolina for the wedding of our son Tom and his beloved Lee Ellen Wright. Despite the many challenges both of them face, the occasion was filled with happiness, love and hope. All that was in counterpoint, however, to no less than five deaths of people close to us – an Uncle in June, three dear friends, and the son of a retired UMC pastor in our conference and his wife whom we have known for over forty years.

Among these, there was Sam, whose memorial service we missed because it was on the same day as Tom's wedding. We did see Sam two days before he died -- knowing, both he and us, that this would be the last time.

And then after our return there was Ann, whose Requiem Mass we were able to attend. If ever such an occasion can be joyful, this one was. Joyful, because of who Ann was, and because of the faith and love she brought into every relationship with members of her family and many, many friends. Have you ever known someone who, when she talked with you, focused on that conversation as if you were the only other person in the whole universe? That was Ann! People who spoke their memories of her spoke of her “unconditional delight” in each person she spoke to. One speaker said she thought of such words as “passion and compassion” – then paused and went on, “I was going to add ‘humor and faith,’ but then I realized that ‘humor’ and ‘faith’ are really the same thing.”

Humor as Faith! Faith as Humor! I had never before linked those two words together in quite the same way as now. But as I think about it, one thing that Sam and Ann had in common was a delightful sense of humor. And at the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, one after another of Tom's and Lee's family and friends spoke of their sense of humor. Surely, that is a key ingredient they bring to their marriage, to unlock faith and strength for meeting life's challenges.

Humor as Faith! Faith as Humor! The more I think about it, I can see that this is a great way to frame what pastoral care and being a pastoral community are all about. Pastoral care works best when another person becomes, for a moment, the only other person in the universe. That makes unconditional delight possible. It makes shared, life-giving humor possible. Sam and Ann embodied that approach to pastoral care. And so do you, my brothers and sisters in the Order. Thank you for that.

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.

Peace,
Br. Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care

News:

Br. French Ball was honored in June by the East Ohio Annual Conference when he was awarded the Van Bogard Dunn Ecumenical Award. Named for a late faculty member at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio who was known for his ecumenical activities and support, this award is given annually to one clergy and one layperson who exhibit outstanding advocacy and service in ecumenism. Br. French has served as chair of the ecumenical commission of his annual conference, is currently chair of the Ohio

Faith and Order Commission, and has recently been named to the United Methodist delegation to the National Council of Churches. fball@bright.net



Br. Stenly Djatah is a new member of OSL. He writes that he is a priest of the Indonesia Presbyterian Church (Gereja Kristen Indonesia - GKI). Currently he and his wife Trowce Nalle are living in Penang, Malaysia where he is studying for his Ph.D. at the School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia. His wife is a medical doctor in anesthesia practice, and they have a 5 year-old daughter whose name is Carmely Eucharisty. He learned us from a friend and via the website and asks that we, his new OSL family, remember him and his family in our prayers.
djatah@yahoo.com



Picture! Picture!! Seraphina Renee Cranson waves, “Hi” to her OSL aunts and uncles.

(Note: I had this picture before, of **Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson** and husband *Matt*’s new baby *Seraphina Renee*, born May 4; am just now figuring out how to insert it here. So, better late than never. Hi, Seraphina!)

hjosselyn@hotmail.com

And in three month’s time, *Seraphina*’s parents have kept her well fed and cared for so that now she has grown to look like this!



“Here’s looking at you, Aunties and Uncles!”

Br. Elliott Bush and his wife *Trudy* have had a most eventful summer! They moved from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to Gambier, Ohio where he has retired. And then two weeks later they left for a month in China to greet the birth of their grandson James Jarvis Bush (aka *Zha Yuan Chou*), born to their son *David J. Bush* and his wife *Zha Li Ping*. Note that the Chinese practice is surname first rather than last. So, best wishes to the Bush/*Zha* family! pstrelliott@gmail.com

Sr. Erika Hirsch has recently moved to Massachusetts to begin a PH.D. program at Boston University. Her interest is in Methodist history and hymnody. She is also pleased to be relocating to an area with an active OSL chapter. erika.k.hirsch@gmail.com

Br. Chris Rodkey will be ordained on Sunday, October 26 at 4:00 p.m. at The Community Church, 48 Briarcliff Road, Mountain Lakes, NJ. For those who can attend, he wishes that you know you are welcome. Clergy are invited to perhaps arrive a little early, to robe and join in the processional. Br. Chris will be installed as Pastor of Zion Goshert's UCC in Lebanon, PA, later in the fall or winter.
cdrodkey@yahoo.com

In case you wondered, **Br. Bill and Lucille Beasley** are OK. The wildfires in Santa Barbara were in an outlying area a dozen or so miles from their house. So except for some family/friends who stayed with them briefly to get out of harm's way, and for smoke and ash for a while, they were not directly affected and they and those near and dear to them were unharmed.

Br. Brian McKee has organized a Food Pantry at his church; open on Sundays and also one evening/month. St. Saviour By The River Anglican Church, Eagleport, Ohio, serves people whom you

might not necessarily assume are in need of food – who are not on welfare, food stamps or other such programs. The majority are senior citizens who have worked hard all of their lives. There are also single, working mothers who work hard to make a living for their children; however, they work at poor paying jobs (minimum wage) with no benefits, no insurance, etc. Many are waitresses whom the law allows to be paid an even lower minimum wage than the normal minimum wage. There are also veterans of various wars and conflicts who are in need of assistance. bmckeesar@yahoo.com

Br. Richard Hoffmann, brother of **Br. Ted Hoffmann**, died on June 19th in Lakeland, FL. Br. Richard was retired from the U.S. Marine Corps and was once offered a chair in the Marine Band in Washington. After retiring from the Corps, he served as a West Virginia State Police officer. Very committed to his family and to Christ and His Church, he was an active member of his church where he served in several capacities as an officer. For many years, Br. Richard handled serious health problems, both for himself and his children, with great faith and courage. His only son died in his teens after an illness of several years. Please keep Br. Richard's widow *Ione* and daughters *Mary* and *Grace* in your prayers. Br. Ted and Br. Richard used to address one another as "Brother Brother." tedshoff@mi-connection.com

Ruth Ann Conner, wife of **Br. Dwayne Conner**, died on June 25th after a valiant nine-year battle with cancer. Ruth Ann's love and passion were for children, which she lived out in her twenty-five year career as a public school teacher (K-1). She also served for several years as an assistant librarian at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. Br. Dwayne and Ruth Ann were married for forty-four years. Her memorial service, much of which she planned, was on July 12th at Adair United Methodist Church, Adair, Oklahoma where Br. Dwayne serves in a retired capacity. dwayneandruthann@upperspace.net (Note: When I spoke with him in mid-August, a lightning strike had knocked out Br. Dwayne's e-mail. If you wish to be in touch and have trouble that way, snail mail might work better: 315 No. Cheatham, Adair, OK 74330-2233)

Update on news from **Br. Bill Hunter** and his wife *Shirley* regarding the illness of their son *Tim*: Despite heroic medical efforts, Tim's cancer overwhelmed him very quickly and he died on Tuesday, July 8. Tim was one of the Hunters' two children; their only other son Harry also died two years ago. They are, of course, devastated by both these losses. Br. Bill asks that we pray that Tim be received into his Heavenly home. And please also keep Br. Bill and Shirley in your prayers. billhunter@juno.com

Marilyn Stanger Woodruff, mother of **Sr. Jennifer Woodruff Tait**, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on July 6th at the age of 68. Sr. Jennifer asks the prayers of our OSL community for their family. profjenn@juno.com

Betty K. Reed, aunt of our **Sr. Lisa Griffith**, passed away on July 29th, of cancer, in Pooler, GA. Memorial service was in White Sulphur Springs, WV, on August 9th. Sr. Lisa has asked for our prayers for the family -- for *Maurice*, *Bonnie*, *Sherry*, *Eddie* and all the rest. eumclisa@yahoo.com



Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

SEPTEMBER

M	1	G
T	2	G
W	3	Samuel Checote G
T	4	Albert Schweitzer G
F	5	G
S	6	James Bradley Finley G
S	7	17th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	8	G
T	9	G Mary Bosanquat Fletcher
W	10	G
T	11	Isabella Thoburn, Clara Swain G
F	12	G
S	13	Anthony Bewley G
S	14	18th Sunday after Pentecost G M
	15	G
T	16	
W	17	G
T	18	Dag Hammarskjold G
F	19	G
S	20	G
S	21	19th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	22	Matthew R (transferred)
T	23	
W	24	G
T	25	Peter Cartwright G
F	26	Freeborn and Catherine Garrettson G
S	27	John Dickins and Alejo Hernandez
S	28	20th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	29	Michael and All Angels W,
T	30	Jerome and George Whitefield

OCTOBER

W	1	G
T	2	G
F	3	G
S	4	Francis of Assisi G
S	5	21th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	6	William Tyndale and Jennie Fowler Willing G
T	7	John Wolman
W	8	G
T	9	G
F	10	G
S	11	G
S	12	22nd Sunday after Pentecost G
M	13	G
T	14	G
W	15	Teresa of Avila G
T	16	Thomas Cranmer G
F	17	Ignatius of Antioch G
		Eve of Luke R
S	18	Luke R
S	19	23rd Sunday after Pentecost G
M	20	G
T	21	G
W	22	G
T	23	James of Jerusalem R
F	24	Sarah Crosby G
S	25	G
S	26	24th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	27	G
T	28	Simon and Jude R
W	29	G
T	30	G
F	31	G
		Eve of All Saints W (traditional)

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 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

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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 Nov/Dec 2008 issue of <i>The Font</i> is October 20, 2008.
