



The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

January/February 2011

Sisters and Brothers in the Order,

With all our sisters and brothers in the Christian church, we are people awaiting a new heaven and a new earth. We welcome every sign of the coming reign of God, yet we must always be repenting of our attachments to the old order, which often benefit “us” at the expense of the poor and marginalized. The “politics” of the Kingdom are disruptive and unsettling to the established. We are the disrupted in the zip codes where we live and we are unsettled as a community in diaspora. There is no easy peace this side of the realization of the new creation (Rev. 21).



In the last *Font* I named several issues about which I, as abbot, invite your attention and prayerful reflection: our life as “religious,” the need for greater diversity, the challenge of our growing international membership, the centrality of attention to the poor and outcast, and our denominational orientation.

Here, I’d like to probe more deeply the last of these. As a Lukan community, are we Methodist, United Methodist or ecumenical? If the latter, what would that mean? Look like?

Frankly, I think the “new” of God’s reign is moving us beyond a denomination specific orientation. We were founded by Methodists in 1946. In 1968, the union of Evangelical United Brethren and The Methodist Church parlayed us into The United Methodist sphere. As an Order we have had a strong relationship with the denomination, including representation on hymnal and book of worship revision committees and an ongoing “affiliate” relationship with denomination’s General Board of Discipleship.

However, the institutional matters of appointments, church politics and finances, pensions, whether or not we have a hymnal, and the like are not central to the life of the Order. Increasingly members of OSL are from churches other than United Methodist, including Nazarene, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Anglican/Episcopal, Lutheran, United Church of Canada, the Methodist Church in Singapore, and at least one Orthodox member. OSL Publications publishes books by authors from a diverse array of denominations. My sense is that the Spirit is speaking to us, inviting us to discern how to go forward into awareness that we are a community gathered from the “one, holy, catholic and apostolic church,” as the Nicene Creed casts it.

I just finished reading a commentary on Charles Wesley’s eucharistic hymns by an Episcopal professor published by a Methodist press in England. That juxtaposition struck me. United Methodists seem to have coopted dear Charles as “ours” when, in fact, he was always an Anglican and a “catholic” Christian. (Yes, he was the poet of the Methodist wing of the evangelical revival, but that was a contingency in history, not a delimiting of the work of Christ.) *The Altar’s Fire* by Daniel Stevick, (a stunning and provocative study, by the way), strikes me as

a sign of what the Order's approach might be in the coming years: one of appreciative inquiry and heuristic embrace of the Wesleyan/Methodist inheritance within the widening, ecumenical unity of catholic Christianity.

I realize that the terms used in that last sentence may be imprecise and open to misunderstanding. I hope that ongoing dialogue and further comment will bring clarity.

As with Luther, Calvin, and other reformers, and the rich treasury of the patristic/"matristic" catholic heritage, the Wesley's work and writings have been, and continue to be, seminal resources for reflection and constructive theological, ecclesial and liturgical dialogue. The Order can well continue to value and engage them appreciatively, without claiming them narrowly as United Methodist or Nazarene.

The Order can be grateful and attentive to the Wesleyan and Methodist charism in ways that welcome Christians of the full range of the ecumenical church. There is much yet to do to bring John and Charles into dialogue with Orthodox, Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, and other streams of ecumenical thought. John Wesley's sermon, "[The Catholic Spirit](#)" (no. 39), may be a suitable launch point for further conversation among us. I commend study of that sermon to you, to the Cyber Chapter, discussion on our website, and local chapters, in light of the Order's increasingly ecumenical membership.

May we together welcome all whom God calls to our vocational community.

All praise to the One who makes all things new,

Br. Abbot Daniel+



In the Communion of Saints

Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, hjosselyn@hotmail.com

Traditionally, Christian religious communities have kept necrologies of their members in order to remember each brother or sister on the date of his or her death. Such a commemoration displays the community's belief that Christ is victorious over death. If, indeed, Christ defeated death on the cross, then death cannot truly separate all who are members of Christ's body. We are all, no matter what, one in Christ Jesus.

Brothers to remember in January and February:

January 2 - Br. John R. Miller, West Virginia

February 27 - Br. Forest Shue, New Jersey

News from our WebScribe

Br. Roger Baker, O.S.L., Roger.Baker@rogerbaker.net



Website continues to Evolve

One of the ways we connect with each other is through the web site. As your webscribe, I try to continuously evolve our web site in way to help with the nature of being a dispersed Order. There are several new features that have been added in the last few weeks that might be of interest to you in helping you live sacramentally and as a part of the larger community of the Order.

Your “profile” page of the web site has places for you to connect to other members of the Order. Like facebook, the web site lets you send private messages and status updates to share among your friends. Unlike Facebook, everything posted through this channel is kept strictly within the community. This means that private matters, prayer requests, etc., can be shared freely. Likewise, there’s an online prayer chapel that allows you to post comments, prayer concerns, etc., at any time.

Want some immediate intercession? Just post a prayer request in the online prayer chapel. If you’re a Twitter user, you can follow the prayer chapel feed by following `osl_chapel` (you’ll need to send me an email as well so I can approve your request.) If you don’t use twitter, just check-in at the prayer chapel next time you’re online and add your intercessions after praying for others. Need more personal contact? You can submit a request to our pastoral care office, Br. Tom Beverage, by clicking on “Pastoral Request.”

Got a subject for group discussion, but just between siblings? Post it in our private discussion area on the web site. If the discussion can be held in “public” and is related to the theological or liturgical concerns of the Order, consider posting to the cyber-chapter instead.

The weekly lectionary from the RCL is currently posted online, but in future months I hope to have both the Order’s daily lectionary readings and the Ordo posted “live” on the front page for each day.

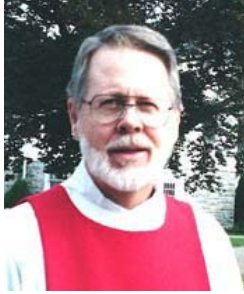
Your suggestions for new features are welcomed!

For those of you with problems logging into the new system, please know that I work very hard to get everyone up and running, but like you, I too have another life outside the Order. Most password requests are answered within a few days, but sometimes problems with particular browsers (especially older browsers) make things difficult to resolve quickly. I strongly recommend you use a “modern” browser, such as Firefox or Chrome. Internet Explorer continues to be the worst possible browser in almost every circumstance. If you don’t understand the foregoing, by all means find a youth in your church to help you upgrade your browser and help you get connected.

You can call me anytime and I will try to assist you. My best hours are between 9AM and 9PM EST, Tuesday – Friday. You can dial me direct at (+01) 571-268-2887.

Grace! –Br. “Rog”

Aka Br. Roger Baker, O.S.L., Webscribe



Reminder: Requests for obtaining a “Members Only” password should now be directed to Br. Roger Baker, our web scribe. Br. Roger can be reached at Roger.Baker@rogerbaker.net. *From the Pastoral Care Officer*
Bro. Tom Beveridge, OSL tandaosl@yahoo.com

*Oh little town of Bethlehem ...
... in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight ...
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Sisters and Brothers:

As I write this, it is the first full week of Christmas, and on Sunday I assisted at the Table at our church. The presider is a young woman who at this moment is great with child. She will bring forth her first-born, a son, sometime in February. Do you hear in that, as I do, echoes of the scriptures we have been reading and the hymns we have been singing in this Season? I was reflecting after the service on what a specially wonder-full experience Christmas must be for her this year.

All this has reminded me, yet again, that the scriptures that tell and foretell the Christmas Story are not just accounts of long-ago happenings that may be interesting, even lovely, but not particularly connected with us. Indeed, they are connected to us, as are all the scriptures – which is why we need and love to sing them out so much. As a man, I know I can never fully comprehend the way a woman can what it must be like to have new life growing within me. But I do know – at least I hope I do – that the Incarnation has to do with me, with all whom I love, and with the world we share with all humankind. I know that it leads me into the Mystery that is both Height and Depth for all of us. It speaks to me of the growing fullness of life – all the joys, sorrows, hopes, fears, strivings and surrenderings that we experience between birth and death. The Incarnation is what I taste and see in the broken Bread each time we come to the Table. And, yes, it has been an incredible wonder to me to share this time, this year, with a young mother-to-be as she takes, blesses, breaks and shares that Living Bread with us now.

Beyond the sacraments, where in the course of living sacramentally do you see signs of the Incarnation? And how do you share it? May the New Year bring you many such sightings and opportunities to share!

News of our beloved, dispersed community follows. Do be in touch with me when you have something you wish to share or if you desire pastoral conversation with me. This is particularly important if you do not participate in the Cyber Chapter, as that is an important, but incomplete, source for news. Write me at tandaosl@yahoo.com or PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891. Or call me at (860) 243-3388. For the sake of accuracy and to protect confidentiality, I make every possible effort to check each item ahead of time with the brother or sister concerned.

Peace,

Br. Tom Beveridge, Pastoral Care Officer

“All are to be welcomed as Christ.”

The Rule of St. Benedict

News:

In November, the New Jersey Chapter celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of **Br. Don Brown's** membership in the Order of Saint Luke. Except for the years when he was a District Superintendent (when higher powers had control of his calendar), Br. Don has rarely missed a meeting of the chapter. All best wishes, Br. Don, on this milestone in your OSL journey with us!

dgbrown6@optonline.net,



Br. Matthew Mode has shared his thanksgiving on the birth, December 3, 2010, of his niece *Emilee Jade Ledbetter*. Emilee is the daughter of Br. Matthew's sister *Leah* and her husband *Trey*. matthewmode@gmail.com

Sr. Rebecca Grogan and her husband *Gary* have proudly announced the birth of their first grandchild, *Liam Oliver Grogan* on December 3, 2010, son of their son *Kevin* and his wife *Tiffany*. crumybeck@aol.com

Br. Doug Morrison-Cleary and his family successfully made their move to Australia by mid-December. Many twists and turns to the story along the way, but suffice it to say that they are settling in. New medical arrangements are being worked out for *Jenny*. Son's *Josh* and *Zach* are busily exploring their new surroundings, with nearness to the ocean in summertime presenting quite a different prospect from wintry northern Minnesota. They now live close by Br. Doug's parents' home. And Br. Doug has begun in his new post as priest-in-charge at All Saints Anglican Church, New Lambton, NSW. They appreciate our prayers offered over these many months, and ask that we continue to uphold them in that way. presbyter@hildormen.org

Br. Bill Olewiler became the pastor of Community UMC, Lake Como, FL, effective December 5th. He follows a pastor who had become too ill to serve and will remain with that congregation until the bishop makes a new pastoral appointment for them in June. Lake Como is 55 miles from the Olewilers' home in Fleming Island, FL. Please keep Br. Bill and Nancy in your prayers through this interim time.

Also, Br. Bill is an "expert" for the AllExperts.com Internet service. Choose the category "Religion/Spirituality--Christianity-Protestantism--Methodists" and you will be able to ask him a question! He's been doing this for the better part of a decade. billrev@comcast.net

Br. Tom Johnson-Medland has posted his latest end-of-life article – this one on coming to terms with people who get “frozen” in life; immovable. Br. Tom discusses what is the value of an abiding presence, of simply being with people.

It is the second article of more than thirty at the following link:

<http://tjm-griefarticles.posterous.com>

Also, his newest book became available in November. Find it at: <http://bit.ly/d4IRRR>
tom@poconoplateau.org

On November 15th, **Sr. Cynthia Astle** wrote that she was “having a big day professionally. Today we launched the new website of The Progressive Christian at <http://tpcmagazine.org>. This new dynamic website is the hub of a new mission for our publishing ministry: to amplify

the message of God's unconditional love and justice in the world where mainstream media spreads so much misinformation and hatred. I hope you'll check it out.” AND: “I’ve started today as a contributing writer in biblical history for [About.com](#) Bible history has been one of my avocations for a long time, possibly because I’ve spent so much time documenting history-in-the-making that I like taking a longer view.” Sr. Cynthia concluded her post this way: “Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing!” cbastle@as-tex.net

Sr. Nancy Smith offers a blog called “The Sacristy,” that contains articles she writes about worship and liturgy for her church’s monthly newsletter. Articles are meant for average church member. Any are available for use, in which case Sr. Nancy would appreciate attribution but does not require it. A recent entry is an article entitled, “Setting Our House to Rights.” Find Sr. Nancy’s blog at <http://thesacristy.blogspot.com> minismith@aol.com

On November 27, **Br. Sky Lowe-McCracken** posted two prayer requests which we forward to you here in his own words:

1. “About a week ago, my father, Dr. Don McCracken, suffered an intraventricular hemorrhage (a brain bleed, akin to a stroke).” More recently, Br. Sky wrote that his Dad is now in a nursing home; memory severely impaired. And ...
2. “I have been named the new District Superintendent of the Paducah District in the Memphis Conference, effective March 1, 2011. While it is a short move in geographical terms, it is quite the move for me in area of service. I certainly covet your prayers.”

The conference edition of the Reporter in which our brother’s new appointment was announced can be found at:

http://memphisumc.s3.amazonaws.com/15ABA820D9064DCE826E20C5CE9E4B8E_20101210%20Memphis%20Reporter%20for%20web.pdf

Br. Matt Bolen is an instructor at Stanly Community College in Albemarle, NC; and teaches GED at a prison, also in Albemarle. He writes, “I really enjoy what I do, and ... I think I’m in the right place, where God wants me.” mattbolen07@yahoo.com

Br. Mark Stamm underwent complicated but successful heart valve replacement surgery on December 14th. By the 19th, he wrote that he was making progress in recovery, was home and able to walk some distances comfortably. He is taking it slowly, is expecting a full recovery, and very much appreciates our prayers. Also, at the beginning of December, Br. Mark posted the following: “I have an article posted at the (relatively) new Pray Tell blog. This may be a web site that you’ll find helpful, and they would likely appreciate some non-Roman Catholic visitors.” <http://www.praytellblog.com/> mwstamm@att.net

From the Christmas Newsletter of **Br. Bill** and **Sr. Mabel Doser**: At the end of a year that included significant health-related concerns – cardiac problems for her and a broken hip for him – they were able to enjoy the comforts of being at home together for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They concluded their letter with this: “We have been blessed in so many ways. The love and support from family and friends has been overwhelming. Many, many prayers have been prayed for both of us which we appreciate very much and would appreciate continued prayers in our behalf.” WrDoser@aol.com

Sr. Jean Rhoades was critically ill in the weeks following her return from our OSL retreat in October. She writes: "I did not have a stroke as was first diagnosed, but apparently (I do not remember anything) I became sick with flu after I got home from the retreat. I became severely dehydrated, and my kidneys were close to failing. I was in hospital for ten days, but I have recovered well, though I still have a string of doctor visits and lab tests. I am not quite back to my usual schedule, but I am enjoying leading Christmas worship at the retirement center that I inherited from Br. David [Eichelberger], and I will be leading worship and preaching at Fourth St. UMC [Aurora, IL] this Sunday [January 2nd]. Thank you all so much for your prayers. The prayers from OSL and from Fourth St. supported me at a time when I desperately needed it." jlutra26@gmail.com

Historical Task Force

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L.

How did this happen? It's January! Did you make your New Year's Resolutions??? Resolve today to send in that spare file of OSL memorabilia to the Archives at Drew University! Brothers and Sisters, many of us are fond of making New Year's resolutions which unfortunately get derailed midway before Lent. I myself am making one that I hope you will agree to also make.

This year I plan to sort through the mound of boxes which have followed me from appointment to appointment which looks more and more like Marley's strong box collection. I hope that is not the case at your home. But if it is, and whether you know it or not, you might be up for a move this year, so be sure to sort through your files and things this winter so that your OSL gleanings may be sent safely to the Archives collection of the Order, c/o the Methodist Librarian of the United Methodist Archives and History Center, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940. You will be relieved that you have helped to preserve our history. Your family will be thrilled to have at least one fewer box to unpack in the new location, and the Order will be delighted to see our collection grow so that historians will have a rich collection of primary materials to use for their research on the liturgical history of the 20th century and beyond.



With our sincerest best wishes for a healthy 2011,
Your OSL Historical Task Force

**Scenes from Pittsburgh
2010 Retreat of the Order of Saint Luke**



Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

JANUARY

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

* 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.

FEBRUARY

T	1	G
W	2	The Presentation W
T	3	G
F	4	Cornelius the Centurian G
S	5	Philipp Jakob Spener G
S	6	5th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	7	G
T	8	G
W	9	G
T	10	G
F	11	Fanny Jane Crosby G
S	12	G
S	13	6th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	14	G
T	15	G
W	16	G
T	17	Francis Elizabeth Caroline Willard G
F	18	Martin Luther G
S	19	G
S	20	7th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	21	Ezekial Cooper G
T	22	Kanichi Miyama G
W	23	Polycarp G
T	24	Matthias R
F	25	Amanda Berry Smith G
S	26	G
S	27	8th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	28	G

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- 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.net>

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 2011 issue of <i>The Font</i> is February 20 2011.
