

"Ahoy, Mates! ...our fleet is on the prowl , sailing the seas between Crystal River and Braden River, in search of men, ships , and harbors engaging Christian men in the ministries of the United Methodist Church and its missions."

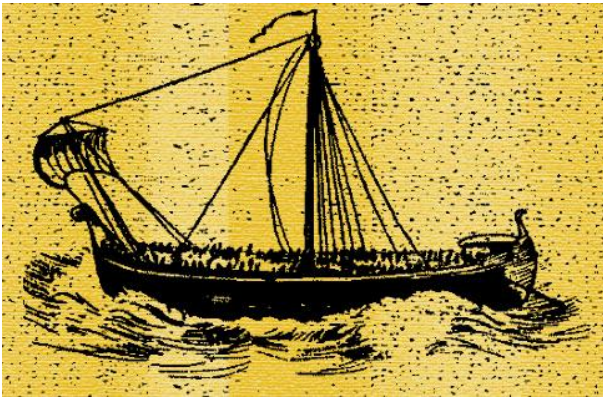
FROM THE FOUR WINDS

Gulf Central District United Methodist Men

1498 Rosary Rd. Largo, 33770

July/August 2010 Edition

Celebrating 102 Years of Methodist Men



Preparing for the storm

Take time to read Acts 27 – 28: 1-2 When doing so, pay attention to the amount of detail Luke puts into writing this report of Paul's final journey to Rome. Can you find any other story that goes into the kind of detail that this does in one writing? Maybe the story of the ark Noah was to build or the tabernacle Moses was to prepare for the journey through the wilderness rank up there with this story. Why did God's apostle want us to know this much about this disaster? Maybe he wanted us to see how much planning goes into preparing for a disaster. You will find in this story how important training and experience played a role in helping 276 people to survive this disaster. Check out how important strong leaders make a difference in the outcome of a disaster. And why trusting in God is so important. Finally see how volunteers come together to care for the victims of a disaster.

Isaiah 32: 8 says "But the noble man makes noble plans and by noble deeds the man stands." Now re-read this passage and use the word "church" in place of "man". The church needs to plan for disasters if it is to be of any value to its community and its members, and to the kingdom of God.

From the Gulf Central District UMMen - Chet Klinger

The Gulf Central District UMMen as an organization has no revenue and no budget to help meet expenses incurred at its Annual Gathering and elections, awards, training aids, publishing this newsletter, and engaging in other administrative or benevolent activities other than good will offerings and donations collected at its events and help from the Gulf Central District Superintendent's office. More often than not, we have come up short after purchasing food, beverages, utensils, cups, and plates at or gatherings, covering the costs of sound and audio support at host churches, and contributing to a speaker's or musical team's expenses when they appear at our events. Thanks to some of the officers of the Board and the District Superintendent and Lay Leader, they have helped us out tremendously with their unbudgeted donations.

We believe the Gulf Central District UMMen can offer even better services and support and bring in quality speakers if we have had funds to support such activities. We do not collect dues from local churches. Such go to the Florida Conference and the General Commission of UMMen which in part support a host of mission projects.

Our Gulf Central District UMMen Board voted at its last meeting to pilot an advertising service through its Four Winds newsletters. The Board agreed such advertising would be available to Methodist men who wish to get their name out the other Methodist Men who read this newsletter. The decision was made to collect a charitable donation of \$10 per ad per issue to allow for a business to post the information it normally displays on its business card. So we are looking for men in our District who have a business or service they wish to be displayed in this newsletter starting in September.

This newsletter is distributed electronically from the District UMMen to its officers and area Vice-Presidents. The Area VPs then distribute the newsletter via e-mail or hardcopy as needed to the churches and/or the pastor or representative leader of the men's ministry or UMMen at the local churches. The local president or church may in turn distribute e-mail or hard copies of the newsletter to its men or a group of men in fellowship at that church. Some churches print out a copy and post it a common area in the church where men can go and read the newsletter

We don't have any idea of the exact number of men who read the newsletter. But it starts with around 65 churches and goes from there. In addition copies are sent to the Florida Conference UMMEN President, the United Methodist Women President, the Director of the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries, the District Scouting Coordinator and Lay Leader, and a link to copies of the Four Winds is posted on the District Superintendent's web-page.

If you or someone you know wishes to post a name, contact information and a very brief description of the services a business provides, please e-mail this information to Chet Klinger at cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com or fax a business card to 727-596-1483. A check written to the Gulf Central District UMMen can be mailed to Chet Klinger at P.O. Box 9024 Largo, FL 33771-0024.

From the Florida Conference UMMen

2010 Fall Men's Spiritual Retreat at Fruitland Park, FL - "In Jesus' Name"

October 8-10, 2010 – Contemporary Weekend – Speakers: Denny Heiberg and Andy Searles

Music – Grace UMC Gainesville Praise and Worship Team

October 15-17, 2010 – Speakers: John Riley and Ed Diaz Music- Macel Buss and Keith Miller

October 22-24, 2010 – Speakers: Riley Short and Bishop Swanson; Music Ross Kimura

For Retreat Reservations and Information, Contact the United Methodist Men - Florida Conference : Don Heishman P. O. Box 93370 Lakeland, FL 33804-3370 Telephone: 863-815-3692 Toll Free: 877-815-3692

From the North Lakes Area - (Hudson and northward) - Area VP Steve Wisenbaker, First UMC Brooksville 352-799-8226 wisenbaker1122@aol.com

From the North Harbor Area - (Port Richey southward to Palm Harbor and Dunedin plus Heritage UMC - Area VP Jim Feierbacher East Lake UMC 727-786-8093 jfeierbacher@verizon.net

From Heritage United Methodist Church, Clearwater FL

The Disaster Recovery Ministry of the Florida Conference UMC is sponsoring a District-wide Basic Disaster Ministry Training on **Saturday, August 7, 2010 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** including lunch. No cost. To register, visit www.flumc.org/DisasterRecovery For more information, call 1-800-282-8011 Ext. 149 Pam Garrison or contact Ron Luke of Faith UMC Bradenton rluke1@verizon.net

Men in leadership at their churches should attend this training to hear practical ideas for being ready for and effectively responding to church and community disasters. Only four of the 60 plus churches in the Gulf Central District have submitted copies of their plans to the Florida Conference for electronic backup. Others are encouraged to complete, update and submit their plans. This is particularly important if a church is expecting to provide relief to its members and the community with help from the Florida Conference and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) should a disaster occur this year.

The Disaster Recovery Ministry of the Florida Conference is a reliable resource for backing up church disaster plans in case of an area-wide disaster. In addition, in May of each year Disaster Recovery will email your plan to you with a reminder to review and

update before hurricane season begins.

From the Central Harbor Area - Area VP Frank Burkett 727-992-2613
Seminole, Largo and Clearwater

From Anona UMC, Largo – Chet Klinger

Dr Jack Stephenson, Senior Pastor, is to be presented this year's G. Ross Freeman Award by the Southeast Jurisdictional UMMen. This award will be presented the same Sunday when the Gulf Central District UMMen Compass Award is to be presented to Anona UMC for intentionally engaging men in all eight areas of men's ministries in the church. Jack has demonstrated his leadership and support to the men at the church and the District with his coaching and mentoring training, his presentations at the District annual gatherings, and his support for the United Methodist Men at Anona and their Fresh Start Probationer Support ministry.

From the Men at St Paul UMC – Largo – Bill Elliott and Terry Ketrow

These two projects spearheaded by the Men of St Paul partnering with the congregation and the youth were lifted up at the Florida Annual Conference as examples men of the Methodist Church are doing to help "eradicate extreme poverty" – the theme of this year's conference.

The Men of St Paul's Joshua Project: This is something the Men of St Paul do to help people who are connected in some way with St Paul, who are unable physically or financially to make repairs to their home. By doing this we have provided suitable homes for single mothers, modified homes so handicapped persons can gain access to their home' and made homes livable so people do not have to move out or have their home condemned.

The Joshua Project was birthed at St Paul due to a need from an elderly widow whose home had fallen into disrepair since the death of her husband. She related her need to a Stephen Minister who brought it to St Paul's senior pastor, who in turn brought the need to the men. The pastor had some benevolent funds that he offered as a start up fund. The men took on this project and refurbished the lady's home.

After doing this project, the men were convinced there was a need for a mission of this nature. They decided to assign funds from their fund-raising efforts to finance similar needs. From this, a men's mission called Joshua Projects was established. Any request for assistance of this nature is forwarded to a pastor who, upon determining there is a true need, passes the request to a point man in the MOSP (men of St Paul). This professional tradesman evaluates the project scope and determines if our volunteers are able to handle the work, and if we are financially able to fund the material need. We virtually always have men skilled and available to do the work. All labor is volunteered and materials are paid for by the Men Of St Paul through their fund raising efforts.
– Bill Elliott

St Paul's Open Arms Project: The men of St Paul UMC of Largo, Florida and the congregation of St Paul UMC have partnered up with Global Missions in feeding the homeless in Clearwater Florida every Sunday.

This is our second year the men have been involved in this ministry. St Paul UMC congregation helps finance this ministry. The ministry is called "Open Arms".

The St Paul UMC youth assist with the cooking and serving once a month.

We arrive in downtown Clearwater on the first and third Sundays of each month at 4:00pm. The tables are set up. The food, which is prepared at St Paul UMC by the men and women, is then set up for serving. One of the men's spiritual leaders then shares the gospel and has prayer with the homeless. We serve between 100 and 150 people.

All of our volunteers interact with the homeless during the feeding. We share with them the "Open Arms of Jesus". We try to show them the loving hands of Jesus. That Jesus still loves them and cares about them. He has not forsaken them. We always give them an invitation to come and follow Jesus Christ.

We invite them to come to St Paul UMC. We have several drivers who will stop on Sunday mornings and pick some of them up and bring them to church. We have had 6 of the homeless men be baptized and have joined St Paul UMC. All 6 of them are now dedicated, hard workers, for St Paul UMC and they are all filled with the love of Jesus Christ.

The men and congregation of St Paul UMC are proud to be involved in helping with eradicating poverty in our community. Our ministry is based upon Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, in so far as you did it for one of the least of these My brethren, you did it for Me." - Terry Ketrow Open Arms Leader

From the Sky Harbor Area - West St Petersburg, Gulfport, South Pasadena, Palmetto, Ellenton, and Parrish – Area VP - Lou Amandola – First UMC Gulfport 727-374-4524 lamandola@tampabay.rr.com

From First UMC at Gulfport – Lou Amandola

The UMMen at First UMC in Gulfport are hosting their annual **4th of July cookout** with hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and dessert starting right after church on Sunday July 4 from Noon to “around” 3 pm. This year they are celebrating the installation of Dr. Jerry Partney Jr as their new senior pastor. All are welcome to join in this celebration. There is no advertised charge for this event.

From East Harbor Area - St Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Largo - East of 49th St - Area VP Gene Winland, Riviera UMC St Pete 727- 526-6592 gmwinland@aol.com

From First UMC Pinellas Park

Pastor Frank Reynolds was out of town the week before June 27 and when he came back, he brought with him a case of respiratory infection he did not want to take to the church with him. To avoid a further disaster, he had Chet Klinger, from the District United Methodist Men, present a sermon on the duty and responsibility of noble churches to have a noble plan to be able to carry out its many important roles in supporting the community in the time of disaster – one being “a refuge from the storm, a shelter from the heat” (Isa. 25:4), another “a shelter from the wind” (Isa 32:2), “a help for the hungry and thirsty” (Isa.. 32:6), “a rock against which the gates of hell will

not prevail” (Matt. 16:18), “a house built upon a rock, not shifting sand” (Matt 7: 24-29), and “a place to come together – for the strengthening of the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

The sermon touched upon the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf, the story of the flood disaster in Noah’s time, the fleeing of the Israelites from the Egyptians, and the fact that 47 United Methodist Churches in New Orleans in 2005 were damaged or destroyed by the Katrina and Rita hurricanes. 35 are back at serving their communities. 6 are closed entirely, and 6 became absorbed into some of the other churches. Building a solid church means to build a solid organization of people who can lead the church through the storm – “come hell or high water. “

First UMC of Pinellas Park is about to take up the challenge of completing and updating its disaster recovery plan and encouraging its staff and members to personally do the same.

From the South Harbor Area (Bradenton areas) **Area Coordinator**

wanted - The Gulf Central District is searching for one or two men to serve as area coordinator(s) engaging churches in the Bradenton area on behalf of the Gulf Central District UMMen and Florida Conference UMMen.

Contact the Gulf Central District UMMen's Ministry Board -

Your Area Vice-Presidents – see Area VPs above

Treasurer – Bill Elliott, St Paul UMC Largo 727-586-1159 MethodistMen@msn.com

Secretary – Jim Feierbacher, East Lake UMC 727-786-8093 jfeierbacher@verizon.net

President - Chet Klinger, Anona UMC 727-596-1483 cell: 727-643-1935

cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com

District Lay Leader – Walter Dry, Spring Hill 352-684-7740 drysr@bellsouth.net

District Superintendent – Rev. John Powers 727-796-9160

District Scouting Ministry Coordinator - Mark Dodge 727- 784-1345

dodgmrk@aol.com

District Men’s Ministry openings –

Area vice-president/coordinator for the Bradenton area - coordinate with men’s ministries in an area covering 8 – 12 churches

Newsletter support – help with editing, publishing and distributing

Database maintenance – updating, analyzing and distributing updated lists and surveys and survey results to area coordinators

Program coordinator - Annual gathering program planning and support – scheduling and organizing agenda, speakers, and music

Missions support – promote opportunities for supporting district/conference/global missions

Training coordinator – schedule and organize training with churches and trainers

District UMM Chaplain – someone to lead us in prayer and scripture at our meetings and to keep us informed of the spiritual needs of our men in the organization

GET YOUR MEN’S MINISTRY MESSAGE IN THE SEPTEMBER 2010 issue of FROM THE FOUR WINDS – DEADLINE - AUGUST 28 - E-mail cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-

596-1483.

HAITI Relief

Donations can be sent to the Florida Conference and designated Florida Conference Advance Special #100190 or to UMCOR (details available at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/emergencies/ongoing/haitiearthquake/>).

From United Methodist Cooperative Ministries-Suncoast

If your organization feels overwhelmed at times with regard to the needs of the community or an outreach ministry or if you are looking for an outreach ministry to partner with, contact Pam Qualls at the **United Methodist Cooperative Ministries** serving the Suncoast Florida area.

<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org17499.jsp>

Now that the Rays are (once again) struggling to redefine themselves, July 10 is a great evening out at the ball game with fellow Christians at a local hometown ball park - the Clearwater Threshers (Bright House) stadium in support of the United Methodist Cooperative Ministries fundraiser. \$16 gets you into the game, all the food you can eat and fireworks. Young men..pick up an elderly man and bring him to the game. Dads – bring your kids. Mom – you, too. You will be glad you did. Visit www.threshersbaseball.com or call (727) 712-4408 and mention the UM Cooperative Ministries when making reservations.

Pray for our Nation and its Leaders to yield to God and His deliverance and guidance to help us and all those directly involved to get us all through this Oil spill disaster, this year's Hurricane Season, and the up and coming races for governmental elections. Pray also for our church as it moves forward to its Annual and General Conferences in 2011 and 2012. There is a lot of work to be done by all of us who care for the kingdom of God and are willing to stand up for the Godly principles and constitutions of our church and our nation.

People and our environment are suffering due to the oil disaster and people all over the America and the world are facing uncertain times. We need your prayers and the pleadings of Jesus on our behalf to bring peace and stability to our lives. God bless America. God bless the United Methodist Church. God bless the United Methodist Men.

