



From the Four Winds

From Crystal River to Braden River

**Gulf Central District United Methodist Men
1498 Rosary Rd. Largo, 33770**

March 2009 Edition

Celebrating 101 Years of Methodist Men

“They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and the wonders in the deep.” Psalm 107: 23-24

These words are inscribed at the base of the “Man at the Wheel” statue located at Gloucester, Massachusetts. For its 300 year tricentennial event in 1925, the city had the statue erected to permanently memorialize thousands of whalers, fishermen, merchants, and other seafarers whose lives were lost at sea.

Three years earlier a silent movie, “Down to the Sea in Ships” became one of America's earliest favorite movies.

Very recently, our US Coast Guard and volunteer boaters kept searching feverishly our Gulf coastal waters for three of four men lost at sea, and prayers are coming from all four winds for a safe recovery of those who remain missing.

The waters around this part of Florida are not new for tragedies

involving the occupants of ships and boats at sea as we recall the 1981 accident involving the Summit Venture collision with the Skyway Bridge and, in 1980, the sinking of USCG Blackthorne after colliding with an oil tanker. In 1955 three of four fishermen from the Lealman area were lost 40 miles off of John's Pass when their boat, the 43-foot Jean, capsized.

Is the news we are hearing daily making us feel like we are going down to the sea in our ships? Do we see hope in the work we are doing for our families, our church, our nation, our ministry of men?

During Lent, we pause and reflect upon the fragility of life on this side of heaven and prepare ourselves to memorialize the trial and execution of Jesus Christ.

This is the time we evaluate our worthiness as a disciple of Christ. "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" says Jesus in Luke 14: 27.

Job [in 14:14] asks: "If a man dies, will he live again?" Job goes on to say that no matter what, if he carries his own cross and follows His Lord God, God will see him through his afflictions and despair.

Surrounded by death and the fear of death, we look forward knowing, if we carry our cross and follow Jesus, we will get through these times and eventually share in the promise of the resurrection Jesus has in store for us.

From the North

Crystal River UMC just hosted a memorial service for family and friends of **Will Bleakley**, one of the missing boaters.

First United Methodist Church UMMen at Spring Hill is hosting its annual Communion Breakfast on Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. All are invited - couples - singles - however, seating is limited. Free tickets are available, although an offering will be taken. Call the Church Office at (352)683-2600

Also at First Spring Hill, the Men's Saturday Gathering (MSG) continues to meet on the third Saturday of each month from 9 am to 10 am for an hour of inspiration, encouragement and fellowship sharing the message of the Bible.

NOTE: April Gathering will be on the 14th, to avoid conflict with the Couples Spiritual Retreat weekend of choice. Third Saturday Gatherings will resume in May.

First United Methodist Church UMMen at Spring Hill will be conducting their annual Men's Ministry Celebration at the 8 am and 10:15 am Worship Services on Sunday, April 26. This year's theme is, "REACHING OUT - in Fellowship and Ministry" - to individuals, to the church, to the community, to the world - in recognition of men in ministry.

From our North Central area -

Tom Tantillo with the men of **Palm Harbor UMC** hosted the first area wide Fathering Seminar. The Gulf Central District would like to see two more of these in our North and South Areas

The Men at Palm Harbor United Methodist Church put on an amazing weekend of bringing men, young and old, from five churches, together in the name of Jesus - addressing issues that concern men and their masculinity within the church, being godly fathers, and learning ways to reconnect between fathers and adult children. Much of the intellectual, spiritual, and practical knowledge these men acquired from Pastor Philip Short and Payton Montague of the National Center for Fathering prepares them to be better husbands and disciples in Christ, and stronger leaders in the church and in their homes.



Without spending a whole lot of pages of this newsletter in covering what was said in those three days, we list the following key phrases that pretty much sums up the heart and soul of our time together -

Great singing from Palm Harbors Praise Band - they had us singing and clapping our hands and praising our Lord

Band of Brothers, Wild at Heart

Turning control of our lives over to Jesus; not letting our strength get in the way of God's.

We may be ready to lay down our lives for our children, but are we ready to live for our children?

Psalm 127: 3-5 Our children - a reward and our treasure from God

"Being a male is a matter of birth. Being a man is matter of choices."

God will get our attention - one way or another.

Commitment, awareness, consistency, protection, love of wife and mother of our children, intentional listening, spiritual and moral values

A battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue.

There is no shortcut around being a disciple of Christ.

Also coming to Palm Harbor United Methodist Church -
Saturday March 14, 2009 7:00 PM

“Heavenly Harmony” – An Evening of Barbershop and Gospel Entertainment

Featuring the Florida Suncoast Chorus, Harbor Tones Gospel Ensemble, the Redeemed Gospel Quartet and others

Tickets \$12.00 All Reserved Seating – Call 727-772-7043

*The men at **Keystone United Methodist Church** in Odessa, FL just completed a major work day for their pre-school playground - moving a lot of dirt in preparation for mulching. These guys are always up to something. According to Jerry Snell, the president of the UMM Keystone, when not helping out on grounds of their own church, they are helping with a nearby AME church repairing a damaged sign or painting the house of a 90-year AME church member. Besides meeting with a Bible study and prayer every 3rd Saturday for breakfast, they meet every third Monday for dinner. They will soon host a BBQ dinner for the church in the spring or a fish fry in October. While some Methodists enjoy the celebrations that go with St Patrick's Day, Keystone's Methodists have no problem celebrating St Hubert's Day, the patron saint of hunters, butchers and dogs. These men will serve a St. Hubert's feast in November to anyone who enjoys a meal of pheasant, venison pie, Brunswick stew with squirrel or whatever game meat happens to prevail at that time. After the feast, they share in a worship service and communion. For the less than hardy, a domestic meal is available.*

Proceeds from their Barbecues, Fish Fry, and St Hubert's feast goes toward funding men to attend the Florida Conference UMMen Retreats at Leesburg. Want to know more? Jerry Snell can be reached at 813-962-3518.

From the East Central Area

A number of men from the contemporary worship side of the Allendale UMC in St Petersburg attended Palm Harbor's seminar on Christian Fathering. Having busy careers and being fathers in today's society add up to a lot of challenges for today's fathers, and for these guys, they went home with a wealth of spiritual and practical guidance for being godly fathers.

Meanwhile the men at Allendale have just wrapped up helping the UMWomen host their Annual Flea Market - an event that brings in the public and raises money for a number of mission projects. The **UMM Allendale** under **Jim Pfister** meets for prayer, fellowship, devotional readings and breakfast on the last Friday of each month. For more information about the **UMM Allendale**, Jim can be reached at 727-577-1977.

From our Central Area -

The **UMM St Paul UMC** initiated their "Cross Pass-it-on" program with 5,000 crosses to give away for the Lenten Season. Each cross is made of three metal nails bounded together by wire and when worn by the giver, draws attention from someone out in the streets or in stores or at someone's work.

When asked about the cross, the giver has an opportunity to give a 60-90 second testimony about their faith and relationship with Christ and then offers the cross to the asker. Should they accept the cross they are instructed to pass it on with their own testimony if someone else's asks them.

If you would like to learn more about this, call **Bill Elliot** at 727-586-1159.

Doug Mitchell at **Friendship United Methodist Church** tells us their mission each year is to raise enough money from their pancake breakfasts to fund their pastor's weekend at the fall men's retreat at Leesburg. In addition, near the end of each year they present a plaque and a monetary award to a member of the church for outstanding voluntary service to their church. For the first time after a few years of awarding men, the men at Friendship honored a woman - Doris Campbell - who has been involved in so many different ministries in her work for Jesus, their men's ministry decided it's time to recognize a good woman.

The **UMM Friendship** team meets the 2nd Saturday each month for breakfast and they include the **UMM Skycrest** in their breakfasts. In turn they visit the

Skycrest UMC and meet with their men on the first Monday of each month. Now this is more than building a ship. This is building a fleet.

At their gatherings, they discuss church and worldly affairs, have prayer and are working through the book - *When All Else Fails, Read the Instructions* by James Moore.

The men are about to "Adopt-A-Street" as one of their outreach ministries. The other is being a part of the annual Turkey Trot in the Fall - helping out with providing drinking water and parking for the participants and visitors.

All this is in addition to meeting the needs of the church - in ushering, trustee work, and taking care of the equipment used by mobility-challenged church visitors.

From the South -

What does one get if the men at a church holds a pancake breakfast one Saturday and the ladies want to host an antique evaluation seminar another? The usual turnout for pancakes. And maybe a handful of people who have antiques they want appraised.

What happens if the men and the ladies combine their efforts into one big Saturday event and advertise this event in the local newspaper? A much bigger turnout and a chance for outsiders to visit the church and talk about their faith without "being too obvious" - which is what happened in February when the **UMMen at Palmetto UMC** coordinated with the UMWomen to host their "first-ever" joint pancake breakfast and antique evaluation seminar. **Daniel Foules**, a member of the church and an avid antique specialist, helped people from the community and the church to evaluate whatever articles or photos of such people brought in. Rather than people standing in line to have their antique evaluated, they were able to sit down to a hearty breakfast prepared by the men. Some of the men went from table to table and welcomed the visitors and where the opportunity presented itself were able to discuss the various levels of walks with Christ some of these people were experiencing.

"synergy" - often defined as "combined action" or "cooperative action of two or more bodily organs or the like" often in a manner that each benefits better than if working separately. This is what happened when the UMMen and UMWomen agreed to have their events on the same day - both benefited more than if they had engaged in their events on separate days. This happens when UMMen and Youth Ministries work together around a sporting event or engage youth as servers at a banquet or when getting the music ministry and the UMMen and UMWomen together to coordinate an event.

It also helps to advertise - **Harry Doyle**, President of the **UMM Palmetto** tells us that they advertised their event in the local weekly newspaper, the North River News – and the Bradenton Herald. Both the UMW and the UMMen are anxious to try this event again in the future. The total cost of advertising was under \$20.

The **UMM Palmetto** gather for a prayer breakfast on Thursday mornings and hold pancake breakfasts open to public each month. Pastor Stephan Hoffman is a big supporter of a comprehensive men's ministry at the Palmetto UM Church.

Harry Doyle would like to see as much enthusiasm among the men in general at **Palmetto UMC** as he is seeing among the newer men joining their organization. Their goal is to move beyond just meeting for breakfast into a spiritual walk and Christian development among the men.

From the West Central area -

The men of First UMC Clearwater meet the second Thursday for breakfast at Castillo's Restaurant. Next March 12. Any and all men interested in 1st Church are welcome.

Bring your concerns, interests and items for discussion. See you there. The address is 1724 N Ft Harrison and we try to start eating at 7:30 AM. We hope to meet every second Thursday of the month. For more information, call Bill Voorhees at 727-733-2613.

The men of **First United Methodist Church** at Seminole are collaborating with the men at Oakhurst UMC to meet the 2nd Monday of each month. **Al Pierson** and his men of Seminole are regular attendees at the Mens Retreats in the fall. He tells us their meetings typically entail speakers from the community, the most recent a guest speaker from the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital. In the second Monday in May, they will be honoring the Boy Scouts, their members and their leaders with a banquet.

The **UMM Anona** will be hosting its pancake breakfast between 7 am – 11 am on March 22nd to raise money for the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry. Anyone having any questions may call **Ian Lennox** at 727-517-0806.

From the Gulf Central District UMMen -

May 2, 2009 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Annual District UMMen

Gathering and Elections - at Anona United Methodist Church in Largo, Florida.

- **Speakers: Rev. Jack Stephenson and Chet Klinger**
 "Putting Wind in the Sails" - Getting Men's Ministry Moving
- **Music: The Gospel Chordsmen of Anona**
- **Luncheon**
- **A donation will be requested to support the meal, music, the use of the host church facilities and district UMM expenses.**
- **Note: Even though this is not a men's rally or spiritual retreat, Christ will be lifted up as our Leader at this gathering.**
- **We are especially looking for the officers of UMMen and the leaders of the men's ministry programs and their pastors and/or lay leaders at every church within the District.**
We are looking also for pastors and men who are looking to start a men's ministry at their church to attend this event.

From Tampa

Tired of the Rat Race? Do you feel like the rats are winning?

Emotionally, spiritually, mentally and physically, men feel tired. Off balance! Under the pressure! Often, we have a lingering feeling that something isn't right.

"Success That Matters"

The Success That Matters Seminar provides a clear, biblical direction. It will encourage and challenge you to examine your life and find a deeper level of meaning and purpose.

Hosted by
Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church
2902 W Fletcher Ave
Tampa, FL 33618

Fri., March 27th, 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Sat., March 28th, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Registration Cost: **\$25**. Please register by March 25th.

Includes continental breakfast on Saturday morning

Dennis Puleo, Director of Chairman's Advisory Council for Man in the Mirror, will lead the event. Dennis draws from his experiences in the foxholes of war and business to encourage men toward a life of hope and purpose. Dennis served in the Marines earning three purple hearts. An aggressive entrepreneur, he turned a home-based business into a multi-million dollar franchise. However, Dennis shares how he discovered success that really matters through Jesus Christ. He currently lives in Orlando, FL with his wife, Joanne.

For more information, please call **Jim Hartsook** at (813) 484-8900 or email at jim.hartsook@us.pwc.com

From Leesburg, FL - the Florida Conference UMM
Coming in March, 2009 at Leesburg, FL - Couple's Retreat
"Walking With Jesus" -

March 13-15 , 2009 - Speakers Philip Short, Jacquie Leveron, Dr. Tom Farmer, Don Taylor; **Music** - Ross Kimura

March 20-22, 2009 Speakers: John Riley, David Stauffer, Debbie Nelson; **Music** - Lenee Schroeder; also get to meet the "Women of the Bible", a dramatic portrayal of 12 characters of the Bible.

*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*

Meet the Heavy Hitters at Nashville, Tennessee - the National UMMen - Take the wife. Lots to see and do in Nashville this time of year.

10th Annual Gathering of UMMen - **July 10-12, 2009** - Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee

"FOCUS ON THE CROSS - God to Man, Man to Man, and Man to Boy"

Speakers-

- **Dr. Patrick Morley - Man in the Mirror and No Man Left Behind**

Music – among others will include

- **Steve Hornbeak** - music artist, Nashville, TN
- **Vince Gill** - 19 Grammy Awards and two-time Entertainer of the Year Country Music Awards.
- **Registration: \$200 after 2/28/2009; \$250 after June 1, 2009 plus lodging & meals**

For more details and registration - go to www.gcumm.org or call 1-866-297-4313

Also From Nashville - The General Conference on United Methodist Men
New: Men's Ministry Specialist Online Course

More from the General Conference United Methodist Men can be found at their website -
<http://www.gcumm.org/site/c.miKWLpKLnF/b.3576813/>

Your Gulf Central District Men's Ministry Leaders -

Note: We will be looking to elect or re-elect officers for the District UMMen on May 2 -

We will be taking nominations starting now.

If you wish to nominate someone or yourself be nominated, please write to cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com.

Our position for Secretary/Treasurer is now open for nomination.

We need VPs in the areas noted below:

North Area VP (New Port Richey and northward) - Steve Wisenbaker, Brooksville 352-799-8226 wisenbaker1122@aol.com

North Central Area (Palm Harbor, Oldsmar Tarpon Springs, Holiday) - opening for VP

Central Area VP (East Largo and Clearwater) - opening for VP

South Central Area VP (St Petersburg west of US 19 and Gulfport to Pinellas Park) - Lou Amandola - Gulfport 727-374-4524

lmandola@tampabay.rr.com

East Central Area VP (St Petersburg East of US 19) - Gene Winland, St Pete 727- 526-6592 gmwinland@aol.com

West Central Area VP (West Largo, Seminole and Beach areas) - opening for VP

South Area VP (Bradenton and surrounding areas) - Keith Cook 941-727-4295 (after 3 pm weekdays)

Secretary Treasurer - Bill Elliott, Largo 727-586-1159

MethodistMen@msn.com

President - Chet Klinger , Seminole 727-596-1483

cell: 727-643-1935 cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com

If you wish to be added or know someone who should be considered ,
please call Bill Elliott at 727-586-1159

Help Wanted – Area Vice-Presidents - What does a Vice-President do?

- 1) Maintains and updates information about men's ministries at some 7-10 churches within his geographic area.
- 2) Communicates news from the District and Florida Conference as he gets it to these churches and men's ministries.
- 3) Communicates with the Unit Presidents of each men's ministry - answering questions where asked, learning about events being planned, meeting as clusters - helping each other along.
- 4) Encourages joint UMM events within the area churches.
- 5) Encourages attendances at District and State events such as rallies and retreats.
- 6) Helps individual UMM units with chartering and rechartering.

We also need men who can help with the Newsletter, websites, program development, doing surveys, examining and massaging data for the District UMMen.

Contact Chet Klinger

GET YOUR MEN'S MINISTRY MESSAGE IN THE *April 2009* issue of *FROM THE FOUR WINDS* - E-mail cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-596-1483.

What kind of messages are we looking for publishing?

1. Information about your men's activities in serving Jesus Christ and the church – i.e. Singing, ushering, parking, meals, trustees, grounds-keeping, discipleship programs, Bible studies, prayer gatherings, recruiting new Christian men, supporting UMW, UMYF, youth and contemporary and traditional worship within the church, church finances and fund-raising activities, Stephen Ministries, delegations at church conferences.
2. Information about activities your men's ministries are engaged in beyond the church walls and the church property – community affairs, outreach, missions, charity support, visitations, SHARE, scouting, sports, disaster readiness, safety, etc.

- 3. Information about who your church feeds its men's spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical growth and well-being – through small accountability groups, mentoring, coaching, Bible study, prayer gatherings, seminars, studies, etc.**
- 4. Information about your men's fellowships – meal gatherings, team sports, attending events, retreats, ball games, honoring men and their work for the church and community**
- 5. Information about your board of directors (under the name of UMM or otherwise) who meet to monitor and lift up the progress of the above events, activities and services in which men are engaged in behalf of the church and their relationship with Christ. Days and times the Board meets, special projects, chartering, and any missions supported by or promoted by the Board of Directors for the men's ministry at the church.**