

The Four Winds



From Crystal River to Braden River

Gulf Central District United Methodist Men

1498 Rosery Rd. Largo, 33770

December 2008 Edition

Celebrating 100 Years of Methodist Men

In keeping with our nautical theme for the Gulf Central District United Methodist Men, this month's Four Winds lifts up an old Christmas carol that some say dates back to the 1600's, pre-dating the writing of Silent Night and O Little Town of Bethlehem and other popular carols. No-one seems to know who wrote the words, but most all of us are acquainted with this carol or its melody when this time of year arrives.

No one seems to understand how the three ships entered into the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of the Christ child. Some say, the writer might have been a sailor who dreamed up this song and it became a popular sailor's song throughout the coastal areas of the British Isles. Others seem to think the writer was envisioning three camels carrying the holy family to Bethlehem.

If we were standing on the shore by a sea waiting for a special ship or someone special to arrive, we might feel the same excitement of seeing three ships come sailing in as the writer seems to feel when telling how the angels sang, and the bells rang, and the parents celebrated the day Jesus was born.

Since no-one knows the whole story behind this carol, we leave it to you to imagine what the writer was experiencing when the writer wrote these words. If you know the rest of the story behind this carol, please let us know.

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day, on Christmas day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day in the morning

And who do you think was in them then?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day
And who do you think was in them then
But Joseph and his lady

He did whistle and she did sing
On Christmas day, on Christmas day
He did whistle and she did sing
On Christmas day in the morning

And all the bells on earth did ring
On Christmas day, on Christmas day
And all the bells on earth did ring
On Christmas day in the morning

And all the angels in heaven did sing

On Christmas day, on Christmas day
And all the angels in heaven did sing
On Christmas day in the morning

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day, on Christmas day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day in the morning

May you and your families experience this kind of Joy
during your special Christmas moment this year.

Coming SOON! - Open to all UMMen

From our North Central area - Palm Harbor UMM

Save the Date for the **Men's Weekend Retreat Feb- 20-22, 2009** at Palm Harbor United Methodist Church at 1551 Belcher Rd., Palm Harbor 34683

Pastor **Philip Short** of Stuart UMC will be one of the motivational speakers.

Mark Deen, Director of Worship and Arts will be putting together a fantastic all men's praise team during worship each day.

Also, The 7 Secrets of Effective Father's Seminar-Live

An Innovative training event that will cover

Understanding Your Power as a Father

Factors that influence the Way you Father
7 Secrets: Characteristics that Set Effective Dads Apart
7 Secrets Profile: Discover your Fathering Strengths & Weakness
What the Bible Says About Your Role as a Father

This topic is for fathers of all ages and of step children.

Uncles, and grandfathers, friends of the family, men that are surrogate fathers, all can benefit from this material. One of the sections that we deal with is how WE were fathered. *This is extremely powerful.*

State of the Art Resources for participants!

Dynamic Instruction

Presented by **Peyton Montague**, an instructor trained at the National Center for Fathering using stories, examples, video, overheads, small group interaction and an emphasis on practical action planning.

For more information and details, call **Tom Tantillo** 727-784-4171

From our South Central area - Gulfport UMM

The men's ministry at First United Methodist Church of Gulfport will be having their Annual Sweetheart banquet on February 14 . Music by **Fred Clutterbuck**. For more information, contact **Lou Amandola** at 727-374-4524.

From our South - Oneco UMM

The Oneco UMMen in south Bradenton is hosting its February 14 Valentine Dinner is expected to raise money to help support the Southeast Guide Dogs program. Following the dinner will be entertainment from The Sweet Adelines.

Also, something you all will be interested in is coming in February 27 at 7 pm when they will be hosting The MacDonald Family Singers from Maine - Check out their website - <http://www.macdonaldfamilysingers.com/>

From our West Central Area - Anona UMM

The Good News Jail and Prison Ministry of Pinellas County has put together a program designed to assist released, non-violent ex-offenders, who are willing, by providing a Christian mentor who will help them make a successful transition to a life apart from crime.

The United Methodist Men of Anona are one of several groups in churches around the county sponsoring this program. They would like to invite other UMMen in the district to join with them. If any UMMen would like to learn more, there will be an orientation session at **10 am on Saturday, January 17, at Anona UMC** located at 13233 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo, FL.

At this session the program will be explained and the training requirements spelled out. Those men wishing to attend should call the Anona church office at (727) 595-2581 to register.

Marvin Wren, a visitor from Sammamish, Washington, attends Anona's Mens' Tuesday Morning Breakfast Group when visiting his sister and niece in the Florida . Founder of Faith Bible College, Marvin is involved in setting up Christian Bible colleges in predominantly Hindu India. On December 3, Marvin left for India to help resolve leadership matters at a Bible college he helped established where recently unmarried male administrators at Christian school in India on two succeeding occasions did not work out as these men fell in love with young female staff members or students. What makes this unusual for us is that this happened without the permission of their parents.

Such culture and traditions of parents choosing spouses for their children are very strong in India even for those who are raised or convert to Christianity. A man dating of a woman outside of the approval or selection of parents is forbidden and can lead to disruption of the school administration when parents along with siblings take forceful action to break up unapproved relationships. Love between two individuals seems to be secondary to the will of the parents of the individuals. It seems one answer is to find a school administrator that is already married if order is to be restored at the school. And this is Marvin's mission along with looking for opportunities to set up another Bible college while there.

To get to the college, Marvin must gain entry into India through Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, where one of the worst terror attacks in India's history occurred only a few days before Marvin's departure from Florida. When the men at the breakfast gathering asked if he was fearful for his life in anticipating this journey at this time, his answer was, "No. I have no choice. I need to be where God is sending me. I have a concern but I have no fear. If something happens, it is the will of God. If nothing happens to me, which I believe will be the case, it, too, is the will of God." Marvin says his bigger concern is not the terrorists, but the anti-Christian sentiments that pervades the fundamentalist Hindu culture. Marvin believes each man has a God-given purpose. Some to teach. Some to preach. Some to work with children. Some to bring healing and aid to others. Each man must discover and follow his purpose.

Many of us travel to distant lands, such as Europe, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Central and South America, Thailand, Malaysia, the Balkans, etc. where shootings, bombings, and violence seem to make big headlines in our modern media. Some of us who are on the ground in these countries don't often see the violence our readers in the USA read about. We often see the sun shining, the flowers blooming, and people busily going about their daily lives, smiling and taking care of their children, while the turmoil our friends back home hear and read in our newspapers may have occurred several blocks away or on another part of the region or town. Much like the fires in California or the hurricanes in Florida, people we often talk to may tell us that they were nowhere near the areas affected. Same for us who live under the satellite photos of what appears to be a huge hurricane over Florida in our area may see blue skies with white puffy clouds and a mild breeze.

As for Marvin, he will most likely encounter changes in his travel itinerary along the way that will take him into Mumbai and on to his destination which is a 2-hour drive toward the center of India. Anona's mens breakfast group prayed for his safe journey and that God helps him fulfill his challenging mission. Marvin's presence encouraged Anona's men's at their breakfast to also pray for the victims and their families in India and other places where in seems only 2% of a peace-seeking populace are hell-bent to disrupt the lives of others.

Anona's Tuesday morning men's breakfast group hopes to learn more about Marvin's journey when he returns sometime around December 28. If anyone is interested in learning more about Marvin's discipling ministry, he can be reached on his cell phone at 425-647-8071 or by writing him at tomyfriendmarvin@hotmail.com. Marvin is always willing to share his faith and his experiences when he is able to access his e-mails or answer his calls - which can be difficult at times while he is in India. He is always looking for men who get excited about his mission.

From our Gulf Central District UMM-

Coming April 25, 2009 - Annual District UMMen Gathering -
Mark your calendars and watch for more information to follow.

From Lakeland, 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*

From Nashville, Tennessee - the National UMM

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

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Northern Illinois Conference

Rev. Kevass Harding - "Can these Bones Live?"

Bishop William Morris - retired Bishop of the Tennessee and Alabama-Florida Conferences

Dr. Reginald Ponder - President Emeritus - Louisburg N.C. College

Music

Steve Hornebeak - music artist, Nashville, TN

"Sheltered Reality" - the Youth from 61st Avenue UMC, Tennessee

Vince Gill - 19 Grammy Awards and two-time Entertainer of the Year Country Music Awards.

The Mighty Male Chorus - of Franklin Street St John's UMC

Paul Saik - vocalist and pianist

Richard Alegria - pianist, organist - former UMM President of the Rio Grande Conference

Early Bird Registration - \$175 before 2/1/2009; \$200 after 2/1/2009; \$250 after June 1, 2009

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

The History and Polity of the United Methodist Church

This online course is offered to familiarize leaders with the history, traditions and systems of both the United Methodist Church, and men's ministry within the United Methodist Church. It is a required course for Men's Ministry Specialists, and encouraged for all lay leaders in men's ministry.

This is a self-paced course, but is expected to take several hours to complete. If you are ready to begin this interactive training course click the link below.

[*The History and Polity of the United Methodist Church*](#)

http://www.gcumm.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mikWLaPKLnF&b=3576963&content_id={0FC2E958-7C24-4B83-87A3-776A7A32F8EF}¬oc=1

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 -

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 lamandola@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

Secretary Treasurer - Bill Elliott, Largo 727-586-1159 MethodistMen@msn.com

President - Chet Klinger , Seminole 727-596-1483 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 - 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 January 2009 issue of *FROM THE FOUR WINDS* - E-mail cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-596-1483 on or before December 28.