



From the Four Winds

From Crystal River to Braden River

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

January 2009 Edition

Celebrating 101 Years of Methodist Men

2008 brought many uncertainties into the new year.

The seas appear to be getting stormier as we move into 2009. Our boats are rocking. And it seems our anchors are pulling loose.

Some of us are counting on government to bail out our sinking vessels. Others are doing our own bailing to keep our ships afloat.

What we need now is an anchor that can withstand the storms, the waves, and the wind. And we need to do everything we can to avoid a mutiny.

*Apostle Paul writes in his first letter to Timothy (1:18-19)
“Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction, in keeping with
the prophecies once made about you [regarding becoming a
leader in the church], so that by following them you may fight
the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience.
Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their
faith.”*

*Paul understood both the spiritual and the physical meaning
of being shipwrecked. “Three times I have been beaten with
rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked.”
said Paul. 2 Corinthians 11:25 “When daylight came, they
did recognize the land, but they saw the bay with a sandy
beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they
could. Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea
and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders.
Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the
beach. But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground.
The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was
broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.” Acts 27: 30-
41*

*Paul later writes, “God is not unjust; he will not forget your
work and the love you have shown him as you have helped
his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to
show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make
your hope sure.....God confirmed his promise with an oath.
He did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is
impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the
hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this
hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the
inner sanctuary behind where Jesus, who went before
us, has entered on our behalf.” Hebrews 6: 10-11, 17-20*

Whereas the ship's anchor goes down to the ocean bed, the Christian man's anchor goes up to the heavenly sanctuary, where he is moored to God himself. In other words, we should dwell less on our earthly insecurities and more on the security of the promise and oath of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. And as long as we are together in these stormy seas of uncertainty, we should be helping each other.

For 2009, we at the Gulf Central District will continue the nautical theme to describe the adventures our men's ministries experience in building their ships, in building their fleets, in pulling up anchor and heading out for the open seas of the kingdom of God. In these *From The Four Winds* newsletters, we will use ship-like names familiarized in ship history, such as HMS Bounty and USS Forrester to describe the various men's ministries and their churches.

From our North Central area -

HEADLINE NEWS: The UMM Palm Harbor is loading up to sail the seas of **Fathering - All men in the District are invited to climb aboard or sail along.**

Men's Weekend Retreat Feb- 20-22, 2009

Call now. 727-785-7847 Get your reservations in before February 12. At Palm Harbor United Methodist Church at 1551 Belcher Rd., Palm Harbor 34683 Fee \$30.

An Innovative training event using State of the Art Resources for participants! Dynamic Instruction !
Presented by **Peyton Montague**, trained instructor from the

National Center for Fathering, using stories, examples, video, overheads, small group interaction and an emphasis on practical action planning.

Philip Short, speaker. Music: Mark Dean & the Praise Team
For more information and details, call **Tom Tantillo** 727-784-4171

Friday - February 20

6:15 pm - Registration

7:00 pm - Praise and Worship

7:30 - 8:20 pm Philip Short - "Masculine Spirituality"

8:40 - 9:30 pm Peyton Montague -

"Seven Secrets of Effective Fathering"

9:30 pm - Closing Prayer

Saturday - February 21

7:30 am - Opening prayer

8:00 am - 1:00 PM (Pick one)

Habitat for Humanity Cleanup at the Church

Adopt-a-Road Cleanup along Belcher Rd

Includes box lunch

1:00 - 3:00 pm Free time

3:00 - 3:45 pm Praise & Worship - Mark Dean & The Praise Team

3:45 - 4:45 pm Peyton Montague -

"Understanding Your Power as a Father"

"Factors that Influence as a Father"

4:45 - 5:45 pm - Dinner

6:00 - 6:45 pm Peyton Montague -

"Characteristics that Set Fathers Apart"

7:00 - 7:50 pm Philip Short "Masculine Spirituality"

8:00 - 9:00 pm Peyton Montague -

"What the Bible says about Your Role as a Father"

9:00 pm - Closing prayer

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Sunday - February 22

8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast and prayer

9:15 - 10:15 am Peyton Montague -

"Discovering your Fathering Strengths and Weaknesses"

10:15 - 10:45 am - Philip Short - "Take Away Message"

10:45 am - Closing prayer

11:15 am - Family Matters Worship Service

From our Southern area -

HEADLINE NEWS: The UMM Oneco's "Captain Cook" expresses gratitude for the delivery of its bounty to local families and the underpaid staff of nearby school.

Keith Cook, UMM President at Oneco United Methodist Church in Bradenton, is thanking all of the men that helped do the church's work at Oneco. *"We, as men of Oneco United Methodist Church need to show the compassionate side of our church. Hopefully, this is what has been shown by the Men's organization in the past years. By showing the community our compassion, we will be able to reach more members of our neighborhood."*

Keith also thanks all members of the Oneco UMC family that joined the United Methodist Men and Women in their effort to help families at neighboring Oneco Elementary School through Christmas and end of the year.

Their efforts provided three square meals, including ham, turkey and other foods for 29 families of kids attending the school and underprivileged staff members through the 16-day holiday school shutdown period. Keith said one family thanked them for the Christmas they would not have had without Oneco's help.

Christians should be doing instead of depending on the government for a handout to solve our neighbors' problems. Now is the opportunity to show as Christians we care. Isn't that what the first church did?" Keith wants to take compassion to another level. "Let's make every day Christmas Day in 2009 at Oneco. The church with a heart."

The Oneco UMMen is hosting its February 14 Valentine Dinner with proceeds to help support the Southeast Guide dogs program. Following the dinner will be entertainment from The Sweet Adelines.

Reminder - **February 27** at 7 pm at Oneco UMC - The MacDonald Family Singers from Maine

From the West Central area -

The UMM Anona prepares to navigate the waters of jail and prison ministry around Pinellas County

On Saturday, January 17, the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry of Pinellas County and the UMM Anona hosted a meeting at Anona United Methodist in Largo where men from Skycrest United Methodist and non-Methodist churches in Pinellas County learned more about the need for mentoring men leaving jail or prison and the Good News project.

On **January 31**, from **10 am to 2 pm**, the UMM Anona will host the next training and awareness session that will include learning about mentoring techniques that Christian men in any church can use to help guide any man who is seeking to turn his life around – albeit coming out of jail, dealing with struggles at home or at work, or getting back to a life in the church or a healthy relationship with God. Men in our District who would like to learn more about the January 31 training or The Good News Jail and Prison Ministry can contact the Anona church office at (727) 595-2581.

Founder of Faith Bible College, Marvin went to India, a predominantly Hindu nation, in December. There he has a Bible college that needs a renewal of leadership to replenish the reduction of students caused by pressure from non-Christian influences. The core student body is dedicated to their Christian faith and are helping Marvin recruit new students and solicit new leaders.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Marvin's Bible College ministry, he can be reached on his cell phone at 425-647-8071 or by writing him at tomyfriendmarvin@hotmail.com .

From our Gulf Central District UMM-

Coming **May 2, 2009 - Annual District UMMen Gathering- To be held at Anona United Methodist Church in Largo, Florida. Mark your calendars and watch for more information to follow. Note: The April date mentioned in the December *From the Four Winds* is no longer an option.**

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*

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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 February 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

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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/>



Building a Ship – Anchoring a men's ministry

A very important piece of equipment when building a ship is the anchor. When away from a dock or land side moorings, portable anchors are used to secure a ship off shore or when at sea. Anchors can also be used to help steer a ship where quick turning is needed.

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The most ancient of anchors used by prehistoric mariners were nothing more than a rock tied to twine or a makeshift rope. Today's anchors vary in size and

design from the most familiar fisherman's anchor (or kedge) to the hinged fluke to the plough or the claw.

One of the leaders of the earliest Christian church, believed to have been ordained by Peter himself, Bishop Clement was martyred when one of Rome's emperors had him tied to an anchor and thrown into the Black Sea. Thus, we have today the Mariner's Cross also know as the St. Clement's cross.

Every men's ministry (as a ship) needs an anchor to help keep its ministry from drifting away – to help make quick turns while maneuvering in tight areas and to help cope with changing times.

Our anchor is the Word of God lifted up each time we gather. It is also our mission statement. A statement of who we are and what our purpose is. The new year is a perfect time for each of our men's ministry to review and polish up on its mission statement. To review how far off track our ministry got in 2008 from our purpose and our mission. To set goals for 2009 that are in alignment with our mission and purpose.

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Jesus gave the entire ship of the Christian church an anchor - **“Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in**

Heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16: 17-19

The anchor line (or rode) is this: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18-20

If your men's ministry doesn't have its own Mission statement yet, then consider this one.

The United Methodist Men is a creative fellowship of men who declare the centrality of Christ in their lives and through Discipleship, Evangelism and the Word of God, seek to witness Christ as Lord and Savior in the lives of others.

This is the United Methodist Men mission statement as found in the United Methodist Church *Disciplines*.

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

gwinland@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 Klingler , 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 – 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 February
2009 issue of FROM THE FOUR WINDS - E-mail
cklinger1@tampabay.rr.com or call 727-596-1483.