

## Bob and Marcia



On October 24, 1970, Bob and Marcia Pavey were married. And so it is that now 50 years later they took a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee to return to the special place where they spent their honeymoon 50 years ago.

When our church was looking for a new pastor a few years back, it was a trying time. Attendance had been dwindling and the church needed help. We needed a pastor with the right theology and skill as a preacher... a ministry philosophy and congeniality that would help build the church, and the experience to demonstrate to us that he was the man for Matecumbe United Methodist Church. And we got that and so much more – we got Marcia too!

When looking for our new pastor there was a quality that may not have been considered. A pastor's ministry is never shaped only by experience, knowledge, and skill. It is also shaped by his heart. And did we ever get a bonus. Not only does Bob Pavey have an amazing heart...he is a loving, patient, forgiving, encouraging, and giving leader and so is Marcia! How we all love this very incredible couple.

Marcia and Bob grew up not far from each other in Indiana. They met at Frankfort Camp, in Frankfort, Indiana, the summer of 1970. At the beginning of summer Marcia left her "on again, off again" boyfriend not aware of how the summer and a new boyfriend would change her life. She and Bob began dating and by summer's end they were engaged to be married and just months later they married on October 24, 1970.

The Frankfort Camp website today has a message from the camp director – "I love what takes place at Christian Camps. Lifelong friendships are made, and lives are changed." I wonder if he was talking about Bob and Marcia Pavey!

Bob and Marcia were young and had no money for a wedding so Marcia sold her car and Bob sold his set of drums to pay the bills. Bob planned their Gatlinburg honeymoon. They would spend their wedding night in Indiana and then drive to Gatlinburg the next morning. He planned the time in Gatlinburg, but he failed to consider where they would spend their wedding night. There was a major convention going on and every hotel space in Indiana seemed to be occupied. Finally they found an empty room in a cheap roadside motel.... only available because no one else would stay in room #13. Dinner that night was at White Castle – perhaps most famous for being the country's first fast-food hamburger chain.

Marcia grew up the daughter of a preacher and was adamant that she would never marry a preacher. And she didn't... but some years after they wed, Bob did become a preacher. But surely with Marcia's okay, for now so many years later she is still married to that preacher... a very special one. And Matecumbe Methodist is so happy to have these lovebirds a part of our church family.

# Through the Years with the Paveys

