



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church  
"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"



## February 2021



### A Childlike Prayer

Jesus taught us to come like children to a father. When a child asks parents for a sandwich, they are confident that there is an endless supply, even if there is not. If we come to God, believing there is an endless supply (and there

is) we come with great confidence.

Richard Foster tells us that children teach us the value of imagination in prayer. It opens the door to faith. (This is not trying to conjure or manipulate but simply to picture the prayer answered).

Foster relates that he was called to a home to pray for a very ill baby girl. Her four-year-old brother was in the room, so he told him he needed his help to pray for his sister. The boy was delighted as well as Foster because children often pray with unusual effectiveness. Now, let's both put our hands on Julie's hands and Jesus will put his hands on ours. We will watch the light of Jesus flow into your sister. Watch the healing power of Christ fight with the bad germs until they're all gone. So they prayed. We never know how prayers are accomplished but the next morning Julie was perfectly well.

This week, February 17 is Ash Wednesday.

May the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter be a time of fervent prayer. When you pray, approach the throne with great faith and imagination. God is listening.



### Matecumbe United Methodist Church

81831 Overseas Highway  
Islamorada, FL 33036

#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 905  
Islamorada, FL 33036

Worship Service Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Office Phone - (305) 664-3661

E-mail - [matumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:matumc@bellsouth.net)

Website - [matecumbeumc.org](http://matecumbeumc.org)

Office hours - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

#### YouTube Services

Don't miss any of the weekly services. [Click here](#) to select the Sermon you would like to hear.

# Our Church is Historic

Thanks to Victoria Kattel's research and efforts to preserve the history of our church, the Matecumbe United Methodist Church has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A building must be at least 50 years old to receive this designation.



Victoria is the president of the Colonial Dames. This Keys organization, chartered last summer, is comprised of women who had ancestors who lived and served in colonial America before 1776. The group is focused on preserving historical places and records.



The current Methodist church structure is actually the third one since the church was started by Richard Pinder in 1894. The very first church was a tiny frame structure

located further north on the island and then moved, by rafts, floated along the shoreline, to a location on the beach, now home to Cheeca. A tiny graveyard was added next to the church, which can still be visited on the grounds of Cheeca Lodge. The 1935 hurricane destroyed the church but not the spirit of the congregation.

A new church was soon built using wood and materials gathered from the remains of the hurricane. That structure was in use until 1956 when the Methodists raised the funds to build the current church. The old frame church was donated to the Baptists and is still in use a half mile down US One.



Now over 60 years old, the current church has had many improvements, most notably the gorgeous stained-glass windows made by members of the church,

taught and guided by church member, Susan Bateman.

[Click here](#) to read the story from the Free Press.

[Click here](#) to read about the windows and other stories

## Speaking of Pinders!

In 1894, Richard Pinder founded the Methodist Church in Islamorada. Back then there were three founding families living here: Pinders, Russells, and Parkers. All were important in the history of the Methodist Church.

In September 1900, Preston Pinder made a promise to his grandfather, Richard, that he would continue the work of the church. And thus Preston Pinder became a significant part of the long history of the Methodist Church here.

There are so many descendants of those founding families still living in Islamorada and many are important to our church.

On November 3, 2020, the great grandson of Preston, Joseph "Buddy" Pinder III, was elected to the local Village Council. At the first meeting of the new council, Buddy was the unanimous selection to be Mayor.

Buddy Pinder and Rich Russell are cousins via several branches of the family trees, were Coral Shores classmates and played football together in high school.

## And Henry

Also elected to the council in November, was the man in the back row of the church nearly every Sunday, Henry Rosenthal.

Congratulations to both Buddy and Henry! You both make us proud.

## Church website:

[www.matecumbeumc.org](http://www.matecumbeumc.org)

**What's New:** Keep well connected with the church. On the **Welcome page** you can click on the link to see **What's new** since you last checked it.

**Newsletter Archive:** If you have missed any newsletters you can go to the [newsletter archive](#)

**Our People, Our Stories:** Learn about some of the fascinating stories about the people of the church

**Sermons:** The sermons are indexed on the website under **About Us** and can be accessed from the index.

Click ... [Sermon index](#)

## Book Club

The Book Club has continued to meet monthly, sharing our individual book reviews, sitting six feet apart! And everyone has had time to do quite a bit of reading with being somewhat quarantined. And because of the virus, our hours spent together have been even more enjoyable and takeout lunches from Overseas Kitchen, tastier.



Please join us next month for reading suggestions and fellowship. All are welcome.

## Church Library

Remember there is a great church library with quite a selection if you'd like to borrow some books. Many of the books on the book list are also in the library.

## Book List



If you have read some good books, help us add to our Book List. If there are any books you really loved, send us a brief review – just a couple sentences will work just fine.

[Click here](#) to see the Church **Book List** and reviews.

## Burchfield Brothers Concert



What a treat for those who were able to enjoy, in person, the concert by the Burchfield Brothers on Sunday, January 17. Originally from the Smoky Mountains, they call Nashville, Tennessee, their home.

Jon is a master of the classical guitar and Ben performs so well on the mallet (marimba type instrument) and various recorders. We were all enthralled by how he can whistle ..... beautifully! Their skill combined to make such varied and fantastic music.

If you missed this concert (or want to hear the Burchfield Brothers again), listen to the service on YouTube. [Sunday, January 17th, 2021 - The Burchfield Brothers - YouTube](#)

## More Music

The “Winter Concert Series” continued Sunday, February 7. Phil and Rhonda Foley of InnerLight returned to Matecumbe United Methodist Church with their inspirational songs.



## Prayer List...

**If you know someone on the prayer list, why not reach out to them.**



Nikolai, Jonathan Lindback, Dick and Mimi Chapman, Lin Balog, Gretel Duncan, Rev Dick Smith, Russ, Jim Reynolds, Dasha Kuznecovova, Doug Conklin, Nathaniel Cummings, Emma Kuchynskaya, Tamara, Slava, Larisa, Jerry and Becky Day, Annette Pali's sister Lynette, and her newborn nephew.

**Someone to add to prayer list? Or remove?**

Email the church: [matumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:matumc@bellsouth.net)

## Church Needs

We have increased financial needs for 2021, that total in excess of \$25,000, and continue to need help during these financially difficult times:

- Increase in pastor's salary
- Formalized arrangement for audio/visual position for Sunday services and new position for video presentation of services on YouTube
- A “promotion” account....to help spread the word of our church mission.

Our congregation has so graciously contributed to past restoration projects and we are continually grateful:

- A/C unit in the fellowship hall replaced.
- Spalling in the annex repaired and painted.
- No recurrence of rain damaging our sanctuary.

**Thank you one and all!**



## Helping Haiti

Esther is collecting clothes to be shipped to Haiti and hopes to send what she has soon. If you have clothes to donate, drop them off at the church with Monica during office hours Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. Esther would also appreciate any financial support. [Click here](#) to read about some of our church members, including Esther and the work she does.



## Baptism

On January 17, Bone Riggs Hickory, son of Tyler and Dominique Hickory, was baptized by Pastor Bob.



## Stained Glass Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting was held on January 26, 2021.

Attendees: Judy Winstel, Arlene Martin, Kathy Sill, Carol Wagner, Barbara Haudenschild, Gail Gargano, Becky Swinney, Lee Gannaway, Gretel Duncan, Nanette Inches, Chris Zeher, Susan Bateman (via Zoom)

Project possibilities for 2021:

- a. Implementing Project Managers for each project – they have the vision and control completion of the project
- b. No Stained Glass Class this year
- c. Hearts (tea light holders) – Gretel Duncan
- d. Coffee/Tea Cups - Carol Wagner
- e. Mermaid sales – Nannette Inches
- f. Small crosses – Lee Gannaway
- g. Angels – Carol Wagner
- h. 8 Foot Cross – Kathy Sill
- i. Porpoise Mirror – Carol Wagner
- j. Recover Shop floor – Kathy working with Trustees

The group is also considering ideas for improvements at the Pioneer Cemetery at Cheeca.

[Click here](#) to read the minutes



**Claude I. Allen, Jr.** passed away in North Carolina on December 9, 2020. He was born on April 27, 1935 in Lake Wales, Florida.

Claude grew up in Gainesville, Florida and graduated from the University of Florida in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He then attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia and graduated in 1961 with a Master of Theology. He served as a minister at various Florida and Georgia churches from 1961 -1969 and as Chaplain in the Army Reserves from 1962 - 1972.

After leaving the ministry, he was a real estate broker for 40 years. After retiring from real estate, Claude spent five years living in Islamorada, Florida, with family here. During this time, he continued to share his infectious spirit by officiating over 100 weddings and serving as the chaplain at the Boys Scouts of America National High Adventure Sea Camp. He often helped Pastor Bob during Communion services at the Methodist church.

Claude was predeceased by his wife of 43 years, Alice. He is survived by three daughters including MUMC member Shirley A. Wilson, her husband, Ted, and granddaughter, Ali Beth.



## Marlene Lindback



When Marlene Lindback was just 11 ½ years old, she had a job as a soda jerk in a drugstore in the Chicago neighborhood where her family lived. One day twin brothers who had just moved to Chicago came into the drugstore and she waited on them. This would be the first time she laid eyes on her future husband, Carl. Those twins, Roy and Carl, were identical and Marlene remembers what a hoot they were, soon nicknamed the “Drugstore Cowboys” for being regular entertainment at the drugstore. They were seven years older than Marlene and so they usually hung out with Marlene’s older sisters’ crowd.

The twins soon joined the Army and served the country in the Korean War.

Years later the twins returned to Chicago, back from the War. After church one cold Christmas Eve, Marlene, now 17, ran into the twins at a local coffee shop after church and Carl, extremely shy, gave her a ride home and suggested they could meet the next week. And they did. That meeting is what Marlene considers her first date with Carl Lindback.

Carl and Marlene got married on September 24, 1955. Carl and his twin brother were inseparable, working together in the construction business. It was twin brother Roy who changed life’s direction for the newlyweds.

Roy had been injured in Korea and was struggling with his health, having more and more difficulty walking. He was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). His condition continued to get worse and the doctor suggested a warm climate might help. The senior Lindbacks decided to take a trip with Roy to South Florida. Swimming in the warm ocean waters seemed to be extremely helpful.

The senior Lindbacks decided to move with Roy to the Florida Keys as his diagnosis suggested he had about five years to live. Carl convinced Marlene to move to the Keys with them, just for one year, to help get them situated. So in 1956, the five Lindbacks drove three vehicles, caravan style, to Islamorada, bought an oceanfront property on Upper Matecumbe and began building the La Siesta Resort.

The men worked long hours on the resort. And Marlene learned to do the dry wall. They were able to get the first units along the ocean opened by February 1957, just a matter of months after their arrival. Soon that “just for one year” promise turned into four years. Marlene hated every one of those four years. She was a big city girl trying to acclimate to small town life away from her beloved family. The locals did not seem ready to welcome the newcomers from Chicago with opened arms. Those were a tough four years... she had three baby boys to take care of along with running their new resort and helping with construction.

In 1960 the devastating path of Hurricane Donna hit the Florida Keys and destroyed the Lindbacks’ resort, all of their equipment and their vehicles. They had to start over from scratch. As Marlene looked around at the destruction all over town, she was heartbroken. She realized for the first time how much she had grown to love Islamorada and the people here.

Recovery from the storm was not easy. Carl worked tirelessly building, chartering his boat, the Tiki, and installing terrazzo floors all up and down the Keys, just to make ends meet.

Carl’s parents and wheelchair bound twin brother, Roy, lived at the resort for many years, right near Carl and Marlene and their four sons.



Marlene and Carl sold La Siesta in 2005. In 2009, they bought the famous Lorelei, determined to keep it a local spot where people could congregate, enjoy great entertainment and a beautiful sunset. And so the promise of “just for one year” turned into decades of love and dedication to Islamorada by an altruistic couple and their four sons, who all now have businesses of their own in the Keys.

Carl died at age 89 on March 12, 2018, a most tragic time for the family and the community. But what memories Marlene has of her 62 years with an amazing husband, father, and community visionary.

And so, what about twin brother Roy – the one who was the cause of the Lindbacks’ move to Islamorada in the first place. Eventually, completely paralyzed, he had only the use of one hand. They hired an aide to help... Evelyn. Roy and Evelyn fell in love and got married, moved to her home in Titusville to live happily ever after. Roy, though expected to live but 5 more years back in 1955, died in 2015, at age 86.

The absolute pride of Marlene’s life: her four sons, their families, and the pride she feels in the reputation the Lindback family developed over the last six decades.

Just before Carl died, Marlene said to him “We’ve had great times, a great ride and no regrets.”



How everyone at Matecumbe United Methodist Church loves that lady in the back row and the joy she brings to so many.



**Used Refrigerator needed for church kitchen – let Monica know if you can donate one**



**Join us!  
Men’s Breakfast  
Thursdays at 7:30 am at the Lorelei**



**Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.**



**Bring your loose change to help the children at the Children’s Home: coin jar in the Narthex**

# Getting to Know Pappy...

By Carol Smith



In 1925 Pappy (aka Rev. Dick) Smith was born across the street from his grandparents in a coalfire-heated home in the small farming community of Parryville, Pennsylvania (1.6 sq miles), where the population spoke their own special dialect of "Pennsylvania Dutch" along with English. Even though you could stand at one end and see the other, Parryville was "town" — because it had two mom-and-pop stores, a post office, a school, and two churches. It consisted of Main Street, Back Street, and Church Hill Road. Main Street was actually Route 309, the main highway through Pennsylvania — where the kids could play ball on any given day without any worry of interruption. Life was a quiet affair in the 1920s and 30s. Pappy attended school in a 3-room schoolhouse. 1st and 2nd grades together on one side, 3rd and 4th grades together on the other side, and 6-7-8 in a room upstairs. The townsmen (like Pappy's father) earned

their living working at the New Jersey Zinc Company (NJZC), a huge factory nearby. The factory was so vast that a train ran between the buildings, and Pappy's grandfather was the conductor on that train.

As one of 11 children, Pappy's father had to drop out of school to help support the family. But he was always an avid reader with a thirst for knowledge and information. He eventually landed a job as a chemist at the NJZC, and even served on the Board of Education for the county. He converted a room in their basement into a pomade-scented barbershop with Courier & Ives and Norman Rockwell prints on the walls, where he shaved and snipped and trimmed his neighbors in the evenings after work. In the Smith household, his word was law. Pappy's strong kind mother likewise had a bright and curious mind, always seeking to learn, though one year of high school was all that was offered to girls of her time. She heated her iron on the stove, kept food cold with a block of ice in the "icebox", fed her wet laundry through a wringer by hand and hung it outside on the line to dry, cooked and baked rings around Martha Stewart, helped her boys pedal their newspapers when necessary, sold frocks door to door during the Great Depression, volunteered wherever needed. She was active in the church and community. And as Pappy says, "She was always there." Pappy had a brother, Bob, two years older, a Commander in the Coast Guard. And a sister, Elaine, five years younger, who at age 90 still plays piano for her Methodist Church services in North Carolina.

Music and flight have always been two of Pappy's favorite things.

It seems Pappy was born with a silver flute in his mouth. He was one of the founding members of the Keys Community Concert Band, and never missed a practice or a concert for as long as he was able to play. Even as a shy hot-tempered youngster, Pappy always loved music — and played his flute and piccolo in the Parryville community band, where his father also played an instrument. They played for town picnics and parades and other special events. At home, the family played together in their parlor just for fun: mother on piano, father on clarinet, brother on violin, Pappy on flute. They also played special music for the churches. His father always wanted to keep his children busy and productive.

The world was at war when Pappy came of age. And he wanted to be a fighter pilot. Following high school, after his night shift at the silk mill, he would go to the airport to participate in a project of building a piper cub from the ground up. But before it was completed, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at age 17. They took him for training when he reached 18, first to a converted hotel on Collins Avenue in Miami Beach, where they pulled out all the carpets, pulled the plug on the elevator, and replaced the furniture with bunkbeds. And then to Las Vegas before deploying to England. Color blindness disqualified him for the pilot training, a bitter disappointment. So he was assigned to be a gunner on a B-17 instead.

Home on furlough before shipping out to Europe, he and his best friend walked into a diner one evening in a neighboring town and... bam! Love at first sight. The waitress was a pretty petite backslidden preacher's daughter named Betty. He ordered peanut sundaes one after the other all night long just so he could keep talking to her. He told his friend, "I'm going to marry that girl." And when he came home from the war, he did. Now, Pappy had a short-fuse and fiery jealous temper. And Betty had a strong stubborn independent will. Neither one was in fellowship with the Lord. And there were fireworks aplenty as the young couple headed up life's road together. Then friends invited Betty to church camp the following year and she went to the altar there and gave her heart to the Lord in August of 1946. She came home and told Dick about it. He huffed and puffed and grumbled. But he saw a change in her. And a few days



later Pappy said, "I was sitting in our tiny living room. And something just wasn't right. I had such a disturbed feeling. Couldn't read or write or focus or think. I went and told Betty and she said, "Well let's pray about it." So we knelt down together by the bed and used that for our altar. I said, "I don't know how to pray. You pray for me." So she did. She prayed and I said, "Yes." And in that instant the fire fell! The Lord saved me and changed my heart and changed my life forever!" In November of 1946 Pappy attended a revival meeting and when the altar call was given at the end, only one person responded: him. As he prayed, it became clear as a bell in that moment: God was calling him to preach. The shy backward kid who couldn't even talk to people, who got an F in high school for freezing in front of the class when he was supposed to give a 3 minute speech! Betty came from a family of singing brothers (she was also the youngest of 11), and she played the accordion and piano, so Dick would travel around with Betty and her brothers singing in various churches. He was all in!

In 1951 Pappy was ordained a Nazarene minister. And that calling defined his life. Loving and serving Jesus. Loving and serving others. Pointing others to salvation through the life-changing love of Christ. Bringing others into the Kingdom of God with the assurance that Heaven is their ultimate home. What could be better than that?



He and Betty had three children— Rick, Kurt and Carol. And pastored churches in Massachusetts, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio and Florida. He loved preaching so much he had to retire three times before it finally stuck! Carol had moved to the Keys in 1972 and a few years later bought a home in Tavernier for her parents to retire to... one day. Dick and Betty moved to the Keys in 1985. And it gave them the greatest joy to lead the choir at MUMC and play piano there, and to get to know and love the wonderful friends in this community. Friendships he treasures.



And now at age 95, the physical challenges are real but there's still a song in his heart and a sweet spirit in his life. Because he believes what he's been preaching all these years: the best is yet ahead for the child of God!

## Thank you, Boy Scout Troop 912

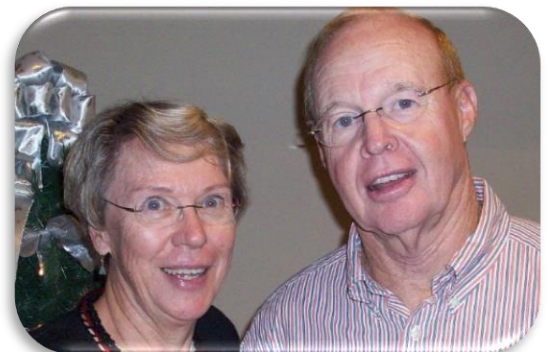


On Saturday afternoon, February 6, six Boy Scouts and their leader were pretty hungry as they were held up by an accident on US One on their trip to our church for lunch, before doing a work project for us. Upon their arrival, Pastor Bob welcomed the troop and gave them a little information about MUMC being on the historical registry. Gals from the stained glass group provided the hot dogs, chips, and cookies, before pitching in with the scouts to remove the labyrinth from the yard across from the firehouse, as directed by Jenn Leak. The mosaic stepping stones were saved for a future use. This piece of property can add additional parking when needed, and for outdoor activities.





# Collection of Miscellaneous Photos Some Old, Some New







**Send us your photos to add to the collection!**