

## Is this Church Right for Me?

Is this church a place where I can connect with God and worship him freely? Will I learn about the Bible here? Are fellowship and community encouraged?

The Matecumbe United Methodist Church has attracted many new members in recent years... often through the involvement of its long-time members in local community efforts and activities at the church that bring members together as one church family. Read about two new ladies in town below...

## New Town, Welcoming Faces

By Kathy Sill



Growing up in the Methodist church led me to seek a new Methodist church home after moving to the Keys. The Matecumbe United Methodist Church website listed a stained-glass ministry, which I found intriguing. The Stained-Glass team welcomed me and showed me the ropes. I found the same welcoming environment on Sunday mornings. Someone I had never met greeted me in the parking lot when I attended my first Sunday service, making me feel right at home. My spiritual growth continues as I apply the lessons from the weekly sermons and the winter bible study. Community outreach is also important to me. I found opportunities to feed the homeless, make stained-glass angels for those who are ill and serve homemade lemonade at the Hurricane monument on Labor Day, all of which help me feel like a part of the community. The monthly church dinners remind me of the Sunday dinners my grandmother would host.

Most important when moving to a new community, the church provided opportunities to develop new friendships. With my many new friends made through the church, I have a new family that is here to support me when I need help. I am grateful that I found such a caring church family. As I was establishing myself in the Keys, I met up with Jacki Tilton via the church, and she was in a nearly identical situation in a new location following her retirement. Our instant friendship has been a blessing to both of us. Thank you Matecumbe United Methodist Church for being just what Jacki and I need.