



# The Lighthouse

Matecumbe United Methodist Church

*"Bringing the Light of Jesus Christ to Our Islands"*



**November 2018**

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

The year was 1637 and the place was Eilenbery, Germany and all of Europe were at war.

Eilenbery had sustained heavy damage in three separate attacks and thousands of refugees arrived adding to the chaos. Luxuries disappeared, food was scarce, disease was rampant and life was extremely difficult. Rev. Martin Rinkard was the only pastor in that community and his journal records that in one year, he conducted more than 4500 funerals. One of the occupying armies even demanded tribute payments from already impoverished people. It would seem that there was nothing for which to be grateful. No earthly reason to be thankful and yet, in that same year (1637), Pastor Rinkard wrote these words: *"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices. Who wondrous things hath done. In whom His world rejoices; Who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way, with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."* It's a song that more than 350 years later can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal (p. 102). We all face times when life seems unfair, yet as we approach the Advent season, we are reminded there is hope. In the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mother Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God." Celebrate this Christmas season with joy, peace, and hope. "Now thank we all our God."

*Pastor Bob Pavey*



**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.

**Adult Sunday School**

Every Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Center

**Office**

Phone - (305) 664-3661

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

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

Hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

# A Changing of the Guard!

## Meet Monica Mendez



The church has a new office manager, as Debbie Williams moved on to a fulltime job with the county court system. Thank you Debbie for your dedication and fine service.

The good news is... we found Monica, our new office manager. She lives in Key Largo with her husband and two children, Gabriela and Alex. Monica is originally from Colombia but was educated in Monroe County. Sadly, she lost her father in August; her mother is still living in South America.

Monica has quickly learned the many workings of our office and is a nice addition to our church. The present office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Stop in and welcome Monica when you get a chance.

## Fellowship Committee

For many years, just a few MUMC members have done so much in carrying out the various activities of the church. And for that we are grateful. Now we'd like to get more and more members involved. Nan Inches and Barbara Haudenschild headed an effort toward that goal, creating a Fellowship Committee.

After several brainstorming sessions with over a dozen church members, numerous ideas are being implemented: Prayer Warriors ( a prayer chain of folks filling out yellow cards), new visitor cards at the pews (blue cards), a communion preparation committee, monthly church dinners, a game night the second Thursday of each month, maintenance of the kitchen and library, and help with the newsletters.

Join us for activities; provide your thoughts and ideas. Our church can be so much more than just a Sunday morning service. Help us make the church family a bigger part of our lives.

## MusikGarten



MusikGarten is back in swing after vacations and holidays. The music we're using is called *Dance with Me*. I'm so glad to be able to actually dance with the children after a long time of rehab. Using our scarves, rhythm sticks, jingles, sand blocks, shakers, ukulele, and kinderglockenspiel add to the fun of playing in a group. We are also beginning to learn tempo and dynamics, along with their terms.

Please call or text if you know any children from birth through age 5 who could benefit. Classes meet every Monday in the children's room and are free. Call Jan 305.393.6196.

## Ladies Christmas Tea & Auction



Dec. 8, 2018 – starting at 11:30am. Tickets are \$15.00. Guest speaker to be announced soon.

There will be a silent auction and a purse auction (some have surprises in them). We appreciate all donations you can make and are in need of items large and small and / or a gift certificates from any business.

If you want to decorate a table, contact the office or Marcia Pavey. There are still tables available. All funds from this event go towards missions and local community outreach.

## Dinners after Church



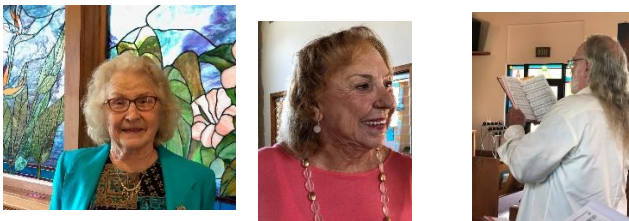
While the snowbirds have been up north, we have continued feasting once a month after the Sunday church service. Nan Inches has been creating lovely centerpieces and favors to carry out various themes. She and Randy donated a grill so we had hamburgers and hot dogs for our indoor picnic celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, hot dogs for our tailgate party in September, and hopefully will have brats for our Octoberfest on October 20. For our Thanksgiving celebration, we will be asking for donations for the Food Bank.

Don't miss these special opportunities to join us for fellowship and delicious food at our covered-dish dinners.

## Trustees' Report

The Trustee Committee is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church and parsonage property. The trees over the roof of the fellowship hall were trimmed in preparation for hurricane season. The church windows now have hurricane glass so the old aluminum shutters are no longer need. Any suggestions for the old shutters? All six central air conditioners have a service contract with Rex Air and three of the four in the church were recently repaired. If you notice something that needs attention, contact a trustee: Ken Knudsen, Paul Grewe, JimWinstel, Susan Bateman, Bob Baad, Jennifer Leak, Chuck Dugger

## Feature Stories



At our church services we get to greet so many special folks ...like Lee Gannaway, Marlene Lindbach, Van Cadenhead pictured here.... and so many more. Tell us who you'd like to know more about so we can feature them in future newsletters!

## Stained Glass



**The Stained Glass Group** is taking on a new approach for its artistic efforts. Over the last two decades they created the Bible story themed windows for the church and lighthouse themed windows for fellowship hall. The current target is smaller works which are easier to display and transport, such as ornaments and sun catchers. Items can be purchased during the normal workshop hours on Tuesday and Thursday. The group is open to doing custom commissions. Speak to a member of the group and they will work with you to create a piece that fits your space, budget, and color palate. The group is exploring options to expand our public exposure.

Proceeds from stained glass sales fund the Stained Glass Mission and church activities. This mission paid for all the impact windows recently installed to protect the stained glass windows at the church. A project in the works presently is to fund the replacement of the "gift wrapping" of the Fellowship Hall columns. If anyone would like to expand their artistic pursuits, the Stained Glass Group presents an opportunity to do just that while helping the church at the same time.

## Book Club



One Wednesday a month, the Book Club meets in the church library to discuss its most recent selection and choose a new one for the following month. Four years running and each "read" has been an enormous hit. A copy of each is in the library for sharing. Check them out if you are looking for a highly endorsed book to read.

The selection for October 23 is "Coming Home" by Rosemunde Pilcher; for Nov. 20, "Ordering Grace" by William Kurt Krueger. And, of course, the group goes out to lunch following our 10:30 meeting. We'd love to have new members.

Through donations of books and CD's, the library has many great religious and recreational works. Monica, Pastor Bob, or anyone meeting in the building, will be glad to unlock the door for you. It will be open before church services, too. The library doubles as a room for quiet prayer.

# Labor Day Celebration



The Matecumbe Historical Trust held its annual service at the Hurricane Monument in memory of the 500 plus who perished in the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. This year's Labor Day program fell on September 2... 84 years to the day since the catastrophic 1935 Hurricane destroyed almost all of Upper and Lower Matecumbe.

We commemorated the many Matecumbe United Methodist Church members who died in that storm. Nan Inches headed a committee that served fresh lemonade and cookies to attendees. Nan also created a large wreath, which Victoria and Ed Kattel presented at the celebration. It was an opportunity to also honor our two surviving members, Alma Dalton, and Norman Parker, and to rejoice that our church is alive and well! Alma was recognized as the only survivor in attendance. Lee Gannaway, Gretel Duncan, Kathy Sill, and Gail Gargano assisted with the refreshments. Mangrove Mike donated the lemons.

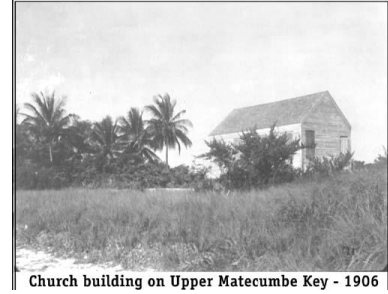
# Game Night



The Morada Way Art Walk is the Third Thursday month, but on the second Thursday, our church now has a game night. Any and all folks are welcome, so bring a friend if you like.

In September, eleven of us played Bunco, an easy to learn and fast moving game. We all had a great time and certainly enjoyed the fellowship, away from computers, phones and TV! As the group grows, other games can be added. So mark your calendar and join the fun at 7 pm the second Thursday of the month – you'll be home in plenty of time for the 10 pm news.

# History Corner



Church building on Upper Matecumbe Key - 1906

Victoria Kattel has researched the early history of our church from its beginnings in 1894 when founded by Richard Pinder. Here are the first several paragraphs of her historical account of the church:

*In September 1900, Preston Pinder made a promise to his grandfather, Richard Pinder, to continue the work of the Church and Sunday school Richard started on the Island of Upper Matecumbe in 1894. Preston and Johnny Russell had to conduct many services themselves since pastors from Miami only did the Keys circuit once a month. Church services were announced by the ringing of the church bell. People arrived from Matecumbe and surrounding keys. Some walked, others arrived by sail or rowboat.*

*The little wood frame church was located on the East end of Upper Matecumbe island. In 1901 it was to be moved to a more central location. Two large rafts were made and lashed together. During high tide they were brought up on the beach as far as possible. Then, while the tides were changing, the building was rolled down to the water's edge and placed on the raft. When the tide came up again, the rafts set sail with the church riding to its new location. That site was on what is now Cheeca Lodge's beach. Not long after that, a church cemetery was established next to the church.*

While the church was destroyed during the 1935 hurricane, the cemetery is still located along the beach at Cheeca.



*Angel monument at cemetery where Etta Delores Pinder (1899-1914) was buried.*

## Welcome Javy



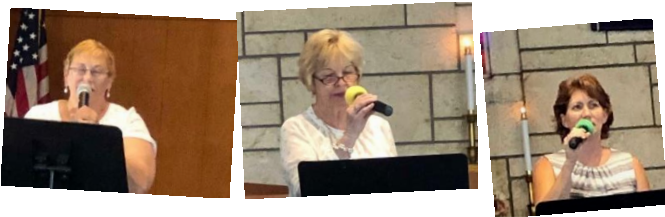
Welcome Javy Solvearo Brown, our new sound-media specialist. Richie Russell found him at Coral Shores High School where he manages the Performing Arts Center. He was born in Towson, Maryland, but moved to the Keys in 2002. His interest in music began early, playing trombone starting in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and then growing into piano and classical guitar. Florida State School of Music is where he continued his studies, majoring in music business. He landed an internship with Emilio Estefan in Miami, which brought him back to this area and Coral Shores.

In his spare time, Javy enjoys writing and recording music in his home studio. Together with his brother and sister, he loves movie and pop culture.

"The opportunity to install and learn the system at Matecumbe was a true blessing," says Javy.

The true blessing is ours. We are so glad you are here and look forward to enjoying your talents and expertise in the coming years.

## WORSHIP TEAM



The Worship Team is finally all back together from summer vacations. We are adding a new venture to its ministry. On October 20, we will perform *Homecoming*, a Gaither style musical for the church during the morning worship hour. Then after a fellowship luncheon, we will move sound equipment, music stands, and Javy to the Planation Key Rehabilitation Center to share our music with Ralph Harding, our favorite resident, and any other friends who will come with him to the cafeteria. If you would like to minister there with us, we could use your help. I'm sure the residents would enjoy your friendly faces.

As always, we are looking for new singers, instrumentalists as well. Snow Birds are welcome to join us while you are in town. After the 20<sup>th</sup>, it will be time to get ready for Christmas. Joy to the World.

## Thank You Margo



Our church owes a big thank you to Margo Murray who often fills in so admirably when Pastor Bob is not available.

Their love of the ocean and scuba diving brought Margo and her husband to the Keys from Chicago 26 years ago. They subsidized their income by working in the dive industry here as they transitioned into retirement. Margo admits "I had to overcome the fear of water to become a scuba diver... it's amazing what God can do when you include him in the equation."

Margo feels blessed to have been raised in a Christian home with a mom to instill great values. While a great "preacher" Margo is not an ordained minister. By profession... she was a hair stylist. She is a part time water aerobics instructor and fitness trainer now. Margo, a grandmother with 13 grandchildren and another on the way, often fills in at her own church, Marathon Community UMC, and at the Kirk of The Keys, as well as helping us out.

"I always knew Jesus wanted me for a sunbeam... remember that song? I made a promise to God years ago saying, whatever you want I'm yours, and he has led me to levels I never anticipated, including preaching."

With Pastor Bob on vacation for several weeks in August and September, our church was blessed to have Margo as our sunbeam!

## Helping the Bahamas



Blue Water Surrender has a four year history serving in the Abaco's through the Boy Scouts of America, Bahama Sea Base High Adventure Program, which was located in Marsh Harbor, Abaco. This local group is organizing a variety of relief efforts for Bahamians. Their first effort delivered 1,000 solar "Luci lights" to the people of Marsh Harbor to help light up an island and dispel the darkness – bringing hope and love. Any donation, large or small, will go directly to the people needing the help.

Blue Water Surrender  
P. O. Box 439, Tavernier, FL 33070  
305-587-7144