



The Lighthouse

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

February 2020



From the Pastor's Desk:

I love good stories and enjoy good music. Let me share a little of both.

Charlotte Elliot was born in Clapham, England, on March 18, 1789. Her father was an

Anglican Vicar as were some other family members. She lived a very happy, normal life until a serious illness made her an invalid the remaining 50 years of her life.

While having dinner with friends in London, an eminent Evangelist remarked that he hoped she was a Christian. Charlotte was offended by the question but it planted a seed and she ultimately became a Christian.

In 1834 her brother organized a bazaar to raise money for the poor. Charlotte desperately wanted to help but was physically unable. Obsessed with feelings of uselessness, she remembered the words of the Evangelist when he said "Just come to Jesus as you are." With that thought she wrote the hymn "Just as I Am."

She sent it to a publisher in hopes that it would raise a few shillings for the bazaar. It brought in much, much more. It was distributed throughout England and translated into several languages.

In 1934, exactly 100 years after the hymn was written, it was sung at the conclusion of the meeting at which a young Billy Graham started using that same hymn at the conclusion of nearly all of his crusades.

The hymn has touched literally thousands of lives and might be the most sung song in all of Evangelism.

The thesis of the song is God's message to every person and that is:

We come to Jesus *just as we are* and

- He welcomes us with open arms
- He pardons our sins
- And he offers grace.

And uses us ***Just as We Are***.

I don't know of a better deal.

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.

Bible Study

Every Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Office Phone - (305) 664-3661

E-mail - matumc@bellsouth.net

Website - matecumbeumc.org

Office hours - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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.

MusikGarten



The little ones are having a blast with Jan Grewe at the MusikGarten. The music is called *Dance with Me*. Please call or text Jan 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.

2019 Lady's Christmas Tea



Marcia Pavey

I'm happy to share that our Lady's Christmas Tea was very successful this year. We raised over \$14,000 for missions. Our speaker, Kristi DuPree, from "Blue Water Surrender," did a wonderful job sharing their group's mission work! Her words encouraged each of us to give from our hearts. Our purse auction was a lot of fun. Our models and auctioneer were very entertaining. If you were unable to attend, ask some of the ladies about it. We had a change of menu this year. Our luncheon was catered by the "Key Lime Lady." We enjoyed fine food, good fellowship and a beautiful presentation! Thanks to all who helped make the Christmas Tea a great success!

Church Website



Several years ago church member **Shirley Wilson** created a website for the church. Basic information has been available through the website. In an effort to communicate more regularly with our church family, we are hoping to expand the use of the website by adding a church calendar, a photo gallery, and lots of news. Check back soon as we make updates to the website.

[\(Click here\)](#)

Dinners after Church



The monthly dinners after the 11 a.m. church service have continued with great dishes provided by the attendees. The grilled brats were a hit at our Octoberfest. Unbelievable was the amount of items donated for the Baptist Church Food Bank at the November event. Our January dinner not only had the usual great food, but provided lots of fun as we “exchanged” unique presents at our annual gift swap.



Our dinners are such a great way to get to visit socially with some of the very special people that are part of our church family.

Special People



Corley Smith

We have quite an amazing young lady in our church! Corley Smith (daughter of Cale and Margie Smith) was named Female Athlete of the Week by the Upper Keys Weekly last fall. Corley often is the church acolyte and with her younger sister, Layne, takes up the church collection. In addition participating at our church, Corley is an exceptional swimmer as a freshman at Coral Shores. Read about her amazing successes: [click here](#).

And we understand it won't be long until we will be reading about Layne's successes as she follows her older sister's lead with her outstanding swimming efforts.

Stained Glass Annual Report



The church stained-glass group has long conveyed amazing cooperative spirit, enhancing the character and strength of the church family, often attracting new members for the church. The group encourages new participants to get involved and will train!

There were 17 in attendance at the annual stained-glass meeting January 7, 2020. The group appreciatively thanked Jeanne and Jack Munro for the new air conditioner and saw blade they donated.

In 2019 the group made and installed a new window in Fellowship Hall... Alligator Light... the most meaningful and loved of all the Florida Keys lighthouses for residents of Islamorada!

Recent projects include stained-glass *angels* we have been making for people who are sick and stained-glass *crosses* as birthday gifts for our members at the Plantation Key Rehabilitation Center.

At church on Mother's Day the stained-glass group will be announcing the winner of the lovely hand-made quilt donated by Jo Coon. The quilt is on display in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available from Carol Wagner for a chance to win.

Items For Sale:

- Love the lighthouse themed stained-glass windows in Fellowship Hall? Then you will want to check out the lovely glasses the group is selling (decorated with pictures of the stained-glass lighthouses now in the Fellowship Hall windows).
- Also available... several cases of the beautiful cookbooks with favorite recipes and church history.
- There are also some fabulous stained-glass ornaments.

Through the continued support of the stained-glass mission, a significant contribution can be made to help with capital improvements at the church.

It was decided by unanimous vote to have the group donate \$2,000 toward the new central air conditioning system in Fellowship Hall.

BOOK CLUB

One Wednesday a month, the Book Club meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. "The Heart Between Us" by Lindsay Harrel will be our February 19 Valentine selection, a story of a heart transplant that affects two families.

The March 18 book will be "This is Not How it Ends" by bestselling author Rochelle B. Weinstein. To read about the author and book which is set in Islamorada [click here](#).

After our meetings we go out to lunch together. Please join us.

Our church library keeps growing, with many wonderful religious and recreational selections. The Book Club's highly recommended selections are available in the library. Because the room is locked, visit anytime someone is at the building who can provide access.

Game Night



Laughter starts in Fellowship Hall about 7:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month, as a group of gals gather to play Bunco, a very easy to learn, but fun to play, dice game. So far, no guys have joined the group, but it was intended to be a "co-ed" activity. Everyone is welcome!

Prayer Warriors



Be part of the church prayer ministry. "Prayer Warriors" are notified when someone is in need of our thoughts and prayers. Fill out a yellow card, available in the narthex, to be contacted by either email or text if you'd like to pray for those who are struggling. Through prayer we can all be used by God to touch the lives of people who are suffering.

If you or a friend need our prayers, contact Jan Grewe, jangrewe@bellsouth.net or 305-393-6196.

Creating Smiles



Plantation Key Rehabilitation Center residents were smiling when ladies from the church's stained glass group delighted them all by helping them make turkeys and Indian corn pins last fall. The project was financed by the Book Club. In December, treat bags were assembled for residents. These events were in addition to the occasional music provided by our Worship Team.

And even more smiles were generated when Christmas baskets were created and delivered to four shut-in church friends.

A huge thank you goes to **Nan Inches** for all her leadership, contributions, and creativity for these community outreach projects.

History Corner

A prior Methodist Church building was located on the beach where Cheeca now stands. That structure was destroyed by the devastating 1935 Labor Day hurricane and many members of the congregation perished. Using wood, nails and other materials from the destruction that littered the Keys after the storm, members constructed a new frame church at the current site. It was named Carlson Memorial Methodist Church to honor the young pastor who died in the storm.

Rev. Robert Emmanuel Carlson had married Maud Magill in 1931, before moving to the Florida Keys in 1935 for their new assignment at the Methodist Church in Islamorada.



Several months after their arrival, the Labor Day hurricane of 1935 hit. The Carlsons could have escaped but felt that their place was with the members of the congregation who were staying to ride out the storm.

Rev. Carlson helped board up buildings as the storm approached. The hurricane destroyed the Church and the parsonage was swept off its foundation. Both Rev. Carlson and his wife died in the storm. He was 38 years old. Maud was 35.

When the current church was built, the name Carlson Memorial Methodist Church could not be used as another church in Florida had been named for him.

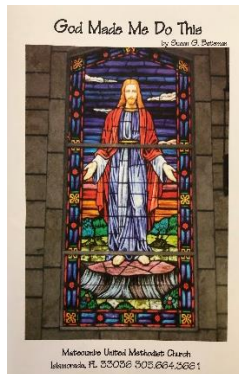
More History: Our Stained-Glass

Few members of the current congregation were around to attend services in the prior Methodist Church structures here in the community. There will be a time when the congregation no longer recalls the way the current church looked with the original gold glass windows that cast a dismal yellow shadow.



So many churches throughout history have used stained-glass windows as beautiful works of art as well as a means of telling biblical stories, depicting episodes from the Bible.

In 1999, God found a solution to the gloomy yellow windows at the Matecumbe United Methodist Church. God had a conversation with church member Susan Bateman! You must read her book, **“God Made Me Do This,”** about how her conversation with God led to an amazing church transformation.



Susan knew how to create stained-glass art. But she would need oodles of help to accomplish the mission she spoke to God about and the one that kept her up at night dreaming. Susan set about on a mission to find and train her helpers. And to find funding for the huge undertaking... replacing all that gold with vibrant stained-glass, featuring biblical imagery.

It didn't take long for church and community members to fall in love with the endeavor and offer their support, learning the techniques Susan taught them. Carol Wagner provided much extra help instilling enthusiasm as they moved forward together, finishing small windows first to test the endurance and interest of Susan's

helpers, often called the “stained-glass groupies,” with Carol always asking “Now what can we do?”



Susan and Carol turned into quite a pair! And let's never forget the engineering genius of Susan's dad, Louis Gasink (1919-2019), who for years helped teach new stained-glass students and designed helpful techniques to make daunting jobs easier and more durable.

Soon a workshop for the dozens of stained-glass enthusiasts was created in Fellowship Hall. And year after year the workshop and the number of helpers continue to grow.



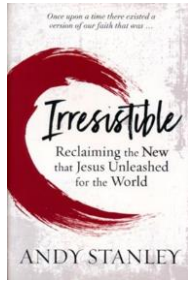
When the small windows proved to be a huge success, it was decided to proceed with the six big, 6' x 8', windows for the sanctuary. Susan, as the church “design diva,” began visualizing the Biblical stories. Carol Wagner became shop manager and a stained-glass instructor. Judy Winstel handled the finances. There was no shortage of helpers to work on the windows week after week, year after year.

It took from 2003 to 2008 to complete the six large windows! And to quote Susan Bateman from her book... “We have succeeded in creating what we started out to make. We've developed a fellowship and camaraderie among Christians who love to work together for the glory of God. The project has brought us a oneness in purpose and spirit. We've embraced new people in a wonderful fellowship.”

And once more Carol Wagner asked “Now what can we do?” So the “stained glass groupies” replaced the light fixtures that hang in the sanctuary and have created new stained glass windows for Fellowship Hall designed with a “lighthouse theme.”

The group continues to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays to learn, to teach, and to contribute to the church through their talents, energy and love. They welcome new “groupies” and love to teach their craft. The “groupies” and their art will be a huge part of the Matecumbe United Methodist Church story for generations to come.

Bible Study



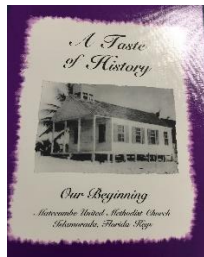
Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall as we study Andy Stanley's book "Irresistible." We watch a video and discuss questions about how we can embrace our faith and share it with the world, even in our day to day tasks.

And speaking of **Bibles....**

There are free New Testament Bibles available in the front of the church. Please take one for yourself or to share with someone else.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path"
Psalm 119:105

Church Cookbooks



We have our cookbooks for sale for \$15. The forward is a brief history of our church and the picture of the church on the cover was taken on what is now Cheeca Lodge Beach. The time was 1927 on Leola Pinder and Rev Edwin Dennis' wedding day. They met in the summer of 1925, when he was an intern minister at Matecumbe Methodist Church.

Handmade Quilt



The church is selling tickets to purchase a handmade queen size quilt donated by Jo Coon in memory of her husband. Each square depicts a colorful reminder of the Florida Keys. Contact Carol Wagner or church office.

Alma Dalton

By Victoria Kattel



Young Alma



Alma and Jack



Sister Dorrie and Alma



3 generations: Alma, Corey, Marge

Born in Key West on April 22, 1924, Alma was the oldest child of Bertram Pinder and Ida Cothron Pinder.

She grew up in Islamorada, with her sister Dorrie and their little brother Joe. She loved to swim and play at the beach. Her favorite thing to do though, was fish off the dock at the Matecumbe Club where her father was the caretaker.

As a young girl, Alma, her immediate family, and the rest of her extended family and friends had the unfortunate experience of going through the 1935 hurricane. She survived and is one of only two remaining survivors of that event.

Alma grew up going to school in a one room schoolhouse. By 1939 there was only one other student in the 10th grade with Alma. The teacher decided they should go to high school in Key West which had more students in their grade. She went to school in Key West through 11th grade then went to Georgia to live with her Aunt Leola for her senior year of high school.

In 1941, while on Christmas break, she met her husband Jack Dalton. Jack was stationed with the Coast Guard at the Alligator Reef Lighthouse. His mail was delivered to the post office, then taken to Alma's Great Uncle Alvin and Aunt Ella's house on Beach Road. Alma happened to be the one dropping his mail off that fateful day when he came ashore to pick it up.

They married in December of 1942, 6 months after she graduated from high school. They had two daughters, Sheila and Marge.

Alma has lived as far away as Utah and California, wherever Jack was stationed. Long after Jack's passing, she moved to DeLand, FL but soon came back home to the Keys where she lives to this day.

Alma is well respected in our community and we are proud to have her as the oldest living member of our church. The same church her family established 126 years ago.

Help Needed

From Richard C Russell, MUMC-Admin Council-Chair
I want to share with you some facility concerns that were identified at our January MUMC Administrative Council meeting:

- The air-conditioner in our "Fellowship Hall" was deemed to be beyond repair and accordingly a replacement has been ordered. Installation of the new unit is scheduled for late February at which time we will need to pay a \$6,300 invoice (in full).
- A long-standing roof leak in the southeast corner of our sanctuary remains unaddressed. Current conditions leave us subject to further damage each time we incur a driving rain.
- We have a significant spalling issue that covers virtually the entire length and width of our annex's southern roofline.

An "action plan" was proposed, and approved, to appeal to the "church body" for underwriting assistance. A small group of fellow parishioners have pledged \$10,000 toward MUMC restorations with the caveat that their pledge be presented as a "CHALLENGE" to all Matecumbe United Methodist Church attendees.

A minimum goal of \$20,000 was established by The Council. Accordingly, I want to appeal to you to prayerfully consider contributing to the MUMC Restoration Fund. Your gift –will in essence—be matched by the initial pledges.

Thank you for your continued support of Matecumbe United Methodist Church and our mission to lead others into an authentic, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.



Inoperative A/C



spalling



corner leak

Matecumbe United Methodist Church **Facility Restoration Fund**

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Email _____
Phone _____

I pledge to contribute \$_____ toward the MUMC Restoration Fund with the knowledge that my contribution will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by a small group of parishioners who wish to remain anonymous. It is my intention to complete my contribution on, or before, March 1, 2020.

Fellowship Committee

The newly formed Fellowship Committee first met last June 13 with thirteen gals and Pastor Bob and had high hopes of sharing the workload done by so few for many years, drawing from the talent and energy of various church goers, and reaching out to others.

Pew cards and a prayer ministry were created. Committees were formed to prepare communion, maintain the kitchen and library, and send out a quarterly newsletter. Monthly dinners and game nights were scheduled. Thank you notes and greeting cards are being sent. Lemonade and cookies were well received by the community at the Labor Day service at the monument. Attention was given to our shut-ins and those at the Convalescent Center.

At the recent February 4th meeting, time was spent on

- Ways to advertise the church. Painting the street sign purple was a good start.... thank you, Ed
- The possibility of forming a worship committee
- Finding financial support
- Encouraging the use of the library
- Updating and expanding the use of our website
- Selecting a movie to be shown in Fellowship Hall some evening soon. (Watch for the announcement in a Sunday bulletin)
- Organize a group in the fall, who will be responsible for decorating the sanctuary and exploring possible outdoor decorations the week of Thanksgiving, for the Christmas season
- Having a meeting soon to discuss the future of the Ladies' Christmas Tea

If any of you were unable to join us on February 4, but would like to be a part of our efforts, please speak up.

The Fellowship Committee seems to be enjoying their support of the Church and are appreciative of comments and suggestions from fellow worshippers.

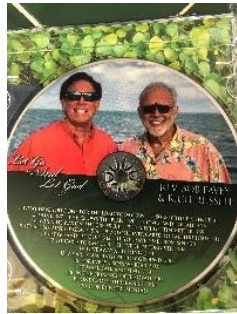
Matecumbe Memorial Gardens



Adjacent to Islamorada's historic Hurricane Monument there is a lovely memorial garden. While it is on the grounds of the Matecumbe United Methodist Church, you do not need to be a Methodist nor a member of the church to reserve a place in the Memorial Gardens. The Memory Wall is a section of the garden with plaques that honor loved ones in a quiet garden setting. There are also niches that are available to house remains. For more details, www.matecumbeumc.org

The Blessings of Music

“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” (Psalm 100:2) And we sure do that well with the likes of **Pastor Bob, Richie Russell, Jan Grewe, the Worship Team, and the talented Yana Pate** playing the piano. The Christmas Cantata was certainly exceptional. If you'd like to join the Worship Team just show up for practice Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Snowbirds are welcomed and appreciated!



Following both the October and December dinners after church, the Worship Team took their music to the **Plantation Key Rehabilitation Center**. Others from our church accompanied the Worship Team to provide fellowship. Especially appreciated was Nan Inches with her wonderful treats for the residents.

Did you know that **Pastor Bob and Richie Russell** have recorded Christian music together. If you don't already have their CD you are really missing something special. Pick up one in the church narthex. In addition, Richie created a musical CD of his songs as a unique and treasured “Christmas card” for the 2019 holiday.



Sun Feb 23 11 a.m. Service

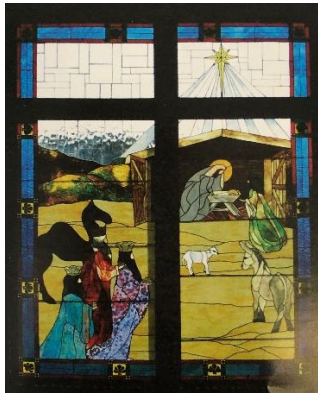
The Burch Field Brothers in Concert



With the music talent provided by Pastor Bob and so many talent members of the church, we have been blessed to have several special musical events at church services.

“Jon and Ben Burchfield make music that inspires the soul. Classical guitar, midi-marimba, Irish whistles and recorders make these two artists sound like an entire ensemble! The stylistic diversity of Appalachian, Classical, Jazz, Renaissance, Praise, Worship and Gospel has attributed to the stunning arrangements that have put this duo in demand”

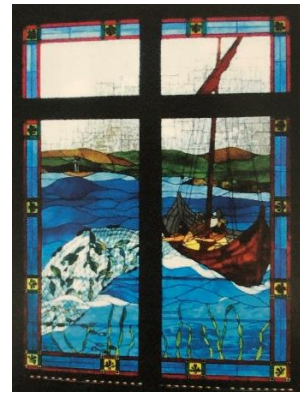




2003 Christmas story



2004 – Easter story



2005 – casting the net



2006 – Feeding the 5000



007 -Jesus walked on water



2008 – John Baptizing Jesus

Lighthouse Themed Windows in Fellowship Hall

