

**Green Mountain United Methodist Church  
Pastoral Staff 1962—2013**

**Carl F. Branson**  
Founding Pastor (Student)  
November 1962 – June 1963

**H. Deon Martin**  
Pastor  
July 1963 – June 1974

**Thomas M. English**  
Pastor  
April 1974 – April 1982

**Claude H. Sullivan**  
Associate Pastor  
June 1977 – June 1978

**Sandra Stephens**  
Associate Pastor  
July 1977 - June 1983

**David R. Huffnagle**  
Associate Pastor  
July 1978 – June 1983

**John R. Nieves**  
Pastor  
June 1982 – June 1985

**Lina Gould**  
Associate Pastor  
May 1983 – June 1985

**Deanna Bleyle**  
Pastor  
July 1985—May 1989

**Kenneth Redfearn**  
Associate Pastor  
December 1985—April 1989

**John P. Foreman**  
Pastor  
May 1989—June 1994

**Riley S. Grant**  
Pastor  
July 1994—June 2002

**Jean L. Schwien**  
Pastor  
July 2002—February 2012

**Paul Murphy-Geiss**  
Pastor  
July 2012—



Chrismon Tree 2012



**A Nurturing, Inspiring, and Enriching Community**

...Open Hearts  
...Open Minds  
...Open Doors

Christmas 2012

*As members of Green Mountain United Methodist Church we pledge to “give our Prayers, our Presence, our Gifts, and our Service.” Throughout our 50 years, members have given uncounted hours to large and small projects, our music programs, teaching Sunday School, mission trips, youth sponsorships, and volunteer projects of all kinds. It is impossible in this short history to recall the many events, programs and projects that shaped GMUMC. Many members have donated monetary gifts both large and small as memorials, time and talent for upgrading our physical plant, and for furthering or establishing our many programs and ministries. The Memorial Book in the narthex lists many of these monetary and memorial gifts. GMUMC has been truly blessed with many who have contributed generously with their Time, Talents, Gifts, and Service.*

*Space does not allow extensive explanations of the many programs mentioned in this booklet. Please ask our staff for detailed information or find pamphlets describing programs in the narthex literature racks.*

*Special thanks to Carolynn Fox, charter member, for serving 50 years as GMUMC Historian. Scrapbooks with GMUMC historical memorabilia are available in the office conference room.*

# GREEN MOUNTAIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

***1963-2013  
50 YEARS OF CARING AND SHARING***



**12755 W. CEDAR DRIVE  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80228  
303-989-3727 gmumc@gmumc.com**

Fifty Years of Caring & Sharing is certainly an appropriate way to sum up the history of Green Mountain United Methodist Church! From humble beginnings in a house at the corner of Ohio & Alkire to our present location on the hill overlooking metropolitan Denver, the church has lived out a deep commitment to serve Christ by caring for those in our neighborhood and beyond.

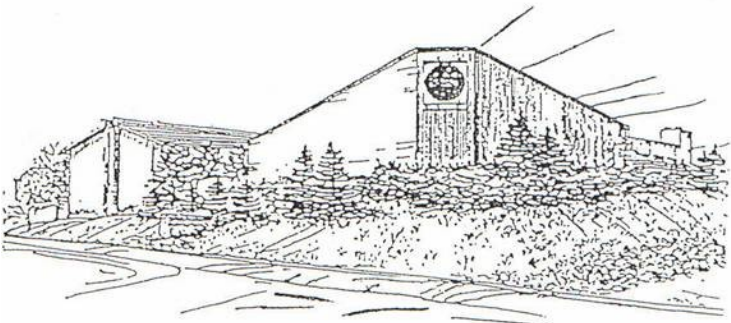
A history of the church written in 1976 stated that the purpose of the church is to, “grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ and through him the love and spirit of God. Through our daily life we will strive to live our Christian faith as we shoulder the burdens, share the risks, and celebrate the joys in our church, this community and the world.”

While we might use slightly different words in 2013, the basic message is the same. We seek to understand who we are as followers of Jesus, and to then live that out in our daily living.

Over the years this community of faith has had its ups and downs, but throughout we have sought to be faithful to that call to share the risks and celebrate the joys. We gather to worship together, share in fellowship together, study together and to serve together. We have traveled to help people rebuild their lives after hurricanes and floods. We have sent our youth on mission trips near and far. Together with members of other faith communities we have helped to build 12 Habitat for Humanity homes. We have worked together to support a program that has given more than \$90,000 in youth scholarships. We have gathered school supplies for children in the community. We have collected clothing and furniture for immigrants to our country, some of the newest members of our community. We have studied scriptures and been challenged to grow in our understandings of what it means to be faithful people. We have done all this and so much more, and all because we strive to share the risks, shoulder the burdens, and celebrate the joys in our church, community and world.

Fifty years of Sharing and Caring, that is what we celebrate, but more than that, that is what we will continue to do for the next fifty years and beyond because we have been touched by God’s love.

Peace, shalom, paix, salaam, heiwa,  
Pastor Paul



Panoramic view of **GMUMC Volunteers in Mission** at UMCOR warehouse in Salt Lake City, November 2012



**Volunteers in Mission** at Beaver Creek Youth Camp - Work Projects and dedication of pulpit built by GMUMC men, 2012.

**OUTREACH**  
GMUMC reaches out to the community by offering use of our facility as a meeting place and through the many members who give of themselves to community service in many organizations such as: African Partnership, Action Center, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Bonfils Blood Bank, DenUM, Ecumenical Refugee Services, Family Promise, Heifer Project, Foothills Green, Gathering Place, Grant Ave. UMC Street Reach, Habitat For Humanity, Jeffco Partners, Life Spark, "Love Packages" Ministry, McCurdy School, Parkinson's Assoc., Project Cure, Rett Syndrome, Ronald McDonald House, Second Wind Fund, UNICEF, Urban Peak, Volunteers In Mission, Warren Village



**Acolytes and Cross**



**GMUMC MINISTRY OF MUSIC**  
CHANCEL CHOIR CARILLON BELL CHOIR  
BELLISSIMO BELL CHOIR CHILDREN'S MUSIC  
CHILDREN'S CHIME CHOIR

**Bellissimo Bell Choir**



**Chancel Choir**



**Carillon Bell Choir**

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Education Ministry is coordinated by paid staff and volunteers under the direction of the pastor. Information on schedules and events can be found in the monthly newsletter, "The Window On The Hill" at [GMUMC.com](http://GMUMC.com)

**NURSERY** - Provided for infants and toddlers through age four.

**CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN** - Christian learning experiences for children 2 years old through 6th grade. Extra activities planned throughout the year to enhance the fun of church and promote growth and involvement in the church. 10:30 am worship service includes a time when children are invited to the chancel area for a special message before they are dismissed to go to Sunday School.

**INTERFAITH MOMENTUM**—4th-6th Grade. Meets in varying churches.

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH (6TH-8TH GRADE) & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH (9TH-12TH GRADE)** - Sunday nights. See monthly Youth Newsletter for scheduled events and information.

## ADULT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**HILLTOPPERS** - Class for Senior Citizens meeting every Sunday at 9 am. Study of Bible-related subjects with a monthly social activity.

**QUESTIONS, INC.** - Current events and faith.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY** - Sharing of journeys in faith with discussion of stimulating readings.

**BIBLE STUDY** - Bible Study classes for adults.

**FRONT ROOM RUMINATORS (R2)** - Video-based discussion format to explore religious thought, questions of faith, and matters of the spirit.

**HOPEFUL HERETICS** - ponder personal faith in the 21st century with aid of books, lecture/film outings, shared experience, and most importantly finely-crafted ice cream!

**HUMAN RIDDLE** - Explorations of what it means to be human, sane, and a person of faith in the 21st century.

**SHARED JOURNEY** - A supportive community for those who share the daily challenge of the diagnosis of dementia—as individuals, families, and caring friends.



Third Graders' Bible Presentation



Children's Chime Choir



GMUMC Stephen Ministers 2012

## FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

ACOLYTES  
CROSS BEARERS  
USHERS & GREETERS  
LITURGISTS  
CHILDREN'S TIME DURING SUNDAY WORSHIP  
CHURCH LIBRARY  
INTERFAITH MOMENTUM FOR 4th-6th GRADERS  
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT  
QUILTERS  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
UNITED METHODIST MEN  
UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP  
OUTREACH and VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION  
UNITED METHODIST MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

# The 1960's

In the early 1960's the Denver UM Church Extension saw the need for another church in west Denver, later to be named Lakewood,. In November 1962 DCE purchased a home at 13239 W. Ohio and the Branson family moved into the new "parsonage." A group of only three couples, led by student pastor Carl Branson, began holding weekly fellowship meetings in this home.. The group grew in number rapidly. On December 9, 1962 a house adjacent to that parsonage at 776 South Alkire was completed, and it was also purchased by DCE. The first church services were held there that day in the large downstairs room. Green Mountain United Methodist Church was officially organized January 13, 1963. Charter membership was closed February 3, 1963 with 62 members on the role. The congregation quickly became too large to meet in the lower area of the South Alkire house, so the men of the church took out the kitchen and dining area and services were moved upstairs.



Carl Branson



H. Deon Martin

H. Deon Martin became pastor in June 1963. Late in 1963 the men again removed another wall of the Alkire house and the garage now increased the meeting area for the expanding congregation. In mid-1964 another parsonage was acquired at 750 S. Arbutus for the Martins so that the Sunday School could move into the original parsonage on West Ohio. Lakewood UMC donated the first organ and many other churches generously donated choir robes, hymnals, an altar rail and pulpit.



South Alkire  
Meeting House

In November 1964 with a membership of 180, a building committee was completing the final plans to build a church. 3.5 acres of land was obtained from a local developer for \$6,000. With strong winds and freezing temperatures, the ground was broken on December 13, 1964 for the new church building. GMUMC was approximately two years old.

In early 1965 the Trustees put the West Ohio property and then the South Alkire property on the market to relieve the financial burden on the church. Temporary quarters were rented in a medical building on Union, and all activities were confined to one small, inconvenient room. Yet membership continued to grow as everyone anxiously awaited the completion of the first unit of the new building on the hill.

Christmas 1965 was a special and appropriate time to hold the first services in the new building despite the fact that the facilities were incomplete. On April 17, 1966 the building was consecrated with Bishop R. Marvin Stuart. Membership by September 1966 had climbed to 313. This first unit cost approx. \$90,000 and contained 5,900 sq.ft.

In December 1969 the second unit of the church building was finished. It contained a fellowship hall, small kitchen area, offices, and classrooms. The second unit added an additional 6,100 sq.ft. at a cost of approx. \$93,250.

In 1978 the developer gave the church an additional 1.5 acres. Groundbreaking for the east building was held May 7, 1978. The first service was April 1, 1979. Consecration was held on September 16, 1979. The building added 25,000 sq.ft. at a cost of approx. \$861,750. The sanctuary capacity is 300, and the parking lot can hold 185 cars.



Original Building—December 1964



West Building with Second Unit —December 1969

**The Symbolism of the Window in the West Building**

The top circle symbolizes God and Eternity— without beginning or ending. The cross denotes Christ over all. The second circle symbolizes creation. It is not closed, denoting that creation is an on-going process. The dove in this circle is a symbol of Peace. The sunburst is a symbol of Hope. The triangle represents the Trinity— Father, Son, Holy Ghost. The Phoenix bird, rising from the ashes, is a symbol of new life and resurrection. The mountain peaks remind us of the Sermon on the Mount and of our church on Green Mountain.

# The 2010's

The north steps were replaced in 2011 for \$15,650. The Trustees continued to maintain the aging buildings by having the sanctuary ceiling resealed for \$13,200 in 2012. New windows were installed in the office area and Fireside Room in 2012. The sanctuary stained glass window was regouted and clear glass was installed on the outside to provide protection during summer 2012.

Paul Murphy-Geiss became pastor July 2012.



Paul Murphy-Geiss

The many junipers that surrounded the buildings were removed in Spring 2012, and a landscaping project using bushes that required minimal water was undertaken that will be completed Spring 2013. The Rock River on the north side continues the “Living Water” theme of the sanctuary stained glass window. The flagstone path and bench across the north side of the west building were designed especially for children to enjoy.



Teapots and flowers are lined up for the annual **Christmas Tea**. This annual Sunday afternoon event features musical entertainment, fancy decorations, and elegant desserts.

Church members displayed their nativity sets on tables before and after church at the **Nativity Showcase**, a new event in 2011.

The UMW celebrate the Christmas season with their annual **Candlelight Dinner** each year.



Sign on North Side and Peace Pole

A **Capital Improvement Projects Campaign** was launched in 2005. \$90,000 was raised to 1) replace the handrails on the north steps; 2) repair the sprinkler system, 3) install a new, lighted sign on the north side of the building, 4) gut the kitchen and replace all appliances and cabinets, and 5) replace the windows and flooring in the Fellowship Hall. Tables and chairs, tableware, and the stage carpet were also replaced. The sanctuary, narthex, Fireside Room, and office carpeting were replaced in 2008 for \$47,500.

The first and only **"Sewer Sunday"** occurred on September 13, 2009. Emergency repairs in the summer found GMUMC with a \$45,000 bill. Extra-generous gifts raised \$47,000 and helped us to be "flush" again! It was an opportunity for many sewer-related puns!



**EGGSTRAVGANGA** is a popular annual pre-Easter event.



The pre-Christmas **Alternative Gift Fair** showcases gifts from agencies such as the African Community Center, Bead For Life, and Women's Bean Project along with the **Christmas Craft Fair** for children.

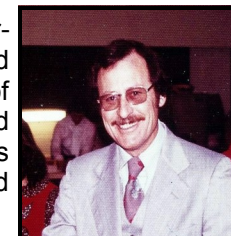


On **Epiphany Sunday** in January, three wise men puppets, their gift-bearers, and one camel enter the sanctuary to the music of "We Three Kings" complete with braying camel sounds to bring their gifts to the baby Jesus.



## The 1970's

Thomas English became pastor in 1974. By September 1976 our membership had doubled again to 689. In early 1977 the Church conference voted unanimously to build a new sanctuary and office space and by the end of 1977 the building plans were presented for congregational approval. Ground breaking was on May 7, 1978, and the first service in the new building was held April 1, 1979. The west building was later remodeled for a chapel and educational unit.



Tom English



Dave Huffnagle



Sandy Stephens

During this period of growth, Sandy Stephens (1977) and Dave Huffnagle (1978) joined the staff. Sandy directed numerous dramatic and musical productions at church during her stay. In March 1979 Sandy raised \$1,021.59 toward a piano for the new facility during her 24-hr. "Pianothon". For the dedication of the new building she wrote the music and words for "The Altar On The Hill".

### THE ALTAR ON THE HILL

Music and text composed by Sandra Stephens, Assoc. Pastor 1977-83

In the days when a few had a new, far-sighted dream  
Of a place where all might gather in his name,  
They allowed the Holy Spirit to direct what might become;  
To this very spot God's remnant people came.

They gave what they had in sacrifice to make their vision grow,  
'Till a building was erected in this place.  
Then they made a celebration, singing praises to their God  
For the faith that built their dream on trust and grace.

Refrain: And the living water flows from the altar on the hill,  
Bringing life in wide, and ever wid'ning streams;  
While the people of Green Mountain join their hands to do God's will,  
Surrounded by fulfillment of their dreams.

Now in latter days their numbers grew, the Spirit stirred again;  
And a vision in their midst was born and grew  
Of a place where all might learn of God in deeper, loving ways  
The creating Lord was making all things new.

So they brought their gifts for building up the temple of their God;  
And the river of the Lord does not stand still.  
So today we sing our praises and we shout our joy aloud,  
And rededicate ourselves to do his will.

Refrain: And the living water flows from the altar on the hill,  
Bringing life in wide and ever wid'ning streams.  
We, the people of Green Mountain join our hands to do God's will,  
Praising him who still is giving life to dreams.

*The text is taken from two sources; our history as a congregation and the 47th chapter of the book of the prophet Ezekiel. In majestic language we read that Ezekiel saw in a holy vision a stream of water flowing forth from the altar of the temple. It grew both in width and depth as it flowed out into the world, and the Lord God promised Ezekiel that the river would bring life and healing wherever it went. The symbol of the living water flowing from the altar is the focal point of the sanctuary stained glass window. SS*



**Chrismon Tree Dedication  
December 1978**

**United Methodist Women:** The original six-foot “Chrismon” Tree was dedicated at Christmas 1978. The ornaments on our Tree of Life are “Chrismons” - a combination of CHRIS and MONogram—thus a Monogram of Christ. Many women of the church spent uncounted hours creating the more than 475 different Chrismons from white, gold, and crystal pearl-shaped beads on wire that we have today. The Chrismons include over 146 varieties of crosses throughout Christian history, and 332 other symbols including stars, doves, butterflies, crowns, fish, trinity symbols, and Christian monograms. In 2001 a new 12-ft. tree was given to better display the many Chrismons that had been added since 1978.

The United Methodist Women began a catering service in 1981 to raise funds to finish the kitchen and Fellowship Hall of the new building. They catered over 330 functions—dinners, receptions, banquets, and funerals—both at GMUMC and throughout Denver for a wide variety of church and civic groups. The effort continued until 1991 when the project raised enough funds to complete the lower level of the building.

## ***The Vision Becomes Reality As the Building Rises***



**May 1978-April 1979**



**Jr. and Sr. High Youth Mission Trip 2007**

The **GMUMC Jr. High and Sr. High youth** have taken mission trips each year beginning in 2002. This group went to Neodesha, KS in 2007 to repair tornado-damaged homes. The annual Taco Bar and Silent Auction and gift card sales provide major fundraising for the youth mission trips each year.

*GMUMC was presented with a “**Church of Transformation**” award by the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2005. Only 27 churches out of 261 qualified for the award. The award was presented because 1) We baptized at least one person in the past year; 2) We accepted at least one person into membership by profession of faith; 3) We supported the Wider Mission of the UMC through 100% payment of our apportionment asking; and 4) We supported other mission and outreach ministries by giving over and above our church budget by at least 5%. In 2011 GMUMC was recognized with a Tithe Certificate for giving at least 12.5% of Adjusted Gross Income. Rocky Mtn. UM Conference records show that In the last 20 years we have always exceeded 100% of the requested apportionment with an exception of one year.*

The men of GMUMC presented a live dramatization of da Vinci’s “**The Last Supper**” in 2006, 2007, and 2009. Each of the disciples gave a moving testimonial regarding their relationship to Jesus and their interpretation of the events leading up to the Last Supper. The choir provided music throughout the presentation.



**Living “Last Supper” 2006**

In 1998 GMUMC sent its **Volunteers In Mission** team to Limon, CO to help with tornado damage. Since then VIM teams have gone each year to places such as Beaumont, TX to help Katrina hurricane victims, the Redbud Reservation in South Dakota, and Pueblo, Mexico to work at the Jimmy Carter International Build for Habitat. Teams have also gone to Salt Lake City to assemble emergency kits for disasters at the UMCOR depot. GMUMC also sends items for these kits such as towels, soap, and toothbrushes to the depot.

GMUMC became a member of Partners for Interfaith Action of Jefferson County in 1998 to build a **Habitat for Humanity** home. Each year since then GMUMC has contributed volunteers for building, Pumpkin Patch workers, and funds from grocery certificates. 2012 marked the 12th house GUUMC has participated in building, and one of our members is the proud and grateful new owner.

In 1998 the GMUMC **Stephen Ministry** began with ten lay people from our congregation who were trained to give supplemental pastoral care. These volunteers are given extensive training to help in crises such as loss of a loved one, hospitalization, depression or loneliness, terminal illness, or divorce. They are the caregivers. God is the cure giver.

# The 2000's



In 2002 Jean Schwien became our pastor. Our physical plant was now 40 years old and some areas were in need of modernization, replacement or repair. Many areas of the buildings were used heavily for a large variety of church and non-profit groups on an almost daily basis.

In 2004 the sanctuary projector system was installed at a cost of \$15,000.

In April 2004 GMUMC affiliated with The Center for Progressive Christianity. The center is an effort to promote and support the radical open inclusiveness of the Gospels while making available the finest Biblical scholarship of our age. This affiliation supported the UMC motto of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."

Jean Schwien

**Sunday, April 17, 2005**  
**was a day of rejoicing for GMUMC. The mortgage was paid off!**

Our **Memorial Garden** was dedicated in May 2005. This area is also known as the Columbarium and is intended to be a final resting place for cremains of our church family. The Columbarium is located in the former courtyard between the buildings and is visible from the sanctuary windows. It's benches, landscaping, and fountain provide a peaceful setting for families whose loved ones are interred there, and the columbarium is often visited by neighborhood wildlife.



Columbarium Memorial Wall

## The Sanctuary Stained Glass— Our Window on the Hill

The bright and beautiful stained glass adorning our sanctuary has a message—that God's spirit filled Jesus Christ and he became "the light of the world." That same spirit and life have come into our lives and our church, and it flows out as a stream, taking life to those in our community and our world.

The bright colors are those of nature, the gold of the sun, the blues and greens of the ocean and sky. The brilliant circle of light and its rays symbolize Jesus who said, "I am the light of the world." Inside the glowing light are two images. One is a descending dove, a bird that is flying down to earth, a symbol of God's power and love. Surrounding the dove is the shape of an angel. The green ripples running down and outward from the light represent the water of life which gets wider and deeper and brings life to all. The black circles describe our expanding care and concern for all people and for our world.



## The Story of Our Pipe Organ—March 1979



Original Organ Appearance

In 1998 the organ was upgraded and repaired as part of a remodeling of the sanctuary at a cost of \$60,000. The result was a custom-made hybrid that kept the traditional pipes but added new digital effects to broaden and deepen the organ's various voices.

Our former organist, Donna Baker, contributed her salary for four-and-a-half years to create a base fund of \$5,300 to purchase an organ for the new sanctuary. Other organists also donated their pay. Memorials and donations brought the total to over \$6,300. A music production, *Fiddler on the Roof*, brought in about \$1,700 to reach a total of \$8,000, and the sale of the Allen organ used in the west building sanctuary enabled purchase of a used 8-rank Wickes organ that members of the church found in Chicago, Illinois. Choir members refinished the cabinet, and the organ was installed in the new sanctuary.



Organ Pipes During Restoration

# The 1980's

Throughout the 80's all groups embarked on fundraising efforts to provide funds to furnish the new building and to help pay the monthly mortgage. In 1982 Jon Nieves became senior pastor. As of December 1982 membership had grown to 956. With increased financial pressure due to the high cost of the building, GMUMC could not afford two associate pastors, and Dave and Sandy went on to new assignments. Lina Gould became our associate pastor as of June 1983.

In March 1980 GMUMC sponsored its first refugee family, and since then we have sponsored at least one family each year and many times two families in partnership with Denver Ecumenical Refugee Services.

At Easter worship services in 1983, Bishop Melvin Wheatley, Jr. dedicated the beautiful huge oak cross standing on our altar platform. The cross, pulpit, baptismal font and altar were designed and constructed by a son of a church member and brought here from Utah. Funds for their construction came from memorials and gifts.

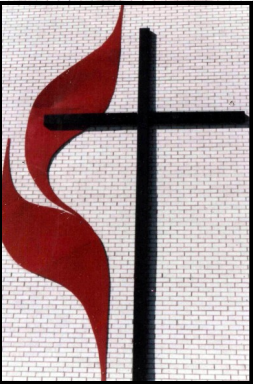
In July 1983 the name of the church newsletter was changed from the "Ekkalein" (Call of the Church) to "The Window On The Hill". The "Church Mouse" regularly reported good deeds done by folks around the church in the newsletter.

In February 1986 GMUMC began the grocery food certificate program with Safeway and King Soopers that we continue today. Profits from grocery certificates have funded many special projects and causes outside our budget since that time.



Jon Nieves

In February 1987 the Cross and Flame, the United Methodist symbol, was installed on the building's exterior.



GMUMC has had interpreters for the deaf available for over 35 years. There are also listening devices for the hearing impaired and large- print bulletins.



A finance campaign, "Journey Into The Future—Completing The Dream", began in November 1995 to finish what was started 18 years before. The campaign goal was \$430,000; however, \$595,039 was pledged. Some of the accomplishments made by June 1997 include: paving the parking lot, landscaping of the south and east sides of the church, installation of a deck outside of the Fireside Room, installation of an elevette in the east building, rebuilding of the organ, and renovation of the sanctuary.



Vacation Bible School 1997



The sanctuary was almost totally completed in time for an August 1 wedding. Consecration of the renovated sanctuary, landscaping, and elevette was August 3, 1997.

*The purpose of Green Mountain United Methodist Church is to seek to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and through him the love and spirit of God. Through our daily lives we will strive to live our Christian Faith as we shoulder the burdens, share the risks, and celebrate the joys of our Church, this community, this world.*



Permanent Sanctuary Banners

*if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation,  
the old has passed away, behold the new has come.*

**Pastor's Report January 25, 1996 to Annual Church Conference, Riley Grant**

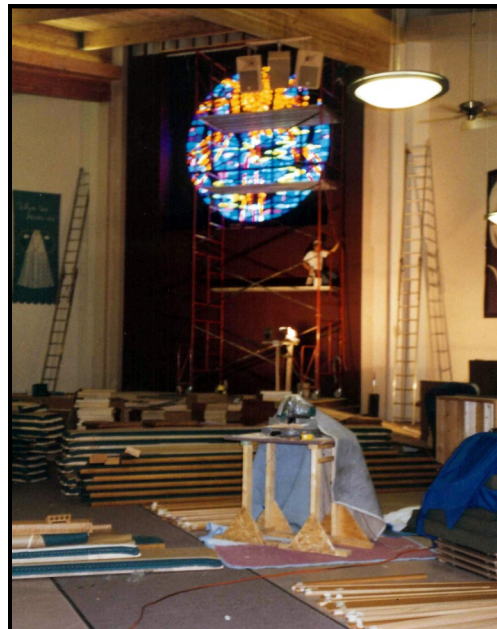
"Twenty years ago GMUMC began a period during which it enjoyed explosive growth. By the early 1980's it had grown to approximately 1000 members and employed three full-time, ordained clergypersons. With this growth came the financial resources (or so some thought) to complete this church's dream for its physical plant. A new sanctuary, fellowship hall/kitchen, office complex, and learning center were added to the existing facility. But then the church fell on hard times. It, as well as the surrounding community, suffered several economic setbacks. Thus began a decade of shrinkage. Membership declined by nearly 50%. The pastoral staff was reduced from three to one. Suddenly encumbered far in excess of its resources, GMUMC stood on the brink of bankruptcy during the 1980's. Three casualties of these hard times were; 1) the sanctuary—only a very Spartan shadow of what had been originally intended; 2) landscaping—for 15 years the public side of the building remained a weed-infested hillside; 3) programs and ministries—one clergyperson and 500 members just couldn't maintain what had been created by three clergypersons and 1000 members. But under the stable, steady-as-you-go leadership of John Foreman, things began to look up. GMUMC got itself under control. It reorganized its indebtedness in such a way that is began to meet that indebtedness faithfully and comfortably. The church began to meet its Wider Mission apportionment in full. In 1994, stimulated by a desire to complete the sanctuary, do the landscaping, and expand the staff and program, we began a visioning process with the leadership of the church and membership. With these "marching orders" in hand, we moved with dispatch to launch a major campaign "Journey Into The Future" to raise the funds we needed for the capital improvement as well as two years (1996 and 1997) worth of operating funds."

***Journey Into The Future -  
Completing The Dream***

1997



Sanctuary Remodeling 1997



Deanna Bleyle

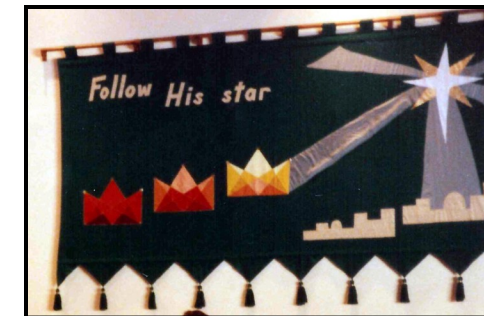


Ken Redfearn



John Foreman

Deanna Bleyle became pastor in July 1985; Ken Redfearn became associate pastor in 1985; John Foreman became pastor in 1989.



GMUMC women created a variety of sanctuary banners that were changed throughout the liturgical year.



**Courtyard at Easter 1988**  
This area later became the Columbarium in 2005.

# 25th Anniversary February 1988



Highlights of the 25th Anniversary celebration included a dance, auction with former Pastor Tom English and dinner. The Sonshine Singers (youth choir), Rainbow Singers (children's choir) and Chancel Choir provided a concert, and former pastors provided sermons throughout February Sunday services.



## The 1990's

The mortgage was again refinanced in 1992 through the UM Development Fund. \$360,000 was borrowed, the old loan paid off, and payments were lowered from \$6,500 to \$5,000. It was expected the loan would be paid off in eight years.

In the fall of 1992 the first three octaves of **handbells** were donated. As of 2013 we now have four-and-a half octaves of handbells and four octaves of **handchimes**. We also have three octaves of handchimes for the children's bell choir.

On February 28, 1993 we dedicated the grand piano we now enjoy and a recital was held.



On July 4, 1993 the **Peace Pole** was dedicated. The Peace Pole Project is a worldwide movement with the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth". Our pole is located on the north side of the building at the base of the steps.

The **Youth Scholarship Fund** was established in 1994 to benefit graduating high school students who plan to continue their education. For nineteen years the annual Chili Cookoff on Super Bowl Sunday has raised funds for this cause. As of 2012 seventy-seven recipients have received a total of \$90,000.

### From An Affirmation of Green Mountain UMC for Easter 1999

**Riley Grant, Pastor 1994-2002**



It's funny how the mind turns when the approach of Easter moves us to reflect on resurrection — the many forms it takes—how life will not be denied in its determination to refresh and renew itself.

I've never had the opportunity to talk with the architects who designed our building—what the concept or image they had in mind when they gave it its shape. But I know what it looks like to me. When I'm driving west on Alameda in the vicinity of Kipling and lift my eyes to this white form on the east face of Green Mountain, it occurs to me that I'm looking at a stone outcropping on the brow of a hill, and that speaks volumes to my spirit. A stone outcropping. It's tough. Stubborn. Determined in its resistance to the erosion that would wear it away. So, while the softer material all around it surrenders to

the weather that blows and washes it away, the outcropping continues to stand. Aye, more—it seems to loom larger, taller, stronger in the comparison.

Is that not a fitting symbol, testimony, witness, maybe even monument to the history and of Green Mountain United Methodist Church? There were times in the 1980's when people near the center of leadership in this church felt that circumstances were inching toward that moment when we might have to "give up the ghost"—when we might not survive—when the erosion of human and fiscal resources might wash this church away—a tide too strong. But this church stood! Like a stone outcropping in the likeness of which its building is shaped. Tough. Stubborn. Determined. This church persisted, and finally prevailed against the circumstances that surrounded it. In fact, it was those circumstances that proved the softer, weaker, and were eroded away while the church continued to stand.

The resurrection of Jesus is about how life lived God's way shall not be overcome—not even by death. The cross is the primary symbol of that. But if you want another one, just lift your eyes to this white form cropping out of the brow of Green Mountain—a monument to the life of this church and how it would not be denied in its determination to refresh, renew, indeed, to resurrect itself!