

Churches in Grand Lake

From Grand Lake in the Olden Days by Mary Lyons Cairns:

The Church Finds Its People

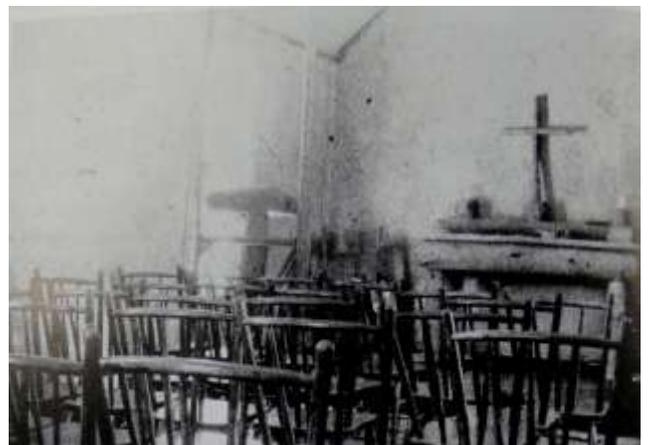
Of the earliest church services, held in 1879, and of the Sunday School, Harriet Proctor Boyle said: “The first church services were held in a pine grove, about half a mile down the road. The preacher was a Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church. During the prayer my brother Alec’s (A Phimester Proctor) bird dog, collected all the men’s hats and hid them under Alec’s seat. We children thought that was funny, but we couldn’t laugh in church, even though it was outdoors.”

And of the first Sunday School she says; “Later the editor of the paper started a Sunday School on the other side of the lake from our house, where the town was, and my sister Nellie has (in 1943) the book of poems he gave her for committing the most Bible verses to memory.” Items from the early issues of the *Prospector* tell something of the desire for church services in those days, and of how those desires were fulfilled. January 18, 1883: “A Sunday School has been started at Hot Sulphur Springs with Dr. Bock as Superintendent. That shows what a good example will do. Grand Lake deserves a vote of thanks for awakening religious thought among the heathen. Teller should now fall in line and organize a Sunday School! “The Sunday School at Grand Lake is flourishing like a green bay tree, under Mr. Butler’s management.” August 7, 1884: “Bishop Spaulding will arrive from Denver on the coach tonight. He will hold services in the Chamberlain-Hertel Building at 8 p.m. tonight and at 10 a.m. Sunday morning. On Sunday evening he will hold services at Hot Sulphur Springs. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.”

Sometimes Sunday School was held in the big boathouse of Young’s Rustic Hotel. “One Sunday morning we almost didn’t have it,” said Josephine Young, “for we had a dance in the boathouse the night before and Harry Randall (his real name was Michael Dooley) was stabbed to death. We had to work hard to get the bloodstains washed off the floor in time for Sunday School the next morning.”

September 4, 1884: “Rev. W. B. Craig preached for the last time on Sunday to a very attentive congregation. During his short stay here Mr. Craig has endeared himself to the people, who are all sorry to see him leave. We hope to see him again next season, and can assure him of a hearty welcome.” (The mountain prominent over Grand Lake is named Mt. Craig, locally Mt. Baldy.)

As time went on the need for a church building was felt, and this need was met by a gracious gift from Mrs. Victoria O. Annan of Hot Sulphur Springs to the Episcopal Diocese. It was a medium sized building which stood on a beautiful site overlooking the lake. The frame building, the exterior of which was made of upright siding and battens, was painted a light gray. A wooden cross adorned the front gable. The interior was pleasingly unique, with exposed rafters, burlap covered walls, and rows of high backed pine chairs in place of pews. On the handmade rustic altar stood a cross of aspenwood. Cross-cuts of jack pines formed candleholders. The lectern, too, was hand-made.



A sweet toned organ accompanied congregational singing, and of those who served as volunteer organists Miss Margaret Hart, Mrs. Henry R. Pratt, and Mrs. William H. Hoffstot are oftenest recalled.



Mrs. Hoffstot



Mrs. Pratt



Dean H. Martin Hart, founder of St. John's Cathedral in Denver, had a summer home for his family at Grand Lake. He and his three daughters became the dominant figures in holding together this little church, and he conducted more services there than any other clergyman. His magnetic personality, his religious fervor, and his



simple wisdom drew people of many sects and creeds to his congregation, often the little church was filled to overflowing and people sat on rocks and tree stumps outside, listening to his service through open doors and windows.

Any minister who happened to be in the Grand Lake region was invited to spread the gospel from this church, and clergymen from many parts of the United States accepted the privilege.



Bishop Irving P. Johnson

In addition to Dean Hart these men stand out prominently: Canon E. W. Sibbald, Rev. William Bayard Craig, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, Dean Davis, Rev. W. R. Hodges, and Colorado's beloved Bishop Johnson.



Rev. William Bayard Craig

Sherman Coolidge, zealous, sincere, and of outstanding personality, was an Arapahoe Indian, and events in his life read like a storybook. After an Indian battle, when he was seven years old, he was threatened with execution, but United States Cavalry officers arrived in time to save his life. He was taken into the home of Lieutenant and Mrs. Coolidge, adopted by them, and educated for the Episcopal ministry. He went to Wyoming and became a missionary to his people. Later he built "Arapahoe Lodge" at Grand Lake, where he and his family spent many pleasant summers.



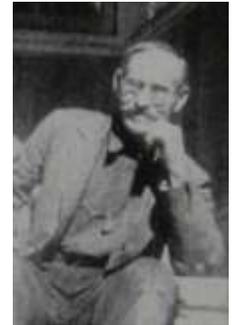
He told of this touching scene with his mother: "When I was grown I returned to the reservation, hoping to find my mother. I did not know her, but she recognized me at once and ran to me. Mothers never forget." He had a ready smile and a keen sense of humor. "My Arapahoe name is Edes-cho-wa-ah," he said, "which means to run swiftly over ice. But we Coolidges," he added with a twinkle, "do not choose to run."

Catholic services have been held at Grand Lake since the summer of 1907. Martin J. O'Fallon and his wife Mary first came to Grand Lake in the summer of 1904, and in 1905 built their summer home. Here they brought numerous nieces and nephews for long summer vacations, but they were troubled over the fact that there were no Catholic services for the children. Always liberal minded, they attended Dean Hart's Episcopal services, and often Mr. O'Fallon passed the collection plate. But they felt that the young people under their roof should not be too long away from their own faith. So they arranged to have Mass in the living room of Avoca Lodge. A long rustic table covered with a white linen cloth served as an altar. On it were placed the tabernacle, the candles, and other appurtenances of the Mass. Usually these masses had to be said on week days, for the priests could not leave their regular parishes on Sundays. Sometimes Father Meyers came from Steamboat Springs; at other times priests came from Denver, among them Bishop Matz, Father Teehan, who later became a Bishop, and Father McMenamin, afterward a Monsignor. The O'Fallons extended the hospitality of their home to the priesthood.



The pews and altar were handmade. Father Agatho of Boulder designed the altar and W. C. Gregg built it.

The young people grew up and married, and their children came along. Many other Catholic families came to the community, and the O'Fallons felt that the time had come to establish a chapel. With this in mind, they bought a house from Myron Wescott. Wescott had built the home in 1926 and after using the dwelling for several years, he decided it was too small for him. The O'Fallons had W. C. Gregg and his son Ray remodel it, and in 1918 the church was ready for use.



Father McMenamin blessed and dedicated the church and named it in honor of St. Anne.

The organ was a very old one, brought across the range with freighting teams in the early eighties by Mrs. Young of the Fairview House. The first donation to the church came from Edward J. Low, a summer resident from Salina Kansas.

Several years later, the small building became too small for the crowds that filled it to capacity each Sunday and Mr. Gregg's services were again requested. This time another major operation was performed. The church was cut in half, the back portion was moved sixteen feet to the rear and the intervening space was filled with more church. An old superstition prevented the moving of the front end of the church, and that portion of the building still stands in its original place. Satisfied at last were all concerned and the church was formally dedicated.

The Franciscan Friars have charge of the small brown frame building which sits just across the Colorado River from Grand Lake and every summer during July and August, this Grand Lake church does service to the inhabitants of the village.

For their generosity to the church Mr. and Mrs. O'Fallon were honored by Pope Pius XI, and were each given a beautiful medal and a certificate. These were brought to them from Rome by Bishop Teehan. A few years later they visited the Vatican and had an audience with the Pope.



When the Congregation outgrew this first chapel, a new and much larger St. Anne's was built in another location. It was formally dedicated in June 1958 with solemn High Mass by Rev. Thomas Barry in the presence of His Excellency, Arch-Bishop Urban J. Vehr, D.D. In his sermon the Very Reverend David Maloney paid tribute to the M. J. O'Fallon family of Denver who were responsible for Grand Lake's first St. Anne's. "The spiritual good to the community," he stated, "is immeasurable".

Recollections:

September 1, 1980

Dear Patie (Patience Kemp),

While I was visiting you, you repeatedly asked me for a memory of some kind about the little church. At the time, I couldn't think of any other than being baptized. I thought I had my record here and I was going to see who the minister was but I remember putting it in my safety deposit box at the bank. Next time I'm in there I'll look.

Since I've had time to think a little, I've had several other thoughts. The flowers on the altar, sometimes columbines but the ones I remember best is Mariposa lilies. We nearly always sat in the front row or near a window and I could see the birds hopping around on the rocks outside. I remember how we hurried home on the trail past the pink house and Miller's cabin thinking about the good Sunday dinner ahead. Sometimes we stopped and picked some little white daisies by Miller's. To this day, the scent of wild roses brings back Sundays and the little church. I don't recall ever seeing roses in the church so they must have been blooming outside and the scent came in the open door.

I was always so impressed with Rev. Coolidge in his white robe, probably because he was an Indian and a minister. And Mrs. Hoffstat's wonderful hats as she played the organ. Also those uncomfortable chairs where my feet never hit the floor, which was just as well for my black patent leather Mary Janes usually hurt my feet. And the relief of finally putting the penny in the offering and getting it out of my sweaty hand as well as the relief of the knowledge that I hadn't lost it. And of course there was the responsibility of seeing that Rosemary put her penny in and sat still.

Then there was the interest in seeing the men and women in their Sunday clothes. I'm sure the cottagers were not clad as they would at home for church but to me it was very fancy. I was used to seeing them in their fishing and hiking clothes.

I could go on, but don't you think that's enough?

Love,

Ruth Kauffman McLaren

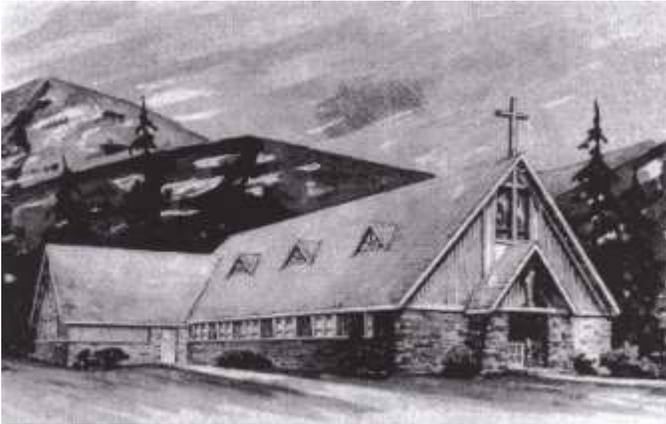
Ruth Kauffman McLaren recalled especially that Rev. Coolidge would be sure to stand at the door to shake hands with everyone.

Rosemary Kauffman Wilkin remembers the little church and its organ on many occasions – including when she and her sisters were christened there. She remembers that usually there were more people than chairs; so both doors were opened and people sat on the rocks outside as well.

Patience Cairns Kemp remembers sunshine coming in the east window on the grass matting of the sacristy and small printed church school leaflets with bright pictures. (Our mothers would sometimes take us there for a sort of Sunday School. We would march to "Onward Christian Soldiers" either there or at the Kauffman House or at our house.

Louise Stephens remembers that the first time the Community Church had a dinner they borrowed this organ from Mrs. Rhone and carried it to the basement of the new church to accompany singing at the dinner.

New St. Anne's Church in Grand Lake Dedicated



From Sky Hi News – 1959

The new St. Anne's Catholic Church of Grand Lake, with its sanctuary of rustic décor to match the mountain setting was formally dedicated June 1958 with Solemn High Mass by the first regular pastor of the old St. Anne's, the Reverend Thomas Barry in the presence of His Excellency, Archbishop Urban J. Vehr, D.D. The archbishop administered the sacrament of confirmation to 33 adults and children in conjunction with the dedication ceremony. Reverend Robert Syrianev of St. Michael's Church in Craig was deacon of

the Mass, with Reverend Thomas McMahon of St. Joseph's Church in Fort Collins as sub deacon.

In his sermon, the very Reverend David Maloney, Chancellor of the archdiocese of Denver, paid tribute to the M. J. O'Fallon family of Denver largely responsible for Grand Lake's first Catholic church, and especially to Mrs. M. J. O'Fallon for her continued interest and efforts in behalf of St. Anne's. "The spiritual good to the community", he stated, "is immeasurable."

Music was furnished by Loudres Parish Boys' Choir of Denver, directed by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Samarazia.

The new St Anne's is perfect, in its mountain setting, a stone-faced edifice, with an interior outlined by seven laminated wood beams reaching to a height of forty-five feet. The pews are of blond oak, and the three altars are constructed of Indiana limestone, the main altar having a cut stone background. A hand carved wood crucifix, eleven feet high, hangs above the main altar, the work of artists in Tyrol, Austria, while wood carved statues of St. Joseph and St. Anne adorn the two side altars. Imported wood carvings from Germany form the Stations of the Cross along the sides of the church. The statue of St. Anne above the main entrance is fashioned of cast stone by Tyrolean carvers.

In contrast to the perfection of the new St. Anne's is the simple first St. Anne's which was a home bought by Mr. M. J. O'Fallon of Denver and remodeled by W. C. and Ray Gregg of Grand Lake who made both the pews and the rustic altar. From 1918 until 1944 St. Anne's was attended by visiting priests and the priests from the Cathedral Parish in Denver. Father Thomas Barry, Grand Lake's famous fisherman priest, took over the church in 1944 with the establishment of the new parish, and was its pastor until 1954 until succeeded by Father Theodore Haas, the present pastor.

The old St. Anne building was donated to the parish when the parish was opened by the M. J. O'Fallon estate. Previously the building had served as the private chapel of the O'Fallon residence on the south side of the lake. Eventually it was sold to the Rhones and became a summer cottage "Morning Star" atop the hill directly overlooking the clear, blue waters of majestic Grand Lake.

Territorially, the parish extends from the top of Berthoud Pass to the top of Rabbit Ears Pass, and south to north from Green Mountain Dam to the Wyoming border.

Trinity Church in the Pines

Trinity Church in the Pines (a Community Church under Presbyterian jurisdiction) was not established until long after pioneer days, but among its membership are a number of descendants of pioneers. It was dedicated August 30, 1942, after five years of freely offered labor, and money raised in various ways. The ground on which this church was built was given in memory of James Cairns, (a member of the Presbyterian church in his native Canada,) by his widow and daughter.

July 5, 1941 (newspaper article)

Grand Lake Stages Rodeo for Church

Grand Lake's second annual Rodeo will come off with a rip and road today, Saturday, July 5. It will begin at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon, on the rodeo flats west of the village, the site of last year's race 'em and rope 'em wild horse and cattle exhibition.

Not an association rodeo, but a Grand Lake product, the show this year will directly benefit Grand Lake. All proceeds will be presented to the Community Church to increase the fund for building a new church next fall.

It is a rodeo staged by Grand Lake for the Church, not a rodeo staged by the Church for the village.

Included in the program are nearly every kind of excitement found in any rodeo – racing, bronco bustin', calf roping, steer riding, trick riding, novelty races, clowning and all Frank Hettinger from Englewood will be on hand with his trick horse to thrill the crowd with all manner of fancy riding. Granby, a fast and furious horse will challenge the best of the riders again this year as he did last year.

Tickets are on sale at many village business houses. Prices are 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children. Tickets must be worn on your lapel or in some way where they will be plainly visible.

No bleachers will be used for the show, but cars will drive up to the railing around the field.

Parade at 2 o'clock down mainstreet. Bareback riding. High School Horse, Judging of Costumes, Calf roping, Trick roping, Novelty races, Steer riding, Bronc riding.

All those wishing to enter contest must sign up Friday night, July 4th between 6 and 8 p.m. at Grand Lake Livery. See Earl Feuerbacher or John Holzwarth.

Gala rodeo July 4

All Proceeds to go toward building new church

Drag out those boots and spurs, those ten gallon hats and chaps, those plaid shirts and gay bandanas. Why? Well, everything and everybody is going western the weekend of July 5. It's all for the big Rodeo which Grand Lake is staging for the benefit and entertainment of Grand Lake.

And when we saw the village is doing it, that means Grand Lake is doing it all. It's not an association rodeo, it is better than that because those hard-riding broc busters (and they can bust em, too) will be natives. They come from the tall timber and rugged valleys around Grand Lake where men must be men to guide a horse and still stick with him over treacherous mountain paths.

Most important of all – the rodeo will benefit the Community Church. All proceeds will go – not to pay salaries – but toward building a new church for Grand Lake.

Thru the courtesy of merchants and nearby ranchers, who want to boost Grand Lake's stock in vacationer interest, the rodeo is getting active support. Spirited horses and cattle are being furnished by ranches. Riders, busters, ropers, for the most part, will be familiar with and to Grand Lakers.

Thrills! You bet there will be thrills a plenty – bronc busting, steer roping, racing, tricks, clowning – all the excitement anyone could find in any rodeo anywhere.

Coming back to this matter of dragging out all the cowpunching duds, it will be wise to look carefully for the best the attic trunk has to offer. Prizes will be awarded for the best cowboy (under 11) and best cowgirl (ditto), the man with the biggest hat and the man with the most bow in legs (Chaps can do a lot toward putting a first class bow in anybody's legs.)

Granby, all but incorrigible stallion who defied all comers until the third day of last year's rodeo, will pound the turf again this July 5. Rodeo managers stoutly declare that Granby is wilder than ever. (Getting spunky with increasing age, no doubt).

Scheduled for Saturday, July 5, the gala affair will begin at 2:30 o'clock on the flats just west of the village. Admission for adults is 50 cents, for children, 25 cents.

Thrill-minded horsemen wishing to test their equine mastery in the rodeo can enter by getting in touch with John Holzwarth, arena director.

August 29, 1942

Dedicatory services will be held at 11 o'clock Sunday morning. August 30, for the Grand Lake Community Church in the new church building. Installation services for the Rev. William J. Hage as the pastor for both the Grand Lake church and the one in Granby will be held at 8 o'clock that evening.

In itself, the Community Church represents hard work, time and effort on the part of the citizens and members of Grand Lake. It is of native pine and is modeled after the general architecture of the village. It is the first church since the Episcopal Chapel built by Dean Hart. Services have been held in the basement of the school house.

In the Summer of 1937, a petition was sent to the Presbyter of Denver. On October 24, 1937, the Church was organized by the Rev. J. S. Dapp of Denver. December 12, 1937 31 charter members were taken into the church.

The Rev. Charles Hulac was the first minister during the summer and Dr. Michel helped him until January of 1939.

The Rev. Mr. Edward Bollinger preached from January of 1939 until May of that same year. After the Rev. Bollinger went to Chicago Dr. S. K. Edmundson came every two weeks thru the winters of 1939 and 1941. In the winter of 1941 to 1942 he came every Sunday.

The Rev. William J. Hage is the first resident pastor for the church.

During impressive services Sunday the Grand Lake Community Church was dedicated and its pastor, the Rev. William J. Hage, installed.

Dr. H. C. Anderson read during the dedication service a greeting from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In part the message read:

"I trust that the dedication of the little church built in Grand Lake through the sacrifice and devotion of the good people there will be a milestone in the spiritual life of the community.

Now as always, we need the reliance on the Most High and I hope the faith of all those whose labor builded this temple will be quickened by the influence which will emanate from it.

Please extend my hearty greetings to all who participate in the exercises."



Trinity Church in the Pines

Since 1937 when the church was organized, the permanent population and the season visitors have found in it a common bond. Early services were held in the community building.

Construction of the church building was completed in August of 1942. Each year it is visited by several thousand tourists. We hope that each one will take away a pleasant memory of our place of worship along with many fond recollections of the grandeur of Rocky Mountain National Park, the friendliness of our village, and the refreshment of unlimited recreation in our land of lakes and forest.

In a year's time the guest register in the church vestibule usually shows entries representing each of the 50 states and a variety of foreign countries. An interesting cross-section of denominations and faiths also appears. We invite you to add your signature.

In February of 1966 the name of the church was officially changed. It previously was the "Community Presbyterian Church" and is now as you see it "Trinity Church in the Pines".

In doing this we gave our church a more distinctive and unique title. More important, we tried to show by the parentheses that we are eagerly looking forward to the day when Christian unity will be reality so that denominational tags will not be needed.

We are here to serve you. Please let us know of any needs or desires that you may have. We hope you will visit again. If you are planning to stay in Grand Lake for a longer period of time, we invite you to join with us in the extended ministry of the church. We are always gratified when our seasonal guests feel free to use the church library and counseling resources, join with us in week-day meetings and social events, or sing with the choir, which rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

In summary, this is your church in Grand Lake. Please use it, enjoy it, participate in its life, and support it, so that future generations may also find it here with a warm welcome for all. And may the blessings of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be yours.

(Copied from the back of a church bulletin)

Trinity Church in the Pines History

- 10/24/37 An organizational meeting was held.
- 09/08/39 Announcement of a property gift - 100' x 100' given by Mary Lyons Cairns and daughter Patience Cairns Kemp, in memory of her husband, James Cairns.
- 10/09/41 Mary Lyons Cairns makes known her intention to give an additional 50' x 100' of property.
- 08/30/42 Building was dedicated as Grand Lake Community Church under Presbyterian jurisdiction "after five years of freely offered labor and money raised in various ways" (from Grand Lake in the Olden Days).
- 04/15/45 Rev. Shane called to share his ministry between the Grand Lake church and the Granby church (Eternal Hills Presbyterian).
- 01/09/48 Sunday school average attendance 53; "Women's Guild was called "Women's Council".
- 07/10/48 Two church services were held at 9:00 and 11:00 with Sunday school at 10:00
- 10/01/51 "It was agreed that the church be kept locked during the winter and that keys be made for each board member, the minister, the janitor, the choir director, and the SS superintendent."
- 04/18/52 Estimates were sought on changes to the building: "Moving the restrooms, adding a stairway leading down through the choir room, raising the outside entrance and the corner above the present stairwell made into a small room on the same level as the choir room"
- 9/14/52 Trustees were authorized to go ahead with the building plans putting the restrooms in the north end of the basement.
- 10/18/54 Session recommended "that the Grand Lake church withdraw from the Parish (the Granby, Grand Lake, and Fraser churches) to institute its own church unit for the Grand Lake area"
- 12/01/55 An organ fund was established.
- 06/03/56 Purchase of Baldwin organ approved.
- 11/08/59 Voted to withdraw from the parish - no longer tied to the Granby and Fraser churches as the "Parish of the Eternal Hills".
- 02/14/66 Name changed to "Trinity Church in the Pines"
- 02/17/80 Congregation votes to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church USA.
- 02/26/80 Presbytery appoints an administrative commission.
- 06/06/80 Attempt by presbytery to meet with church leaders rebuffed.
- 11/25/80 Presbytery votes to supersede TCP session and dissolve the church's pastoral relationship with Rev. Polhemus.
- Early '81 The Denver Presbytery purchases the church facility and manse for the establishment of a Presbyterian presence in the area.
- 08/28/81 Rev. Dr. Warren Remple installed as temporary supply pastor.
- 09/15/82 Formal separation of congregations and assets of TCP and Living Word church.
- 06/00/93 Patience Cairns Kemp deeds pasture to church with viewing easement.
- 01/20/95 Congregation votes to enlarge building to make it more "user friendly", with construction to begin once funds were in hand.
- 12/22/96 Dedication held for enlarged building.
- 01/19/99 Contract signed for remodeling the fellowship hall.
- 9/26/99 Rev. Remple retires.

Pastoral Succession, Trinity Church in the Pines

October 1937
October 1937-August 1942

Organized under Rev. H. Ray Anderson
Supply Pastors:

Rev. Charles Hulac
Rev. Edward Bellinger
Rev. George Edmundson

August 1942-May 1943
June 1945-April 1951
June 1951-February 1955
May 1956-August 1959
December 1960-April 1962
May 1964-December 1967
May 1968-November 1973
October 1974-August 1977
October 1978-November 1980
November 1980-November 1981
November 1981-September 1999
March 2000-November 2002
November 2002-December 2007

Rev. William Hage
Rev. Stephen J. Shane
Rev. John M. Orr
Rev. Sterling Alam
Rev. Charles Brightwell
Rev. Donald D. Shoemaker
Rev. James C. Kenney
Rev. R. Stanley Wallace
Rev. J.R. Polhemus
Rev. Roe Johnston, appointed by Presbytery
Rev. Dr. Warren Rempel, temporary supply
CLP Revel Loedy, interim pastor
Rev. Robert J.A. Harrison
Rev. Stan Jewell, interim pastor
Rev. Dr. David Heil



2011



Living Word Christian Fellowship

624 Lake Avenue

Grand Lake

Services 10 a.m. Sunday

627.3119

Community Church of the Rockies

Non-denominational

Founded April 8, 2012 on Palm Sunday

Meets at the Grand Lake Elementary School – Center Drive and Marina Drive 9:00 a.m. Sundays

PO Box 2047, Grand Lake CO 80447

970.531.2789

Website: www.CommunityChurchoftheRockies.org

Pastor Johan Knies