“Dennis became my friend as he helped me through a very tough journey when I lost my beloved husband Ken. When I read Dennis’s words (from the previous story in this newsletter), I felt as if I was rereading my own journal. You see, my husband Ken felt as Dennis does. Ken battled 5 different types of cancers all non-related through our 29 years of marriage. He did chemo once and said he would never again, and the last cancer was very aggressive and he again said no to chemo and radiation knowing that it wouldn’t help him, he lived 3 months from the day of diagnosis with a clear mind. He and Dennis shared the same belief of medicine and the same strength in faith.  There couldn’t be two people I respect and admire more than Dennis and Ken. My heart hurts for Dennis’s family and friends, we are losing a very good friend and soul, God is gaining a true son of faith.”

Of the Grief groups gathering at the music rehearsal for his funeral, Dennis said, “I cannot thank you all enough for setting up the venue for our get together on February 19.  Ginny Carpenter went to a lot of effort to reach out to as many current and former members of our Grief Group as possible.  I appreciated everyone’s presence and kind words.  Patrice was very moved too.  The music team did a great job putting the meat of the program.”

Dennis and I have also been working on his hard copy funeral program. Let me tell you, this is not going to be your regular funeral program that has a picture of the deceased on the cover and a list of the parts of the service on the inside. No, this is a program where Dennis will be speaking to loved ones and friends with pictures of who he is and parting words which reflect his spirit. I showed it to my wife Kate and said, “This is the kind of program, I want for my funeral!”

With faith, there’s something in the works. It’s taking shape during Lent. It relates to Jesus words in John 12:25, “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” And one of those seeds is a very special boy named Roman. To be continued…