



## Caring for God's House - Together

### Capital Campaign News

On Sunday Oct. 16 we launched the 3 year campaign over box lunches and discussion. Betty and Liz created a beautiful tree in the narthex; we're using a tree as the symbol for the campaign. Everyone in the church has a leaf on the tree with their name, symbolizing how we are Caring for God's House – Together.



### Launch Conversation – if you missed it, here is the conversation between Elaine Isaacs and Denise Baker announcing the 3 year capital campaign.

Elaine: Hi, Denise! When I came into the church this morning, I saw a huge tree in the Narthex and a banner with a similar tree here in the sanctuary. Do you know who made them and why they are here?

Denise: Oh those are for the new Capital Campaign. The committee chose the tree as a symbol for the campaign. **Liz Bushma and Betty Gobeile** made the large tree in the narthex and **Sharon Hovey** made the quilted banner that hangs here in the sanctuary. Our slogan is **“Caring for God’s House Together.”**

Elaine: Capital Campaign? Why do we need a Capital Campaign? Don't we already have a church budget?

Denise: The **operational** budget is for keeping the doors open, the lights on, paying the staff and the paying for the program needs of the church.

Elaine: What about the God's House fund, you just said the slogan is "Caring For God's House". Doesn't that take care of the building and maintenance items?

Denise: The God's house Fund is for routine maintenance and small repairs. We've depended on it a lot recently, but our building is 35 years old and needs some major work. The purpose of a **Capital Campaign is to raise money for major expenses**, not covered by the Operational Budget or routine maintenance items. Did I mention we no longer have a Mortgage, so we're not paying off any debt.

Elaine: Ok I can understand that, my house is about that old and I'm faced with some pretty expensive repairs. I know this space is important not only to members of the church but many community groups as well. I'm sure glad we don't have a mortgage to worry about as well. Exactly what do we need to do to fix up this beloved building?

Denise: There are 2 major areas that we are looking at. One is the basic structure and energy efficiency. This includes replacing the roof, you know it has leaked off and on for years and patching it just isn't taking care of it anymore.

Elaine: I have noticed all the stains on the ceiling and they are ugly.

Denise: The other structural concern is the stucco; it needs to be redone. The 2nd category involves our health and safety. Our Air Conditioning/heating units are more than 20 years old. They are unreliable and inefficient and need to be replaced. In addition our parking lot is in deplorable condition, and we worry that someone will trip and fall and be seriously hurt. So, replacing the parking lot is also on the list.

Elaine: I can really appreciate that, I have trouble walking and chewing gum at the same time, I almost fell this morning when I caught my toe on a crack.

Denise: You know we have a similar problem here in the building with buckles in the carpet. So, yes, we'd like to replace the flooring throughout the building.

Elaine: That sounds like a lot of work. I'm afraid to ask but how much will all this cost? You know I am on a fixed budget.

Denise: We are projecting that all together it will **cost about \$400,000 over a 3-year period.**

Elaine: Wow! That's a lot of money but you know when we started planning to build the church, we had only 85 giving units and those folks managed to pledge \$300,000 over 3 years. The numbers are a little scary but I bet we can do this, if folks just give what they can, you know the old saying "every little bit helps", the lesson of the widow's mite will definitely apply here, as will the change the children offer. We have more giving units now and while my income is fixed, I'm no longer raising kids, driving to work, and buying work clothes and this year my Social Security isn't being taxed. You know, I think I CAN give more!

Denise: The Capital Campaign committee chose the Bible verse: Psalm 127:1 “**Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain...**” So, it is in this verse that we are reminded ‘That all our undertakings require a total dependence upon God for without the Lord being in charge, all efforts will be frustrated, and all activities will be rendered ineffective.’ Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain-This is the second sentence in Psalm 127:1.

Elaine: I'll keep that in mind. I guess this means we WILL be "Caring for God's House Together". There is one other thing I really want to know, Who is involved in determining these needs, who is contacting and obtaining the contractors and who is on this Capital Campaign Committee? Is it just a handful of people making all these decisions?

Denise: Absolutely Not! It started with joint conversations between the Building and Grounds Committee, and the Finance Committee with input from Session. Those groups recognized that the needs were greater than any of the church budgets. So, a small committee was formed to look at the feasibility of a Capital Campaign. Following that a Capital Campaign Committee was formed which includes **Liz Bushma, Pat and Leah Gerlach, Betty Gobeille, Bob and Sue Scott, you and me**. After many conversations with Building and Grounds it soon became apparent that a Project Management Team was needed: **Mike Bushma, Chuck Roth and Bill Shanklin** stepped up to take on this responsibility. But more importantly it includes EVERY PERSON who cares about the future of Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church. As the campaign continues members of our committee will reach out to everyone in the congregation to so we can gain input and insight into who we are as a church and ask for help with a variety of tasks. We want everyone to be involved! In fact that is one of our most important goals.

Elaine: That gives me a much better idea of what we're talking about. Hey, how will I know how we are progressing toward the goal?

Denise: Well, I can tell you this, every member of our committee and every member of Session has all ready committed to pledge to this campaign and that total is almost \$100,000! But Watch the tree in the narthex for updates!

In God's Service;

*Capital Campaign Committee*

*Denise Baker*

*Elaine Isaacs*

*Leah and Pat Gerlach*

*Liz Bushma*

*Betty Gobeille*

*Sue and Bob Scott*

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