



## Capital News from the Capital Campaign Committee — April 24, 2023

### Caring for God's House - Together



#### Elaine's Remembrance

##### Part 1

**Walking through RRPC and feeling the building's missions and the multiple facets of faith in the church community with charter member Elaine Isaacs**

Have you ever stopped for a moment and asked yourself "what does the space known as Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church really mean to me"?

**Elaine:**

I was recently asked that question and as I pondered on my answer, I found that what it actually represents is memories. Memories of people, past and present, weddings, funerals, baby showers, and family -- those related by blood and those united by common beliefs, caring and friendship.

The space contained within the walls and under the roof, that is known as Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church, is the result of the dream and vision that a dedicated group of people proposed and built under the leadership of Rev. Kay Huggins and her husband, George. It is a space dedicated to the Glory of God for the purpose of worship and community outreach.

Tom and I were among the charter members over 30 years ago, when the idea of a building was conceived; the congregation came together in small groups and asked themselves "What does a church look like?" There were many responses from glorious cathedrals, white steepled country churches to soaring designs of modern architecture. Eventually it was decided that it needed to reflect the area and culture of New Mexico as well as the budget of the group committed to building it. As the ideas and visions spilled forth, a committee chaired by Tom Isaacs was formed. The committee realized that some ideas were dominant and had to be incorporated into the plan. Foremost among those ideas was that the space had to be flexible, usable, welcoming and available to the community.

As I walk through the **doors**, I remember Allan Wilcox, the oldest member of our congregation, and the first member of the congregation to enter the completed building. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister and as such was a well versed Biblical scholar. Mr. Wilcox, a rather grisly looking old man, taught our adult Sunday School Classes, enriching our knowledge and understanding with each word he spoke. Alan had worked for the son of President Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury Seward, so he brought a lot of history to our classes.

The **doors** also remind me of John Giles, a quiet servant who grew up in the area of Appomattox Courthouse, VA. John and Clarence Johnson as well -- John unlocked the doors and prepared the sanctuary for worship each Sunday morning for years. When the doors needed to be replaced, John quietly gave a donation to cover the expense. John, Clarence and Thelma Johnson were all unassuming servants and loving caretakers of our building.

**In the entryway is a box for collecting needed supplies** for a variety of causes. This reminds me that from the beginning RRPC members collected food and other items for those in need. We dedicated a cupboard for supplies and were a part of the start up for Storehouse West. Our members continue to be an integral part of that endeavor. I am reminded that we also collect a lot of school supplies each year so that students can start the school year with the things they need. As I look to my left I see the area where each Christmas tree holds mittens and scarves for those in need, and a space for collecting Christmas gifts for parents who need a little help to provide a Merry Christmas for their families.

**Next is the office** and I am reminded of the office managers and pastors who have occupied those spaces. Conversations of joy, concern and grief, laughter and tears have taken place inside those walls. They contain the needs, joys and sorrows of so many people, members of the congregation and folks from the community, with a variety of needs both spiritual and physical. Karen Payne is in the administration office now. Kathy Westmoreland is our pastor in 2023.

***Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1  
Thank you for your support!***

The Capital Campaign Committee -- Liz, Betty, Elaine, Leah, Pat, Denise, Sue, and Bob

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