



Capital News from the Capital Campaign Committee — May 15, 2023

Caring for God's House - Together

Elaine's Remembrance



Welcome again to God's House, a sacred space that we call RRPC. We are the present tenants who have a responsibility to maintain the building and make it inviting and available so that many groups within the community find it a safe and sacred place.

This task has been done well for over 30 years and we are now at a point where a bit of renewal is called for. That's what the present capital campaign is all about – time to spruce up God's House! **Our thanks to charter member Elaine Isaacs for her tour of the church building.**

Elaine:

Part 3

We have walked from the front entry doors, past the offices, and through the sanctuary.

Leaving the sanctuary, I glance across the hall and see the **library**. A space that provides books for those who are in search of a particular topic to enhance their discipleship. I see the pictures of the pastors who have led and grown this congregation. More than that I see a room that gives groups like Alcoholics Anonymous a safe place to meet. A place that nurtured the needs of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) as well as a variety of classes for church members. A place for a blood drive when the need was critical (perhaps we need to do another one). I see the **picture of the donkey** on the wall by the library door and am reminded that this congregation has always been mindful of the needs of the people of the world. We support Heifer International in most years.

I continue down the hall and see the wall at the end of the hall/narthex where each Christmas a large nativity is set up and each Easter a banner with three crosses is hung and Easter Lilies are arranged to remind us of the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior. Have you examined the beautiful tree that the capital campaign displayed on the wall? Every member of our congregation is represented on the tree! That's why we emphasize that we are working on God's House Together!

From there I enter **the fellowship hall** and the memories flood through my mind so fast I can hardly sort through them. This room makes me think of Tina Resner and Kathy Hallquist. Tina has been a part of our church family from the beginning and has watched all of the children grow up. Each and every one of those children (adults) has a special fondness for and memories of Miss Tina. Thanks to Tina and Kathy there is always a cup of coffee, hot water and a glass of lemonade as well as an array of treats laid out for folks to enjoy. I recall birthday parties for Grandma Wiley where we crowned her Queen For a Day and one for Alan Wilcox because he had never had one. Most recently we celebrated charter member Phyllis' 100th birthday. I see Pastor Kathy wearing one of her special hats!

The **kitchen** is small and has undergone many improvements, thanks to Shirley and Don Underwood and Laura Gonzales. Many of us have spent many happy and sometimes exhausting hours in that kitchen, preparing,

organizing and serving meals and receptions. Nadine Patrick, Phyllis Rasmussen and I worked well as a team behind the scenes in the early days. Potlucks, Men's breakfasts, Presbyterian women's meetings, craft fairs, tag sales, baby showers, fashion shows, anniversary celebrations, Vacation Bible School, youth meetings and lock-ins, dessert auctions, a Seder Supper, plays and meetings of all kinds have taken place in this room.

Both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have held their meetings here. We have hosted the West Mesa Ministerial Alliance and Presbytery meetings here. We shared Peace Candles with all of the churches in the Presbytery here. Conversations have occurred, feelings shared, laughter and tears have all happened here. We remembered the lives of over 20 members, who passed into the life eternal in recent months.

We have welcomed missionaries and pastors and said goodbye to pastors and friends here. Decisions have been made here that affected the lives of the congregation as a whole and as individuals. Changes have been made to this area to house the commercial dishwasher, reception supplies, classrooms and offices such as offices of Good Samaritan Counseling Services. RRPC has evolved over the years as our mission in the community has grown.

It is here that we encouraged and welcomed a partnership with Share Your Care, an organization that provides adult day care services. This program is very special to me as Tom was a part of those who saw the need for this service, advocated for it, and later he became a client. This program provides a much needed respite for those who have loved ones who need supervision and a social outlet. The impact of this program cannot be truly appreciated by those who have never needed a similar service.

Off to the side is the **nursery** that has always been a special place for the littlest people who come to our building.

The **rooms** along the back wall have provided a space for adults and children alike to learn about and grow their faith. Members like Tom Isaacs, Scott Hendrickson, Dean and Susan Ivey and many others have facilitated the learning and faith of others in these rooms. The Elders, Deacons, and

Pastor Nominating Committees meet in these rooms to plan for and discuss the needs of the church and the community.

With the addition of the **columbarium**, which is not technically a part of the enclosed space, there is great comfort in knowing that loved ones have a place to rest and be remembered.

If the walls, floors and roof that cover these spaces could talk *what a tale they would tell*. A tale of joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, but the sharing and caring of people and the space would be the heart of the story. *We are blessed to have a space that is open and welcoming to us as members and to the wider community of Rio Rancho*. It is a space that has been true to the vision of those folks who gathered to form a church, but for me it is a place of memories, a space of comfort and friendship. It is God's House.

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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