



Capital News
Capital Campaign Committee
August 22, 2023

Caring for God's House - Together



NOTE: Sept. 17 is one of those fantastic moments to celebrate RRPC! Come for the food and stay for the program celebrating the First Year of the Capital Campaign. The incredible folks of RRPC have promised over \$300K towards the \$400k goal! Let's celebrate after worship on 9/17!

Getting to know church membership

Celebrating the first year of the capital campaign, we interviewed folks who could tell the story of RRPC. The youth group produced the sessions with Bill Cox, Marjorie Davison, Phyllis Rasmussen and Dave Shambach. We'll summarize here over the next few weeks. You can see the movie with the link in the Witness.

Next, Phyllis:

Interview with Phyllis June 2023 – charter member

1st meeting at first pastor's Kay's house. My husband said to Kay that we are spies from 1st Pres.; we weren't invited but we came anyway in place of in-laws. We attended both churches – did this for about 4 months. Went to 1st Pres at the 8:30 a.m. and then attended RRPC later. I asked my husband "why are we going to church twice?" So we stopped attending 1st Pres.

What attracted you to stay with RRPC over 1st Pres.? It was a friendly group of people. That's all. I was more involved at RRPC. I was a deacon at 1st Pres – and I was in the first group of deacons here at RRPC. **Rewarding** – I just like the people that are here!

Favorite story – Palm Sunday -- on our 1st Sunday met here, police led a parade of cars through area – even through stop lights, stop signs – it was neat! People waving palms out the window!

Character – more personal – everybody knows everybody – if you're asked to do something, you will do it. I served for a while on worship, B&G, and Fellowship. I was on three committees at once. They're more friendly, and more personal. Smaller church than 1st Pres. was. They're just nicer.

Success stories: This church are the ones who started Storehouse West -- it was started by Kay and another group. Then a nursing home was going to be built and they asked what should be included. They said they'd like to have a small garden for the people who lived in the nursing home to work in.

Future: I don't know.....

P Kathy reflecting on Phyllis's impact on the church –

She is one of the founding members – a bedrock of the church! We are gifted that we have charter members.

She's an example of service that she talks about. Her willingness to serve. There are people who look forward to a hug from Phyllis each week. She is a great-grandparent to many people. Phyllis represents the heart, the love of the congregation. Phyllis is the spirit of who we are at RRPC!

And Next, Marjorie:

June 13, 2023

Attracted to RRPC: oh yes! Very much! Moving from Illinois to retire, we bought a house in Rio Rancho. We heard from a friend that a new Presbyterian church was being built in Rio Rancho. I called the pastor. I heard from the pastor and heard all about the church. After meeting with the group – at the Italian American Hall one weekend -- very impressed! We knew this is probably where we would become members.

Marjorie received the monthly newsletter. It made her very well acquainted with the church and the people. She never considered going anywhere else. Very excited to become part of a new church! They arrived a few days after Pentecost, which the church had celebrated with breaking the ground for the church. Never considered going anywhere else.

Most rewarding job is to serve communion to the congregation, especially when they come forward and you get to put it in their hands. Very rewarding!

Memories: hard to pick/choose one memory – 35 years of memories! I can remember when we added onto the church. Session meetings when we decided as a church to have Share Your Care here – that was a pretty big change for the church. I can remember when we had 2 worship services for a long, long time. There was a time when we had three services at one point

because we had so many people who worked at Intel on Sunday a.m. We had maybe 20 people at the Sunday evening service. 2 services in the morning and one in the evening. I have many of the bulletins. I have lots and lots of memories!

We had a playground out here. Now we have roses bushes. It is so lovely! And the communion table was up on the steps – it was that way in the beginning – but we moved it when it felt too crowded. That's when we moved it down. I have lots and lots of memories. I could go on and on for hours! I can't tell what is my favorite.

The character of the church is to welcome everyone who comes through that door. Welcoming. Accept all kinds of people. Everyone who comes through the door we will gladly have them. We don't refuse people based on race or gender or what they do. To join our church, we ask them to go to a class, learn a little about the church, and stand up in front of the congregation and say they believe in Jesus Christ – that's all that's required.

Success stories: I think that fact that we accept anyone who wants to come is a sign of being faithful. Members are required to say what they believe. And other than attending at least part of the time, I am not sure we have any requirements. We have been here 38 years which isn't always easy. We have had 9 pastors so there has been turnover. But I think it is a big success now. We are still growing. We have gotten a bunch of new members this year and even when you had to watch on your computer (during COVID).

Successful in that we do a lot. But we also have a lot of other groups -- we are able to let them use the building. Share Your Care is here – a great gift to the community. We have other groups who share the building each week. We still manage many of our own meetings and special occasions in the church. We even added onto the building at least twice because we had so many activities. AA meets here more than once a week.

Helping to meet the needs of the community – besides Share Your Care & AA. The first place where you could go if you needed clothing, and food -- especially we collected food. Before there was a church -- before there was a group even called a church – they first met in Sept. 1985 – and that first Christmas we had food for the foodbank. Eventually that's what became the foodbank of Rio R. *We started it.*

Future of RRPC: I cannot imagine what the future of the church will be except that it will always be here. It will grow. It may need more additions. No one knows what the future is for churches. Except that this church – we're flexible -- and everything is new. People came from a variety of old churches. Kay was a new pastor. Whatever is needed this church will do. There was nothing this church couldn't do. RRPC met in the Italian America Hall for several years. We're still not afraid to do new things.

P Kathy's observations

There isn't a task that Marjorie hasn't done! She was Parish Associate for the church in Cuba. When she retired there, I wasn't going to let her retire here! Part of the definition of the job is "anything else the pastors asks ...".

She works with new members – and so much more. She is part of the reason that the congregation is seen as so inclusive and welcoming. Marjorie is the heart of the congregation.

She recruits ushers and communion servers. She is not afraid to ask people, even when they think it might be a stretch for them. She urges people to try – until you try you don't know if you can do a task!

She is still working on her faith at 95 years old! She's an ardent student of Scripture. She is usually in the Bible studies. She has the well-being of the church at heart.

***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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