



**Capital News**  
**Capital Campaign Committee**  
**April 22, 2024**

**Caring for God's House - Together**



In the coming weeks you will be hearing about additional ways you can support this effort. I encourage you to attend one of the small group meetings, listen and pray, then consider how together we can "pave the way" for a new parking lot.

Blessings,  
Pastor Kathy

**You're Invited**

**News from the Capital Campaign**

Whenever someone important arrives for a state visit or at an awards ceremony, they talk about rolling out the red carpet. Royalty has the red carpet so that they don't have to walk on a dirty road, sidewalk or tarmac. It has come to symbolize not only welcome, but honor for the guest.

For most of us, however, there is no red carpet. When we arrive at someone's home or really any place, it is nice to see that they are expecting us. Perhaps they have cleaned off

the sidewalk or put out a welcome mat.

We don't have a red carpet, to be sure (although we do have walk off mats to keep our carpets clean!). But we still want our welcome to be evident when anyone enters the church. We often open the doors wide on Sundays to make the church more accessible and as a way to say, "Come on in! We're glad you're here!"

The first impression of that welcome is in the parking lot. People step out of their car and the message from us should be "we've been expecting you and we're glad you're here."

But then it you see it. The wide cracks and gaps in the asphalt. The loose gravel and the uneven places. If you are unsteady on your feet you might think twice before walking across the parking lot to the front door. It might make you wonder if anyone is expecting you to come. You might ask yourself — do they want guests?

We have community folks using our church almost every day, and many evenings, each week. Support groups, musical groups, family gatherings, Share Your Care, those attending memorial services and weddings, all come into the church from the parking lot. It is our first impression, meant to be a sign that we are an active and vital church. We want anyone and everyone to experience our welcome before they even come through the door.

The good news is that this is not news for most of us. We have all walked in the parking lot and know the state of it. Now we are working together to replace the parking lot and its lighting so that it can provide a red carpet welcome to all who come to this building for years to come.

Once replaced, it will be one more way we say "welcome" and extend the hospitality of Jesus. As the next project of the Capital Campaign, we are currently seeking to raise money for this. The committee has been so encouraged by the broad support for the roof and HVAC units. They have a confident faith that we can also raise the funds needed to make our parking lot both safe and an attractive welcome mat to all.

Pastor Kathy and the Capital Campaign Committee -- Betty, Elaine, Leah, Pat, Denise, Sue, and Bob

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

**Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church**

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