



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry –December, 2008

President's Message:

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays and Happy Advent! As we begin the Christian New Year, I would like to take a look at how wonderful 2008 has been for Prayers & Squares.

- This year we were blessed to enjoy regional conferences in Texas and Georgia and Sit-and-Sews with many chapters in attendance throughout the nation. We also held our International Conference in April in Texas and elected a new Board of Directors to serve until 2010.
- We released our newest book, "Under A Blanket of Love" which shares prayers, poems and devotions written by all of you! We also enjoyed great sales of our book The Giving Quilt (which is rumored to be picked up by a national distributor).
- Many of our chapters celebrated their 10th Anniversary in Ministry. (Be sure to check out the photos and description of the 10th Anniversary of Mira Mesa Presbyterian in our "What's New" section!!)
- The Pacific Men's Chorale in San Diego put on a benefit concert for Prayers & Squares with 140 prayer quilt recipients and family members in attendance.
- We introduced our new P&S logo pin and staffed our own booth at the San Diego Quilt show!
- We added 110 new chapters this year including first time chapters in Maine, North Dakota and South Africa!

Can you feel the Holy Spirit at work?



Georgia's Regional Workshop

Congratulations and thanks to **Nettie Wilson** and her team at Chapter 217, **Hopewell UMC** for a successful Georgia conference! They had 25 quilters in attendance from 7 chapters and felt it was a very Spirit-filled day! They started with a worship service, had many wonderful workshops, a yummy lunch and decided to spend time sharing ideas with each other rather than a Sit-and-Sew. **Below is Chapter 217:**



Here are Dottie Cook, Nettie Wilson and Airy Nix:



Let us know if you need help putting a workshop together!



Touched by an angel...

Here is a story I received from **Helen Freese** at Chapter 829, Hazel Green UMC, Alabama that may send you for a Kleenex...

"Sunday, November 16, 2008

Today we had our first two quilts to be tied at the Communion Rail for the two morning services. When we were to have our evening service I noticed there were still some untied knots remaining. A little 5-year-old girl came up to me and asked if I could help her tie a knot. As we walked up to the rail, she shared with me that she had been practicing tying knots all afternoon since church that morning. When we got there I tried to tell her as best I could that we should be praying that this person receiving this quilt would know that we and God loved them and would be comforted by that. She quickly replied, "I know" and I then looked down and saw her eyes closed, hands folded in prayer. She then proceeded to tie the knot. At this point I completely lost it and had to return to my seat to get some Kleenex. I can't remember ever being that close to an Angel. Dave's regret was that he did not have a camera with him to catch this--it tore at all our heartstrings.

Thanks again for letting me share in this wonderful experience...



Dee Badders, at Foothills UMC, Chapter 3, brought this question to a recent workshop from her family: "When you put the prayer quilt on you, do the ties face up or down?" It turns out that her son, Mark, feels that the ties should point inward so that the prayers are directed to him and the rest of the family thinks the ties should face upward so they are available for others to tie and the prayers go "up to heaven"! Great conversation!



Celia Hirschenhofer from Chapter 723 in Arlington, TX sent us this picture of chapter member **Beth Anderson** at work. Their chapter handed out over 100 prayer squares to clergy and lay people from all over the Fort Worth Episcopal Diocese in Texas. (I only hope I am as beautiful as Beth when I am 82 years old! - Kathy)

**Looking forward to 2009...**

We already have a regional workshop and a Sit-and-Sew scheduled for next year and a couple more in the works!

Melodie England from **Pasadena, TX**, Chapter 485, has just sent out invitations to 11 area P&S chapters as well as 5 Methodist Church quilting groups in the area for a Sit-and-Sew, Feb. 21st. (melodieengland@hotmail.com) **Carrie Meth** at Palisades Presbyterian, Chapter 14, **San Diego** is coordinating a Regional Workshop on March 14th (carrie.meth@gmail.com)... **Mary Grandgeorge** is looking at a workshop in **Virginia** and the gals in Canada are thinking about another one!

You may know that most of our funds go to support these regional meetings to encourage the work of this ministry. If your chapter has been blessed financially this year, won't you consider a year-end contribution to the Prayers & Squares organization? It is so important to us to be able to offer funds for all those who work to cover the world in prayer. And if you are looking for a way to increase your own budget, be sure to look at our "FAQ'S" under Administration and Fundraising.



Dear Heavenly Father;
Please hear my humble request;
That You work Your grace through me,
So that I may better serve Thee.
May Your Holy Spirit touch my hands,
my mind and my heart,
To make a quilt for someone in need
Of Your precious love indeed.
Amen.

A prayer from "Under A Blanket Of Love" written by Anne Upham, Chapter 449, The Woodlands, Texas.



I wish you peace, love and happiness in the days ahead and that all those who come into contact with this ministry will feel the love and comfort God has to offer through us.

Merry Christmas!

Kathy Cueva, President