



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – June, 2008

President's Message:

Happy June! School is out for a lot of us and it is time to relax a little!

In the May newsletter, I talked about a Benefit Concert that was being given by the Pacific Men's Chorale to benefit Prayers & Squares International. It was held here in San Diego with 140 prayer quilt recipients and family members in attendance. All of the quilts were displayed in the front of the church during the concert and the blessing and this is the liturgy we read (written by Rev. John Farley, Foothills UMC):

Leader: *Prayer is God's pathway into our hearts and souls.*

People: Prayer is the pattern by which our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to commune with God.

Leader: *Prayer is the seam the Spirit follows to connect with our creator.*

People: Prayer is the thread that ties us together in faith.

Leader: *Lord, we give you thanks for the signs and wonders that point to your healing presence through these Prayer Quilts before us.*

People: Lord, we pray your blessing on those who sew their talent and faith together into this ministry of hope and healing

All: *Gracious God, you who created the colors and patterns of heaven and earth and bridges the two with a rainbow of promise, we bless these quilts and this ministry. Renew each to the work of healing. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

A free will offering was taken and we raised \$1700 for the Prayers & Squares organization!



Celebrations of Life and Ministry:

We received word from Chapter 154, St. Andrews Episcopal church in Grove, Oklahoma, that their "fearless leader", **Bette Watson**, passed away on May 6th after a long struggle with liver

cancer. Please keep her family and fellow quilters in your prayers...

Nancy Laverdure, Chapter #641 leader in Plano, TX and one of our conference coordinators sent us some great pictures of the celebration of their first year as a ministry! . She tells us in her note: "*We had our celebration Tuesday night and we displayed all of our finished quilts over the back of the chairs in the chapel and it was very colorful. We have given out 134 quilts in our first year! I liked the suggestion from the "Under a Blanket of Love" book about presenting all the members with a rose and that was well received. I also had a journal with all the first names of our quilt recipients and our priest blessed this and we will continue to keep a yearly record. Happy Anniversary, gals!...*

Christie Eckardt, Chapter #358, Evangelical Community Church of Abu Dhabi, sent us this note: *Hello from the Sandbox!*

As summer bears down upon us with the weight of Dantean temperatures, we are still steadily at work making quilts to send to the far corners of the earth. We are nearing our 3-year anniversary (gosh has it really been that long?), which comes this September, and about to hit the 100th quilt mark, which we expect to surpass in summer! In that time, we've sent quilts to such places as South Africa, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, India, Canada, England, and America to name a few.

Due to unbelievably hot summer temperatures, most people leave for all of July and August so we operate on a reduced crew but manage to accommodate all requests that continue to come in. We also face a high turnover of volunteers due to the typical flux in the expatriate community but God always graces us with new faces and hands to take over the empty spaces. We all feel it's been such a blessing to be a part of God's working in the lives of others through this ministry. It's also been amazing to watch the number of P&S chapters rise like the mercury in an Arabian thermometer! We're spreading like wildfire ladies!

Blessings to all of you wherever this letter finds you,

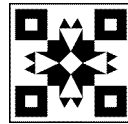
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Board of Directors Report:

Our newly elected Board met last month and here are some of the items we addressed:

- The sales of P&S logo pins, devotional books, lanyards and totes on the website. (more info to come)
- Updating the costs of the New Member Packet and including our book, The Giving Quilt to be sent to every new chapter. New Member fees will increase in August or September.
- Staffing a Prayers & Squares booth at the San Diego Quilt Show. This booth has been offered to us free of charge as a non-profit organization.

In years past, we have had P&S members work in a booth at the San Diego Quilt Show and bring their own prayer quilts, prayer squares, and chapter report boards (just like tri-fold science boards). This is a great opportunity to witness to quilters about the wonders of this ministry. What happens most often are that they stop to tell us stories that we could have included in The Giving Quilt because they are all about how giving or receiving a quilt affected their lives. I swear one morning I was crying and hugging someone within 15 minutes after the show opened! We will be selling copies of the The Giving Quilt and our devotional, Under a Blanket of Love as well as selling tickets for a beautiful Redwork quilt that was donated to us for a fundraiser.



A Closing Note:

I wish you all a glorious and safe summer in all your adventures. Please know when you contact us, we might be on vacation and a little slower to get back to you but we are here!
Grace and Peace,
Kathy Cueva, President

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Please enjoy this poem for the quilt recipient written by Linda Cree of Foothills UMC, Chapter 3:

I prayed for you when sewing,
This quilt we made for you.
God heard the prayers I know it,
And hope you know it too.

I prayed for you in the morning,
I prayed for you at night.
I prayed for you in secret,
when you were out of sight.

I prayed for you in sunshine,
and even the day it rained.
I prayed for you in traffic,
When I was quite detained.

So cast away your troubles,
Your worries and your fear.
Trust God will never leave you
For He is always near.