



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – Spring, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As some of you noticed, there was no April newsletter this year. We're well into May as I finally get around to finishing up this issue, so I thought it best to just call it "Spring". Our current newsletter editor and new Board member, Peggy Dunn, did an excellent job on her first edition but we ran into some translation problems. Not from another language to English, but rather from Peggy's PC to my Mac. It's easier to iron out a quilt top that's been jammed in a plastic bag for a year than it is to iron out computer problems! We'll try to get future issues out with less delay, but it may be awhile before we return to monthly editions, if ever. What does that mean for you? Well, you'll just need to check our website more often to see what's new and when the next newsletter is available.

Most of you know that Kathy Cueva has stepped down from her role on the board and as our president. It's not too late to send her a "thank you" square. Check out the message board on our home page for details. We've extended the deadline until the end of June, so you still have time to send your square to Kathy at the address in La Mesa. PLEASE change the mailing address you have for everything else to our original address:

Prayers & Squares International
P.O. Box 156
Poway CA 92074

(We use this same mailing address for Cornerstone Graphics, the "business" side of Prayers & Squares.)

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to make Prayers & Squares everything it is today. I've been blessed to be a part of this wonderful journey from the very first prayer quilt in 1992 to well over 900 chapters, many quilts, and countless prayers since then. I know the heartbeat of our organization is the love and energy that all of you put into each and every prayer quilt. All I can offer is, as we move forward please continue to serve as an instrument of God's love.

Blessings to each of you,

Wendy Mathson
President@PrayerQuilt.org

2010 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

First United Methodist Church, San Diego (Chapter 270) hosted the Prayers & Squares Biennial Conference on Saturday, March 20. A big thank you to **Belinda Mathison** and her group for providing such a warm and welcoming setting for the 258 participants. 45 Prayers & Squares Chapters were represented, coming from New Jersey, Washington, Arizona, Northern California and Southern California.

The morning session began as **Rev. Molly Vetter** opened the conference in prayer. Her prayer was a seamless combination of spirituality and humor, setting the tone for the day. "Roll Call" of the chapters in attendance followed and, judging from the applause and enthusiasm of the participants, this was a crowd pleaser. It was enjoyable to see and reconnect with old chapters as well as get to know and welcome the newer chapters.

The conference was set up so participants could attend workshops in both morning and afternoon sessions. The organizers of the conference did an excellent job of inviting informative and fun speakers. We thank the following speakers for saying "Yes" to our invitation: **Sharyn Craig**, author and quilt teacher; **Daniela Stout**, Cozy Quilt Shop; **Chris Stiasny**, Memory Lane Quilt Shop; **Wendy Mathson**, author and quilt teacher; **Kathy Cueva**, President P&S; **Leslie Ganiats**, quilter. The day also included sanctuary tours of First United Methodist Church as well as a Labryinth Walk.

We were blessed to have a record number of chapters bring in a basket to be raffled, resulting in our most successful fundraiser to date. Many thanks to the participants who made and donated the 282 pillowcases, which were given to Cozy Quilt Shop for distribution. Also, a big thank you to **Paula Theobald**; Chapter 222 and to **Leah Inniss and Karen Evans**, Chapter 3 for the "Jump Start Kits."

Kathy Cueva, President, delivered the State of the Ministry address in a very cleverly worded "Cell Phone Conversation with God". After a lengthy conversation with God, she summed up the State of the Ministry as "God is with us." Amen.

The last order of business, before the afternoon sessions, was to elect the new officers and to say goodbye

to Kathy Cueva, President and Carolyn Ketterer as they step down from the board (see article). The slate of officers was approved and your new board is:

- **Wendy Mathson**, President, Chapter 2
- **Peggy Dunn**, Vice President, Chapter 1
- **Corky Kuhlman**, Treasurer, Chapter 1
- **Cheryl Louie**, Secretary, Chapter 78
- **Carla Meade**, Member at Large, Chapter 244

Although the day was busy with conducting P&S business and learning new techniques, more importantly, it was a day of spirituality and a sense of connectedness. Individually, stories and experiences were shared, questions were asked and answered, new bonds were formed. As participants left at the end of the day, they went home with the sense that we are part of something that is bigger than us. The challenge will be, as we continue to grow as an organization, to find ways to keep this sense of connectedness alive.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Kathy Cueva

After eight years as President of Prayers & Squares International, Kathy Cueva decided to step down. It is impossible to put into words the impact Kathy has had on P&S during her years of service. When she became president in April, 2002 P&S had 64 chapters and, as she steps down in March, 2010, P&S has around 950 chapters. Although the sheer numbers and growth are astonishing, what matters more is how Kathy has led and guided this ministry during this period of explosive growth. Her combination of interpersonal skills, sense of humor, dedication and endless energy have created an atmosphere that has allowed our organization and members to be the best we can be.

At the conference Kathy was surprised (as in she didn't know it was part of the plan) when she was asked to come into the center of the room and every person laid hands on each other to be connected to her, as one. It was an emotional moment for all to say "thank you" to Kathy from our hearts. As another way of thanking Kathy, all are invited to send in a 6½" block. (See info on the Message Board of the P&S homepage.)

As Kathy moves on to her next adventure in life, we wish her all the best. We are confident that no matter what she does, it will be in her own unique style and that all who come into contact with her will be blessed.

Carolyn Ketterer

Also, stepping down from the board is Carolyn Ketterer, who served as vice president from July 2006 to March 2010. As Kathy said, "Carolyn has a wicked sense of humor, will bend over backwards to help in any way and is a great friend". In addition to her time on the board, Carolyn has been president at Our Redeemer Lutheran, president of Women's Clubs in the community, is a "Red Hatter" and a wonderful quilter.

Carolyn was presented with a gift card to her favorite quilt shop on behalf of P&S. We wish her well in whatever she chooses to do next and we thank her for her years of service to P&S.



FROM CHAPTER 894, REDMOND WA

Our local chapter was formed in September of 2009 after visiting my sister-in-law and seeing the ministry first hand and hearing how it blessed her congregation in Clearwater, Florida. We have made and blessed nine recipients to date (March, 2010) with lap quilts. The following story has been a great inspiration for our local chapter, Redmond Assembly, Chapter 894 and we would like to share it with you.

We received a request for a quilt for Donna, who had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. The quilt was completed, presented to our congregation and the prayer knots were tied. We then had a friend of hers present the quilt to her. We were later told that Donna loved the quilt and what it represented. Donna didn't go anywhere without the quilt. It turned into a source of strength and her constant companion. Donna went to be with the Lord on January 8th, 2010, and we received the following thank you note from her daughter.

"You all placed your hands on a blanket and made it a lifelong memory for Donna and her family. Bless you all for that! I wish I could meet these Angels, that you all are in your own way. My Mom wouldn't leave the house without it on her lap. She felt protected with it on her lap. She told everyone about it and was so proud to be gifted something so neat. It was left to me and I feel blessed now too. Thanks for making my Mom's last weeks extra SPECIAL.

Love you all, Kimberly (age 24)."

A picture of the quilt was also part of the Memorial Program. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful supportive ministry.

- Sharon Sentena, Member of Chapter #894

STAYING CONNECTED: "SISTER CHAPTERS"

As mentioned in this newsletter, the challenge we will face, as our organization grows, is how to stay connected. As an international organization, with chapters all across the country and around the world, how do we create these connections with each other?

Chapter 1, Hope United Methodist Church in Rancho Bernardo (San Diego area) has expanded their connections by adopting "Sister Chapters". Chapter 1 has partnered up with **Chapter 868, St. James Catholic Church in Petaluma, CA** as a result of an aunt/niece relationship. Marilyn Kristovich (aka Aunt Mimi) started Chapter 868 after attending the San Diego Regional Conference in April, 2009. Representatives from Chapter 1, Corky and Peggy, visited Chapter 868, sharing ideas, answering questions and bringing 10 quilt tops to get them started. Chapter 1 also had close ties to **Chapter 5, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Poway, CA**. Living in the same geographical area lends easily to the practice of joint "sit and sew" sessions.

Question: Does your chapter do anything specific to stay connected, either with other chapters or with P&S International? Please forward any ideas or suggestions and we will share in the newsletter.

Newsletter@PrayerQuilt.org



Corky Kuhlman of Chapter 1 (center, in blue) with members of Chapter 868

NEW CHAPTERS

We extend a warm welcome to our 16 newest chapters of Prayers & Squares who hail from California, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Ontario Canada and our newest country, Bahamas.

Chapter 939: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church; Sun City, California

Chapter 940: St. Martha's Episcopal Church; Papillion, Nebraska

Chapter 941: St. Matthew's Lutheran; Ithaca, Ohio

Chapter 942: Power of Prayer; Whitehall, Ohio

Chapter 943: Red Bank United Methodist Church; Lexington, South Carolina

Chapter 944: Provision Living at Hattiesburg; Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Chapter 945: First Presbyterian Church; Monterey, CA

Chapter 946: Del Rosa S.D.A. Church Women's Ministry; San Bernardino, California

Chapter 947: Urban Park Assembly of God; Dallas, Texas

Chapter 948: Treasure Hills Presbyterian Church; Harlingen, Texas

Chapter 949: Epworth Chapel Methodist Church; Cherokee Sound, Abaco, Bahamas

Chapter 950: The Way Christian Fellowship; Oceanside, California

Chapter 951: W.E. are Piecemakers; Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Chapter 952: Covenant United Methodist Church; Middlesboro, Kentucky

Chapter 95 (now active again): Santee Christian Church; Santee, California

Chapter 953: Abiding Peace Community Church; Flower Mound, Texas

**????? WHAT'S NEW ????**

As the new editor of the newsletter, or as I like to say "keeper of the words", I am seeking input from the general membership on what you would like to see in each issue. The newsletter can be a great tool for sharing with other chapters, delivering information, sharing tips and techniques, inspirational stories. To submit ideas, suggestions or stories, please email:

Newsletter@PrayerQuilt.org

I look forward to hearing from you,

Peggy Dunn