



Prayers & Squares International

The Prayer Quilt Ministry – Winter, 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Last Saturday, I stopped at a local store on my way home from a meeting of my Prayers & Squares group (Chapter 2, Community Church of Poway). I was wearing my "Prayer Wear": a cardigan with the Prayers & Squares logo stitched on the front. The sales clerk who rang up my sale asked me "Which Prayers & Squares chapter are you with?" She then went on to tell me about her friend who spends all of her free time making prayer quilts for the ministry. I went home with a smile on my face. Think about it: two strangers crossed paths, but once I was identified as a prayer quilter, we instantly made a connection.

Connections. Your P&S Board members use that word a lot. We are looking for more ways to make connections and to forge stronger bonds between our chapters. We are testing out a new online program now, and hope to be ready to expand it to the rest of our members in the near future. In the meantime, we encourage you to connect with your local chapters, perhaps with a "Quilt-in" as they had at Foothills Methodist in La Mesa last month. See page 5 for more on that story. And don't forget to look into "Prayer Wear" for your own chapter. Who knows how it may connect you...

Blessings,

Wendy Mathson, President, P&S International



P&S board members at a January meeting in San Diego. From left, Wendy Mathson, Corky Kuhlman, Cheryl Louie, and guest Marilyn Kristovich. (Your newsletter editor, Peggy Dunn is behind the camera.)

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS ARE:

Chapter 985; Spanish Central Church "Manos Unidas" Quilting Ministry, Chicago Illinois

Esperanza, the chapter leader, met another P&S member at a women's retreat and was moved to bring the ministry to her small group.

Chapter 986; Pleasant Valley South Baptist Church, Silver Creek Georgia

Prayers & Square's website was instrumental in guiding me to a local church already participating in a prayer quilt ministry. I made a call to their contact person and visited their group to learn more about what it was and how it worked. It was so exciting and fulfilling to witness this hands-on ministry. Our church is anxious to share this type of prayer ministry with our members to share the gift of prayer and encouragement. Thanks so much to your organization. We welcome your prayers for our group that we will be a conduit for prayers for the Lord to work in real and unexpected ways. - Gale

Chapter 987; Camarillo United Methodist Church, Camarillo California

I have friends at the San Luis Rey UMC in Oceanside who told our minister about Prayers & Squares and showed us what they are doing. Dr. Mahin suggested we get the support of United Methodist Women in our church. I also got the book, Fabric of Faith. My friends gave me copies of the forms they use and mentioned other labels they get from Cornerstone Graphics. We have a quilt group that will help make the quilts. We would like to get started. - Joan

Chapter 988; First United Methodist, Luling Texas

Chapter 989; First Baptist Church of Granbury, Granbury Texas

Chapter 990; Shiloh Community Church, Orleans Michigan

I heard of a church in Grand Rapids making prayer quilts. I was looking on the internet to find out what a prayer quilt was and found your website. I was so inspired by the stories of those that have received the prayer quilts, that I brought the idea to my pastor. We formed the Shiloh Prayer Quilt Ministry in January of 2010. It was set up as recommended on your website.

We follow the three commandments that you have set. We wanted to wait and join around our one year mark, to see how successful the ministry is. We have received boxes and boxes of donated material, and have already given out five prayer quilts. The ministry is much appreciated and well received. - Terry

Chapter 991; Covenant Point-Lakeside Cooperative Parish; Waldorf Maryland

Covenant Point-Lakeside Cooperative Parish is 2 churches in one building, one predominantly white, one predominantly black under the leadership of Rev. Tony Love. I saw this "Prayer Quilt Ministry" under United Methodist Church facebook page. I belong to the church's Caring Ministry and we send cards to people on the prayer list or call or visit. I see this as another way to reach out to others in times of need for Prayer and Love. - Sandra

Chapter 992; First Lutheran Church, Rock Island Illinois

I bought the book on the Prayer Quilt ministry. I was intrigued by the concept as I had just finished leading several workshops on prayer. I had often wondered about ways to use my love of quilting for service. The title of your book, Fabric of Faith, clicked because here was a way to join my passion for prayer with my passion for quilts into ministry. Once I read the first chapter I was ready to start but made myself finish the book. I then passed it on to a sister quilter with a note on the inside cover to read, post a note by mine and pass it on. Within a few weeks we heard of 2 families whose situation touched our hearts. We started their quilts and we were off. We now meet 2-3 times a month and are growing. We have even started making military prayer squares for the troops due to an article on your website. The next logical step for us is to officially join Prayers & Squares in this wonderful ministry. We have been so blessed to be a part of this and we have only just begun! We look forward to sharing ideas and the opportunity to network with others who share our passion for ministry. -Cyndy

Chapter 993; Ranchland Church, San Diego California

Chapter 994; The Most Amazing Quilt Shop, Cookeville Tennessee

Hi, I have a quilt shop in Cookeville and have wanted to apply to your ministry for some time now. I feel the Lord has said it is time. I would run the ministry from my quilt shop as an out reach to our community. We have many quilt guilds in this area, and I am sure they would be on board to help as well as ladies from my

church. I love the fact that this is not about the quilt, but prayer. - Linda

Chapter 995; Grandma's Quilting & Sewing, Lebanon Tennessee

At Grandma's quilting we have a group "Grandma's Quilting Bees" all members are very interested in your ministry and would love the opportunity to be a part of such a faith based organization. - Ruth

More CHAPTER NEWS:

Chapter 718: First Church of Neon, KY

We received a beautiful letter and DVD from Chapter 718 in Neon, Kentucky. They had just tied their 100th quilt.

"We have never written anything but I want everyone to know we have been busy. July 2007 we started with cheater quilts for two young men of our church family. Diagnosis cancer at ages 31 and 32 years old. After treatments and surgeries both men are doing well. Now on September 29th, our Army Sergeant Michael Andrew Adams was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for action in Afghanistan He serves with the 101st Airborne.

In early October, we tied our 100th quilt. The ages (of recipients) were from 2 years to 103½. Some have been sent to CA, OH, TN, GA, Iraq and other areas. Many of these people have gone on to be with the Lord. Yet, their stories are what keeps us going. They tell of comfort, hope, healing, 'best night's rest since I've been sick', and salvation.

This Sunday, we have a fleece blanket with ties for a premature baby, born at 5 months. The needs are great, but God is good. God is able!

Pastor Mark Wagoner and our church are very supportive. Each quilt is place in the front of the church near the altar. We do squares for grief, sickness and just someone down that needs extra prayer, and quilts for cancer needs.

We wanted Prayers & Squares to know we are well and working. I don't think anyone knew at the start what a blessing this ministry would be. And just like that the book says, just when you need some supplies, someone gives!!

We are still learning on every point of the quilt

ministry. Stressed is **prayers** and not the quilt. Just this fall, we have gotten a sewing machine for the church and twice a month, we have met to sew and quilt. We have grown from 5 people working to 20 helping in some way or other. Seems like the 100th quilt woke people up!

God has blessed us and I ask for your prayers that we will continue to touch lives for him.

Yours in Christ,
Sherry H., Chapter 718, Neon, KY

And from Chapter 781, Dunnellon, FL:

Sad news that their church and chapter has had to close. We thank you for your hard work and wish you all well.

“My name is Shirley H., from Chapter #781 of Prayers & Squares, from the Rainbow Lakes United Methodist Church in Dunnellon, Florida. We are sorry to report that our small, elderly church has closed as of December 31, 2010. Therefore, we have had to dissolve our Prayer Quilt Chapter.

We really enjoyed doing this ministry for our congregation and their families and friends. There were only 2 of us making the quilts and 2 other women delivered them. Since our beginning in March 2008 we have made and delivered 50 quilts and have been blessed by the wonderful reactions from those who have received them.”

Computer Crash: In December my computer crashed and I lost some of the e-mails that were sent in. If you sent in a story or a tip and you didn't see it published in the newsletter, it is one of the items I "lost". Please accept my apologies and if you resend it, I will be sure to include in the next newsletter.

Peggy Dunn, Newsletter Editor.



HAPPY NEWS ABOUT OUR NEW ADDITIONS:

We are happy to share the news that P&S has two new additions— identical twin Prayer Bears were born on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at a workshop at Chapter 1, HOPE UMC, San Diego, CA. The bears are girls named “Patches” and “Patricia”.

Patricia experienced an unfortunate “pressing mishap” and is now known as “Flat Pat”. Don’t despair: Flat Pat is just the right size and shape to travel in a Flat Rate envelope with her very own diary. Flat Pat is a real jet-setter, and is looking forward to being mailed from Chapter to Chapter.

Patches will travel in her own suitcase, with a P&S pin and quilt. She has a diary in her suitcase and as she travels from Chapter to Chapter, her stories will be documented and, hopefully, pictures will be added. She will be hand carried from Chapter to Chapter, since she is not fond of air travel. We will keep track of both sisters in our newsletter.

As our new traveling ambassadors, Patches and Flat Pat will increase our opportunities to communicate with and reach out to Chapters that we don’t know and/or wouldn’t have a reason to contact. It will be interesting to chart and track their travels.



Patches holds a pink heart adorned with our logo pin, and of course, her very own prayer quilt. Her sister Flat Pat is identical, but – well – flat instead of fluffy.

LINK TO ORDER PRAYER WEAR

The Prayers & Squares logo is available on Lands' End Business Outfitters products. The link can be found on the Prayers & Squares website in the "For Our Members" section. [Link to Lands' End](#)

You can take advantage of discounts by being on the Lands' End email list and applying the discount code to your email order, or you can call in your order and reference the discount code. Remember that you can customize the color of the threads on the embroidered logo, pictured below.

We would love to share photos of your group sporting their Prayer Wear, whether you ordered through Lands' End or created your own.



SURVEY RESULTS:

Last newsletter we asked for techniques and tips from our chapters. We had several replies:

Chapter 645, Lancaster, CA

We use 2 of our large tables at church put together side by side when assembling a quilt. We stretch the backing out smoothly on the tables and with strips of masking tape we tape the backing to the table and then spread the filler and top in place. We then pin the layers together at frequent intervals. This has eliminated turning the quilt over a number of times in order to get everything together smoothly. It is quite easy to turn the border in place. I learned this trick from my 94 year old mother who is still piecing and tying quilts with her churches quilting group for World Relief.

- Marge Barckholtz, Grace Lutheran

Chapter 868, Petaluma, CA

We put bed risers under the legs of the 6 foot tables. This brings the tables up to a height that saves us from bending over and, more importantly, saves our backs.

- Marilyn Kristovich, St. James Catholic Church

Chapter 728, Moss Point, MS

Greetings from Chapter 728 in sunny, south Mississippi. We don't have any special tips on the creation of a quilt but there is something that we do that seems to be unique. We video tape each prayer quilt at different stages of its creation. We have seven lovely ladies in our group (some who sew and some who do not). Each lady will work on each quilt at different stages. Stage 1 is the selection of colors and pattern. Stage 2 is the marking and cutting of pieces. Stage 3 is the sewing of the pieces into quilt blocks. Stage 4 is the assembly of the quilt blocks into a quilt top. Stage 5 covers the quilting of the top, batting, and backing together. In Stage 6 you witness the installation of the ties. Finally, in Stage 7, we video the Blessing/Tying Ceremony that takes place in our Sanctuary.

A custom DVD is sent along with each prayer quilt. Seeing the entire process seems to make a HUGE impact on the quilt recipients.

Also, we have recently received several wonderful "thank you" notes from quilt recipients and/or their families. Here are a couple to share:

"What a wonderful ministry the Prayers & Squares is to Safe Harbor UMC. So many prayers is such a blessing for our family. Thank you for the prayer quilt. Dad was able to enjoy it for several months. He is now safe and happy in God's arms. Dad had his beautiful prayer quilt clenched in his hands as we sent him off to be with God." – The Clark Family

"Thank you all so much for the prayer quilt and DVD for Bert. May God bless the seven ladies who work so hard on this ministry. In our home, the quilt is out for anyone who visits to tie a knot and say a prayer. After one of Bert's radiation treatments (which always leave him cold), he sat in his chair, pulled the quilt over himself and said, 'how warm and peaceful'. Then he slept. How at peace he looked. I could feel the prayers and I know he felt

the same. The first treatments and surgery are now over. Only God knows what the next twelve months will be like, but with our faith, your prayers, and the hand of God holding on to us, we will accept what He wants for us.” - Bert and Carolyn L.

- Lynn M., Safe Harbor Methodist Church

Thanks for the tips!

The winner of the survey drawing is Chapter 728, Safe Harbor Methodist Church, Moss Point MS

NEW SURVEY QUESTION: *Does your chapter have Prayer Wear? If so, please share with us by sending in a picture of your members in their prayer wear.*

Send to: Newsletter@PrayerQuilt.org

We will share in our next newsletter.

****All participating chapters will be eligible for a drawing to win a special gift.***

In addition to Chapter 964, chapters that were represented included: Chapter 1, Hope UMC; Chapter 2, Community Church of Poway, United Church of Christ; Chapter 3, Foothills United Methodist Church; Chapter 14, Palisades Presbyterian Church; Chapter 64, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church; Chapter 78, Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church; Chapter 187, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church (all from the San Diego area); and Chapter 868 from Northern California. At the end of the afternoon, not only was there a new pattern, completed blocks and beginnings of quilts, but there was a renewed sense of camaraderie and connection.

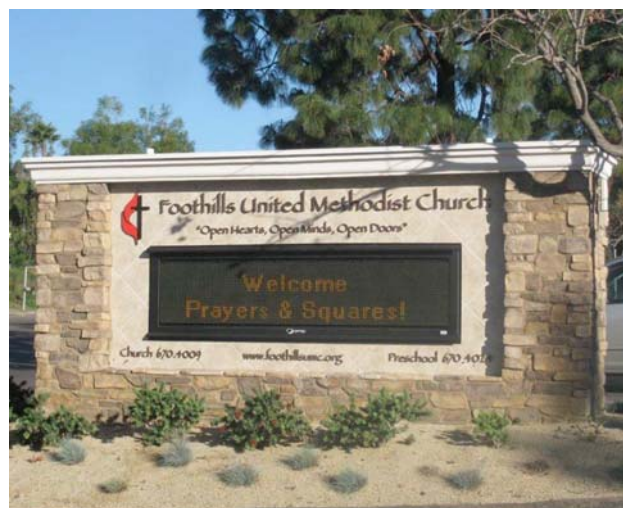
Thanks to Chapter 3 Foothills for taking this on. We continue to encourage chapters to take the lead and host sit and sew or a quilt-in to get to know some of the chapters in your local area.



Kathy Cueva welcomes everyone to Foothills UMC’s “Quilt-In”

A QUILT-IN

Chapter 3, Foothills United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA, under the leadership of Kathy Cueva, ran with the idea of getting local chapters together for a sit and sew, or as they like to call it, a “**Quilt-In**”. On Saturday, January 22, 2011 they hosted 9 chapters for a day of sewing and fellowship. Wendy Mathson taught her new pattern, which was well received. Chapters brought material cut in various sizes to share with a new local chapter, #964 from United Church of Christ, La Mesa. A continental breakfast was served and lunch was brought in. The rest of the day was all about sewing and enjoying each other’s company.



More photos from the "Quilt-in"



Wendy Mathson taught her new pattern.



Fabric cut into strips and squares was available for new chapters to take back with them.



Cheryl Dumas and Carolyn Wright, on the left, were original founders of Hope UMC's Chapter 1, started in 1992.

