



# Prayers & Squares International

## The Prayer Quilt Ministry

October 2016



### President's Message



Next year the Prayers & Squares founding chapter will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary. Three of the founders continue to serve the ministry and inspire us all with their willing hands, joyful laughter, caring hearts, and dedication to prayer. With this benchmark anniversary coming up, it seems like a good time to discuss ways to keep a record of the history of a chapter.

One of the "Frequently Asked Questions" that we receive is "How important is it to keep photos and records and what are other chapters doing to keep photos and records of the quilts they have made and given out?" The first sentence of our answer in the FAQ section of our website is: "The choice either to keep records or not to keep records is entirely up to individual chapters." The entire answer is detailed on the website but the last sentence states, "If you choose to keep such extensive records, perhaps you will have someone in your chapter or church who feel called to take on this kind of project.

Chapter One has been blessed with such a person in Peggy Dunn, who is also the editor of our newsletter. When she is not quilting she is scrapbooking or playing with her new grandson. In the article below, Peggy will share how she recorded the history of Chapter 1 in the form of digital photo books. As the chapter historian, she also maintains a digital library of all prayer quilts, prayer squares, recipient names, and chapter activities throughout the year and then uses an online service to design a custom book for each year.

We hope that this information will inspire someone from your organization to use the current photograph technology available to record your chapter's history. It has been a blessing to watch the Prayers & Squares founders flip through the pages of our photo books laughing and pointing at the photos saying, "Oh, do you remember that?"

Blessings,  
Corky

### Welcome New Chapters



We extend a hearty welcome to our **11** new chapters who hail from all regions of the USA: [California](#), [Florida](#), [Indiana](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [South Carolina](#) and [Texas](#)!

#### **Chapter 1212** **Main St UMC** **Logansport, IN**

*I work for Main St. UMC as an Administrative Asst. but my passion is quilting! I started a quilt group that meets once a week at the church. We are a hands on group we bring our machines every week and work on our projects! I've always wanted a way to give back but haven't found it till I met a new friend recently in Paducah at the show she told me about your organization. It sounded perfect! We are a small group so I didn't want to start something overwhelming! I think this will be a nice fit for us!*

#### **Chapter 1213** **South Shores Church** **Monarch Beach, CA**

*We are a few people who moved from San Clemente Presbyterian who wanted to have a P&S ministry at our new church. It was enthusiastically embraced by the leadership.*

#### **Chapter 1214** **Weldon United Methodist Church** **Weldon, CA**

#### **Chapter 1215** **Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church Outreach** **Committee** **Alburtis, PA**

#### **Chapter 1216** **Lifeshouse Bible Church** **Magnolia, TX**

#### **Chapter 1217** **Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church** **LaBelle, FL**



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*We are a new group called the Sewing Angels". We are sewers quilters and people who want to help. We are an older community, in an established Methodist Church. Your information and newsletters have been very helpful. We would like continued prayers and support to make our group successful.*

**Chapter 1218**  
**First Baptist Church**  
**Odessa, TX**

**Chapter 1219**  
**SOV Quilters**  
**West Hills, CA**

*We are some quilters who currently do milestone quilts once a year for high school seniors, and feel called to extend the gift and joy of prayers and quilts and others. We are looking forward to the adventure God had in store for us on this journey.*

**Chapter 1220**  
**New Baptist Church**  
**Miami, OK**

**Chapter 1221**  
**Intercessory Prayer Warriors**  
**Bonneau, SC**

*We are a small group of Christ believing retirees finding a way to glorify God and bless others. We had time to give and this organization is the perfect way to enjoy each other and to grow together in God.*

**Chapter 1222**  
**Saint Paul Lutheran Church Women**  
**Clyde, OH**

*We were looking for ways to expand our church quilt ministry and reach out to the local community as well as our own church members. We saw your organization online and decided this would be a perfect fit for us. Our church ladies have been sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief for many, many years. Since joining the NALC, we decided our quilt ministry should be more personal. The prayer quilts and squares will be a perfect addition to our international quilt efforts.*

### CHAPTER STORIES:

*We love hearing from our established chapters. A big thank you to Chapter 3 for mentoring our new chapter.*

#### From Chapter 354:

*Our church have given away since Aug of 2005-- 275 prayer quilts. I will be going with 25 from our church October 21 to the 28 to Eleuthera in the Bahamas to teach the women there to make quilts. I am 86 years old and looking forward to this trip. I have never been out of the United States. I have learned so much making the prayer quilts. The people receiving our quilts are so thankful. Just thought you might like a little news!*

*Jean*

#### From Chapter 690 St. Paul UMC, Spartanburg, SC

*I am the leader of Chapter 690, St. Paul UMC in Spartanburg SC... Glad to report that the ministry has been well received by our congregation and we have offered 41 quilts for prayer to date. The picture I am attaching is the first one we have done for parents on the impending birth of their 2nd child. The pastor called the children to the kneeling bench for prayer. It was a touching moment. Thanks for your work for this great ministry.*

*Cathy Boss*





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### From Chapter 3 Foothills UMC, La Mesa, CA

Eighteen years ago, Foothills UMC started a chapter of Prayer Quilt Ministry. We are Chapter #3 of what has now grown to over 1,200 chapters around the world. We have been so blessed and so supported by our church that we decided to share our blessings with a chapter that is just starting up their ministry. PQM headquarters sent us the contact information for the brand new Chapter #1,206 at Temecula UMC. We invited them to our meeting on Saturday, 5/28. Not only did they show up, but so did a representative of the new chapter #1,204 at St. Catherine Leboure. God gave us a two-for. But He wasn't done with us yet. (A church member stopped in before the meeting for a prayer square for his childhood friend who is in his last days, we got the report that a quilt recipient had successful heart surgery, a PQM member attended in great health after cancer surgery, and a new FUMC member came to check check out our ministry. Then,) just as the meeting was getting started, a very distraught woman came to our door. When she calmed down enough, we found out she has just moved to the area, was passing the church, and pulled in to look for help. Her son who's in the Navy just found out he is being deployed to a very dangerous region and is terrified, especially since he isn't sure of his faith. We gave her love, comfort, prayers, tied a prayer square for her son, encouraged her to come back to Foothills for more support, and started the process for her to get her own prayer quilt. All of this happened in front of our new chapters. We all got to see God working through PQM in dramatic action. God is truly with us.

Thank you to Foothills UMC and to Prayers and Squares, Prayer Quilt Ministries for your years of support which has allowed us to reach out and cover so many in prayers.

Julie Leonard





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### KEEPING AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Next year, P&S Chapter One, will celebrate 25 years. I have been a member of Chapter One since January, 2001. At that time, Chapter One had been in existence for over 9 years.

Faithfully, every week, this group of prayer warriors hauled in sewing machines from home, pulled supplies and fabric out of a small utility closet and set about making, tying and praying over the prayer quilts requested. With diligent effort, pictures were taken of the quilts and recorded. In the early days, pictures were taken with cameras that used film that had to be developed or Polaroid instant pictures and then entered into photo albums.

Fast forward to June, 2011 when Chapter One was blessed with a new space at our church-- Hope United Methodist Church built a new building on the church grounds to house various ministries. P&S was fortunate to be able to have input to design our work space. As we were preparing to move, we realized we had 20 years of photo albums that required a lot of space to house. The question became how to preserve our history using less space.

Fortunately, technology has come a long way in 25 years. I love scrapbooking so it was a short hop for me to take on the task of historian for our chapter. Now, I am not saying the short hop was quick—it took quite a while to organize, record info and scan pictures going back 20 years. I used Shutterfly, an online digital book source, to create digital books for our chapter. Shutterfly is not exclusively the only digital book source—there are many to choose from, but it is the one I started with and feel comfortable using

The books for the early years, I was able to put multiple years into one book as we mainly had pictures of the prayer quilts. For our later years, I dedicate one book for the year, as we now

include not only our prayer quilts and our prayer squares but our workshops and celebrations. I keep current throughout the year so at the end of the year, it is easier to create a digital book. Some benefits of digital books are space saving and they are a good visual resource to share with people who want to know about the ministry. There is a cost associated with making digital books. I look for the sale of 50% off or better before I order the books.

Creating digital books is one way to record, especially for our chapter that has 25 years of history. If you have another method of recording your history, please share with us.

Submitted by Peggy Dunn

