



Prayers & Squares International

The Prayer Quilt Ministry

JULY, 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



July, 2018

What inspires you to make a prayer quilt, family quilt, or art quilt? Is it the incredible creative work of others that you saw at the last quilt show? You know the one that you took the photo of with your cell phone and then said to your quilting buddy, "Wow, that I-Spy quilt with all those unique blocks would make a great prayer quilt." Is it that new quilt pattern made from strips from the bright new design in the jelly roll next to it using blues, greens, and teals? Is it the inspiration of colors and shapes that you experienced in nature on your vacation? You know like the photo of the reflection of the bridge in the in the alpine lake with the pine trees and waterfall in the background and the aluminum boats turned upside down on the shore. Is it those neatly arranged (or piles of) scraps that are begging to be sewn together in just the right creative pattern? Is it the photo and story about the journey of a prayer quilt and how it brought prayerful comfort to the recipient?

For me, it is all of the above (except maybe the scraps) but the one that fills my heart and inspires my creativity are the stories of how prayers quilts have their own journey and impact the lives of others. A few months ago, Chapter One received a prayer quilt request for a pastor and her daughter in Russia who had just lost her husband and her daughters father. They were asked if they would accept prayers in the form of a quilt and they said yes. A prayer quilt with a green theme was prepared and presented to the congregation for prayers and given to the sponsor in San Diego. We later heard from the sponsor that the quilt was sent to Russia via a friend in Seattle, Washington who then hand delivered it to the mother and daughter who were very grateful to be surrounded in prayer through that prayer quilt

prayed upon by people who did not even know them.

Do you have any inspirational stories about prayer quilts that have traveled beyond your local community? We would love for you to share some of those stories with us so that we can share them in the next newsletter as inspiration for Prayers & Squares volunteers. Please send your stories to our newsletter editor, Peggy, via email: Newsletter@PrayerQuilt.org or by mail to Prayers & Squares, P. O. Box 156, Poway, CA 92074.

Thank you all for your heartfelt service to this prayer ministry through quilts.

Blessings,
Corky



NEW CHAPTERS



Wow! We have added another 17 chapters to our Prayers & Squares Family since our last newsletter. Two of the new chapters are in our international family hailing from New Zealand and Canada. The other 14 chapters represent regions across the United States. Welcome one and all.

Chapter1253

**Parkgate Community Church
Pasadena, TX**

We are a congregation of 200+ with a strong emphasis on prayer and outreach. We have many talented and crafty ladies who could share in this



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JULY, 2018



ministry. I first heard of this program when I visited my parent's church last spring.

Chapter 1254

Christ Episcopal Church
Madison, IN

Chapter 1255

Tusculum Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Nashville, TN

We have been doing this ministry under Woodbine Cumberland Presbyterian Church for many years. However that church merged with Tusculum CPC and the leader is no longer doing the ministry so I have stepped forward and we are continuing this awesome ministry.

Chapter 1256

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Hayward, WI

Chapter 1257

River Grace Church
Oakdale, CA

I was a member of the Venture Christian Church of Los Gatos, Prayers & Squares. When my husband and I moved to Oakdale, I really missed having friends to quilt with. Not to mention the wonderful people could have benefitted from one of the prayed over quilts!!

Chapter 1258

Palmerston North Central Baptist Church
Palmersto North
Manawatu, New Zealand

Our group of quiltmakers is very small, inexperienced but very keen. We are part of a relatively large church. We hope to gather more support once people see what is involved. There are at least two other Prayers and Squares groups in our city and I heard about them from members of the local quilt club. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Chapter 1259

Little Rock Church
Little Rock, AK

We are a nondenominational group of Christians that come from the church of Christ background. A member of the New Bethel Church of Christ is the contact person for their chapter. She completed a prayer quilt for my very best friend that moved away and is suffering from cancer in 3 areas of her body. I made quilts with my mother as a child and have an interest in the ministry. Gina shared your information and I spoke with the leaders and they liked the idea of prayer quilts for the ill.



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JULY, 2018



Chapter 1260

Carrie Gunning
Johnson City, TN

I am an administrative assistant at my church and have seen the ministry of Prayers & Squares many times and have had the opportunity to participate in praying and knotting quilts. Amazing ministry!

Chapter 1261

Grace Church of Bethlehem
Bethlehem PA

Chapter 1262

Peace Baptist Church
Wilmington, NC

Our ladies group is called the Peacemakers and we have a very active prayer chain ministry. I, as a recent member, have been familiar with prayer quilts associated with Cancer Centers and hospitals. We, as a group, are very eager to begin a prayer quilt ministry to support our ongoing work for the Lord, our congregation and the community.

Chapter 1263

Crossroads Alliance Church
Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada

We are a small rural church full of wonder loving people. Our previous Pastor and wife moved to Owen Sound and shortly afterward my husband passed away and Owen Sound gave me a prayer quilt. I was more than overwhelmed with the gesture. I have wanted to start the

ministry in our church and when Owen Sound did a course a number of us attended and now are ready to begin. We have had so many losses and challenges...we will be busy!! Owen Sound gifted us with 2 completed quilts and 6 tops!

Chapter 1264

Celebration Community Church
Celebration, FL

I was a member of Prayers & Squares at Hope United Methodist Church about 17 years ago. Wendy was doing the classes then. My grandchild would come with me who was 1 ½ years old then. She is now graduating from high school. I had started Chapter 326 in Ohio when we moved from California. We have now relocated to Davenport, FL.

Chapter 1265

First United Methodist Church,
Thibodaux
Thibodaux, LA

I am a quilter and have prayed about starting some type of group—and after an "interest meeting" I am happy to say we have sufficient members to start this ministry and fully endorse the 3 commandments of the organization. I simply started researching online for reputable groups the could support us with helpful tips and continuous updates.



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The Prayer Quilt Ministry

JULY, 2018



Chapter 1266

St Martha's Parish and School
Okemos, MI

We are a Catholic Church. Denise previously formed a chapter in Newport Beach Ca and now moved to this area and has been given approval to form a chapter.

Chapter 1267

Hilltop United Methodist Church
Mankato, MN

We are a growing and active church (about 1,500) that is ready for this prayer ministry. We are located in southern MN, and this ministry is a new concept for our church. The group leader moved here from South Carolina, where she was involved in Prayers & Squares in her church and wanted to see this ministry available to people in her new church and community. Our pastor is excited about this new ministry.

Chapter 1268

Christ the King Lutheran Church
LaBelle, FL

Christ the King Lutheran Church is a small Church in LaBelle, Florida. We became interested in starting our own Chapter after becoming aware of the Ministry.

Chapter 1269

DBC BASIC Sunday School Class
Dublin, OH

Trying to get a Prayers and Squares Ministry started through our

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ"

Sunday School group at Dublin Baptist Church, Dublin, OHIO. I belonged to a Prayers and Squares Ministry at my former church and know what a worthwhile ministry it is.

CHAPTER STORIES

From Chapter 863

**Richmond Hill Baptist Church
Booneville, NC**

"We celebrated our Ninth Anniversary on Sunday, April 29, 2018. As inspiration, we took ideas from the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Chapter 1 which was highlighted in the January 2018 P&S Newsletter. A bulletin insert was used which named the 600-plus recipients of quilts we have dedicated. We emphasized this number is not a "pat on the back" for our group but represents the many requests for prayer for crisis situations, which is the heart of our motto, "It's not about the quilt, it's all about the prayer." We invited the recipients of our quilts to bring them to the service for a "rededication". We had a beautiful assortment brought in, and we displayed them around our sanctuary. It was very special to have the first quilt dedicated in April, 2009 shared with our congregation. We also made pocket prayer squares which were handed out as our church family arrived. Our pastor, Rev. Will Hamric, blessed the quilts with prayer as well as the pocket squares and asked the members to pass their square



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on to someone who needs prayer. And a wonderful note—the remainder of the pocket squares were taken by a college student in our congregation who is now doing summer studies in India. She plans to hand them out to those she meets on her travels! We are very fortunate to have a church family who has embraced Prayers & Squares. God has blessed us greatly!" ~Brenda Matthews

From Chapter 102
Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Williamsburg, MI

"Chapter 102 is still very active. We just gave out our 89th quilt. It is a joy for all of us to continue this ministry. God Bless."

~Marcelline Block

THANK YOU LADIES FOR SENDING IN YOUR STORIES. WE LOVE THEM.

RESOURCE CORNER

An Economical On-Line Source for Pearl Cotton Thread

I hope this resource is helpful to your chapter as you continue to blanket the world in prayer with your quilts.

-Wendy Mathson

Prayers & Squares recommends tying Prayer Quilts with Pearl Cotton thread. It comes in a variety of colors, is easy to knot and holds up well with washing.

After years of buying DMC #5 Pearl Cotton in small (27.3 yard) skeins at my local fabric and craft stores, I started searching for an on-line alternative. After trying several different stores, I am happy to report that **Yarn Barn of Kansas** is a good source. They have Pearl Cotton in dozens of colors at a very good price. (Note: I previously was ordering from Halcyon Yarn, but they are now more expensive than Yarn Barn. They are still a good source, especially for the large cones. Halcyonyarn.com

I recommend the 5/2 weight Pearl Cotton. You can use it with a single or double thread for tying your quilts.

Yarn Barn has 2-oz balls, 6-oz mini cones, or 1-pound+ cones. Discounts apply for orders over \$125.

As of 5/1/18 prices for the 5/2 Pearl Cotton are:

Balls (2 oz = 260 yards): \$7.65

Mini Cones (6 oz = 785 yards): \$13.95

*Large Cones (16 oz = 2100 yards): \$28.95 (\$25.95 for White and Natural)

*Most cones are 1.1 to 1.3 lbs and are sold by the pound, so actual price is more per cone

Order online or by phone: yarnbarn-ks.com 800-468-0035

Item number is WY PER05C for the 5/2 Pearl Cotton.

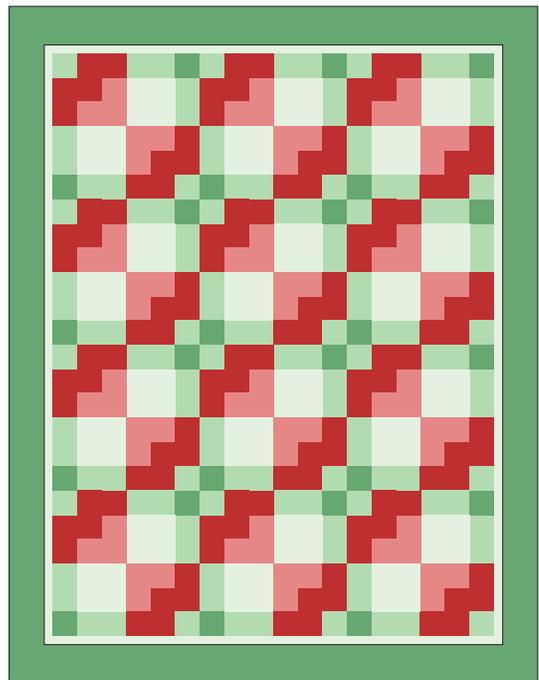
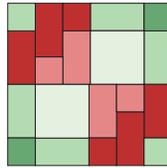
Item number is XX-YBS-WPCI for a **sample card showing all the pearl cotton colors**. Price: \$4.00 and shipping is free.

“Watermelon” Prayer Quilt

by Wendy Mathson

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Quilt finishes approx. 46" x 58", with twelve 12" blocks, a 1" inner border, and a 4½" outer border.



Fabric Requirements & Cutting Directions

1/4 yd		Main Color- Dark	Cut 2 strips 2½"
5/8 yd		Main - Medium	Cut 5 strips 2½" + 2 strips 4½"
1/2 yd		Main - Light	Cut 3 strips 4½"
3/4 yd		Contrast - Dark	Cut 2 strips 2½" + 4 strips 4½"
1/2 yd		Contrast - Medium	Cut 2 strips 2½" + 2 strips 4½"
1/4 yd		Main - Light or your choice for inner border	Cut 4 strips 1½"
3/4 yd		Main - Dark or your choice for outer border	Cut 6 strips 4½"

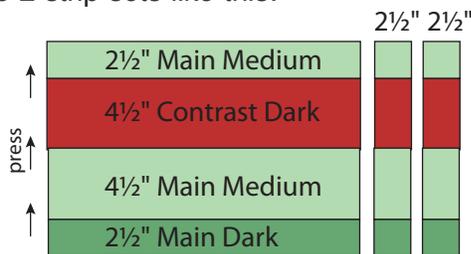
Sewing the Quilt

1. Make 3 strip sets like this:



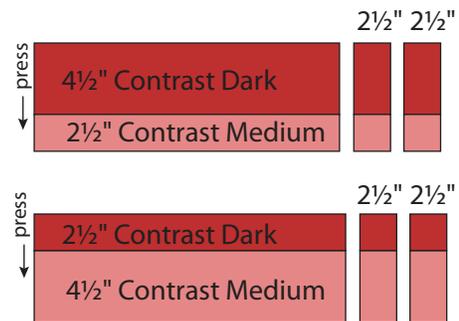
2. Press seam allowances according to arrow.
Cut 24 segments, 4½" wide from strip sets.

3. Make 2 strip sets like this:

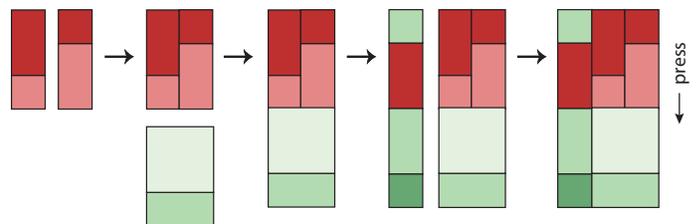


4. Press seam allowances according to arrows.
Cut 24 segments, 2½" wide from strip sets.

5. Make 2 of each of these strip sets:



6. Press seam allowances according to arrows.
Cut 24 segments, 2½" wide from EACH strip set.
7. Sew segments together to make a unit, according to the following diagram. Make 24 units like this.



8. Sew 2 units together to make a block.
Make 12 blocks.



8. Arrange and sew blocks into 4 rows of 3 blocks each, according to quilt diagram above.
9. Add inner border strips, then outer border strips to finish quilt top. Press borders away from quilt.