



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – Summer, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Boy, do I ever miss Kathy Cueva! I have studiously avoided picking up the phone to ask her question after question. For 8 years she did so much for our ministry, and now she surely deserves a chance to get away from all those issues, enjoy time with her husband and have some fun on the golf course.

With or without that capable leadership, Prayers & Squares continues to be a strong organization that is experiencing steady growth. I think that's because our part (meaning the board's) is quite small, and the effort that each chapter contributes is huge. We know that there are literally thousands of you out there, faithfully sewing, layering, binding, putting in ties, and – most importantly – praying over your quilts every week. Now that is HUGE! I love to think about all the wonderful, caring, loving people who represent Prayers & Squares and who are putting their belief in the power of prayer into action.

Incidentally, I have come into contact with several prayer quilters recently who are not members of Prayers & Squares. So, how do I feel about that? I think it is great. Whether or not you are part of our organization, if you are using quilts to involve more people in praying for others, I am all for it. In my mind, more prayer is always a good thing. If membership in P&S makes sense for your group, that's wonderful and we welcome you to our organization. And I understand that it isn't a good fit for everyone.

To all of you prayer quilters out there, keep up the good work. I hope you are having an awesome summer.

Blessings,

Wendy Mathson
president, Prayers & Squares International
President@PrayerQuilt.org



CHAPTER NEWS:

We have lots of great stories from a variety of places: Florida, California, Texas and the Bahamas. We love to hear what is going on with your chapter. Continue to send those stories in.

(newsletter@PrayerQuilt.org)

From Chapter 195: Forest Lake Church Apopka, Florida

We are nearing 1,600 quilts given away and some weeks we give 10 + quilts away. This is an awesome wonderful ministry. We are in our 6th year with just under 50 members. Several are out with illness just now and some are caring for husbands that are fighting a battle with cancer but all in all they manage to keep focused prayerfully on this ministry. It has enriched our lives so very much. I am going to try to forward a couple of letters I received just this past week regarding our ministry. I thought you might be interested. Our quilts have gone around the world.

Jo Ann Roth

From Chapter 949: Cherokee Sound, Bahamas

We have made and presented our first prayer quilt in Cherokee. The incident made the front page of the local newspaper.

If you would like to view it on line you can find it at www.abaconian.com. It's the June 15th, 2010 paper.

Lee Pinder, Cherokee Sound, Abaco, Bahamas

From Chapter 794 - Houston, Texas

I just wanted to share a story regarding the mini single string prayer squares.

Since we are a small church, someone new coming in is obvious. Now, I'm not one of those people who is comfortable with walking up to someone and just starting a conversation. Especially to someone new. A friend of mine, who doesn't share this same fear, took my hand and walked over to the new family and just started talking. I did a lot of nodding and threw in a word or two but for the most part, I didn't contribute much to the conversation. During the service, I kept thinking about this family and wished that I had said more and shared more about our wonderful church. We have a prayer table with mini prayer squares in a basket in addition to the prayer quilts laid out for tying. So I took a prayer square and prayed for this family during the service. I was praying for the family to find a church home but also praying that I would find the words and courage to give the square to them. This must seem so easy to some but it was terrifying to me. I also asked my friend to tie a knot as well.

After the service, I handed the mom the prayer square. With a shaky voice, I explained to her what it was and said that I prayed that they would find a church home. If it was not at our church, I prayed that they would find a church home somewhere. She took the prayer square and thanked me.

Not too long ago, a friend came up to me and thanked me for giving the prayer square to this family. Apparently, giving the prayer square to the mom had been a sign to her that this was where God wanted them to be. They are now members of our church and she keeps the prayer square on her refrigerator. Amazing, God has a BIG voice even through the smallest of gestures.

Robbie Bily
Chapter 794
Houston, TX

From Chapter 4 - San Diego, CA

Prayers & Squares, Chapter 4 is located in Tierrasanta, a suburb of San Diego. Tierrasanta is a small hometown community, with a large population of military families. Each year Tierrasanta has a Patriotic Parade. The Prayers and Squares of Tierrasanta, the last four years have had a quilt drill team in the parade. (See picture, below.) We march in the parade with Red, White and Blue quilts in honor of our military.

We are a hit in the parade, and are cheered by all. We also hand out mini prayer squares along the parade route, to encourage those who receive them to pray or mail it to a friend in need of prayer. The quilts are then dedicated and prayed over during our Memorial Day Sunday service. The quilts are then taken to Balboa Hospital, a military hospital here in San Diego. The hospital staff is so pleased to receive the quilts for our wounded soldiers recovering in the hospital. The quilts are handed out by the hospital staff to our wounded men and women who most need them.

We are so grateful for our military men and women who have served our country. This is just one way we can show our appreciation.

We are making it a yearly event in our chapter to make these patriotic quilts for our wounded soldiers.

Bernie Tomsovic
Tierrasanta Lutheran Church
Chapter 4, San Diego CA





What's New with the Newsletter???????

As we work out the hiccups of a new board, we have made some decisions on what will change and what will stay the same. We have decided to publish the newsletter quarterly, rather than monthly. We will try to have a newsletter out at *the end of January, April, July and October*. As you can see, we are late with this one but we thank you for your patience as we become a new well oiled machine. (We are not there yet but we are getting close).

There will always be a President's Message and there will always be stories from our chapters (that's the best part of the newsletter) and a list of the new chapters. The rest of the newsletter will be what you want in it. So again, send me your ideas and thoughts.

We got a suggestion from Karen Basile of Chapter 818 to start a Yahoo Group for all the chapters to join so they can receive notices. We are working on that and will keep you posted. Thanks, Karen.

Resources Link on the Website

Our illustrious webmaster (Wendy) will be adding a link to the home page entitled "Resources". This will be a link to directly contact vendors for supplies, etc. If you know of a resource or a website that you use and want to share, send the info to Wendy so she can include it in this new section.

In the meantime, we have heard from ***Jeanne Cloverdale of Block Party Studios, Inc.*** who has a printed fabric scripture panel for sale that can be included in quilt blocks. Contact her directly at www.blockpartystudios.com



Kathy's Squares:

Kathy Cueva sent in pictures of some of the squares she received as a "thank you" for a job well done as president for 8 years. Kathy received close to 60 blocks, each one different and special.



Starting upper left, clockwise: Paula Theobold, Chapter 222; Yuma, AZ, Chapter 674; Laureli Joose, Mira Mesa Presbyterian, Chapter 8; and University Lutheran Church at Michigan State.



From upper left, clockwise: Judy Endelman, Chapter 3; Yuriko Kelly at Nestor UMC; Carol Neville, Chapter 2; and Our Redeemer Lutheran, Chapter 64.



Sunflower block from Shorter Ave. Baptist Church in Rome, GA and striped block from Chapter 251 in Owen Sound, Canada.

WELCOME

To our New Chapters:

Wow! Since our last newsletter we have seen 21 new chapters join our ranks, representing 15 different states and one in Sao Paulo, Brazil!!!!

- Chapter 954: Avera McKennan Hospital
Sioux Falls, SD
- Chapter 955: Walnut Grove Baptist Church
Dallas, NC
- Chapter 956: First Presbyterian Church
Menominee, MI
- Chapter 957: El Cajon Wesleyan Church
El Cajon, CA
- Chapter 958: Bellpoint United Methodist Church
Delaware, OH
- Chapter 959: St. Francis United Methodist Church
Cary, NC
- Chapter 960: Seward Road Baptist Church
Guthrie, OK
- Chapter 961: Gilliam United Methodist Church
Gilliam, LA
- Chapter 962: Triadelphia Seventh Day Adventist
Clarksville, MD
- Chapter 963: St. Ann's Council of Catholic Women
Immaculate Conception Parish
Solomon, KS
- Chapter 964: United Church of Christ La Mesa
La Mesa, CA
- Chapter 965: Patches with Prayers
Franklin, PA
- Chapter 966: Bellshire United Methodist Church
Nashville, TN
- Chapter 967: Christ Community Church
Alamogordo, NM
- Chapter 968: John Stewart United Methodist
Church, *Upper Sandusky, OH*
- Chapter 969: Pascagoula First United Methodist
Church, *Pascagoula, MS*
- Chapter 970: One Voice – A Gospel Choir
Saline, MI

- Chapter 971: Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Lander, WY
- Chapter 972: Crossroads Church
Overland Park, KS
- Chapter 973: Calvery Fellowship of Dothan
Dothan, AL
- Chapter 974: Restoration Ministries
Sao Paulo, Brazil

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS:

Just a couple of reminders:

- *Be sure to use the correct P.O. Box:*

**Prayers & Squares Intl.
P.O. Box 156
Poway, CA 92074**

The previous La Mesa P.O. Box will no longer be valid in the near future.

- *While you're at it, please throw out all outdated label order forms. We have had several postage increases, plus a CA state sales tax increase in the last couple of years. You can always download the current order form from our website.*

Label orders/checks go to:

**Cornerstone Graphics
P.O. Box 156
Poway, CA 92074**

- *If you are not sure of your chapter number, you can look it up online. On our "For Our Members" page, select the "View Chapters" tab at the top of the page. We don't list personal contact information, for privacy's sake – only chapter information.*