



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – Fall, 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

One of the things I enjoy most is reading the comments that new Prayers & Squares members add to their membership applications. I am always amazed at the way the concept of prayer quilts has spread, literally, throughout the world. Here are some of the notes we received, and a list of our newest chapter members.

Chapter 975: St Mary's Catholic Church; Fosston, Minnesota

Dianne Christopherson, leader

"We are a small Catholic church with about 150 families. One of our guild members had heard about Prayer Quilts when attending another church while on vacation and brought back information to share at our church."

Chapter 976: The Salvation Army Rosebud; Safety Beach, Victoria, Australia

Doreen Elliott, leader

"We heard of this ministry from Camberwell Salvation Army and felt it would be good for our church. We are on the whole an older congregation as we live in a retirement area on the Mornington Peninsular just south of Melbourne (a very beautiful area). Also some of our members are already quilters and felt this could be our special ministry in our church. We have done 3 quilts already. As we were starting to plan this venture it became apparent that if we were going to do this there was a need immediately so we have already started. We are having our first formal meeting this month."

Chapter 977: Torrey Pines Christian Church La Jolla, California

Katherine Anderson, leader

Chapter 978: First United Methodist Church; Lincolnton, North Carolina

Amy Vaughan, leader

"I am a member of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Sherrills Ford, but recently came to work at First United Methodist in Lincolnton as their full time Minister of Discipleship. I have told the quilters in this church about the very successful quilt ministry at Mt. Pleasant and they are eager to begin a chapter here. Thanks!"

Chapter 979: Community United Methodist Church; Borrego Springs, California

Shari Westrick, leader

"I have learned a great deal about Prayers & Squares from the group at the Christian Center in Borrego Springs. They have been helpful and encouraging. Our church is very small, but "grows" during the winter months when the snowbirds return to the desert. I am hoping that some of these ladies will join our endeavor."

Chapter 980: Edgewater Lutheran Church; Norco, California

Carolyn Oleson, leader

"We are a new church, meeting at a public school site. For now, there are only 2 of us in the Prayers & Squares group, but we are just getting started! A friend from Arizona gave me the book "Fabric of Faith" to go with my goal of learning to quilt now that I am retired! I have completed reading it and am feeling led to take on this ministry."

Chapter 981: University Seventh Day Adventist Church; Orlando, Florida

Andrea Warren, leader

"In 1977 a small group joined together in fellowship. They became known as the Golden Rod Church. March 11, 1980 the name of the church was established as University Seventh

Day Adventist Church, the 100th SDA Church. Jan. 1981, they formed a building committee. July 1982, the church held its "Open House" with Pastor Russell Adams, the first pastor. Pastor Alex Pinilla came on board as our new Pastor July 10, 2010. He heard about the Prayers & Squares Ministry from the Forest Lake SDA Church Pastor and became excited about the ministry forming at University SDA Church. It is a beautiful outreach ministry with a beautiful concept, edifying God while edifying people in need. We are honored to become members of this organization."

**Chapter 982: Cornerstone Church;
Mocksville, North Carolina**

Elaine Mathis, leader

"Cornerstone is a group that is a loving church and is also wanting to help the community. I am new to the area and have been blown away on how the church is also reaching to touch others."

Chapter 983: Faith Presbyterian Church, Ladies Mission; Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Carol Bell, leader

"We are a group of ladies that God has given sewing talents that we use to bless others. We make premature baby hats blankets and burial gowns. I attended Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in High Point North Carolina for a Cursillo meeting and saw the wonderful scrap books about there quilt ministry brought the flyer home to my ladies group. They decided this is something we want to do to bless others."

**Chapter 984: Arcola United Methodist Church;
Dulles, Virginia**

Vivian Milholen & Lisa Korhnaak, Co-Leaders

"Since 1853, Arcola United Methodist Church has committed to sharing God's love by reaching out in service, prayer and support both within our church family and community. Arcola Church Mission Statement: The purpose of Arcola Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who Praise the Lord, Learn His teachings and Share His love through service to others. Our pastor,

Chris Riedel, first saw the Prayer Quilt Ministry at the Large Church Conference held at University United Methodist Church in San Antonio, TX. He recommended the book, Fabric of Faith by Kimberly Winston. After reading the book and viewing your website, we knew this was a ministry in which our church wanted to be involved. Thank you for the wonderful informative website you provide for this ministry."

I was also interested to learn how our chapter in Sao Paulo, Brazil (Chapter 974, Restoration Ministries) got started. Tatiane Beserra Araujo writes:

"This group was mentored by Jody Leivas and Diane Slusher, from Bayside Auburn in Auburn, CA, while on a mission trip to Restoration Ministries."

Thank you, Jody and Diane for helping to spread the word all the way to South America!

If you read in our last newsletter about new Chapter 970 in Saline, Missouri (One Voice - A Gospel Choir) you may have wondered how a gospel choir is involved with prayer quilts. Well, here's the explanation from co-leaders Patricia Jensen and Karen Lange:

"One Voice is a music group (501 3c) that travels and performs at various venues around the United States, as well as locally. We have had various opportunities to give prayer squares and feel it would fit into our overall mission."

Let's keep it up, fellow prayer quilters. Can you share this mental image with me: we are surely blanketing our world in prayer, one quilt at a time.

Blessings,

Wendy Mathson

President, Prayers & Squares International

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Whether you call it an *International Conference, a Regional Conference, a retreat, a workshop or a sit 'n sew*, we encourage chapters to communicate with each other and get together. We are very fortunate to have on the board, Carla Meade, who has experience setting up regional conferences and has graciously accepted the role of our "go-to person" regarding conferences. Please see her article below and do contact her with any questions.

I organized and hosted a regional conference in Nashville, TN in 2006 so I have a little experience and hope to be able to help you with your concerns and questions.

Having a conference/workshop/sit'n sew is a lot of fun but takes planning. Be in prayer and let us know how we can help you prepare for your meeting.

F.R.O. G! (Fully Rely On God)

Carla Meade

GREETINGS FROM CARLA MEADE...

Would you like to meet other Prayers & Squares quilters in your area? Ever wondered what other chapters are doing? Do you need inspiration for your chapter? Would your chapter share their ministry with other chapters or agree to mentor a new chapter? Would you like to learn a new technique?

Hi, I'm Carla Meade, Board Member at Large, and I'd like to encourage you to begin planning a meeting in your area for spring/summer 2011. We will not be having an International Conference in 2011 and would like to see more regional meetings being held. It can be as simple as a sit 'n sew for a few hours with 2-3 chapters or as ambitious as a weekend retreat or conference involving chapters from a large region. Whatever type of meeting you chose to have is entirely up to you.

We are working on guidelines and suggestions to help you in your planning and hope to have those on the web site shortly. In the mean time, please feel free to contact me with your questions and thoughts. (carlameade@bellsouth.net).



CHAPTER EVENTS:

From Chapter 398 & 802, New Zealand:

On Saturday 25 September members of **Chapters 398 & 802 in New Zealand** gathered together for a "**Fun, Stitch & Patch Day**". We didn't get around to much stitching as we were so pleased to meet each other, swap ideas and learn what each of us had been busy at over the past years. We treated it very much like our weekly Prayers & Squares morning starting with coffee, prayer time, reading a couple of devotions then 'show & tell'. We have a box containing 20+ quilt tops. When we get a request we select a top in

the recipient's colour preference then add backing, border & binding before anchoring it with Perle cotton threads full of our love and prayers. Our friends from Chapter 802 were very interested in viewing the tops so we had them spread out all over the floor. Next year we intend having another get-together and hope all four Chapters within New Zealand will attend.



"Fun, Stitch and Play Day" New Zealand

From Chapter 1, San Diego, CA:

The members of Chapter One, Hope UMC in San Diego, California gathered in community for a weekend quilt retreat themed "Authentic Joy" in October. Two-three bedroom condominiums on the Mission Beach boardwalk became the home for our quilting sisterhood complete with our tables, sewing machines, ironing boards, and fabric of every color and shape in a living room overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Some of this years highlights included: An evening of laughter around a board game, "Apples to Apples" – not sewing related – a first for us, a fabric exchange (white elephant style) with lots of good natured stealing, stopping to watch the sunset each night (one night we saw the green flash when the sun

drops below the horizon), sharing meals, walks on the beach, watching dolphins playing in the surfline, sharing quilt design ideas, sewing prayer quilts, sewing fundraising items and our "Scriptures in the Sand" devotional time. We were fortunate to have the condos donated for our use which allowed us to get away at a reasonable cost. Our theme of "Authentic Joy" was chosen to remind us of the joyful places in our hearts that help us maintain balance while experiencing the roller coaster emotions of everyday life's serious issues that face our chapter members and our prayer quilt recipients. One such Authentic Joy expressed during our devotional was the gift of the genuine bond created between us as we continue our commitment to the purpose of Prayers & Squares, to promote prayer though the use of quilts. In this common purpose we have each been immeasurably blessed with a circle of friendship, prayer, love and support. The weekend was an Authentic Joy for us.

Corky Kuhlman, Chapter One, Hope UMC



Chapter One at Mission Beach, San Diego, CA

The Prayer Quilt

*The Mercy of the Lord is ours to share.
This simple knot can comfort grief and pain.
Touch any knot. It represents a prayer.*

*We pray for loved ones in intensive care;
For those with illness, chronic or mundane.
The mercy of the Lord is ours to share.*

*For broken bones or broken-hear despair;
For rainbows promised after all the rain.
Touch any knot. It represents a prayer.*

*For souls who seem to us beyond repair;
For miracles no mortal can explain.
The mercy of the Lord is ours to share.*

*For those alone, for whom we can't be there;
For tangible reminders of God's reign.
Touch any knot. It represents a prayer.*

*When life is just too frightening to bear;
And everything is heading down the drain.
The mercy of the Lord is ours to share.
Touch any knot. It represents a prayer.*

Louise Lucas (Chapter 78) wrote this for our conference in Feb. 2006.

SURVEY QUESTION: *Does your chapter have any technique or tip for sewing, layering or tying the quilts that may be helpful for other chapters to know and use?**

Send in to Newsletter@PrayerQuilt.org.
We will share in our next newsletter.

****All participating chapters will be entered into a drawing to receive a special gift.***