



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is hard to believe we are almost at the halfway point of 2017. The days and weeks seem to fly by, especially when we are engaged in doing something that we are passionate about.

Everything we do at Prayers & Squares evolves from our motto "It's not about the quilt, it's all about the prayers". Our prayer quilts may get worn and the ties may come undone but the prayers remain in the quilt. One of the questions we get asked is what to do about a request for a prayer quilt for a recipient who already has one. A person's circumstances may change and they may need prayers for a new concern. In this case, the prayer quilt can be rededicated, blessed again and the "pray-ers" can put hands on the quilt for new prayers. The previous prayers remain.

I had the honor of attending a church wide prayer quilt re-dedication service a few years ago and I can tell you that it was uplifting and empowering for everyone involved seeing prayer quilts draped over every surface available in the sanctuary as the clergy re-dedicated and blessed them all. The thousands of prayers represented in those prayer quilts brought comfort and peace to the many recipients and their families during difficult times. The service also reminded the congregation of the importance of stopping and tying a prayer knot and praying on each prayer quilt.

Thank you for serving this prayer ministry through quilts with your willing hearts and hands.

Blessings,
Corky

NEW CHAPTERS



Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed 12 new chapters to our Prayers & Squares family. Amazingly, the chapters hail from all areas of the country and we have added a new international chapter from BC, Canada.

In reading the comments from the new chapters, it is gratifying to see how many

people feel called to start a new P&S chapter when they relocate. Later this year, Chapter 1 will celebrate their 25th anniversary. From the seed of that group of quilters, and many, many prayers, we have grown to 1242 chapters, worldwide.

Chapter 1231

Ministerial Alliance
Sulpher Springs, TX

Service org that runs a food bank, helps poverty level clients pay for utility bills, gas to doctors, medication, rent, etc. Funded by UNITED WAY and CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE. Most are volunteers and 2 endowed positions for Special Needs clients; offering sheltered work. But most importantly, a strong Prayer Ministry for the unchurched clients and clients facing situations where they MUST turn to Christ for help. We recognize HE is in charge.

Chapter 1232

Living Word Fellowship
Porterville, CA

We are a small nondenominational church in Porterville. I belonged to another church in Bakersfield, CA that had a Prayers & Squares Ministry. I suggested to my pastor about starting one in church; after much prayer the elders agreed that it was a great ministry for our church.

Chapter 1233

Oakwood United Methodist Church
Lubbock, TX

We are just starting this great ministry.

Chapter 1234

Mt. Adar Baptist Church
Mebane, NC

One of our members received a quilt from a member of your organization and it meant so much to him. Karen DeSombre, the leader at Hillsborough United Methodist Church has graciously volunteered to work with us and get us started.

Chapter 1235

Fellowship Baptist Church
Roswell, GA



Prayers & Squares International
The Prayer Quilt Ministry
July 2017



Our Church, Fellowship Bible Church has about 2000 members. We are passionate about prayer and we know God works through the prayers of His people. So for us the Prayers and Squares ministry will be sweet vehicle for our Church Care Ministry to encourage and walk alongside of people who need God to walk with them. We heard about the ministry from other churches in our area. We also have a friend who received a quilt and we have tied our prayers knots on her quilt. We have seen and believe in the power of prayer. We also love to sew and what a sweet gift from God for us to use our hobby to bless others. We also know it will bring our women together in fellowship and prayer. We can't wait to get started and see where God will take our Ministry.

Chapter 1236

Immanuel Baptist Church
Oxford, FL

NC church group that belongs to the organization.
We go there in the summer.

Chapter 1237

Holy Family Catholic Church
Vernon, TX

Holy Family is a rather small church which is very active within the community. Through the various activities, members of our congregation have become very close, and when someone becomes sick, we automatically want to help that person somehow to let them know how much we care for them and are praying for their recovery. The ladies of the Altar Society have been discussing doing prayer quilts for over a year and just did not know where to begin. Since I belong to a quilt guild, one of our members did a program on their church's Prayer Quilt Ministry at First United Methodist Church. I contacted her and arranged for some ladies interested in this ministry, to visit their group to see what they were doing and obtain some ideas. Elaine Houston recommended joining Prayers & Squares organization for help in getting started and for support in getting organized with labels and letters explaining the purpose of the prayer quilts.

Chapter 1238

St. Oswald
Surrey, BC, Canada

I was looking for something that a small group could tackle...and this seemed to fit as there is no deadline to meet. I really appreciate the three commandments that guide the organization.

Chapter 1239

Southside Baptist Church
Andalusia, AL

Chapter 1240

St. John's Episcopal Church
Chula Vista, CA

The lady that used to make quilts for our church became handicapped and can't sew anymore. I belonged to Church of Joy Lutheran and was part of the quilting We are now going to St. John's and I'm going to be starting a quilt ministry here.

Chapter 1241

Hopewell United Methodist Church
Milledgeville, GA

The group leader, Flo, heard about Prayers & Squares from her niece's sister-in-law, Susie, who is part of the group at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Augusta, Georgia. When Susie's mother died, her niece told Flo she just had to see a quilt and hear about the group, Prayers & Squares because Susie thought she would just love it—and she was right. It sounded just like something that we would want to do at Hopewell because it will help us live out our stated mission—"to share hope through the Good News of Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves to Christian service through example and outreach. Initially, I think we want all of the information and supplies that go with membership. On Thursday, May 25th several of us will be going to Aldersgate to meet with Martha, one of the leaders of their group. As we go along, we will know what questions to ask, and are glad to know that you will be there to help us. We would covet your prayers as we embark on this venture.

Chapter 1242

First Baptist Church
North Augusta, SC

North Augusta is a city in western South Carolina on the north bank of the Savannah River with a population of approximately 23,000 and growing. First Baptist Church is located in downtown North



Augusta. We heard about the Prayers & Squares Organization through one of our members. She has a passion for quilting and was looking for something similar to a quilt ministry. In doing research on this, she was led to the national organization, Prayers & Squares. She visited the website and read about the organization and what it does. She felt very strongly that the Lord was leading her to begin a ministry in our church so those who receive the quilts will know that they aren't forgotten and that people are praying for them. It has the potential for touching people all around the world. This is another way that we can fulfill the Vision of First Baptist Church in Merging Faith with Life.

CHAPTER STORIES

We have NO stories from any of our 1242 chapters! There may be two reasons for this.

Reason 1: There was a glitch on the website link to the newsletter that did not allow messages to get to me. That has now been fixed. If you have sent in a story and have not seen it printed, please resend again so we can include it in our next issue. ALL stories we receive, we publish.

Reason 2: Nobody is sending in their stories. This newsletter is only as newsworthy as the news received. We love to hear how the chapters are doing. We suspended the newsletter in 2015 due to a lack of response but people requested it be brought back to stay connected. Please write to us.

Thanks,
Peggy Dunn, Newsletter Editor
Newsletter@Prayerquilt.org

TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Let's Thread that Needle!

One of my favorite prayers came to us from Monica Ball (Chapter #78, San Diego CA.) It's called "Prayer for the Needle" and it goes like this:

"Dear God, either open that hole or shrink this thread. Amen."

We know that God answers our prayers, but... we might need some other help now and again. You know if you have ever used a standard wire loop needle threader with pearl cotton that the wire soon pulls out. It's just not strong enough for heavy thread.



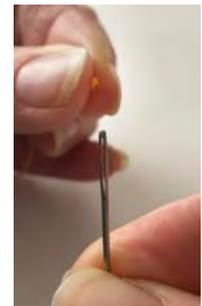
There are other types of threaders, however. The sturdiest is a flat, all-metal type called a yarn needle threader. This type has 2 sizes of hooks and is pretty inexpensive. You insert the hook through the needle eye, then hook the thread and pull it through. It does take a bit of coordination to keep the thread in the hook as you pull it through.



Clover has a relatively new style called an embroidery threader #8611. It is similar to the wire kind but the loop is made of a flexible metal strip with a flat tip that goes through the eye. It works great, but retails for almost \$10! You can get it for about \$7.50 on Amazon or eBay.



But, what if your favorite needle threader is nowhere to be found? You can try the "Wendy Way". I'm right-handed, so I start by placing the end of the pearl cotton between my left thumb and forefinger. The needle is in my right hand. I pinch the thread so it just disappears. Then I position the eye right next to the thread end, which is now hidden. By slowly opening my pinched finger and thumb, the thread emerges right into the needle's eye.



You may have to practice it a few times to get the feel, but once you have this method mastered you won't have to search for your needle threader again. I hope you find this helpful!

Blessings,
Wendy Mathson