



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – Spring, 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Welcome to spring, that time of year when we have more light in our sewing rooms. That can be a good thing to help me see my quilt pieces but unfortunately I can also see the dust that has collected while I was busy quilting.

One of the frequently asked questions that we receive is: What can we do to encourage and inspire our chapter members? In the FAQ section of the website are some ideas that I will share with you here.

We remain inspired through stories and notes attesting to the huge impact that this ministry has and will continue to have on everyone who has anything to do with this ministry. Sharing those stories with your prayer community through newsletter articles or bulletin boards widens the circle of inspiration.

The fellowship we share with everyone within our chapter warms my heart and brings a smile to me face. We even have non-quilters participating with layering and preparing quilts because they enjoy our weekly time of community together focused on providing care through prayer.

Setting up quilting workshops and challenges can get our creative juices flowing. This month two of our volunteers brought in four medium size paper bags with handles. They filled each one with assorted fabrics that coordinated with one another and issued the challenge to take a bag and make any block with the fabric in the bag that would finish 12". The first week after the challenge was issued all four bags were returned with four very fun creative blocks. Everyone is excited to participate in this fabric and design challenge.

Now I better go and dust my sewing room. On the other hand, I think I will go piece a quilt instead.

Blessings,
Corky Kuhlman

WELCOME NEW CHAPTERS:

We joyously welcome the following new chapters to our P&S Family. As you can see, we have all areas of the US represented and a new chapter on the international scene from New Zealand. Welcome all.

Chapter 1101:
The Church of the Good Shepherd
Cashiers, NC 28771

Chapter 1102:
Redland United Methodist Church
Idabel, OK 74740

Chapter 1103:
Priest Lake Community Church
Priest Lake, ID

Chapter 1104:
Shalom Lutheran Church
Alexandria, MN

Chapter 1105:
St Marks St Andrews
Palmerston North, New Zealand

Chapter 1106:
Christ the King Catholic Church
Richland, WA

STORIES FROM OUR CHAPTERS

From Chapter 1042:
Columbus Seventh-day Adventist Church, Columbus, MS

I can't believe it has been a year since we signed up for our chapter membership. We're small, but through intercessory prayer, God is working in a mighty way in our community. There were only a few of us who had any experience behind a sewing machine when we started. At the time of this letter, we have given 21 quilts and two more are planned before the end of the year. We give all the glory to

God for His grace and compassion for the sewing, ripping and re-sewing done in His name.....Each person that has received a quilt has their own story. Thank you for the material you sent us. That really helped us get started, but because we were new and starting out with no quilts in reserve, several individuals that were to receive quilts died before we could finish them. We are slowly building a reserve so we can act quicker to needs brought to us by the community.

From Chapter 102:

Williamsburg United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, MI

Williamsburg United Methodist Church in Williamsburg, Michigan is still a member of Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry. We have been a prayer quilt ministry since 2003. We are Chapter #102. I noticed that the last time I looked up the Prayer Ministry that we were not mentioned. Please set the record straight. We are still here and going strong. We have given 55 prayer quilts to members and friends who are in need in the last 10 years.

Our Women's Fellowship group sponsors this ministry. We have 10-12 members of our Women's Fellowship, (including a new gentleman from Elk Rapids, MI.), who make quilts and all others pitch in by hand sewing, putting in ties, ironing, etc. We gather several times a year to have a quilting bee. Our last one was February 12th, 2013. We completed 4 quilts to have ready for giving at this session. Judy Jenkins

(Thanks for setting the record straight Judy and happy to know you are still actively promoting prayer through prayer quilts).

From Chapter 802

Karori Uniting Parishes

In July 2008 I started Chapter 802 in Karori, a suburb of Wellington which is the capital city of New Zealand. We started with about 8-9 members and our group now has 20+ members from four different churches – hence the title of our group. A strong group and a wonderful group of women where we have a lot of fun in getting to know each other better, as well as making quilts and praying for those less fortunate than ourselves.

I am moving to the Kapiti Coast, about a one hour journey from Karori, and as you have my contact details for our Chapter on your records thought I should bring you up to date.

I will endeavour to maintain contact with Chapter 802 for the next few months, but in time will probably join the Otaki Parish chapter.

We appreciated help from the Prayers & Squares team when we were setting up our Chapter.

*Blessings
Honor Moss*

WORDS OF THANKS

In addition to my job as newsletter editor, I also wear the hat of historian for my local chapter, Chapter 1. Last year, P&S and Chapter 1 turned 20 years old. As I was sorting through the records of 20 years, and reading the many, many thank you notes received, I was struck by how many loving ways there are to say thank you and to express gratitude. I would like to share some here:

“How can I ever say thank you to you and your loving expression of such a loving, healing act? “

“Thank you for being God’s faithful servants and blessing our life in such a powerful way.”

“Not only does it keep me warm, it serves as a reminder that God is ever present and working through you.”

“She says she receives such a strange sensation when she covers herself with it—like she’s being held and hugged!”

“Thank you for your confident faith and for the love and support so clearly sewn into the quilt.”

“What a gracious gift from people I have never had the opportunity to meet!”

“It gave us a tangible reminder of the prayers that were expressed.”

“I was overwhelmed by the knowledge that each stitch and knot was accompanied by a prayer for me.”

“I believe angels can be sometimes disguised as quilters.”

“Prayers that come from unexpected sources are the most heartwarming. Your “Prayer Square”, with the hours of time and labor, reminds us we are not alone.”

“I was further humbled to know the significance of the knotted “strings” on the quilt. What a feeling to know that I was prayed for by that many people.”

RESOURCE CORNER:

(Last issue Wendy Mathson wrote an article about Pearl Cotton. Below is additional information on the subject.)

Pearl Cotton

Since our last newsletter I have more information about ordering pearl cotton from Halcyon Yarns. I placed an order online for both large and small cones of their 3/2 weight pearl cotton, which comes in a variety of colors. I received the order in about a week, shipped cross country from Maine to California for \$16.95.

I was happy, but the ladies at church, who put the ties in our prayer quilts, were not. They loved the color selection, but they felt the thread was too thick, which made it harder for them to thread needles and pull the thread through the quilt, even when used as a single thread. I didn't want our valued "Tie Team" to have problems, so I called Halcyon, and "Yes, they would be happy to exchange everything for thinner pearl cotton" which is 5/2 weight. I can't say enough about their customer service. Barbara was very nice and made it so easy. I shipped everything back, and in no time I had a new box with the thinner thread. A few colors were backordered, but I was told I would receive them in a separate shipment in a few weeks. Not a problem! All is well with our prayer quilters at Chapter 2, Community Church of Poway.

The prices (as of 5/1/2013) are the same for 3/2 weight (thicker thread) and 5/2 weight (thinner thread)

1 lb. cone=1200 yards \$22.95 each or \$20.50 each for 5 or more

Mini Cone=180 yards \$6.15 each or \$5.35 each for 8 or more

You can order online at Halcyonyarn.com, or call them at [800-341-0282](tel:800-341-0282)

Be sure to tell them you are with Prayers & Squares and are using the thread for prayer quilts. I told Barbara I would recommend their company to all of you.

**PATCHES AND FLAT PAT COME HOME:**

Our ambassadors, Patches and Flat Pat are out roaming around. We are requesting, wherever they are, that they be returned to P&S International, P.O. Box 156, Poway, CA 92074.