



Prayers & Squares International



The Prayer Quilt Ministry – Winter, 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this winter newsletter, I send my wishes for a blessed new year.

Prayer squares are an integral part of our prayer ministry. They can be made from left over quilt blocks or custom made. Some chapters make up prayer square kits that can serve as a learning tool for newer quilters. The sizes vary but are usually in the range of 12 to 18 inches. They are a very portable and tangible reminder of God's love and grace.

One of my favorite stories about prayer squares is when we received a request for a patriotic prayer square for a member of the military a few years ago. The prayer square was custom made and then prayed upon in church. The story that we later heard was that the recipient was a paratrooper who tucked the prayer square inside his uniform just before jumping out of an airplane into a combat zone in the dark of night. After that jump, other service members saw his prayer square and started requesting them.

Now fast forward to fall of 2012 when a young woman came into our Prayers & Squares chapter to volunteer to quilt with us. She was a newlywed who had just moved to the area and had quilted with her grandmother's Prayers & Squares chapter in central California. What a delight it was welcome her to join us. What a surprise it was to find out that she was the bride of the service member who had tucked that patriotic prayer square into his uniform before jumping out into the darkness. To this day, our chapter keeps a stack of patriotic prayers squares at the ready to fill requests.

Please take the time to read the article in this newsletter about prayer squares.

Blessings,
Corky

WELCOME NEW CHAPTERS

We welcome our newest chapters to Prayers & Squares:

- 1092** Central Baptist Church
Hattiesburg, MS
- 1093** Abbe Reformed Church
Clymer, NY
- 1094** Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church
Hoschton, GA
- 1095** Prayers & Squares of Simi Valley
Simi Valley, CA

This chapter is being started by our very own, Chellee (Mathson) Sanders, (Wendy's daughter).

- 1096** The Salvation Army
Houston, TX
- 1097** Wesley United Methodist Church
Grand Forks, ND
- 1098** St. Thomas More
Troy, MI
- 1099** Newtown United Methodist Church
Sandy Hook, CT
- 1100** Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
Huntsville, TX



Sharing our Stories

My favorite part of being newsletter editor is to read the stories from the different chapters. The stories are heartfelt and inspiring. Each chapter has its own way of working but we all are tied together in promoting prayer through quilts.

From Chapter 1066: Hope Girls, Mocksville, NC

In 2012, a prayer quilt ministry was started in North Carolina mountains at a RV park named Raccoon Holler. The purpose of this ministry is to give lap quilts to people that are having a physical, emotional or spiritual situation.

Barbara Carter is the leader of the group. Karen Leave makes most of our quilts, Beth Smith is our treasurer and Judy Ashe is our secretary. Our group is named "The Hope Girls".

Requests are presented and hopefully the quilt will be presented the following Sunday at church. The quilt is blessed, then passed throughout the congregation to be prayed over and knots tied. We have presented 36 quilts since May, 2012. Our RV park is open from mid April through October. Quilts are still available by telephone and mail requests.

Quilts have been sent to Virginia, Florida, throughout North Carolina and South Carolina. Several of our quilts have been for newborn babies, even 2 sets of twins. This ministry is such a blessing to the quilt maker, the knot tiers and those that receive the quilts (prayers/blessings). This ministry has helped to bring our church members closer and with all the thank you notes received, a blessing has

been received. Many travelers are present for only one or two services but are quite pleased about this new ministry.

It is our goal to continue this ministry in 2013 and to help spread the love of Jesus Christ or Savior and Lord.

From Chapter 1096 The Salvation Army, Houston, TX

I started P&S in San Diego at The Salvation Army Citadel. I moved to Australia and started one at The Salvation Army, Camberwell. They are both still active. I have since retired from full time service as a pastor in The Salvation Army and came to Houston. The Lord has put together a number of quilters in my path and the next step was the Prayer Quilts. I have seen firsthand how God has used the quilts in peoples' lives and I also know of a miracle of healing happened when the quilt was laid on a child in the hospital. I can hardly wait to start the ministry again. We actually have 10 done and waiting because every Sunday there are prayers for people in need and I would say if only we were up and running now.

PRAYER SQUARES

There are many churches that make use of prayer squares. The size of the prayer square (12 to 18 inches square), is small enough that they can be quickly made, a pretty good sized stash can be built up in a relatively short period of time, and is good in situations where a prayer quilt is obviously not called for or wanted. The ties are much the same as those that go into a prayer quilt, though there are usually not more than 12 to 15 ties sewn into a square. And because it is not a "prayer quilt", the rules that apply to prayer quilts do not apply to prayer squares.

The giving out of prayer squares is handled very informally, and they are given in situations

where a prayer quilt has not been requested, but we know the individual is in need of prayer, or when time is a factor. As far as the tying of prayers into the squares, the knots can be tied by staff members, family, friends, or even left wholly or partially untied so that the recipient can have family and friends tie prayers into the square.

Some chapters have told us they keep a stack of untied prayer squares in the church office where the clergy and many of the other prayer ministry groups use them as needed in their work, in emergencies, and for hospital visits. In an emergency situation such as unexpected surgeries, accidents, etc, because of the small number of ties, it is easy for the person giving the prayer square to pray with the family/friends/hospital staff and then to leave the tied square with the recipient.

Taken from the P&S Website under FAQs. Please refer to this section for answers to questions frequently asked and for ideas about other topics.



RESOURCE CORNER

Sources for Pearl Cotton

(submitted by Wendy Mathson)



After 20 years of making prayer quilts, I have seen many different types of threads & yarns used for tying. In my experience, the very best is a double strand of #5 pearl (or "perle") cotton. In the new member packets, each chapter received 2 small skeins (about 54 yards) which is enough for at least one prayer quilt. Where I live in San Diego I am lucky enough to have 2 local stores – Joann's and Michaels - that carry DMC pearl cotton skeins in a

number of colors. I have made many a trip, prayer quilt or scraps in hand, to purchase 2 skeins in an appropriate color so the quilt could be tied. After a while we started searching for a more economical source. After trying several other on-line stores, my chapter (Chapter #2, Community Church of Poway, Poway CA) has been buying pearl cotton in 1-lb cones from Yarn Barn of Kansas.

Here's what you need to know if you want to try this route:

- website is www.YarnBarn-ks.com; email yarnbarn@sunflower.com
- From the home page, select "Weaving" then drop down and click on "yarns", then on the left side, click on "cotton, perle"
- You have 2 choices: 3/2 Perle Cotton Cones or Mini Cones. Click on one to see the selection of colors. (The other choices are 5/2, 10/2, and 20/2. These are different weights and do not work as well for our needs.)

The large cones are wound about 1 lb to a cone, although sometimes you get more and you are charged for the total weight on the cone at \$24.95 per pound.

The mini cones are 6 oz (470 yds) for \$12.75. This is a bit more per yard, but it may be a good option for you to get a large selection of colors.

- Yarn Barn offers a 10% discount on orders over \$100; 15% over \$150 and \$20% over \$200.
- You can order a color chart for \$2.00 that shows all the available colors. From the home page, click on "samples", then look for the one for perle cotton.

Halcyonyarn.com also has 3/2 Pearl cotton in 1-lb and much smaller (180 yd) cones. They have fewer colors than Yarn Barn (66 vs 186) and they also have a sample card you can order that has pieces of the actual thread tied into it. I have not tried ordering from them yet, but their online ordering seems to be very easy to use. As you select a color you can find out if they have it in stock and you can choose large or small cone with each color selection. Prices are slightly less than Yarn Barn, and they offer volume discounts. For large cones: 1-4 cones for \$22.50; 5-17 for \$20.00; 18-1000 for \$17.50 each. For mini cones: 1-7 for \$6; 8 or more for \$5.30 each. They ship from Maine.

If you prefer to use the small, 27-yd skeins of DMC pearl cotton and don't have a source near you, you can select from over 300 colors from Herrschners.com at \$1.69 each. From the home page, type "pearl cotton" in the search box. Scroll down to find "pearl cotton thread, size 5".

Do you have a favorite thread used for tying your prayer quilts, or another source you have tried? We'd like to share your experience with other chapters. Just email newsletter@prayerquilt.org.

Blessings,
Wendy

NEW PATTERN ON WEBSITE:

As we mentioned in the last edition of the newsletter, Wendy Mathson has added one of her patterns on the website. Click "For Members Only", log in and check under "Free Archive Patterns". The new pattern is ***Wendy's Simple Pinwheels***. Below are some more examples of this pattern.



Wendy's Simple Pinwheels

I Think God is a Quilter *(Author Unknown)*

I think God is a quilter
Who takes His needle and thread
To piece our world from nothingness
And give it form, instead.

I think God is a quilter
And everything I see
Are pieces from His careful hand
From tree to bumblebee.

I think we see God's stitches
His texture everywhere;
The velvet moss, the grainy sand,
The silky strands of hair. I think God is a quilter;
Stitching tight and tiny rows,
Adding to my scraps and pieces,
Seaming everything He knows.

I think He cuts the patterns
From what I'd throw away.
He shows me how to use each scrap
In His redeeming way.

I think God quilts a pattern
From everything I live;
But He can only stitch the quilt
From what I choose to give.

I think God is a quilter
Stitching strength where I am weak.
Showing me that life He touches
Embraces everything I seek.

I think God is a quilter
From the patience in each thread;
Proving length of time no barrier;
Treating time a gift, instead.

I think quilts are lessons
God uses just to teach
That our pieces and our remnants
Have kaleidoscopic reach.

So, in the life I'm living
With pieces everywhere
I'll give them to the Quilter
To stitch with loving care.

I'll give them to the Quilter
Unwanted though they be
And with His work of quilting
He'll make a quilt of me.