



Prayers & Squares International

The Prayer Quilt Ministry

January 2017



President's Message



Our Prayers & Squares motto is: It's not about the quilt, It's all about the Prayers.

This motto weaves throughout the ministry and comes full circle back in the form of phrases in the notes of appreciation received from prayer quilt recipients. Recipients express their deep appreciation for the willing hands that combine color and design to create prayer quilts but it is their sentiments of appreciation for the prayers that connects us all at the level of our hearts.

Here are some words and phrases that remind us that hearts are touched as we promote prayer through quilts; ...standing in prayer by my side, prayers mean the world to me, felt all of the loving prayers, loving and comforting ministry, touched by your gift of love and prayers, prayers sincerely helped me to recover, comforting and healing feeling, inspiring, uplifting, joy, comfort, and has touched my heart.

Thank you for covering the world in prayer and connecting our hearts one stitch and one prayer at a time.

Blessings,
Corky



Welcome New Chapters



We warmly welcome the following 8 chapters to our Prayers & Squares Family. With the addition of Chapter 1228 from Koloa, Hi we are now represented in all 50 states.

Chapter 1223

Harmony United Methodist Church
Hamilton, VA

Chapter 1224

First Christian Church Disciple Women
Republic, MO

Chapter 1225

Second Baptist Church
Amarillo, TX

We want to start a ministry involving gifts and prayer for members and others. There is a chapter at Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas

Chapter 1226

Philippi Church of Christ
Creswell, NC

Chapter 1227

Otterbein UMC
Kingwood, WV

Our new minister's mother is a cancer survivor that was given a Prayers & Squares quilt. She helped the church they used to attend with quilts. We also have another cancer survivor that was given one. She said that when she was down she touched every single knot. I think your ministry is so powerful because of the emphasis on prayer! Our church is small but we are looking forward to this ministry!!

Chapter 1228

Koloa Union Church
Koloa, HI

We are followers of Jesus with a distinctly Hawaiian identity. Some of us are descendants of the native people of these islands and we celebrate with the language and customs of our



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ancestors. As an inclusive community of faith, reflecting the diversity of the people of Hawai'i, we respect all cultures and backgrounds. Our mission is to embrace, enhance and nurture God's diverse and unique faith community, all to the glory of God. Cathy Evans, Poway, CA, is a Prayers & Squares Chapter member. She made a presentation to our church and Council. We are very excited about starting a Chapter of this ministry and will request assistance as our Ministry establishes itself.

Chapter 1229

Lone Oak Baptist Church
Cumberland Furnance, TN

Three days before my husband passed, my granddaughter's church sent us a prayers and squares quilt. I have no words to explain how I felt to know that many people had prayed for us. In July of this year while in a quilt shop it hit me I needed to get involved with prayers and squares. I mentioned it to my pastor and kinda dropped it. I would go to bed at night thinking about the quilts and wake up wanting to make a quilt. God was telling me this is what he wanted me to do, but at the time didn't have the confidence to listen. When I realized it wasn't just me but The Lord working in me I have jumped in with both feet and running. We have our 1st organization meeting this Thur and work shop. We have 14 ladies ready for fellowship to work on our prayers and squares. We want to make a difference in our community.

Chapter 1230

Saint Elizabeth Seton
Naperville, IL

Saint Elizabeth Seton parish was founded on July 1, 1986. The saint, Elizabeth Seton, was the founder of the Sisters of Charity. We have tried to embody her mission through our numerous faith formation for our community, our various charities we support and ministries that enhance who we are as a community. Our Pastor is new to our parish but at his former parish, the prayer quilt ministry, was very active. He believes in it so highly, he asked me to bring it to his new parish. I've met with the ladies from his former parish and they are very supportive.

CHAPTER STORIES:

From Chapter 5:

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

2016 Hearts and Hands at Work for God Retreat Weekend

The picture (pg 3) was taken at the 2016 Prayers & Squares Annual Quilt Retreat entitled "Hearts and Hands at Work for God". Eighteen ladies traveled to Vina de Lestonnac in the Temecula wine country for four days of quilting, fellowship, food, fun, music, more food, and prayers!

The ladies worked on personal projects, outreach quilts, and taught each other new skills. To support the theme and the ministry, each participant was given a heart square to make during the weekend that will become a prayer quilt. Candles in the shape of a cross inside a heart were lit while praise hymns were sung on Friday night. Each meal began in prayer and kept us grounded in our commitment to our ministry, being the hands and feet of Christ, and being grateful for the blessings of our lives, including our friendships!

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and he will direct your paths.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

We know that our talents and blessings are God's gifts to us; what we do with them is our gift back to God. Take our



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hands and set them to do **your** work in this world, God; place our feet on right paths.



The pattern used at the retreat is a Prayers & Squares pattern. A copy of the pattern is available at www.prayerquilt.com.

TIPS & TRICKS

Nursing Home Quilts: If a prayer quilt is going to a recipient in a nursing home, quilts can go missing. Take a picture of the recipient with the quilt and paste it to the door of their room. Everyone will know who the quilt belongs to.

The Best Way to Tie Your Prayer Quilts

Over the years we have experimented with various types of thread for making the quilt ties. The best results came from using #5 Pearl Cotton. It is available in our area at JoAnn's and Michaels in small skeins and in a wide variety of colors. However, buying those small skeins can get expensive. We have found an economical source of #5 Pearl Cotton in 1-pound cones (2000 yards) or in mini cones (300 yards). Halcyon Yarn has an online store at HalcyonYarn.com

You can reach them at 800-341-0282. Halcyon Yarn has done a terrific job for us in the past. They have also agreed to give any Prayers & Squares chapter a 10% discount on their first order. For the discount code, email Wendy Mathson at PrayerQuiltWendy@cox.net

Prices as of Jan, 2107:

1-pound cones \$25.50 each or \$22.25 if buying 5 or more.

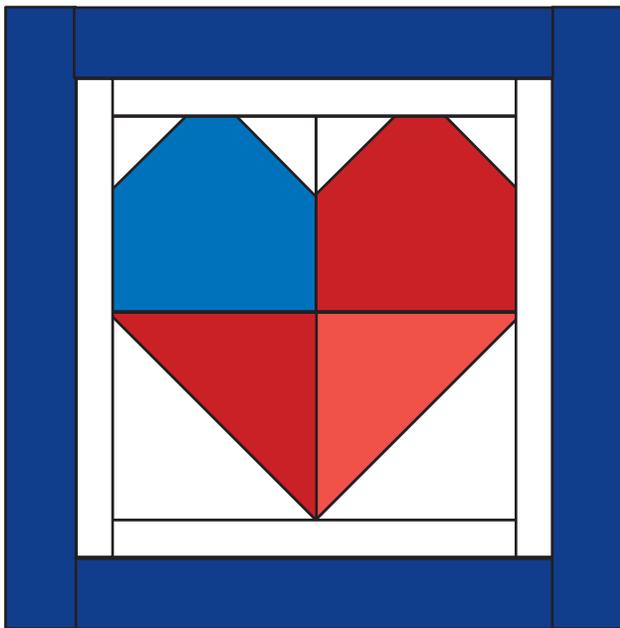
(Because they sell by weight the actual size of the cone can vary somewhat, along with the price. If you request it, they will try to get the cones as close to 1 pound as possible.)

300 yard mini cones \$7.25 each or \$6.25 if buying 8 or more.

The item number is 83 for their #5/2 weight pearl cotton. It also helps to have one of Halcyon's color cards which contains actual thread samples in all the 60+ available colors. The sample card is only \$3.50. We hope this tip helps your chapter save on ties.

Ideas for Using Single Block Patterns

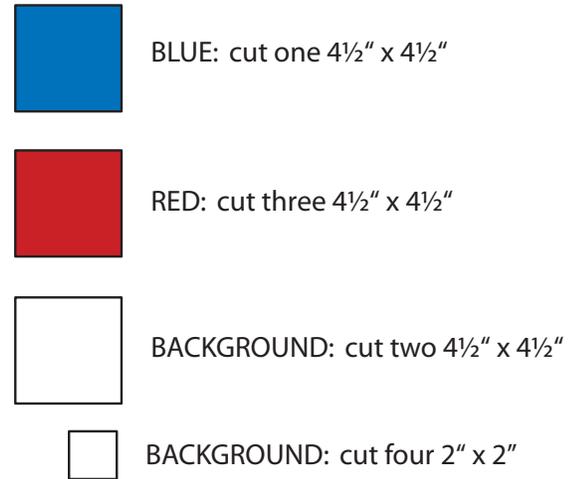
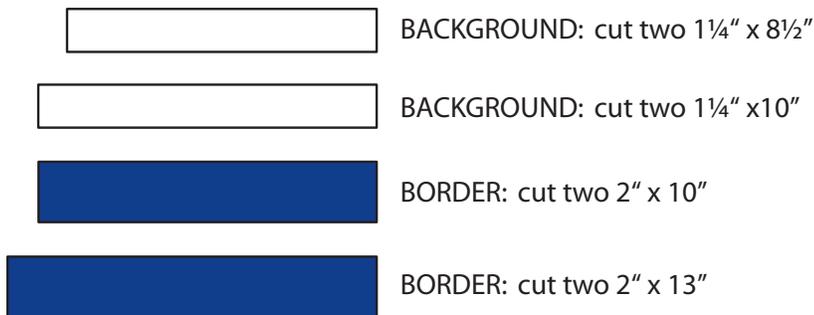
The Patriotic Heart pattern on the next page could be made in different colors and combined for a prayer quilt, as St. Bart's did on their retreat. Why not use scraps and assemble 1 or 2-block kits? Or supply just the background fabric and the pattern as a group challenge. Use left-over blocks as prayer squares.



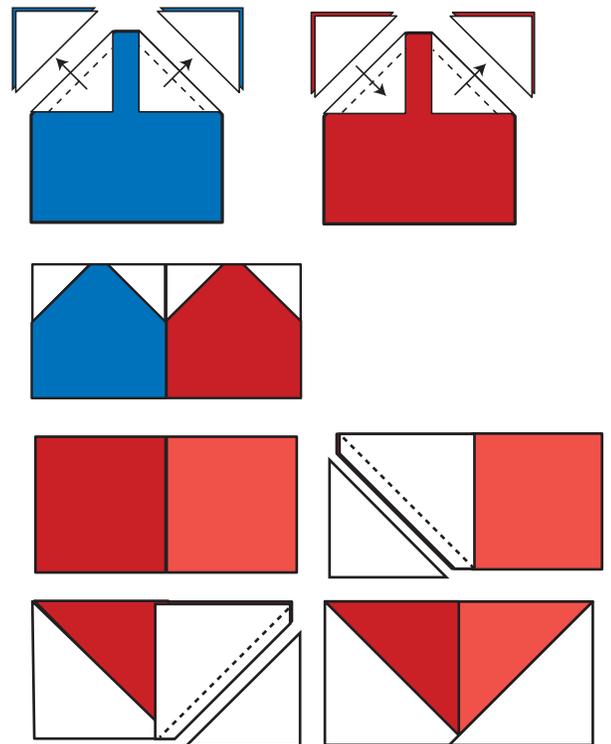
Patriotic Heart

by Wendy Mathson
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The Prayer Quilt Ministry
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Block finishes 12½" square



1. Position two small Background squares on top edge of Blue square, corners aligned. Mark diagonal line corner to corner on each Background square. Sew on marked lines. Press in direction of arrows. Trim at least ¼" away from seam. Do the same with one Red square. (Note that one side of Red square is pressed in the opposite direction.) Sew Blue square to Red square to make top half of heart.
2. Sew two remaining Red squares together. Position large Background square on top with corners aligned. Mark diagonal line corner to corner on Background Square. Sew on marked line. Press. Trim at least ¼" away from seam. Repeat on opposite side with remaining Background square.
3. Sew top half and bottom half of heart together.
4. Sew shorter Background strips to top and bottom. Press. Sew longer Background strips to sides. Press. Repeat with border strips.



General Directions: Sew with a scant ¼" seam allowance, using stitch length 8-10 stitches per inch. Press seam allowances to one side between each step. Usually, press toward the darker fabric.
Tip: It's okay to cut the long rectangles slightly long, then trim to required length after sewing.