

Quilts cover receivers with prayer

The Prayer Quilt Ministry recently distributed its 200th quilt to someone in need of extra care and prayers. This 3-year-old ministry uses donated fabrics to sew a unique quilt for each person. Recipients include church members as well as guests, members' families and friends, and Katy-area residents. They may be experiencing the loss of a loved one, suffering from illness or injury, or dealing with some other difficult situation.

Once a quilt is completed, the quilters pray over the quilt and for its recipient. The quilt is then delivered with a note explaining its meaning.

Connie Malcolm has delivered many of the quilts and said recipients who are not church members are often surprised to receive such a gift.

"They really seem touched and surprised that someone would do this for someone they don't know," Connie said. She said this ministry is a good way to reach people who may not be a member of a church.

The quilts become an important part of the healing process for those who receive them. Connie said a woman who lives out of town came to Houston for surgery. She had forgotten her prayer quilt and called to see if she could borrow one to keep with her in the hospital. A young man going in for brain surgery kept his prayer quilt wrapped around his head. Another man brought his quilt to church with him.

"It made me feel so good to see it in church," Connie said.

When the quilters pray over a new quilt, they also pray for all those who have received quilts in the past. "It's a forever thing," Connie said. "Once you get a prayer quilt, we continue to pray for you."

The Prayer Quilt Ministry was started by Tereasa Reimer, who said she was looking for an outlet for her quilt making. The ministry has turned out to be much more than that for her.

"The stories from the recipients make me feel good that I can do something I love so much and make a difference to someone else," Tereasa said.

Not everyone involved has quilting skills. Ann Spiker had always thought that she couldn't help with a ministry like this. Then she and her mother received quilts when her sister passed away last year. It meant so much to the both of them, that Ann was motivated to join the group. She helps by ironing the quilt tops.

Patricia Knipe joined the group in December.

"I don't know how to quilt," she said, "but I can hand stitch and I can pray over the quilts. We're making things that will bring comfort to someone."

Leah Iburguen also knows firsthand what it means to receive a quilt. Both she and her husband were in treatment for cancer last year and both were given quilts. They weren't members of St. Peter's and were too ill to even attend church.

"It was wonderful to know that people were praying for us that didn't know us very well," she said. Leah, who has joined the Prayer Quilt Ministry, said she enjoys "getting to be in fellowship with other lovely women."

The Prayer Quilt Ministry welcomes new members. They meet the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. in S201. Donations of fabric also are appreciated. If you can help in any way, contact Tereasa Reimer at mtreimer@aol.com or (281) 395-4730.

