

SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT
Bringing Comfort to Others
through Healing Hands Quilt Ministry

Fourteen years ago on a beautiful summer day, Knox Presbyterian Church invited congregation members enjoying fellowship at “Lemonade on the Lawn” to participate in a new healing ministry. People of all ages traced their hands and chose a square of bright printed fabric to be made into a “Healing Hands Quilt” by volunteer quilting artists in the church. Thirteen beautiful quilts were made in that initial effort, and they have provided comfort to many going through medical or other challenges.



The quilts are shared with congregation members who are hospitalized, and it has proven to be a “powerful healing ministry” according to Pam Ward, Knox Faith Community Nurse. The quilts brighten and beautify the hospital room but more than that they seem to usher in whole person care. They draw immediate attention to the fact that there is a cherished human being in the hospital bed vs. a “hip replacement in bed two.” Conversations occur with healthcare workers of all kinds regarding love, grace and faith before vital signs, medications and diagnosis are discussed.

People who receive a quilt are told that they may keep it as long as it is a comfort to them. Once they have recovered they return it to Knox Health Ministry to be laundered and made ready to share with the next congregation member in need. The fact that the quilt has comforted others who made it through a tough time adds to its healing ministry. The act of returning the quilt after making it through a tough personal challenge often provides “a triumphant feeling” for those who have persevered and recovered.

Many blessings have occurred thanks to Knox Healing Hands Quilt Ministry. Pam shared a particularly moving one as a success story. She was visiting a parishioner who was a resident at Deupree Community after she had recovered from a life threatening illness and long rehabilitation. The beautiful quilt that had been with her through it all was there on her bed. This individual shared her sadness that she was unable to visit a dear friend and fellow Knox member who had recently fractured her femur and faced a long, difficult rehabilitation.

As they sat talking with the Healing Hands Quilt nearby, they came up with a perfect solution. Pam would launder and take the quilt to her friend in the hospital that same day. It was comforting to both ladies to know that they had each shared in receiving the healing blessing from the same quilt. Her friend also enjoyed a full recovery and returned the quilt to stand ready to comfort the next Knox member in need. Knox has added to its supply of quilts a few times over the years, thanks to many generous and talented volunteers among them. Pam added, “Some people just can’t part with them, ever, and that’s okay too.”