

CELEBRATING
125
YEARS

October 8, 2023

SERVING GOD STITCH BY STITCH

*Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*

Psalms 100:2

In 1899, five (5) ladies organized the Ladies Aid Society. Their mission was to support the church and the community. Up until 1916, we know the ladies sold box lunches on the excursion boats on the Tennessee River to help retire the church debt. We don't know much about fund raising between 1916 and 1944. We do know that the ladies paid for new flooring for the sanctuary, replaced the candlesticks, purchased paint to paint the church, and raised money to build a garage on the church property for the pastor's car.

In the minutes of the Ladies Auxiliary beginning in 1944, the ladies recorded all donations turned in at a meeting. They sold hangers, sponges, baked goods, fruit, crafts, and quilts. The quilts sold for \$.50 apiece. The minutes record the ladies holding sewing days to piece the quilts and quilting bees to layer and do the quilting.

After World War II the ladies made quilts for Lutheran World Relief and collected clothes and other items to ship to the European refugees. The Men's Club assisted by paying the freight charges. They also adopted an orphan in Finland that they supported for some time after the end of the war.

By the mid-1950's, the ladies quilts sold for \$2.00. When the ladies started holding the bazaars, they sold their crafts, baked goods, and quilts along with other items.

With the move to the Carridale location in 1968, the quilters organized into a Quilting Group to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They continued to send quilts to that organization until the shipping costs became prohibitive. I am told that



Pastor Reinhardt made coffee for the ladies before every meeting and turned up the heat so that the room would be toasty warm.

The ladies earned about \$500 from the quilts sold at the Bazaar for many years. The money they made was used to help the Trustees with projects around the church, support Meals on Wheels, and the Preschool.

One of the longstanding traditions is the blessing of the quilts. One Sunday in October, the quilts are brought into the Sanctuary and spread across the back of the pews for the Blessing Service. It is lovely to have those quilts keeping your back warm or to wrap up in one if the sanctuary is on the cooler side.

Today, St. Paul's quilters make 50-60 quilts a year. They sell 30 quilts a year. The ladies tell me that making these quilts is a labor of love. They make a range of sizes from baby quilts to full size quilts and the prices range from \$15.00 - \$65.00. The quilts are pieced at home, then brought to the church to be layered and quilted, and then taken home to be hemmed. A lot of the fabric used in making the quilts is donated. The ladies always appreciate any donation.

Quilts are given for a variety of reasons or events. At Christmas, quilts are given to the Pastor and Skylar, our DCE. Every child who is baptized is given a baby quilt. Two years ago, the Young Adults partnered with the quilters to provide baskets of cookies, fruit and a lap quilt to the shut-ins of St. Paul's for Christmas.



On occasion, the Quilting group will take on special projects when the need arises. Stephanie Holway created curtains for the Preschool classroom doors to provide an extra level of protection. If there is an intruder, the teacher can close the curtain so the intruder cannot see into the room.

For our 125th Anniversary, the ladies made our Anniversary banners. Instead of being sewn, the ladies paid to have the banners printed. One of the banners displays the altar window from the Sherman Street church and the altar window from the Carridale Street church. The other banner displays pictures of the Carridale Street church and the Sherman Street church.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, the quilters meet on Wednesday morning from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

