

Appalachian Heritage Quilters

Crossroads Christian Church

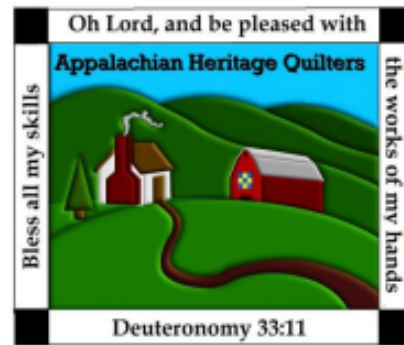
1300 Suncrest Dr. Gray, TN

Issue 169 - April, 2026

Website:

www.appalachianheritagequilters.org

facebook: www.facebook.com



A note from our President, Audrey Pantas

The annual quilt show is approaching rapidly. I encourage every guild member to submit at least one quilt for the event to celebrate our collective accomplishments. Please ensure all entries are submitted by April 18th.

Our April meeting will focus on final preparations for the Quilt Show. Additional key topics include 2026-2027 Board Members. The nomination committee has identified candidates for the 2026-2027 AHQ board positions. Voting will occur at the May meeting. I am grateful to the committee and the volunteers willing to serve. The nominations are:

- President: Nancy Wagner Forrister
- VP Programs: Jackie Smith
- VP Quilt Show: Jessica Steedman
- Corresponding Secretary: Shelly Kelley
- Recording Secretary: Lynn Veith
- Treasurer: Linda Gibbons
- Chaplain: Liana Thompson

UFOs

Members participating in the UFO challenge should present their completed projects at the April meeting. Connie Carr will track completions. If you cannot attend, please send a photo of your finished item via text or email.

Important Dates

- April 16th: Guild Meeting
- April 23rd: Sit and Sew
- April 30th: Quilt Show Setup
- May 1-2: Quilt Show

April Agenda

- Welcome and introduction of new members and visitors
- Devotion (Martha Williams)
- Approval of minutes and treasurer's report
- Fat Quarter Drawing
- 2026-2027 AHQ Board Nominations (Donna Flynn)
- Program Update (Liana)
- Consortium Update (Zoe)

- Charity (Vicky Lowe)
- Quilt Show Update (Jessica Stedman)
- Other New Business / Announcements
- Show and Tell

Looking forward to seeing you.

~ Audrey

March Quilt Meeting Program - Liana Thompson

We will take our program time to get final updates and needs from Jessica on the upcoming Quilt Show.

Liana Thompson, VP Programs

April Fat Quarter Color - Florals

Bring one or more "Fat Quarters" (18" x 22" cut of fabric) to our meeting and you will be eligible to win a stack of Fat Quarters. The first name drawn gets to choose a theme or color for next month's meeting.

March First Place winner was Diane Pitterese.



May Birthdays...

- 10 - Jolene Stratton
- 11 - Audrey Pantas
- 12 - Doreen Brannan
- 16 - Betsy Bridgforth
- 17 - Connie Carr
- 19 - Sharon Balla
- 22 - Lilly Von Braun
- 27 - Mona Doss, Jill Rich
- 31 - Bethany Teilhet

Thoughts to Ponder - Chaplain Martha Williams

The verse for this month is Exodus 35: 31-32 (NKJV)

"He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works."

Remember our past prayer requests and keep them in our hearts and continue to be in prayer for them. Please pray for Pat Carver and her husband as they navigate his medical issues. God bless!

**Blessings,
Martha**

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Treasurer's Report - April, 2026

February Beginning Balance	\$7,449.38
Income	
• Donation/Interest	25.57
Expenses	
• Blue Host/Quilt Show	352.66
February Ending Balance	\$7,122.29

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- **April 16 - Guild Meeting**
- **April 23 - Sit and Sew**
- **April 30 - Quilt Show Set-up**
- **May 1-2 - Quilt Show**
- **May 7 - Sit and Sew**
- **May 14 - Sit and Sew**
- **May 21 - Guild Meeting**
- **May 28 - Sit and Sew**

2026 Retreat Updates - Arlena Miller

Summer Drive In Retreat, July 16-18, 2026, Crossroads Church

Come set up and sew. At night we get to go home and leave your stuff set up. Then come back the next day to sew some more! We will have signups for snacks to bring to share at the April meeting.

Fall Sleepover Retreat, Sept 30 - Oct 3, 2026, 4H Center in Abingdon, VA

There are 13 rooms available. You can stay alone or with a roommate. You may come to sew during the day without staying overnight. A chef will prepare brunch and dinner for us as follows:

- Wednesday, dinner
- Thursday & Friday, brunch and dinner
- Saturday, brunch

Costs are as follows:

- Single room - \$390

- Double room - \$290 per person
- Triple room - \$150 per person
- Day Sewers - \$15 per day + \$12/brunch and \$14/dinner if you plan to eat there. Meals should be ordered in advance.

Deposits will be accepted at each guild meeting beginning in April. Final payments are due by the September meeting.

AHQ Quilt Show 2026 Update - Jessica Steedman, VP Quilt Show

Our 2026 Quilt Show is just around the corner! Setup will be on **Thursday, April 30th**, with the show open to the public on **Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd**.

April 18th is the **deadline** for all quilt entries. Please submit your entries as soon as possible! We hope every guild member will enter at least one quilt this year. Your beautiful work makes our show special, and we'd love to see as many entries as possible.

We will also need plenty of helping hands for setup on April 30th. If you can volunteer even for part of the day, it would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up to help!

If I haven't already reached out to you about tables, please let me know how many you will need. The sooner we know, the better we can plan the layout.

We will go over all the details, answer questions, and finalize plans at our upcoming meeting.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support — this is going to be a wonderful show!

Quilt show hanging requirements from Lynn Veith:

ALL quilts, all sizes including table runners, placemats, miniatures require a 4" hanging sleeve. We are testing a new hanging system that will avoid using pins to hang your beautiful items for displaying them at a more pleasing eye level. The sleeves do not have to be permanent. They can be basted on, pinned on and need to be able to easily accommodate our 3/4 inch rods. Thank you for your assistance and patience as we continue to make improvements to display each item in the best manner.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best, Jessica

Tri-Cities Quilt Consortium Update - Zoe Ledman

The consortium is working on a calendar for the next year to be able to send to everybody; if there are any events within our area that you would like to have included please reach out to me and let me know.

Currently, I am collecting quilts to take down to represent the consortium as a whole for the mountain quilt fest in Pigeon Forge. All quilt submissions need to be to me no later than May 15.

Our next Gathering of the Guild is scheduled for July 24 and 25th. This will be at Crossroads Christian Church. We are finalizing details for one to be held in November as well details coming soon on location and dates.

We are planning a Kentucky shop hop van trip! The shop will be on a first come first serve basis as we are limited to 12 passengers. If we have a long enough waitlist, we will rent an additional van and those on that waitlist will be contacted. To register and confirm your spot you will need to contact Pam Wilson (510) 703-0042 and payment is due at the time of registration. The fee for this bus trip will be \$30. While the agenda is still being finalized, pick up will be from Crossroads Christian Church on Wednesday July 8 at 8 AM. The drive itself is approximately 260 miles round-trip about 5 1/2 hours of drive time. The bus will be stopping for lunch. The estimated total day will be from about 8 AM to 8 PM. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or call Pam listed above.

Additionally, we are scheduling a Sew-A-Long for September 18 and 19th; location TBD. This event will be for wool appliqué and embellishments - be on the lookout for details to come! Also if you are interested in helping out with the consortium as a representative be sure to reach out to me and let me know!

AHQ Meeting Minutes **March 19, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm President Audrey Pantas.

All visitors, members, and new members were welcomed.

Chaplain Martha Williams gave the devotions and presented prayer requests.

Shelly Kelley and Martha Williams presented the new Block of the Month program. The pattern and example of the first block was made available and a sign up sheet was also available. There will be 12 blocks total.

Upon a motion by Lisa Kleven and seconded by Donna Flynn, the minutes from the February meeting were unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Lynn Veith, seconded by Paula James, the Treasurer's report as printed in the last newsletter was unanimously approved.

The Fat Quarter drawing was held and the winners were: 1st Diane Pitterese; 2nd Paula James, and 3rd Julie Dyer. The Fat Quarter selection for next month is Florals.

Portia Sams told the group that the Tshirts previously ordered were here. Checks should be made out to AHQ.

The Nominating Committee members were announced - they are Donna Flynn, Lisa Kleven, and Paulette Bruggeman. Nominations will be presented at the April meeting, and voted on in May.

Jessica Steedman gave an update on the quilt show. The Boutique and Bake Sales proceeds will be divided up 85% to the maker and 15% to the guild. You will need to price your own merchandise for sale. All things for sales must be hand made and not purchased for resale. Connie Carr is in charge of the sign ups for food to be brought for the show workers.

Zoe Ledman presented updates from the Consortium and said quilt entries for the Pigeon Forge show are due by May 1st. The theme is Patriotic.

The guild was reminded that the forms were due tonight for the UFO Project with your first UFO due next month.

Many beautiful quilts were shown during Show and Tell time.

After a brief break the scheduled program was presented which was 3 stations of Schoolhouse learnings and demonstrations.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Kirk, Recording Secretary

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2025- 2026 OFFICERS - Appalachian Heritage Quilters

President - Audrey Pantas
V.P. Programs - Liana Thompson
V.P. Quilt Show - Jessica Steedman
Treasurer - Fran Tafer
Recording Secretary - Barbara Kirk
Chaplain - Martha Williams
Corresponding Secretary - Shelly Kelley

CHAIR-MEMBERS

Charity Coordinator - Vicky Lowe
Sit & Sew - Lynn Veith, Connie Carr, Laurie Blayney
Membership - Paulette Bruggeman, Sharon Copas
Fall Retreat - Arlena Miller
Drive-In Retreat - Arlena Miller
Quilt Challenge - Lynn Veith, Zoe Sibley
T-Shirt Coordinator - Portia Sams
Website Coordinator - Janet Henne
Tri-Cities Guild Consortium - Zoe Sibley, Jessica Steedman

[A special Thank You to each member for their service to the guild!](#)

Did you know that President Dwight D. “Ike” Eisenhower pieced quilts for his Mom to quilt when he was a child?

“When the busy mother did have leisure time, she enjoyed her knitting and needlework. Besides knitting, Ida Eisenhower was a quilter, and she didn’t do it alone. Her sons would piece the tops and she in turn quilted them. One of their creations is a tumbling block quilt that is on a bed in Ike’s birthplace home in Denison.”

<https://waynedalenews.com/2023/11/president-eisenhower-his-mothers-quilts-around-the-frame/#:~:text=Ida%20had%20access%20to%20a,%2Dsite%20and%20eisenhowerlibrary.gov>.

And yet another of our presidents was a quilter.

President Calvin Coolidge: Our Quilting President

“In the quiet Vermont town of Plymouth Notch, a special Tumbling Blocks quilt top has covered a bed for nearly one hundred years. It was made by a 10-year-old boy who learned to sew so he could lend a hand on his family’s farm. This boy became the 30th President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge — our country’s only president known to have made a quilt.”



<https://www.quiltfolk.com/issue-10-vermont/#:~:text=This%20boy%20became%20the%2030th%20President%20of,have%20made%20a%20quilt.%20True%20Colors:%20L>.