



UpCountry Quilters Guild

Newsletter

June 2026



Next Meeting	
Tuesday, June 26, 2026	
at 6:30 pm	
Grace United Methodist	
309 E Cedar Rock St.	
Pickens, SC 29671	

Charlene McGallagher	13
Tammie Young	14
Linda Cassell	17
Sue Martin	17
Rebecka Davis	21
Cheryl Budnaitis	23
Robin McCarthy	28
Pam Collier	29

2026 Officers	
President	Tami M ^c Laren
Vice President	Cheryl Budnaitis
Treasurer	Linda Cassell
Secretary	Donna Anderson
Newsletter Editor	Beth Eastman
Tea and Sympathy	Stacey Thompson
Show and Tell	Gretchen Conway
Membership	Marina Gill
Hospitality	Rosemary Goodall
Publicity/Public Relations	Tiffany Kelley
Co-Chair	Tami M ^c Laren
Community Service	Kay McKinney
Co-Chair	Edith Paige / Pam Jones
Special Events	Kris VanReken
Quilt Show Chair (2 Year)	OPEN
Website	Janice Hinson
Co-Chair	Beth Eastman
Presentation Quilt	Cheryl Budnaitis

May 26th Minutes – Donna Anderson

Meeting called to order by President, Tami McLaren.

Minutes of the April, 2026 meeting were approved as distributed on the website.

Tami announced that the vote to change the time of the guild meeting was a tie between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The June guild meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

July guild meeting will be a sewing day. August meeting will be our annual picnic

Vice President Report: Cheryl Budnaitus announced that our next month's presenter will be Diana Pickens-Stripes. The Pigeon Forge challenge quilts were delivered. After the Pigeon Forge show, they will be displayed in the Pickens County Museum until the middle of November.

Tickets for the Hagood charity quilt are available. This quilt is queen sized and is hand quilted.

The handwork group is cancelled for June. Too many participants are out of town.

Anderson quilt guild has their quilt show July 17-18.

Shop Hop is in July.

Treasurer's Report: No report available as Linda Cassell was not present.

Newsletter: Beth asks that articles and reports for the newsletter be sent to her by the first day of the month so that she will have time to put it all together by the 8th of the month.

Website: Janice Hinton shared that she has added photos of our Pigeon Forge quilt entries. See full report in this newsletter.

Tea and Sympathy: Stacy was not present, but information was shared that Beth Eastman has a knee replacement coming up in June. Charlie will have a second knee replacement in June.

Membership: 28 members were present with 0 guests. Mary Pruitt was the winner of the name tag drawing.

Hospitality: Rosemary shared that members participating in the July 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. sewing day should bring their own lunch. There will be a short meeting followed by sewing time. Classes will be offered for an iron tote and rouse rose. Carol shared that participants should use hand quilting thread to sew the rouse rose and that the thread does not have to match.

Publicity: Tiffany stated that volunteers are needed to sign up for the Farmers' Market. The Pickens County Chronicle has published an article on our Pigeon Forge challenge quilt entries.

Community Service: Kay McKinney reported that she has batting available for those making Hugs and quilts for Warmth and Comfort for the Elderly. Lap quilts should be approximately 45" x 45". Reminder that we are also still making quilts for the local police and sheriff's departments to give to trauma patients. Stillborn baby quilts are still be collected also. Kay will have Janice list the sizes needed for each on the website.

Special Events: Kris VanReken distributed a list of upcoming events. Fall retreat is September 24-26 at Grace United Methodist Church. Presenter will be Candace Hassen. Thursday, Sept 24 from 7-9 p.m. will be a lecture and trunk show. All members are welcome to attend this. Friday, Sept 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. will be the workshop: "Let's Polka". It is suggested that participants share fabric of polka dots and stripes. The pattern suggest fat 8ths. This workshop is limited to 25 participants. Others who want to attend but not participate should speak with Kris first. Saturday, Sept 26 from 9 a.m. til 4 p.m. will be independent sewing-choose your own project. A light breakfast, coffee, lunch and afternoon snacks will be provided on Friday and Saturday. Total cost for workshop, pattern and meals is \$58.00. If any questions, please contact Kris VanReken at 864-518-9389. Retreat planning will be July 9 at 10:30 a.m. at the Southern Weaving complex-Higher Ground coffee shop.

Kris reminded us that the guild picnic is August 25 from 5:30 until at the Dacusville Community Center. There will also be a yard sale for members. Members should bring their items, a table to display on, a cash box, and items to sell.

Those selling should be able to accommodate Venmo, check, or cash. 20% of proceeds will go back to the guild to help support our charities for the year. June 18 will be a planning meeting for the picnic at Kris's home. The guild will provide the meat and members are asked to bring sides and desserts. A sign-up sheet will be available at the June and July guild meetings.

Marina suggested we start publishing how many quilts we have donated to charities. A motion and second was made to keep track and publish the number of quilts donated to charities. Motion passed unanimously.

Marina also suggested the guild put together a New Member packet with information about our website, password, meeting information and a pen. Motion and second was made to do this. Motion passed unanimously.

Show and Tell was done.

Meeting adjourned.

President –Tami McLaren

Don't forget the June meeting will start at 6:30 sharp with the business meeting first, then show and tell and last our speaker program. Can't wait to see you there.

Vice President –Cheryl Budnaitis

I learned a lot about feedsack and vintage fabrics at Tuesday's (5/26) lecture, especially the color and patterns that represented the various decades. Cecelia was so knowledgeable, it was fun to listen to her stories and history. I loved to see all her fabric examples as well as her mother's quilts demonstrating fabrics as she talked about the history of feedsack cloth and vintage fabrics.

June's meeting will be a demonstration by Diana Pickens on using striped fabric to make different patterns when making your blocks. Join us for a fun look at an easy technique that makes your block look very complicated.

***** JUNE MEETING LOCATION CHANGED TO
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*****

***** JUNE MEETING TIME CHANGED TO 6:30PM*****

Reminder: July meeting date/time changed to Saturday July 25th, 10am - 2pm (general meeting/sewing demo and free sewing time as well as a chance to meet others in an informal setting) Bring your own lunch and sewing supplies. Ironing boards, irons and large cutting mats will be provided. This Saturday's demos will be Ruched Roses and sewing a small iron tote.

Membership – Marina Gill

There were a total of 28 members in attendance for the May meeting.

We also had 0 visitors in attendance.

Name tag winner: Mary Pruitt

Community Service – Pam Jones & Kay McKinney

In May we received 1 hug and 2 lap quilts.

We have 4 opportunities to serve our community this year:

1. Warmth and Comfort for the Elderly (WCFE)

Items such as:

- Wheel chair or lap quilts (36"-39" wide and 42"long)
- Quilted hugs
- Dignity bibs/scarves
- Walker or wheelchair bags

2. Children's quilts for the Pickens County Sheriff's Department (Infant to Teen size)

3. Children's quilts for the local police department

4. Premie blankets for still born babies (18" x 18" – 2 layers, no batting required)

Precut batting is available at the meetings. They are 45" x 45". Contact Kay McKinney if you need a different size of batting.

Oconee/Pickens County QOV/Sit-N-Sew – Beth Eastman

**Those comforted as of
May 31, 2026:**

Last Month – 2716

Year to Date – 11,679

Lifetime Total – 447,658

Work continues on quilts. I have 4 presentations set up later in the summer. People are waiting for VBS and vacations to get over. Fine with me since it will be a while before I'm back on my feet to present.

Christmas in July will be held at the Dacusville Community Center on July 25th. We will be selling some items QOV group has made. We were also donated a large amount of material. The sewing groups at DCC have gotten a good bit, but there is still a large amount left. We will be selling some of it at really good prices. Money will be divided between the sewing groups at the center.

Our next meetings are June 19th for QOV and June 26th for Sit-N-Sew. Bring your lunch and prepare yourself to have a good time and Sew, Eat, Talk, and Sew.

Upcoming Events –Kris VanReken

Upcountry Quilters Annual Picnic

Picnic will be held at the Dacusville Community pavilion on Tuesday, August 25th. You may arrive at 5:30 to set up. Supper will be served at 6:00 pm.



Upcountry Quilters 2026 Fall Retreat

Date: September 9/24 through 9/26

Location: Grace United Methodist Church
309 E Cedar Rock St.
Pickens, SC 29671

Schedule: Thursday 9/24 - 7 to 9 pm Lecture: Inspiration Trunk Show
(All members welcome to attend.)

Friday 9/25 - 9 am to 4 pm Workshop: Let's Polka (Limited to 25 participants)

Saturday 9/26 – 9 am to 4 pm Independent sewing (Choose your own project)

Meals: Light breakfast, coffee, lunch and afternoon snacks provided Friday and Saturday

Total Cost or workshop, pattern, and meals - \$58.

Questions? Contact Kris VanReken 864-518-9389

Let's Polka quilt pattern sample



(Sign-up sheet on last page of newsletter)

Show-N-Tell



Marina Gill
Flag Table Runner



Marina Gill
Red, White, and Blue Quilt



Raffle Quilt for Summer Markets



Joyce Thompson's T-Shirt Quilt



Nancy Swanner
2 Quilts of Valor



Nancy Swanner's Tula Pink Quilt



Jakki Wiseman
Liberty EPP BOM by Alice Caroline



Jakki Wiseman - Bow Quilt-
Pattern: Darling by Thimble Blossoms



Kay M^cKinney
Hug Shawl



Pam Jones
Wheel Chair Quilt



Pam Jones
QOV Quilt (Chandelier)



Gretchen Conway
One Block Wonder



Beth Eastman
QOV One Block Wonder



**2026 Sew-In
Sign-up Sheet**

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Total \$58 (to be paid at time of registration)

Sign up due by August 25, 2026

Checks payable to Upcountry Quilters Guild

Paid Date _____

Check # _____ Cash _____

Additional comments, dietary restriction, etc. _____
