



# UpCountry Quilters Guild

## Newsletter

October 2026



### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, October 27, 2026**  
**From 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**  
**Pickens Presbyterian Church**  
**311 W. Main ST.**  
**Pickens, SC 29671**

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Cathy Coster    | Oct 14 |
| Gayle Duncan    | Oct 15 |
| Tami McLaren    | Oct 21 |
| Monique Damiano | Oct 23 |



### 2026 Officers

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| President                  | Tami M <sup>c</sup> 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 <sup>c</sup> 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          |

## Vice President –Cheryl Budnaitis

Oh what a wonderful trunk show and retreat we had in September! Candace had stories on how each of her quilts were created and in person, they looked beautiful. I bought several patterns and can't wait to create my own memories!

October 24th, 2026 will be the Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival. We will have our Opportunity Quilt to sell tickets and boutique items to sell. We will also be demonstrating different aspects of quilting (piecing if we have access to electricity, applique, binding, hand quilting and any other handwork people would like to demo). In addition, we will need volunteers to sell tickets for the quilt and manage the boutique as well as set up and take down (I will be at the Quilters of SC retreat in Myrtle Beach that weekend). A sign up sheet will be distributed shortly.

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 will be our monthly meeting at Pickens Presbyterian Church from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. This will be our initial Quilt Show meeting and we'll also have ice cream sundaes. We're also raffling the quilt that night, too.

October is also the time to request volunteers for the board and committee positions. The position descriptions are listed in the bylaws on the website. Please consider joining the board or committees this next year, it is a great way to meet people and grow our guild.

November 14th (Saturday) - sewing day! Cathy will show us how to make a dimensional quilted wreath using your machine to free motion leaves. This will be a great holiday addition to your decorations! Cheryl and Cathy will also demo some big stitch hand projects (Kawandi and Sashiko). Bring your lunch and come join us at Grace United Methodist Church 9-2 for some fun, fellowship and sewing.

December - Our 3rd annual Holiday Exhibit at the Pickens Museum will be opening the 1st week in December (coming up quickly!). We would like to have at least 1 quilt from every member to display, these can be older quilts or quilts that have been in a show before, preferably with a holiday theme. What a wonderful way to show the talent of our guild. Bring quilt measurements to the October meeting or sign up on the website before November 17th. Details regarding quilt drop off will be coming soon.

December 8th - Guild Christmas Party 7-9pm. Come join us for fun and games and wonderful fellowship to start the holiday season.

## 10/24/2026 Minutes

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm at Grace UMC. Minutes previous meeting approved by Cathy Coster, seconded by Gretchen Conway.

Reviewed previous meetings approval vote to move meeting date, location and time to Grace United Methodist Church, the 4th Thursday of the month at 6pm.

No treasurer report this month.

President/Vice President report (Tami/Cheryl):

- Board members will be turning over at the end of the year. Over the next 2 months will need to ask for new members to replace current ones for the next year. Will vote on new positions at the December 8th meeting.
- The 3rd annual Holiday Exhibit at the Pickens Museum will begin the 1st week in December. Requesting member quilts to hang, any quilt will be accepted with holiday quilts preferred. Further details on quilt drop off will be forthcoming. We need measurements as soon as possible; you can sign up on the website or at the October meeting.
- The 2027 Pigeon Forge Guild Challenge has been announced. The theme is "Homes of Every Kind". Will meet later in the year to discuss rules and topics for our guild submission.
- The UpCountry Quilters Guild challenge - Cathy Coster reviewed challenge information which can also be found on the website. Submissions will be due at the August picnic. We will be planning a November visit to Susan Lenz studio to see her eclectic collages, inspiration for our challenge.
- We will be participating in the Appalachian Festival at the Hagood Mill October 24th. We will be selling tickets for our opportunity quilt and selling boutique items. Also, will be demonstrating handwork of any kind including applique and hand quilting. If we have access to electricity, we will demonstrate piecing and machine quilting. A sign up sheet to work the event and who will be demonstrating handwork will be sent out shortly.
- Marina distributed a handout for 2027 quilt show positions and briefly explained expectations for upcoming meetings regarding the process.
- The next meeting is October 27th 6pm at Pickens Presbyterian Church. We will be discussing Quilt Show positions and the process for 2027. We will also be having ice cream sundaes!

Membership - (Marina Gill) see report

Tea and Sympathy - (Stacey Thompson) Margaret Campbell is recovering from eye surgery. Mary Pruitt will be having upcoming surgery as well as Shelby Anders. Please keep these individuals in your thoughts and prayers. If anyone has any concerns about themselves or family, please let Stacy know.

## Membership – Marina Gill

Membership Report for September 2026

There was a total of 24 members in attendance for September.

New Members:

- Peggy Edwards
- Judy Hallman

We also had 1 **visitor**, Ginger Cole.

Name tag winner: Carol Clanton

## Community Service – Kay McKinney

We have 4 opportunities to serve our community this year.

- Warmth and Comfort for the Elderly (WCFE)  
Items such as:
  1. Wheelchair or lap quilts (36"-39" wide and 42" long)
  2. Quilted hugs
  3. Dignity bibs/scarves
  4. Walker or wheelchair bags
- Children's quilts for the Pickens County Sheriff's Department (Infant to Teen size)
- Preemies of the Carolina- They can use flannel blankets size 20" x 20" up to 34" x 34". All donations to them need to be washed. Because flannel shrinks, it is best to wash the flannel before making the blankets.
- Bereavement blankets for still born babies. These need to be 18" x 18". (At the time they have a good supply of these blankets.)

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  
September 30, 2026:**

Last Month – 2542

Year to Date – 21,128

Lifetime Total – 457,107

Still no air conditioning at the center, but as the temperature gets cooler outside, room is cooling off. I asked Frankie Lawson, DCC President if we could get a key to library room across from us to open and set a fan in the doorway to try and cool it down just a little more. She is to get us a ket.

We will be sewing this month.

|            |                          |              |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| QOV Sewing | October 16 <sup>th</sup> | 1000 to 1600 |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------|

|           |                          |              |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Sit-N-Sew | October 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 1000 to 1600 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|

Bring your own lunch.

## Show-N-Tell

### Beth Eastman's Quilts



Sampler Quilt made from  
BJ Wilson's last blocks



Shoebox Quilt



Cousin's Husband's  
T-Shirt Quilt



Linda Cassell – Jason's T-Shirt Quilt



Jay Smith - Baby Cowboy Quilt

Marina Gill



Minnie Mouse

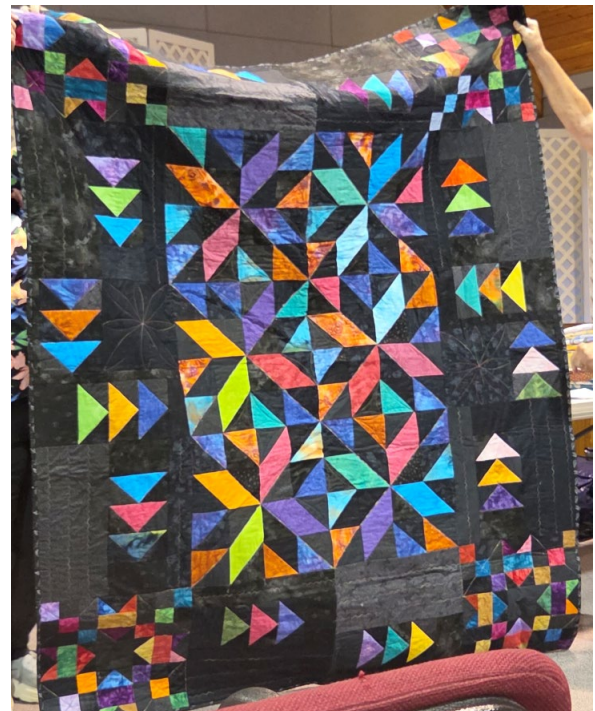


Fall Quit

Gretchen Conway



Fiesta



Barn Stormer

Cheryl Budnaitis



Flannel Christmas Pane



Laverne Marchbanks Rail Fence



Recraft Wheelchair Quilt



Easley Ladies Quilt



Recraft Floral Quilt Top

Cathy Coster



Dignity Bibs



Walker Bag



Carol Kaufman  
Sheriff/Police Quilt



Jakki Wiseman  
Social Sharks (Elizabeth Hartman)  
Plaid fabric from recycled men's shirts

## Pan Hunt



Cleopatra's Fan  
Quilt Block



Manx Quilt Block



Irish Chain for Granddaughter



Patchwork

Gail Sexton



One Block Wonder (Non Panel)



One Block Wonder (from Panel)