



Meeting Date: TBD

**From the President:** Thanks to Nila Johnston and the Special Events Committee for a wonderful Christmas party at Brushy Mountain S mokehouse. It was my honor to present two ladies with the Golden Needle Award. Congratulations to Judy Martin and Patsy Clanton! Thank you for all your contributions to WCQ. They could not attend but were on speaker phone during the presentation.

Quilting family, 2020 is coming to an end. I have been guilty of wishing my time away and wanting a more "normal" life. Even in the confusion and upset of this year, we've had more time with family and more time to be productive at the sewing machine.

The Education Fund has been approved. You will find a copy attached to the newsletter email. An application form will be on our web page.

In 2021 we will attempt to have ZOOM meetings until we can be together physically. Donna Greene and Lynn Osborne will be guiding me in this endeavor.

Christmas this year may be different from any we have experienced. However you celebrate, I pray you will be blessed and will be a blessing. Remember The Prince of Peace has come to offer peace to every heart.

"Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year",  
Brenda

**Ways and Means:** 2020 has been the year of Covid-19. It has been a year in which we have had to stay home.



I want to thank our members, that have used some of their at home time to make items for our Quilt Show Boutique. Here are so me of the items we have made:

Neck Pillows-Skinny Table Runners-Cell Phone/Tablet Pillows-Apple Mug Rugs-Skinny Pinnies-Sewing Station Caddies-Flower Pocket Pincushions-Needle Keepers-Scrunchies-Draw String Bags and Prayer Quilts. We have been busy this year and I am looking forward to our next Quilt Show.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Kathy Hamby

**Google Group:** If you would like to be on the Google Group please send me an email. My email address is in the Guild Roster. Please put the group address in your email address book -

[wilkescountyquilters@googlegroups.com](mailto:wilkescountyquilters@googlegroups.com).

Madra Prater

**Membership:** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Praying the new year, 2021, will be an improvement over 2020. Hope everyone is staying safe and well and doing a lot of quilting. I sure do miss everybody and our meetings. Ah well, this too shall pass. Remember to let me or Ellen Rhyne know what you would like done with your 2020 dues and any retreat monies you may have paid in. Thanks to all of you who have already let us know.

Becky Ball

**Note from Patsy:** To fellow quilters, thank you so much for the Golden Needle award. I certainly am not deserving, just thankful to have been welcomed into the guild with no experience. You have shared your knowledge and talents so graciously. Through the guild we have seen Taylor and Emma share in our love of quilting too. And Robert helped hand quilt two feedsack quilts (our unique style of course). Love, hugs, thanks to each of you. Merry Christmas & A Happier New Year!

Patsy Clanton

### **Member Bio's: And Here's Emma Cox....**

I was born in the little town of Bakersville, NC where my dad was a pastor. Shortly after my third birthday, our family moved to Charlotte, NC and Charlotte was home for about 9 years. It was there that my love of sewing began. One of my earliest memories is that of my mother busily cleaning out an attic while I was trying to make clothes for a stuffed animal. I just could not figure out how to gather a skirt onto a bodice for that bear.

My mother turned off the vacuum cleaner, sat down with me and showed me how to make a running stitch through the fabric. I was a preschooler at the time. My love of sewing only intensified when I learned to use a sewing machine. We moved to Boone in 1963. Throughout high school I made most of my own clothes and went on to major in Home Economics at ASU. During my senior year at ASU, I married my high school sweetheart. After graduation, I joined him at Fort Knox and worked for the Singer Company in Louisville, KY. When we returned to Boone, there weren't a lot of job opportunities using my Home Ec. Degree so I began teaching Adult Basic Education classes for Caldwell Community College. That led to a position at Watauga Opportunities, a sheltered workshop. It became apparent that I needed more training in that field if I were going to pursue a career there so I earned a degree in Rehabilitation Psychology.



That career was short lived because the babies started coming. My first attempt at quilting was for my first child but I still spent most of my sewing time on clothing construction. Two years later we were blessed with twins, a boy and a girl. With three under three there wasn't a lot of time for sewing, but it was my "therapy" and I wanted to make those beautiful smocked dresses for my daughter. About that time, Martha Pullen started publishing Sew Beautiful magazine. I devoured the first issue in an evening & I knew I'd found my niche. The fourth baby came along but I continued learning all I could about English Smocking and French Heirloom sewing, taught classes in local craft shops and began selling supplies for those techniques. With a partner, I opened A Stitch Above in 1986, offering classes, fine fabrics and laces, as well as Bernina sewing machines. Sew Beautiful was kind enough to publish a few of my designs and encouraged me to publish patterns for counter-change smocking. We closed the shop in 1991 and I began working for the local Pfaff dealer. There, I demonstrated sewing machines, taught classes and organized an annual sewing school featuring nationally known sewers and quilters. Two of the ladies that came to classes and joined our Pfaff Club were Madra Prater and Sherry Royster.

My other passion was children's ministry. While working in the world of sewing, I also served as Children's Ministry Director in our church. When the sewing center closed, I began working at Cornerstone Bookstore in

Boone and managed the children's department there until I "retired" in 2012. As my husband began planning to retire, he wanted flatter ground and warmer temperatures. I agreed to move as long as we could still attend our church in Deep Gap, thus we became Wilkes County residents.

Shortly after moving to Purllear, I got a call from Madra inviting me to the Quilt Show. I enjoyed the quilt show but still wasn't committed to quilting. I was still smocking dresses for granddaughters. Madra diligently invited me to quilt guild every time we ran into each other at Walmart. The granddaughters began to outgrow smocking and I certainly didn't need a fancy wardrobe so I began to dabble in quilting. It didn't take long for the "quilting bug" to bite. Last October my friend and I attended our first meeting. Y'all were a hoot and we were hooked! We joined the guild in January and looked forward to getting to know all of you but Covid had other plans. (I apologize now if I've failed to greet any of you when out and about. Masks have made it doubly hard to get acquainted.)

One of the things I most enjoy about quilting as well as the guild meetings, is that there is always something new to explore and learn. For now I enjoy the precision of piecing traditional blocks, sometimes adding a new spin. My goal is to make a quilt for each of my 11 grandchildren by the time they are old enough to keep house for themselves. The ones for whom the quilts are completed seem to truly cherish their quilts and ask to "visit" their quilt when at my house. There are so many beautiful fabrics available to us now and I so enjoy combining the colors and patterns that I can't truly name a favorite. Batiks are pretty high on the list, however.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my sewing life with you and for welcoming me into the Wilkes County Quilters. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

