



Meeting date: February 22, 2022
Meeting time: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Location: Wilkes Agricultural Center
416 Executive Drive
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

From the President:

It feels like spring today! Just a little tease because we know Wilkes County weather is like that. Wilkes County Quilters will spring into the new year. Quilt show committee has chosen a theme for 2022 so we can begin planning for our show. I hope daffodils will be up soon. Can't wait to see your smiling faces at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 22 at 1:00 or 6:00 pm.
Nila Johnston

Community Service Committee: Libby



If you have a long arm or mid arm machine that needs more love, PLEASE consider partnering with the Community Service Committee in their quilting needs. There are 4 totes of quilts that need to be quilted. These are Ebenezer and baby quilts that go to children and families in need. There are currently 2 Ebenezer quilts and a few baby quilts that are ready in case of need. Please HELP! If you would like to pick up a quilt kit you can stop by SBQ! If you would like to donate a "Quilt of Valor", or would like to pick up supplies or a pattern they are available at SBQ!



Note from the Treasurer:

Membership dues of \$25 are due at the beginning of each year. Thanks to those who have already paid and I encourage those who have not to please bring your dues to the February meeting or mail to.

Jennie Schardt,
WCQ Treasurer,
181 Abbey Road
McGrady NC 28649.

Ways and Means: Lynn Osborne

Please be thinking of items you would like to see in the Boutique this year. Of course we welcome any quilting donations you would like to make. See Shirley Camenzind for raffle tickets and/or to turn in money. With each Guild Member's help we will have a great year in Ways and Means!!

Thanks in advance, Lynn Osborne

Program: Sheila Nichols

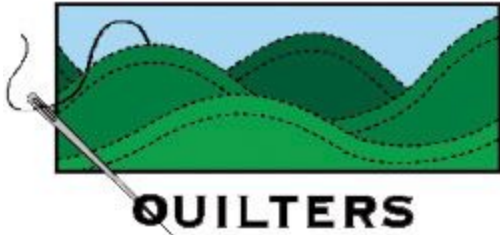
Don't forget about the 8.5" Mystery Square project. Instruction sheets are available.



"Rose down the Road"
quilt top trunk show
Laura & Rosalee Reavis

2022 Wilkes County Quilters Quilt Show

Name Announcement: "Quilting Timeless Treasures"



QUILTERS

Welcome:

Janet Tharpe

Katherine Eure

Sunshine Committee: Patsy

CONTINUE TO MAKE HEART SQUARE BLOCKS (6 1/2 INCHES UNFINISHED) AND BRING TO GUILD MEETINGS. BE CREATIVE IN DESIGNING YOUR BLOCKS. THANK YOU!

Handgroup: Shirley

Meet at the Library from 10-2
Downstairs meeting room

Dates for the year!

Feb 9th

March 9th

April 13th

May 11th

June 8th

July 13th

August 10th

September 14th ?

October 12th

November 9th

December 14th

quilter bio: Libby Whittington

Born in Burnsville, NC (Yancey County) on February 13th, 1957, I spent the first three months of life living with the doctor who delivered me and his family due to a severe heart murmur. My mother was attending college at the University of Tennessee and was dating her college sweetheart when I was conceived in 1956. When the pregnancy was revealed to her dad, mom was asked to leave (kicked out of) their home and she was unable to care for a newborn, so she gave me up for adoption at birth. My adoptive parents were unable to have children on their own due to mama having multiple fibroid tumors hindering the process of carrying a child. To make a long story short, my mom had a hysterectomy, she came home from the hospital, the lawyer's wife cooked dinner for mom and dad. They came over (they lived next door) to bring food and were asked by mom and dad to stay for dinner. During the conversation at dinner, the lawyer found out that mom and dad couldn't have children and he told them he knew where they could get a baby girl, but she had a heart condition. He told them Dr. Webb and his wife were keeping a baby at their home due to the heart condition and he would call him to arrange for mom and dad to meet me. Dr. Webb and his wife brought me over to visit that evening and the rest is history! I became their little girl in a few short weeks in a private adoption arranged by Attorney Lowe Thomas, my parent's next-door neighbor!

We lived in Burnsville until 1963, then moved to Elkin, NC when dad accepted a promotion with Western Auto Stores and mom accepted a Second-Grade teaching position at Jonesville Elementary. I attended school at Elkin Elementary and became interested in sewing at an early age of 7. In my mom's spare time, she made many of my clothes and would use butcher paper to hand-draw the patterns based on my rapidly growing measurements – long legs and arms! She taught me this process and by the time I was about 9, I was making my own patterns! I learned to sew my own clothes on an old Sears Kenmore machine that I felt might have come off Noah's Ark! I still have that half-ton machine in storage!

Another huge influence in my introduction to quilting came from Grandma Owens, my dad's mother. When we would drive to Rutherford County to visit on weekends, I would watch grandma and her neighbors hand quilt on Saturdays. They quilted on an old frame that dropped down from the ceiling in the living room, or "front room" as she called it. Grandpa had rigged up that frame to be raised and lowered using a pulley system he had hooked to the wall. I begged grandma to let me help her sew on the quilts, but she always told me to "wait until I was 10 years old." I'm not sure why I had to wait until I was ten, but I'll never forget the day grandma told me to "pull up a chair and stitch awhile." I felt like a big shot!!! Thinking back, I feel sure that when I would leave her house, she would probably sit and pull out all my crooked and uneven stitches and redo them. Since I was the only grandchild interested in grandma's quilts, I inherited most of her hand-stitched and hand-quilted quilts, which I still have!

By the time I was in high school, I was becoming more "fashion conscious" and would observe friends wearing new outfits that I really liked. I would sit in class and sketch their outfits in the back of my composition book and go home and make a similar pattern using the method mom had taught me. Within a week, I would wear my new outfit to school!



I averaged an outfit a week until mom put the brakes on my fabric purchases! By the time I took Home Economics in high school (9th grade), I was helping the teacher teach the sewing part of the class! Mom and dad bought me a used Singer sewing machine (one of the ones we had used in Home Ec class), for my 16th birthday and I continued making clothes for myself and made Barbie clothes for the little girls I babysat for.

After graduation from high school in 1975, I began attending Wilkes Community College and met a Wilkes County boy from Millers Creek. I ended up marrying Ron Whittington in April of 1977 and graduated from WCC in June of that year. Since I chose to marry before I finished college, I lost my dad's VA benefits for my education. I worked a full-time job as a seamstress (imagine that!) at Modern Globe for a few years, saving all the money I made to finish college. I entered Appalachian State University in 1981 and graduated with honors in June, 1983 with a BS in Elementary Education. By that time, I was pregnant with our first child, my dad had passed away unexpectedly, and I was interviewing for teaching positions. Finding a teaching job was hard in Wilkes County during the early 80's, so I stayed home after Chris was born (November, 1983) and took up quilting again! I made several baby quilts for him and more for my friends who were having babies.

In August, 1984, I secured my first teaching job in 3rd grade at Mulberry School. In December, 1986, my husband accepted a job in Nashville, TN and we moved there. God had a plan for this move because, in April of 1987, doctors discovered I had a Stage 3 Melanoma cancer. I had a radical excision of the cancer that left me with a 9" scar across my upper back. Throughout my recuperation period, I attended Middle Tennessee State University and became certified to teach in the state of Tennessee. My certification was final in December, 1987 from MTSU. Then in January, 1988, Ron got word that he was being transferred back to NC to continue his work. We moved back to Wilkes County on February 13th – my birthday – and have been here ever since! I say all that to say this - God took us to TN for a year and moved us back! He took us there so my cancer could be found and treated, then helped us get back to our home in NC! We bought a house in the Mulberry Community of Wilkes County and I applied to get another teaching job. We had only been back in NC a week when I got the call that an interim teaching position had suddenly come open at Mulberry Elementary, so I took it. That job led to full-time work the following year. Our second son, Brent, was born in July, 1989. I continued working my entire teaching career at Mulberry until my retirement in 2016!

By the summer of 2016, my dream of owning a quilt store was becoming a reality. Sew Blessed Quiltworks' opening day was November 11, 2016. In June, 2018, our little retail quilt store expanded into the space next door and we opened a classroom for quilting classes. We also offered barn quilt painting classes. Life was good and the shop was prosperous until the COVID 19 pandemic began in early 2020. The struggle was very real and our doors closed temporarily until we were deemed essential for selling mask-making supplies! The classroom side of our shop became a "sweatshop" for mask-making! We made a slew of masks and donated many to the local hospital and nursing facilities. I made the decision to make and sell the masks to pay rent and bills for the quilt shop and try to survive. We made and sold well over 2,000 masks and that's exactly what kept our little business from "going under!" Fast forward to 2022, our business survived COVID 19! We are planning and preparing for several craft shows in the area, the Mid-Carolina Run Shop Hop in June, our quilt show in September, AND the All-Carolinas Shop Hop for the entire months of September and October. There will be 80+ retail quilt shops in NC and SC participating this fall!!!!

Now, back to the questions I was originally asked: My favorite styles of quilting are traditional piecing, applique', paper piecing, and strip piecing. When paper piecing, I prefer to work with batik fabrics due to their vivid colors. I love the preciseness of paper piecing as well. I enjoy homespun fabrics and using men's shirting fabrics to create masculine-looking quilts. My favorite fabrics are 30's prints. Many of my quilts incorporate 30's prints in them. My feedsack collection is growing and I hope to create a large bed quilt completely hand stitched and hand-quilted before my time here on Earth is done. I also enjoy the challenge of sewing chenille fabrics and have made both of my granddaughters, Millie and Emmie, quilts from chenille! They love them! I'm also making American Girl doll clothes for them now. They love them, too! I have been attending quilt shows in Wilkes County for many years. I had always wanted to enter a quilt in the show but was told that I had to be a member of the guild to enter. Guess what? I joined the guild and began entering my quilts for competition about 10 years ago. My favorite part of being a guild member is the camaraderie between members. I've made many new friends who are always helpful and willing to share ideas and designs. Their advice and knowledge are invaluable and very much appreciated! I LOVE going on quilt retreats – my absolute favorite! I love being able to sew all day (and night, sometimes) and only stop to eat and not have to do any cooking!

Lastly, a new passion of mine is Quilts of Valor! In past years, I've gone to other quilt show events and participated in signing quilt blocks for veterans' quilts. I've also participated in a few QOV "wrapping" ceremonies and have seen what a positive impact a simple patriotic quilt has on a military veteran. Sew Blessed Quiltworks is now a registered business with the Quilts of Valor Foundation and can sponsor workshops to create beautiful patriotic quilts. We'd also love for you to join us for upcoming QOV Sew Days! See me for QOV applications if you'd like to nominate a veteran to receive a quilt!

Now that I've written a book and bored you all to pieces, I wish each of you continued good health and happy quilting!