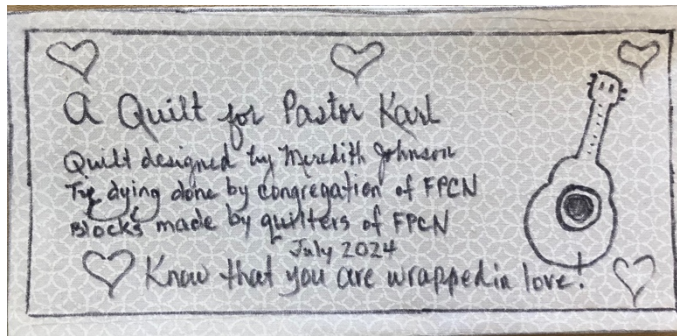


*The
Story of
Karl's
Quilt*

Once Upon a time there was a pastor named Karl.

He was a really cool pastor, and his temporary congregation was really happy to have him lead their church. Karl had a lot of different ideas about how to do things, and he liked to go back in time to the beginning of things to teach his new church family about how churches came to be, and how to make our church more real in our worship time, and in our understanding of the Bible. Karl had a Ukelele he carried everywhere, and you never knew when he would break into song. He made music a special part of our worship once again, he brought his melody to our church to show us how important making a joyful noise was to our worship time. He even danced in church, in fact, he loved the song Lord of the Dance, and showed us his favorite dance moves. Some of the other things Karl did was show us how it's OK to share sadness with one another, as well as enjoying happiness and fellowship. Most importantly, Karl made us all think about what Jesus said and did, and how it relates to us today; he helped us understand that some of the things we were taught were based on other people making assumptions about things in the Bible, and he taught us how to think more deeply and carefully about what the Bible was teaching us. Then, Karl got cancer, which was very scary for him, but he was very brave and worked to fight this illness.





Bob made a label for the back of the quilt



Here's Miss Jean's purple tie dye square – first tie dye she has made in over 90 years of living!

His church family had some quilters in it, and they believed that they could make quilts with God's love stitched into them. Their prayers and love were stitched into quilts to help people feel loved and comforted while they were going through tough times. The quilters knew that Karl needed something special, because he was so special, so they started thinking what would bless Karl. Karl was kind of a hippie, so one of them said "we should make him a tie dye quilt". Others said "No, you don't give a pastor tie dye...". But the quilters thought some more. They wanted to make everyone in the congregation have the opportunity to help make this quilt, even if they couldn't sew. They asked some of Karl's church workers to help them spy on Karl to find out the things that Karl thought were special, or that he loved. They wanted to make this quilt show Karl how much they loved him. They got David, Bob, Karl and Kathy to find out stuff.... They don't think Karl suspected anything. One of the quilters got David to let them "break" into Karl's office to take some important pictures they needed. They were very respectful of Karl's special things and didn't touch anything, they just took some photos.... And then they got to work.....

First the quilters had a tie dye party on a Sunday when Karl was home with his family. They asked everyone young and old to come make a tie dye square of fabric to put into the quilt. The congregation got to wear garbage bag smocks and rubber gloves to protect their Sunday Best. Some of the congregation had lived to a wise age but had never tie dyed before, but they did it and had fun!



We sewed all the tie dye blocks not used in the stained glass border to make the back of the quilt. The color wheel/rainbow border was made from Hand dyed fabric Meredith made in a class, and represents Karl's belief that Jesus welcomes everyone to our church. That includes our beloved Adam who helps lead our joyful noise!

The final step was putting on the binding, which Rosemary did. She put love and prayers into every stitch of finishing the binding!



Karl likes to make sure we all know to share our hurts and sorrows. He invites us to sprinkle salt into a bowl for our collective tears.
-Block made by Li-Ling and Meredith



Inspiration photo



The congregation made lots of beautiful squares....



A special lady named Jean used only one color of dye to make her square – she loves purple, so that is the only square in the quilt that we know who made it. We knew this square would be special to Karl.



First Presbyterian Church of Newark

-Block made by Meredith



Karl loves bread. He loves the special bread made by an employee owned bakery near where he lives, and he brought the delicious bread to church for communion. Karl loves to make sure everyone has a fair job and we love that he has tried to do this in other places in the world. In fact, the colors of his quilt were taken from textiles made in that part of the world!

-Block made by Gloria Wilson

Next, the quilters began to make designs and a plan for the quilt..... and one by one they made the squares. Sometimes Karl would come visit the quilters while they were sewing, and he didn't know what they were sewing was for him.....



The quilters cut up some of the tie dye squares to make a border for the quilt of stained glass. They knew Karl loves stained glass. Many different quilters sewed the stained glass squares together. Some of their names were Rosemary, Marian, Kathy, Meredith, Li-Ling, and Julie. Sometimes the quilters got messed up when they were sewing the pieces together, and they had to use their seam rippers to take their mistakes apart so they could fix them. This reminded the quilters that everyone makes mistakes, and God helps us fix them and learn to do better!



Then, the quilters began to make each special block



David the spy told us this was Karl's favorite stole and someone special made it for him. We took a picture, and blew it up, then stenciled it onto fabric.
-Block made by Meredith



Photo of stole



Inspiration photo



Inspiration photo for the block we took off Karl's Facebook pictures!



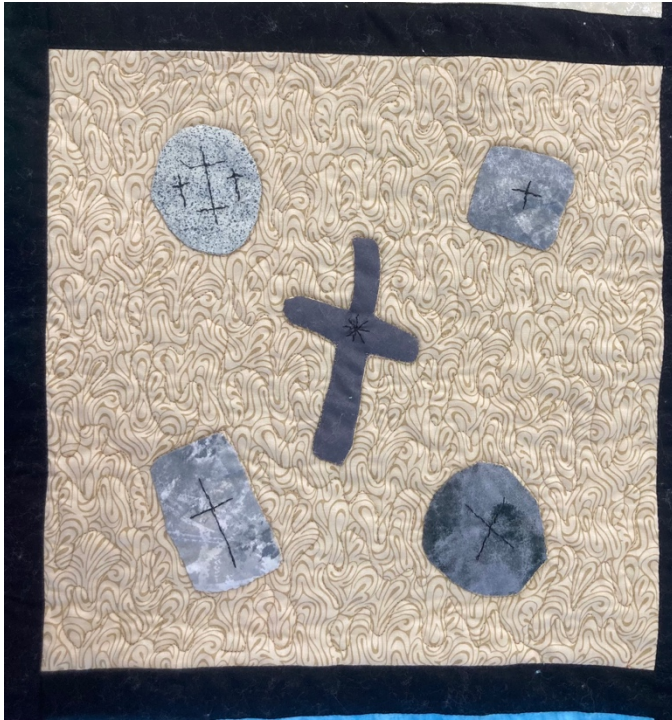
We are Karl's flock, and Marian had us write on Paper sheep for Pastor Appreciation Sunday, so we had to make the funny sheep. We sewed this one in front of Karl, we told him it was for a baby quilt, and he even said he had a bunch of those in his office ha-ha!

-Block made by Meredith



Karl loves to light the candle at the beginning of worship, so we made him a candle like the one on the communion table at our church.

-Block made by Bob and Meredith



Karl got us to do crafts at church for Ash Wednesday. He had people come make clay crosses, and then he fired them in a pot and handed them out to everyone to keep in their pocket for Lent to remind them why we celebrate Easter.
-Block made by Kathy Duncan



Inspiration photo



Karl loves to show us Venn Diagrams as part of his sermons. We had to give him a Venn Diagram of the Trinity done in the colors of the rainbow because Jesus loves us all!
-Block made by Bob



These are pictures of the mess Meredith made sewing this block – it involved sewing it onto paper and then ripping all the paper off. Lots of leftover bits and pieces of fabric and paper at the end!





Karl loves to have us sing Lord of the Dance, and he told us the story of dancing with the youth, and showed us his signature dance move. This block is called Lord of the Dance, and was the hardest one to make because it had 83 pieces plus the beard, mustache, and stole.

-Block made by Meredith



Karl loves to play his Ukulele for us at church when we make a joyful noise together. This one even has strings on it!

-Block made by Bob



Karl's favorite place in the world is Muir Beach. Our spies took one of his Facebook pictures and turned it into a block. There are footprints in the sand because sometimes Jesus walks beside us, and sometimes he carries us. Karl also likes to walk and has made many footprints all over the world.
-Block made by Meredith



The quilters tried very hard to find out what Karl's favorite song was. One person said it was Candle in the Wind, and we already had a candle.... And then Karl said his favorite song was whatever he was singing, so we made Music in his Heart! Find the 2 hidden notes.....
-Block made by Li-Ling