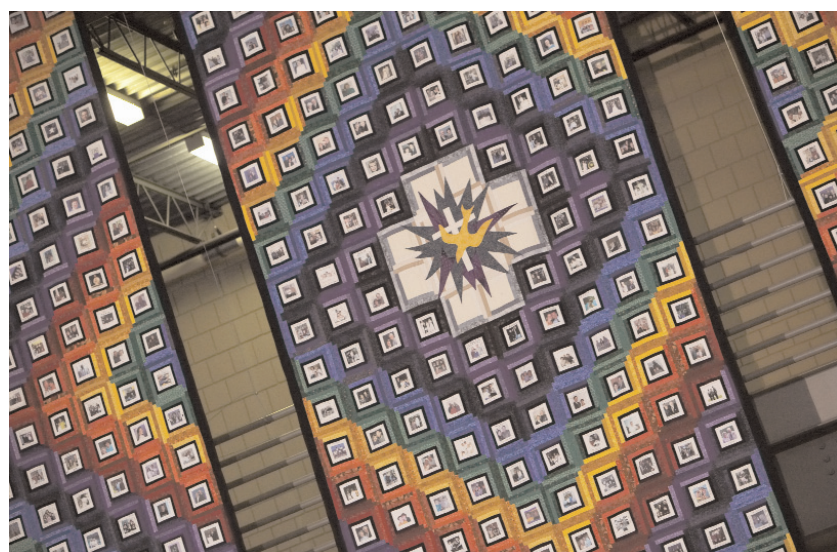


# The Sacred Thread That Ties Us to One Another

by Becky Jensen



It all began in fall of 2003 when one creative woman (Joan Howe-Pullis) at the Worship Committee meeting expounded on a vision she had for our parish-wide Jubilate celebration. The vision was for a quilt – a very LARGE quilt – in a pattern called Log Cabin and design style called Barn Raising, which is a pattern that symbolizes the building of community. She was passionate about the quilt being representative of the building of Pax Christi Community. The author of this article remained very silent that first meeting, but by the second meeting I found myself responding to her creativity and passion with an “I am willing to help you with this” statement - from that point on, we sold each other on what a great idea this was, and we were off and running. Our first gathering (much to our relief!) brought forward a group of women who were very interested in what this project might be, and the rest of the story is becoming a part of Pax Christi's history.

Some 40 women, well over 10,000 hours and almost 300 yards of fabric later – we found that we had not only completed a quilt like none of us had ever tackled before – we had become “church,” a faith community with a group of women very closely connected, where new friendships formed and new prayer partners found. We shared laughter, sometimes tears, meals and shopping trips to local quilt shops. We got calls in response to bulletin and pulpit announcements and we began to discover that a need was being filled; that many women had been waiting for “this” since first becoming members of Pax Christi. We extended our “All Are Welcome” philosophy and invited our outside-of-parish friends and family to join us - and we learned that we are a group of many strengths and talents to share with each other.

We have now established ourselves as Pax Christi Quilters, a Pax Christi Community Life ministry. We consistently meet two times every month in the Dietrich Bonhoeffer room - and the sacred thread that ties us to one another has become stronger and more vibrant with each passing month. In preparing this article, I asked for comments; here are a few: “there is more community in this group than anyone could ever expect”... “I was looking for a connection”... “this group is much more than just helping with a quilt project for church”... “it is SO allinclusive”... “I like that we can be of all talents, abilities, and interests, and still be a group”.