

Dear Friends,

In my mind, fall equals back-to-school and all that it entails, new notebooks, pencils with pristine erasers, school shoes, fresh highlighters... and plaid. It feels a bit strange that for the first time in 24 years I am not sending a child back to public school.

About the same time this newsletter goes to print my husband and I will be delivering our youngest to college. We will drive from here to Jacksonville Florida to shlep a few thousand pounds of "absolute necessities" up two flights of stairs to her new dorm room. We will meet her new roommate, make her bed, stock her refrigerator and purchase a University of North Florida sticker for my car window before heading home to a whole new chapter of our life. The "empty nest" years.

I'm going to miss having Lindsay around, but I think I will adjust to our new life quickly. My car will be in the garage whenever I need it. The gas gauge will remain in the full position. I will go to bed when I am tired, instead of waiting up for her return, confident that she is snug in her dorm room, studying (I can dream can't I?).

The fall schedule always launches our new club programs. Blockwatchers will continue with the popular travel format but we are staying domestic, so you won't need a passport.

First Fri/Sat club will be starting a new black and white project featuring simple stars. The blocks are easy enough for even the newest quilter... but there is a twist! More experienced quilters will have the opportunity to feature a miniature 4 inch block in the center of each of the stars. These mini blocks are challenging, but not required. It is a great way to try your hand at small scale piecing. I have been watching this trend toward miniatures with great interest because I think they are fun. Why not give them a try, you might get hooked!

We are offering our Select Six project in two different formats this fall. Long distance customers can log on to the website to sign-up for the project as a block of the month. This mail order program includes fabric and instructions for the quilt featured on the cover of the Select Six book. Local customers can sign-up for our Scrap-alicious Club program on Thursday evenings, where

we will work our way through the Select Six project using the fabrics from your stash. I have always wanted to make that quilt in batiks!

In addition to our club programs, we are offering a great assortment of classes. With my new found sense of freedom, I have been considering taking a class or two in other venues, but I can't seem to justify the class fees. I began wondering if you felt the same way when you read through our class listing. That led us to our new Class Pass. Purchase the Class Pass for just \$60 on or before September 13th and you are welcome to register for as many classes between now and December as you can fit into your schedule. Take two, twelve or twenty two classes at no additional charge! It is the no risk way to enjoy as many classes as possible. Class Passes will only be available to purchase on or before the Teacher's Tea, September 13th.

Fall is also filled with special events, including our annual Holiday Open House and our popular Handmade for the Holiday demo series. If you look carefully you won't have to wait until after Thanksgiving to get started on your holiday projects. Lorrie is offering 3 Friday evening classes that include a pizza dinner and projects that are perfect for gift giving. Sign-up for one or more of Janey's classes to set aside time to make one of our classic patterns, like a 3-6-9 or a reversible table runner. They make a great gift for someone special. We are thrilled to welcome Missy Bauer to our teaching staff. Missy has tons of quilting experience with the added bonus of having worked for a sewing machine dealer. She brings an abundance of technical knowledge to the table that she is more than willing to share.

You are holding 6 pages of opportunity in your hands. Step outside your box, venture to the edge of your comfort zone. Try a little something new - you might like it !!!

Karen

P.S. Look for free downloads of my Stix & Stones design on the www.myquiltvillage.com and other free patterns on the www.ttfabrics.com website. I will be adding links for free downloads to the blog too. Check them out at: www.karensayssew.blogspot.com.