Bennington, Kansas
Issue \#1023
The holidays are upon us with endless to-do lists for shopping, cooking and entertaining. My solution? For serving a crowd, find a couple of recipes you love that are easy to assemble ahead, buy what you can pre-made and ask your guests to bring part of the meal. My kids are pretty proud of their specialty dishes these days. Use what you have for setting the table - even if it doesn't all match - and pull it together with lots of candles and a seasonal table runner made to fit your extra long holiday table. Top place settings with a unique name card holder - like old doorknobs with a paperclip stuck in the base to hold the cards. As for the shopping, forget the mall, stay home and create gifts for the ones you love. Make everyone on your list something they can use everyday - a pillowcase (my grankids ask for flannel ones each year) or one of our Hug-a-Pillow toppers for Christmas with the promise of another one for each season throughout the year - the gift that keeps on giving without having to make it all now. At my house, simple homemade gifts are the most appreciated and remembered.

## Lynne

## What's New with KTQ

It's all about the blog this month. Join us for a blog tour of dozens of designers featured in Quiltmaker's 100 Blocks magazine the week of November 8-12. Magazines will be given away on each blog. We're taking it one step further by having a special giveaway each week in November with some our brand new patterns and fabrics.

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## This month's project

This table topper's warm background is the perfect foil for autumn's jewel tones of gold, pumpkin, red and green. The simple flying geese design won't detract from your special Thanksgiving bouquet. Or, try this simple project in classic Christmas colors for a festive setting for a mini village or feather tree.

## KT Favorites Charm Quilt

 $36^{\prime \prime}$ sQ. Wall QUiltHave you been charmed? Join the fun of creating a small project with each KT fabric line. Start with a charm pack, add a few fabrics for sashing and borders and you have a fun project with an entire collection of coordinating prints. Shown here is the KT Favorites charm quilt with raw edge applique triangles stitched on the corners of the larger bias squares for a cool twist on a traditional block. Ask for Charm Pack patterns at your local quilt shop.

## 250505



## Pumpkin Streusel Cheesecake Bars

## A new take on pumpkin pie for the holidays

## Cookie Base

1 pouch (1lb. 1.5 oz.) Betty Crocker oatmeal cookie mix
$1 / 2$ cup crushed gingersnap cookies
$1 / 2$ cup finely chopped pecans
$1 / 2$ cup cold butter

## Filling

2 packages ( 8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
$1 / 2$ cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons whipping cream
2 eggs

## Topping

$1 / 3$ cup chocolate topping
$1 / 3$ cup caramel topping

Heat oven to $350^{\circ}$.

In large bowl, stir together cookie mix, crushed cookies and pecans. Cut in butter, using pastry blender or fork, until mixture is crumbly. Reserve 1 cup mixture for topping. Press remaining mixture in bottom of ungreased 13x9 inch pan. Bake 10 minutes. Cool 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Add remaining filling ingredients; beat until well blended. Pour over warm cookie base. Sprinkle with reserved topping.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until center is set. Cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate about 2 hours or until chilled.

Before serving, drizzle with chocolate and caramel toppings. For bars, cut into 6 rows of 4 bars each. Store covered in refrigerator.

