

The Prayer Shawl Ministry (Wrap Someone In Love, Hope And Faith)

Some of the following is taken from the web site <http://www.shawlministry.com/>.

"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God.

They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..." Janet Bristow -1998

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program of applied Feminist Spirituality under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS. Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every shawl.



Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls, or Mantles, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!

Shawls can be used for many reasons: undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; for marriage ceremonies; birthing, nursing a baby; bridal shower or wedding gift. The reasons for giving a prayer shawl are endless.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun at St. Andrew's by Tiffany Plomgren and Mavis Benz in 2008. The first group of shawls was ready for delivery by Christmas of that year. Since that time, more than 60 shawls have been given to church members, friends of church members and those in hospice care. If you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl, please contact Deane, Mavis or the Pastoral Care Ministry through Dennis Sipes.

Each shawl is blessed by Father John Rohrs and accompanied by the following prayer:

*May God's grace be upon this shawl.....
warming, comforting,
enfolding, embracing.*

*May this mantle be a safe haven...
A sacred place of security and well-being...
Sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.*

*May the one who receives this shawl
Be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace,
and wrapped in love*

Blessings to you!

Those parishioners active in the ministry are Alice Bangs, Pamela Lassiter, Jackie Scott, Tiffany Plomgren, Mavis Benz, Jean Peterson, Betty Landreth and the Ministry Coordinator, Deane Sobol. If you would like to participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry or are interested in learning how to knit a shawl please contact Deane Sobol or Mavis Benz for the knitting instructions or go online to the St. Andrew's web site. This is a wonderful ministry in which the knitter gets as much out of creating as the recipient gets from receiving.