

Christ Church Ministries: Prayer Shawls

Ten years ago the Prayer Shawl Ministry was established by two seminary students, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo in Hartford Connecticut. This wonderful ministry has spread and reached out across the United States as well as abroad. Prayer shawls, or comfort shawls as some call them are hand knit, crocheted, woven or quilted. From the beginning stitch through its completion, prayers and blessings are offered for the recipient. After completion a small cross charm or other adornment is often added.



At Christ Church, our rector is asked to bless the shawl before given to the recipient. The shawls are designed to offer support, comfort, appreciation, share joy, or celebration for an individual. Men, women, children and even babies can receive a shawl or blanket. Our shawls have been given to parishioners, individuals in the community, family members, as well as individuals we may never meet. To keep the integrity of the prayer shawl ministry intact, our group follows the guidelines outlined by the ministry. These shawls cannot be sold or distributed as a fund raising effort. They are meant to be given away unconditionally.

We do however gratefully appreciate donations that have been given to us. At Christ Church, the prayer shawl ministry was introduced to our congregation approximately three years ago. Since this introduction there have been over sixty-eight shawls and nine baby blankets created and distributed by a dedicated, wonderful group of individuals known as the Prayer Shawl Partners. I am in awe of the hard work and the outpouring of love that is woven into each shawl that is made and shared. The ladies in this group are such a blessing to our church and community.

The Prayer Shawl Partners meet on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 each month in the library of Christ Church. For more information please see Eileen Locke or Betty Dubinsky. The prayer shawl ministry also has a website for those interested. This website includes prayers, inspirational stories and additional patterns to knit or crochet from the beginner to expert. Please check them out at www.shawlministry.com.

—Peace, Eileen Locke

Mainstays of the Prayer Shawl Ministry include Nancy Greskowiak, Ann Keirse, Betty Dubinsky and Eileen Locke

