

DOCUMENTING OUR MINISTRIES

MINISTRY: PRAYER SHAWLS

DATE OF THIS DOCUMENTATION UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2009

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION:

Members of this ministry use their gifts of creativity and prayer to knit or crochet shawls, blankets or baby blankets that carry the loving prayers and blessing of the entire worshipping community to those (both men and women) who are ill, facing surgery, in crisis or transition, or celebrating a new baby.

WAYS TO BE INVOLVED:

- Knit or crochet shawls and blankets
- Pray for recipient while creating the shawl
- Prepare the basket with completed items the Saturday before the blessing
- Present the basket at the altar for the monthly blessing

At the present the Deacon and other clergy identify recipients and present the blessed items. In the future, members of the ministry may take a larger role in this piece.

MEETINGS:

Regular gatherings of the group are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at St. Michael's House. Minimal business is conducted. This is a time for fellowship, to work on current projects, or share ideas and tips. Attendance is not required. Reminders, notices and news are communicated by e-mail. If someone does not have e-mail, I am happy to communicate with them on the phone.

GIFTS, EXPERIENCE OR EXPERTISE:

The ability to knit or crochet at any level is helpful. However we do have experienced knitters and crocheters who are willing to teach beginners and assist with problems and questions.

TIME INVOLVED:

Whatever amount of time the participant has to offer. The knitting or crocheting can be done at any time or place which fits a person's life style. Participants can move in and out of the ministry as they desire.

WHAT ELSE WOULD A PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEER NEED TO KNOW:

Our shawl ministry is part of an ecumenical, international on-line community of congregations participating in this ministry. Each congregation conducts the ministry as it fits for their parish.

There are suggested patterns for knitting and crocheting shawls, however we encourage creativity in both the pattern and selection of yarn.

This is a very simple ministry in that one member of the parish uses a skill they love to create a tangible blessing for another.