

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A Quiet Witness

**ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Ministry of Care
The Ministry of Presence

Some history...

This ministry's message of caring is simple and enduring, and like all acts of generosity enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

Shawls have been made for centuries. In 1998 two women, Janet Bristow and Victoria Gallo, started the "Shawl Ministry" – a program which has spread around the world. Known as Prayer Shawls, they are symbolic of an inclusive and unconditionally loving God.

The use of Prayer Shawls as ministry at St. Andrew's began in 2008 and continues to be a blessing. Prayer shawls were first knitted by our WMS members and continue to be created by women attached to this congregation. We also offer lap rugs for men.

Some uses...

Shawls can be shared with people who are dealing with illness or surgery, loss or bereavement, personal upheaval or other times of great stress. They can also bless happy times like graduations, weddings, new babies.

Everyone is a beloved child of God

If you identify a need for a prayer shawl, please contact the church office or the Pastoral Care coordinator.

These shawls are not exclusively for members of our congregation.

Blessings & Prayers

As the shawls are knit or crocheted, the women pray for the person who will receive the shawl and for all who have received shawls. The shawls are kept in the office and given out to those who are experiencing difficult times; who are experiencing major changes; who are facing struggles in life. When the shawls are given, they are accompanied by a card that includes a verse from Psalm 139 and the following message:

This shawl was made just for you

To bring comfort

To know you are loved

To share in your joy.

This shawl is to wrap you up

When you're cold

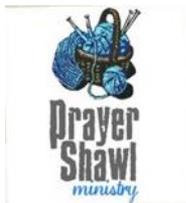
When you're hurting

When you need to snuggle.

As you wear this shawl, may you feel the warm embrace of our Triune God.

Knitted or crocheted with blessings, love and prayers by women of St. Andrew's.

Many thanks to the women who have contributed to this ministry.



A Shawl Maker's Prayer

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Dear Lord; Bless my hands as I knit today.
May each twist of the yarn guide me
to create a pattern
of love and comfort in my work and remind me
of Your ultimate protection.
Wrap me in Your spirit so that I will be
more caring towards those in need.

Grant me patience as I create this shawl.
And bless my handiwork as it travels to bring
comfort and peace to someone in need of
Your warming embrace.
Amen.

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If you are interested in learning more...

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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