

The Prayer Shawl Group at First Lutheran Church by Karen DeWitt

Background

“In 1998, Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary¹ in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry that combined compassion and a love of knitting/crocheting.”²

Seven years later in 2005, Ginny Fan, a member of FLC, was knitting while waiting for her car at her local dealership. A fellow customer asked if she knew about the group who provided hand knitted or crocheted shawls to people in need of comfort and solace. Though she had not, she thought it sounded intriguing. She met with Pastor Gigie Grant, who encouraged Ginny to begin this new ministry at FLC. In February 2006, Ginny and her friend, Judy Moulton, led the first prayer shawl ministry meeting.

Mission Statement

Group members have embraced the following Mission statement:

To offer our God-given talents and gifts as Prayer Shawls are prayerfully and lovingly crafted prayer shawls serve as a tangible reminder of the warm and loving presence of God and the prayers of his people.

Years: 2006-Present

During the past sixteen years, members have made and distributed hundreds of knitted/crocheted shawls and lap robes. They have gone to people who have lost a loved one, undergone medical procedures, learned of a cancer diagnosis, lost a house due to a fire, an illness, flooded home, etc.

In 2016, the group learned about pocket prayer shawls. These shawls are approximately 3” x 5”, small enough to be carried in a pocket, placed on a sick person, or held while in prayer.

The prayer shawl group has branched out to knitting/crocheting scarves for Meals on Wheels clients to help them stay warm during the cold weather. Additionally, group members make baby blankets for the Linus project.

Obtaining A Prayer Shawl or Lap Robe

If you know of anyone who would could use a shawl, lap robe, and/or a pocket prayer shawl, please inform Pastor Mike and Pastor Tamika. They can help you pick out an appropriate shawl.

Miscellaneous

In 2020, we sadly said good-bye to our faithful, hardworking leader, who moved to Florida with her husband John. Before leaving, Ginny persuaded Karen DeWitt to be her replacement.

Contact Information

The prayer shawl group meets on the first Monday of the month at 10:00 in the Parlor.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen DeWitt at (410) 750-9744 or kydshop1@verizon.net.

¹ Now known as the Harford International University for Religion and Peace, Hartford, Connecticut

² <https://www.shawlministry.com/>