

# *Messiah Shawl Ministry*



The Messiah PSM is intended to involve our entire community in sharing God's love, strength, warmth and compassion to anyone undergoing a life challenge or transition. Shawls are knitted, crocheted or woven by ministry members. Shawl making begins with prayers and blessings for the intended recipient and prayer continues throughout the creation of the shawl. A final blessing is offered by the community before the shawl is presented. Recipients can be anyone who, for whatever reason, is going through a life passage or challenge, for example bereavement, illness or arrival of a new baby.

## **Membership**

The Messiah PSM is open to all members of the parish as well as others who wish to participate. Members can participate in making shawls or they may support the ministry in other ways, e.g. donating yarn, providing other skills and resources that will further the ministry. Knitting/crocheting lessons can be provided for those wishing to learn.

## **Meetings**

The Messiah PSM meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00–7:30pm in the Guild room at the church. Members are encouraged to attend all or part of the meeting but attendance is not necessary to participate in the ministry. Minutes of the meeting as well as updates/news are regularly communicated by email.

## **Making the Shawls**

The basic patterns for knitting/crocheting a shawl can be found on the shawl ministry website or in one of the many books on this subject (see resources). Prayers are offered in the process of making the shawl and

these resources include many suggestions. Shawl making should be a prayerful and mindful process. Members are asked to provide their own yarn, however if a need exists, yarn can be provided by the ministry.

### **Shawl Recipients**

Shawls recipients may be parishioners or those associated with the parish in any way. Members may make shawls with someone specific in mind, or alternatively the recipient may be unknown at the time of making. Suggestions for recipients and requests for shawls may come from parishioners, the rector, parish office, prayer chain, etc. Members also make shawls for specific occasions such as baptisms, confirmations, and high school graduations.

### **Blessing the Shawls**

Members contact Jane Harrelson and/or Nancy Sisson when shawls are completed. A label with the church's name and an angel charm are attached to the shawl, which is then packaged prior to blessing. A prayer card is included with each shawl. Keith will bless shawls on an ongoing basis as part of the regular Sunday service.

### **Presentation of Shawls**

After the blessing, the shawls will be presented to the recipients. Responsibility for presentation will depend on the circumstances, e.g. presentation may be made by the shawl maker, pastoral care member, or rector. Presentation of the shawls should also be a prayerful and mindful process, and the various resources offer guidance on this.

### **Resources**

Prayer shawl website [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)

The Prayer Shawl Companion by Janet Bristow and Victoria Cole-Gallo

Knitting into the Mystery by Susan S. Jorgensen and Susan S. Izard

**Please contact the church office with any questions.**

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