

MISSION MOMENT

Prayer Shawl Ministry

WHLC Prayer Shawl Ministry reaches out to those in need with a shawl made to comfort, console, and strengthen our family of faith. A shawl is a tangible reminder of God's promise to always be with us. Called prayer shawls, the making of a shawl is a spiritual practice for the crafter. A prayer is said as the shawl is begun and then many prayers are added with the stitches. Each shawl is a blend of prayers, talents, gifts, and grace. They are freely given with no strings attached. They are gifts of love. Countless shawls have been created and distributed. Recipients are members of WHLC and non-members alike who are ill, recovering from a personal event, in need of consolation with the loss of a loved one, or those in celebration of a birth/baptism.

WHLC Prayer Shawl Ministry was started by former member, Caryl Garrison, who had a desire to bring comfort to others. Sadly, Caryl died in a car accident in 2007, but her memory lives on as the WHLC Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to make shawls and squares.

About two years ago, the WHLC Prayer Shawl Ministry began making prayer squares. The squares are much smaller than the shawls, but serve the same purpose. They can be tucked into pockets, purses, and even inside helmets. They can also be carried into surgery, and easily fit into suitcases.

Current members include Sharman Blake, Sue Crum, Carol Huisman, Bonnie Hyda, Jill Hyda, Amy Morris, Sue Opsal, Linda Rye, Kathy Safris, Cynthia Scott and Mary Wilke-Adair.

Fun Facts:

~The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been in operation at WHLC for almost 15 years!

~WHLC Prayer Shawl Ministry typically makes 50 prayer shawls and 15 prayer squares each year.

~It takes 2-5 skeins of yarn to complete a prayer shawl.

~All kinds of yarn are used including animal, plant and synthetic fibers.

~Stitches are cast on in multiples of 3; 54, 57, 60 to represent the triune God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every shawl. The shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are combined throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way."

www.shawlministry.com

Sharman Blake and Bonnie Hyda are the WHLC Prayer Shawl Ministry Co-Chairs. Please contact them if you are interested in being a part of this ministry. They are thinking a Zoom meeting is in their future due to the coronavirus! All skill levels are welcome! Sharman Blake 664-0681, Bonnie Hyda 987-4639



Prayer Shawls

Completed prayer shawls on display in the Koinonia Room.



Prayer Squares

"You may carry this prayer square made for you, as a reminder that God is right next to you."



Yarn

Beautiful colors and textures of yarn are used to make the shawls and squares.