

## History of the Ministry

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT. gave birth to the ministry. Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into prayerful ministry and spiritual practice.

Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls or Manties, etc., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and the receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God!

For centuries, shawls have been symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles.

Shawls can be used for: undergoing medical procedures, as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress, prayers or meditation, marriage ceremonies, birthing, nursing, bridal shower, or wedding gift, during an illness and recovery, ministering to others, graduation, birthday, anniversary, ordination, holiday gifts or just socializing.... There are endless possibilities.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets  
every Monday evening at 7 PM  
and every Thursday morning at  
10:00 AM in Leighton Hall of the  
Church of the Resurrection  
Bridge and Anchor Drives

Joppa, Maryland

For more information call

**Karen Webb**

**434-227-7421**

or **Judy Kawaja**

**410-679-4840**

# The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Copley Parish—Gunpowder Hundred  
The Church of the Resurrection

P. O. Box 222  
700 Anchor Drives  
Joppa, Maryland 21085

410-679-8700

[www.copleyparish.org](http://www.copleyparish.org)



## Cannot knit or crochet?

You can still be a part of the ministry by:

Praying for the ministry—the makers and recipients of the shawls

Gifting new yarn to make the shawl

Donating yarn left over from an old project

Bringing discount coupons for buying yarn

Saving pennies and giving it to the Ministry to buy supplies

Making cards to go with the finished shawls

Getting pattern-books for knitting/crocheting shawls

Helping to organize the Ministry

Delivering Prayer Shawls to recipients



The Knitting and Crocheting Group first picked up needles and hooks in January of 2012, and other than a snow day here and there, has been meeting on Monday evenings and “Wednesday mornings ever since.

We started off with poor Kathy Grumbach sewing together a several garbage bags full of Granny Squares, donated by someone in Joppatowne, who had made the squares to “work off steam” while her husband was very ill. Kathy has a good eye for color and was able to put together some lovely shawls from those 4 bags of squares—although she admits she doesn’t want to see another square in a looong time!

The first group of Prayers Shawls was blessed by Dr. Janice Gordon-Barnes on February 5 of that year. The current Priest blesses the completed shawls on second Sunday of each month.

So far, we have given away almost 200 shawls, over 40 this year alone.

Pictured above, going up the left side and coming down the right are Harriet, Karen, Merrie, Carole, Diane, Kathy, Pam, Olga, Dani, and Hannah. Kathleen Snyder is also a member but not in the picture. ( Judy is taking the picture with her cell phone.)



Please join us if you knit or crochet or would like to learn . All are welcome to come and share the comradeship and joy of our group.

We meet on Mondays at

7 PM and also on

Wednesdays at 10 AM.

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