

## About the Shawls . . .

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut, gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program of applied Feminist Spirituality under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS. Care and the love



of knitting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. (The shawls can also be crocheted, quilted, woven or machine knitted as well.)

Whether they are called "Prayer Shawls," "Comfort Shawls," "Peace Shawls" or "Mantles," the knitter begins each shawl with prayers and blessings for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed it is offered a final blessing before being sent along its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need or by passing on the shawl with which they have been gifted. Thus, the blessing is rippled from person to person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering God.

(From [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com))

## And the people all said . . .

*...I just want to thank you again for the blanket my grandson received at his birth, it is his favorite, i.e., it must be either in his bed or visible. What a wonderful gift.*

– Janet A.

*...You can't imagine what it meant to me to have you give me one of our shawls. It reinforced my feeling that I had made the right decision when I joined MPC and the Prayer Shawl knitting group. I've always had the confidence that if I ever needed anything, I could call any one of you. You're a special group of ladies and I'm so happy to call you my understanding friends.* – Mary A.

*...I don't really know how to relate to you the feelings I experienced when I received the prayer shawl. In 80 years I have never had anything like this happen to me. The love, time and prayers that go into an undertaking such as this is beyond my ability to properly say thanks, so I can only say thank you from the bottom of my heart.* –Robert F.

*...I can't tell you how pleased I was to receive the prayer shawl. Just reading the booklet gave me comfort. I plan to take the squares with me to the hospital. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and please keep the prayers coming.* – Mary Ann



Meets every Thursday  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Room 40

Bring your lunch  
Share dessert provided by members  
Free knitting and crocheting lessons  
Yarn provided

For more information, contact:

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*And on the first day . . .*

The Loving Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry at Manassas Presbyterian Church was begun in late 2005 in response to an MPC staff member's battle with cancer. Sadly, Leslie lost her battle before the shawl was completed. The shawl, created by more than 40 pairs of loving hands, was presented to Leslie's husband, Mike. Since the gifting of that first shawl, our Ministry has created and gifted more than 1300 shawls.



A small group of dedicated women gather weekly in Christian fellowship and friendship to do this "work" that God has called them to do. They laugh together, cry together, prayer together, break bread together, and share their joys, sorrows, and concerns. Because of the commitment of these ladies to the task that God has set before them, many members of this congregation, their extended families, their friends, work colleagues and neighbors are cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. The shawls have comforted God's children from Alaska to Florida, found their way to Africa, the Middle East, Japan, and the Pacific Islands, gone to college with high school graduates, kept new-born babies warm and celebrated marriages.



The ladies in the picture above are modeling some of the many hats and scarves they create during the summer months for donation to a local homeless shelter, a soup kitchen, underprivileged school children, and others in need of warmth during the cold winter months.

Each of the prayer shawls is accompanied by one or two small (2"x2") knitted prayer squares. These prayer squares can be carried in pocket or purse or even clutched in your hand. One is included in each college care package and a well-stocked basket is in the narthex. Special seasonally colored ones magically appear for Christmas, Easter, and Fourth of July.



If you know of someone who would benefit from the warmth and comfort of a prayer shawl, you are encouraged to call any of the three people mentioned on the front of this brochure. You may also call the church office, speak to Pastor Skip, or contact your deacon if you are a member here.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a part of this church's Mission Ministry and receives some funding through their budget. However, our shawl ministry is primarily dependent upon the generosity of individuals. If you would like to be a part of the shawl ministry by helping us to buy yarn and other supplies, you can do that by making a check out to Manassas Presbyterian Church and designating "Prayer Shawl Ministry" on the memo line.



The Loving Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry is an outreach mission of  
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