

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Shawls ... made for centuries – universal and embracing, 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..." \*



Some of us have had the privilege of being “uplifted and affirmed” by the gift of a prayer shawl when facing an illness or family death, and we want to provide this same comfort to others in our church and community. So, Christ Episcopal Church is starting a prayer shawl ministry. We want this to be an intergenerational and interdenominational endeavor....and men, women, and teens are welcome!

There will be an organizational meeting on **Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Tilford Room. At that time we will decide on a regular meeting time, suggest a name for the group, and pray for guidance as we begin this mission.

Prayer shawls come in all sizes and colors. It is recommended that you buy bulky yarn and that it be washable. You will need Size 11 or Size 13 needles and 3 skeins of yarn (or about 555 yards). Bring your needles and yarn to the meeting.

Many blessings are knitted into every shawl. The knitter begins each shawl with prayers, and 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.

Not a knitter, but would love to try it? Pam Waymouth, owner of Never Enough Yarn, will be at the meeting to teach you. She will bring yarn and needles for sale at 10% off. Or you can bring your own Size 8 needles plus 1 skein of yarn for the lessons.

You can talk to Sara Bicking, Nancy Brown, or Kay Keely if you have questions before the meeting. Hope to see you there.

\* These words were written in 1998© by Janet Bristow, one of the founders of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She and Victoria Galo took their love of knitting (and crochet) and began a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace.