

In the late 1990's many churches , of all faiths, began to organize Prayer Shawl Ministries. Charlotte Sheehan and Barbara Connell established that ministry here at St. Barnabas. The first meeting of knitters and crocheters was in September, 2005.

The mission of this new ministry was to create shawls and blankets which would be given as an expression of love and comfort to shut-ins, the seriously ill, those who were grieving, and to new mothers and babies in celebration of new life.

In an effort to reflect that members of this group, in addition to shawls and blankets, had started making hats and scarfs, the name of the group was changed to "Stitched with Love". These hats and scarfs were donated to the Seamen's Center, the St. Barnabas Bazaar Craft table, orphanages, schools and the homeless. Thank you, Sister Cassandra, for helping to distribute many of the hats and scarfs.

Since its inception, this ministry has welcomed approximately 45 members who have prayerfully and lovingly created soft, warm shawls, blankets, hats and scarfs for distribution to share God's love. Members knit or crochet at home and at monthly meetings where finished items are turned in. As needed, the shawls and blankets were placed on the altar where they were blessed. After being blessed, they were packaged and placed in the "Prayer Shawl Closet "ready for distribution.

Shawls from St. Barnabas have made their way across the United States....from Maine to California and Washington State and from Minnesota to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. It is not unusual for Prayer shawls to be passed from one owner to another

After 17 years, 300 shawls and blankets, 282 hats and 75 scarfs, the current active membership of 5 (after prayerful consideration) have decided that this ministry has run its course. However, it will not end suddenly. There are still about 30 shawls and blankets in the closet ready for delivery.

A warm "Thank you " to everyone who has supported this ministry...by knitting and crocheting, donating yarn or making cash offerings for the purchase of yarn, delivering shawls, and keeping us in your prayers as we attempted to share God's love.

Submitted by the current active members: Charlotte Sheehan, Edie Grunfeld, Sue Martin, Ceil Jones and Laura Gracie

