## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry is an outreach ministry of Senior Ministry at St. John. Approximately 235 shawls have been made for the prayer shawl ministry by about 20 members and a couple of non-members. The church has paid for the yarn for about 10 shawls and not for many years. Some were eager to knit and did not have the extra resources to purchase the yarn. Some of the yarn was provided in the Senior Ministry budget early on and is now provided by other knitters. The rest of the yarn was purchased by the knitters/crocheters, amounting to more than $4000. It is estimated that at least 6,600 hours have been spent making prayer shawls. We have also made and given out 75 baptismal shawls. The baptismal shawls take much less yarn and much less time to make. About 35% of the shawls are given to non-St St John members who are friends or relatives of St. John members and have included Muslims, Jews, Catholics, other Christian denominations, and the unchurched. Please note that there is no charge to the recipient. Most recipients have let us know of their gratitude for the shawl and expressed that it provided comfort and peace. The shawl is given with a card that states it was donated and given by the St John prayer shawl ministry and includes a prayer:

May this shawl be a sign of God's presence.

May it warm you when you are weary;

May it encourage you when you are discouraged

May it assure you of God's care and comfort.

May it remind you that you are surrounded by the prayers of others.

