

Christ Community Church Caring Critters Ministry

What is it?

Caring Critters is a ministry that provides a tangible hug for the recipient. The stuffed animal provides a greeting from the church family and something to leave behind after your caring visit. Caring Critters can also show the love of a congregation for those they have never met. Last Christmas 60 bears were sewn and given to homeless children as a gift from our church family. Pastors bring a critter when visiting the ill and shut-ins. Adults and children alike love a critter! Church members often bring a critter to someone in need. Critters can sit in the pews or be put in a basket or on a "critter pole" in the lobby - they need to be available to parishioners.

How do you begin?

Critters can be purchased or sewn. Any soft plush animal will work. Some choose to utilize "gently used" critter donations. As long as they can be sanitized it could work. We choose the former due to infection control concerns.

Step By Step...

Pray about it!

Gather a group who is willing to provide this ministry.

Meet and decide how you will proceed... Sew? Purchase Gently Used?

Create a Critter Tag Greeting - from your church to the recipient

Sewing Critters...

- Find a sewing leader - we call our leader 'The Master Tailor!'
- Find those who are willing to cut fabric, sew and stuff the critters
- Find a pattern. We use Simplicity 9524.
- Ask for donations of time, fabric, polyester fiberfill, and \$\$ for extras like childproof eyes, ribbon, paper for tags...
- Cut fabric, apply eyes and create packets with instructions for the sewers. Pass them out with a date for returning the critters to church.
- Have a "stuffing party". Ages from Jr High to senior groups can adopt this project so it is truly from your church!
- Sewers should come to the stuffing party to hand stitch the area the stuffing is put into the critter.
- Place tag on ribbon around the critter's neck.

Blessing...

Bless those critters! Create a liturgy or just say a simple prayer.

Tag Example:

This critter has been among the people of our church. It has heard the scriptures read, praises sung, the Word preached and the prayers prayed. It comes to you with love and blessings from our church family!"

(Your Church Name)

Questions?

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