

## TRINITY'S KNITTING PEARLS GO GREEN

Started by curate Judith Alexis in 2006, the Knitting Pearls meet on Monday evenings and Friday mornings to knit, talk and pray together. They produce baby blankets and prayer shawls for the congregation and their friends, and have knit and crocheted scores of scarves and hats for local schoolchildren at Marion Sterling school and at Citizens' Academy.

Now, the Knitting Pearls are going green by reusing plastic grocery bags to knit durable, recycled and recyclable shopping bags. Each time a batch is ready, the knitted bags will be offered—for free—to any interested members of the gathered community. The group is also accepting donations of plastic bags to be used for knitting material. To contribute, please cut bags into strips of 1/2" to 1" and drop them at the Trinity reception desk.

Would you like to knit your own recycled plastic bags? Here is the pattern:

### \* RECYCLED RETAIL RECEPTACLE RECIPE

Ingredients: approx. 24-36 grocery bags, cut into 0.5-1" strips, tied together, wound into two balls

1 or 2 whole bags

2 strips of fabric approx. 1" wide by 30" long (salvaged from torn clothing, drapery, etc.)

round needles, size 11 or similar

Method: Throughout, use two strands of "yarn" held together

Cast on 38 stitches

Knit back and forth for 16 rows

Knit across, then pick up stitches all the way around the base: 8 down each side, 38 across back, total 92 stitches round

Join to knit in the round. Knit until bag measures approx. 12" from base to top edge

Cast off

Make-up: Turn bag inside out and iron flat pieces of whole bags to the inside, to line. Use parchment paper to protect your iron and board. Experiment with the temperature until you can seal the lining to the bag without melting through. Patch melted holes with squares of plastic bag.

Attach handles by tying strips of fabric through the holes in the knitting, one each side, centred with ends approx. 9" apart"



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