

## JIM HUTCHINSON: A CRAFTSMAN'S LEGACY

Submitted by Denise Webber



**J**im Hutchinson made a substantial contribution to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for years.

The idea for a prayer shawl fastener came from Jim, when he saw one in a wood turning magazine in 2014. He came to me asking about the dimensions of our shawls, which come in all sizes, with most being generously wrapped around an individual. He suggested the fasteners as a way of anchoring the shawl around someone. He brought me a box of prototypes to think about. The circles and pins he had

made were without paint or stain or other adornment and they were beautiful. He offered to make the fasteners for the shawls that were given away by the ministry, and I accepted his offer. **When we asked Jim how he became interested in wood work, he wrote:**

*"My artistic wife, Mickey, was at one time an active wood carver.*

*One of the men in that group also was also a woodturner, and took me to a demonstration offered by the woodturning club. That stimulated my interest more than wood carving, resulting in my purchasing a machine, called a lathe, and also becoming a very active member of that club. Mostly I had turned wooden bowls, but happened to read an article in a woodturning magazine about someone who turned prayer shawl fasteners, so I gave it a try. Mickey liked it, so I asked Denise Webber, who chairs our SPC shawl ministry, if she thought it might be something they could give to recipients of the*

*shawls? She said yes, and it grew from there."*

It did not take long for both shawl recipients and crafters to graciously admire and accept Jim's beautiful work. In time, Jim began to experiment with different decorative wood, paint and gems as enhancements to his fasteners. I was able to coordinate the different colored shawls with a contrasting fastener. Jim would give me a small group of fasteners at a time and would resupply my stash when I ran out. His fasteners made our shawls look good.

Jim faithfully kept the ministry supplied with fasteners until now. I never kept track of how many he made but I have received all he has made and will use them until the supply is exhausted. His work has been consistently beautiful, colorful and creative, and provided the function of a closure for the shawls. **Jim's passion turned into a hobby, one that benefitted Shallowford and beyond:**

*"The fasteners offer an element of nature to the lovely shawls our super knitters create. To me, it is gratifying to know that I have a small part in an SPC ministry that brings comfort to many at a very challenging time in their lives. This ministry allows our church to have a visible and tangible item to bring Christ, Christianity, and Shallowford to people far and near."*

This year Jim decided to put this wood turning skill aside, something that only he would know. **The Prayer Shawl Ministry will always be grateful to Jim for his time and talent which he so freely gave to this ministry and to this church.** It has been a joy and a blessing to work alongside Jim in this ministry.

