

### **Stephen Ministry**

Our Vision is to provide a Christ-centered, lay driven, one on one caring ministry. We fulfill our mission by creating and maintaining a ministry where hurting people can receive compassion, care and Christ's healing love.

We value and employ a grace-based approach and use both a servant leadership and team approach to care. We seek guidance for our ministry through God's word and prayer. We listen, and yet do not judge. We also maintain a strict code of confidentiality. Our Goal is to bring others to a fuller life in Christ.

**What is A Stephen Minister?** He or she is someone you can count on in a time of need. Someone who is able to listen, care, is dependable and trustworthy. They focus on the process of caring with God's love and acceptance, without trying to "fix things." A Stephen Minister is there as long as care is needed and is available weekly.

### **Becoming a Stephen Minister**

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister contact Gail Ford at 744-6286. Stephen Ministers commit to 4 months of classes, and after commissioning, 2 years of service.

1. Fill out an application
2. Have an interview before the scheduled class. If you are accepted, you are committed to four or more months of training.
3. After you are commissioned you will receive a care receiver who you will be seeing once a week for about a hour.
4. There is also on going education that meets twice a month. The first part of the meeting is on going education, and the second part is to check in to see if things are going smoothly and if new ideas would be helpful for your care receiver.
5. Class time is counted in the two year commitment.

With all the things going on in the world, it can be easy to say "I can't make a difference." But, if you befriend, support, and give care to just one person who is in need of a friend, you have made a difference-- a big difference!

**Stephen Ministry gives you the opportunity to be trained on how to do this putting your faith in God into practice.**