

STEPHEN *ministry*

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" 1 John 4:11-12

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them.

Is life more than you can handle alone right now? Is your health, your attitude, or your relationships suffering? Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one or a recent move? Would you like someone in your life that really cares?

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

WHAT IS A STEPHEN MINISTER?

A Stephen Minister is a child of God who walks beside a hurting person, a caring Christian friend who really listens, and a lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.

A Stephen Minister is NOT a counselor, therapist, problem-solver, or casual visitor.

Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are hospitalized, terminally ill, bereaved, in a job crisis, new members of the church, disabled, homebound, lonely, in a spiritual crisis or looking for a Christian friend.

STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CALLED TO BE CAREGIVERS

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2

GOD IS THE "CURE" GIVER

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28

HOW DOES THE REFERRALS PROCESS WORK?

A person - you, a relative, or a friend - is hurting and in need of Christian care.

The Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator learns about this need for care - from the Pastor, the person, or a friend, always with the person's permission. The Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry. With the person's permission, the Referrals Coordinator assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.

The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for the person in strict confidentiality.

For more information about becoming a Stephen Minister or if you are looking for a caregiver through Stephen Ministry, please contact our Associate Pastor, Dan Jones, at dan@mtvpc.org