

Stephen Ministry Multiplies Ministry

Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.

Stephen Ministry provides a biblical solution—equipping God's people for ministry. Gifted lay people are trained to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministers reach out with God's love to people who are hurting—both congregation members and nonmembers alike.

If you are a good listener and a compassionate person, prayerfully **consider becoming a Stephen Minister.**

Contact any of the leaders of Stephen Ministry:

Rev. Joanne Blair, Margaret Breeden, Steven Coddington, Gil Gugni, and Donna Zabowski.

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry." Ephesians 4:12a



Stephen Ministry in our congregation

- Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister?
- Do you know someone – perhaps a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative– who could benefit from Stephen Ministry? (Feel free to pass along this brochure)
- Are you interested in becoming a Stephen Minister?

Talk to anyone wearing a blue badge,
or send an email to:
stephenminstry@fpcbirmingham.org



Stephen Ministry

Everybody's  **Church**
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

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248.644.2040
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The Vision of First Presbyterian Church
As Everybody's Church, we commit
ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating
mission, inclusion, and community.

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Started in 1975, the organization has grown to include 13,000 congregations in over 190 Christian denominations across North America and in 30 other countries.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

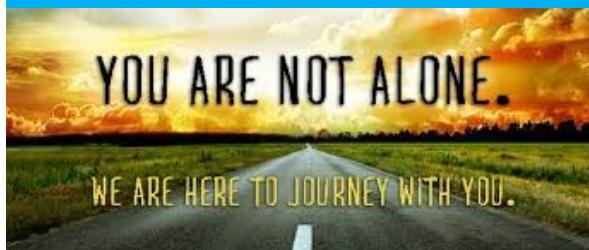
A Stephen Minister Is...

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting.
- A member of the community with gifts for caregiving who was carefully selected to serve in this role.
- A lay person who has received extensive training in providing emotional and spiritual care.
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there is a need.

Stephen Ministers Care for People Facing Tough Times

We all experience challenges in life—times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as:

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Divorce or separation
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- A terminal illness
- Incarceration
- Aging
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- A chronic illness
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- And many more



"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Stephen Ministry Is YOUR Ministry

You play an important role in Stephen Ministry. Here's what you can do:

- **Pray** for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.
- **Accept care** from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- **Tell** a friend, neighbor, coworker or relative who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry.



Stephen Ministry Is a Confidential Ministry

The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain totally private.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2

"Love one another— as I have loved you."
John 13:34