



STEPHEN MINISTRY – Is it for You?

We will be holding a new Stephen Ministry class beginning in September. I am sure many of you have thought about Stephen Ministry from time to time. You may know someone who has had a Stephen Minister, or you might have read our brochure or perhaps even talked to Pastor Fred or one of the Stephen Leaders about it. Perhaps you are curious about what it takes to become a Stephen Minister – wondering if it is right for you, wondering if YOU could do it. Below, you will find some guidelines that might help you in your decision-making.

Stephen Ministers are people with:

- **Gifts** of mercy, compassion, encouragement and caring for others. Many Stephen Ministers have repeatedly said that they receive more from the caring relationship with their care receiver than they give.
- **Commitment** to the ministry by devoting time, energy and resources. In return, a Stephen Minister has the chance to participate in a meaningful ministry, make a major difference in another person's life, and grow as a joyous child of God.
- **Training.** Each Stephen Minister completes 50 hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver. They learn the listening, assertiveness, and confidentiality skills needed to be an effective caregiver.
- **Dedicated Service.** Our Stephen Ministers serve wholeheartedly. This is not a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study and commitment.
- **Accountability** to God, the congregation, the Stephen Leaders, and other Stephen Ministers, and the care receiver. In return, they receive support, encouragement, and guidance in Small Group Peer Supervision.
- **Continuous Learning.** A Stephen Minister is open to adjusting and adapting his or her care giving to fit the needs of the care receiver. He or she learns more about care giving at each meeting with the care receiver, at the confidential supervision sessions, and in continuing education classes.

The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, meaning, training service and care of being a Stephen Minister. Pray for God's guidance as you consider this opportunity. For more information, contact Barbara Sheridan at 655-8948 or Annette Friday at 478-5824.

Annette Friday, Stephen Leader