



STEPHEN MINISTRY

On April 13, 2008 we celebrated Stephen Ministry Sunday during both services. It is important for the congregation to reflect on our timeline for this ministry, which was probably one of the first Breakthrough Leadership experiences for our congregation.

- **2001:** Our Stephen Ministry program started when Roberta Dukes heard about this lay ministry program and was inspired by God to bring it to St. Mark's. We enrolled as a Stephen Ministry Congregation in June 2001 and our first three Stephen Leaders were trained at a weeklong workshop in August of that same year. Roberta Dukes, Cliff Smith and Pastor Fred Melton were commissioned as Stephen Leaders in September 2001.
- **2002:** First class of 12 lay people begins in January 2002. The first class completed instruction and commissioned in May
- **2003:** May 2003 the Congregational Council approved money to send 2 additional leaders for training in August of 2003. Annette Friday and Barbara Sheridan received training in Pittsburgh and were commissioned as Leaders that September.
- **2004-2007:** Additional Stephen Ministry classes were held in 2004 and 2007 with the Stephen Leaders teaching the 50 hours of required training of skills necessary to become Stephen Ministers.

While some of the 30 people who have been trained as Stephen Ministers seek sabbatical leaves for a time, we are blessed to have 20 who are active in this ministry today: Russ Apple, Trudy Apple, Charles Bartlett, Roberta Dukes, Larry Friday, Annette Friday, Barbara Gilbert, Pastor Fred Melton, Terry Olsen, Francine Passerini, Faith Patterson, Sandy Pierson, John Rendle, Richard Rizzo, Don Roberts, Barbara Sheridan, Cliff Smith, Selma Tepper, Barbara Weeks, and Lori Weniger.

We thank the Lord for this ministry and pray that we may continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we minister to those in need of Christian support and care.

Annette Friday, Stephen Leader