



STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are pleased to announce that St. Mark's has begun our 4th Stephen Ministry class. The people in the class are excited and filled with God's love. He has led these people to learn to provide confidential, Christ-centered care to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. You will remember that a Stephen Minister is:

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting
- A congregation member with gifts for caregiving, who was carefully selected to serve in this role
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of 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 with him or her for as long as there is a need.

Please pray for this new class of Stephen Ministers that they will continue their enthusiasm as they learn this new role, trust in God to allow them to use the gifts He has given them, and to know that He will equip them for the work of this ministry.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Annette Friday
Stephen Leader