



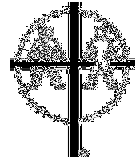
*Stephen
Ministers
of the*

*First Presbyterian Church
of
Zephyrhills*

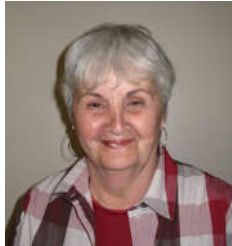
*5510 19th St.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
813 782 7412*

Stephen Ministry is God's Love In Action

Christ Caring For People Through People....



That's the Motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Ministers' role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. Stephen Ministers listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. If you or someone you know is facing a crisis — large or small — and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, consider one of the gifted, trained Ministers shown on these pages. Each one has prayed and prepared to serve God by helping others find joy and peace.



I became a Stephen Minister to be a part of a community of caring servants of Christ, who reach out to those in need of someone to walk with them in a difficult time. In my training to become a Stephen Minister, I have found ways to better prepare myself for my journey to care for those in need, remembering that I am the caregiver and God is the curegiver.”

Maggie Andersen

Margaret (Maggie) Andersen

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are members of First Presbyterian Church who have gone through 50 plus hours of training provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. Your Stephen Minister will meet with you once a week for around an hour as long as your need persists. Contact a Stephen Minister or a Stephen Leader to learn more.



“My belief is that God will use me as a Stephen Minister to provide Christian care on a one-to-one basis for members of our congregation and community in their time of need. Through our studies, I have learned that I can only be the caregiver while God is the curegiver.”

Lynda Caster

Lynda Caster

Love One Another As I Have Loved You...

In John 15:12, Jesus says, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job — it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.



“James 2:18 explains faith is always active, not just words of the mouth. Real faith is seen in our deeds of service to God and our neighbors. For me Stephen Ministries has provided an opening in which to fulfill these deeds. Going through the training process has been both a pleasure and a privilege.”

Joanne Combs

Joanne Combs

Stephen Ministry is God's Love In Our Congregation



Do You Know Someone Going Through A Difficult Time?

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who has been struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a layoff, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Our Stephen Ministers can provide them with the focused care, encouragement, and support they need to make it through the crisis. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with a Stephen Leader or a Stephen Minister and they will help you, or work with you to help your friend.

“I chose to become a Stephen Minister because I thought I could walk with others through their trials while practicing a more prayerful Christian way of life. Our training has encouraged us that God will be with us and our care-receivers throughout the joys and challenges we will encounter together”.

Holly Neiswendor



Holly Neiswendor

Can I Trust A Stephen Minister?

Trust is essential to a caring relationship, and Stephen Ministers are people you can trust. Confidentiality is one of the most important principles of Stephen Ministry, and what a care receiver tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence.

“I believe I was called by God to be a Stephen Minister. I believe that God has given me spiritual gifts that enable me to have empathy and to care for His people. What I have learned from the Stephen Ministry training will enhance my ability to help others. I look forward to being a Stephen Minister “caregiver” so that I can serve God by helping His people, always remembering that God is the “curegiver”.

Tina Hannold



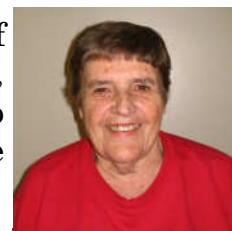
Tina Hannold

Are Stephen Ministers Counselors?

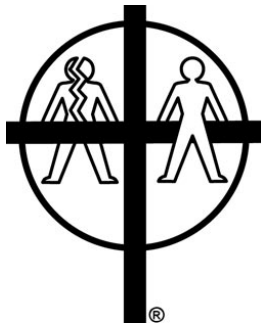
Stephen Ministers are not Counselors! Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care — not to give advice and counsel. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's need exceeds what they can provide. When that happens they work with care receiver to help them receive the level of care they really need.

“I was made aware of the Stephen Ministry program a number of years ago, but no training was available during that time. However, the desire or “call” never left me. When the opportunity came to First Presbyterian Church for training, I knew I was ready to take the next step and I'm so glad I did.”

Joann Wuerfel



Joann Wuerfel



*Stephen Ministry
Leaders*



Clare Wuerfel

Barbara Rodgers



Megan Andersen

Rev. John W. Caster

