

# What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them.

A Stephen Minister is ...

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person;
- A caring Christian friend who really listens;
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.

Stephen Ministers are called to be caregivers. Jesus calls you to this ministry. The Lord opens your heart to the needs of suffering people. You never make a caring visit, listen to a person's story, or say a prayer without Jesus – your companion and your strength.

Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are...

- hospitalized;
- terminally ill;
- bereaved;
- in a job crisis
- new members of the church;
- disabled;
- homebound;
- lonely;
- in a spiritual crisis; or
- looking for a caring Christian friend.

St. Mary's has 14 Stephen Ministers. Keep watching "The Spirit" for continuing articles about Stephen Ministry.

Interested? Call Judy Schroeder at 658-3555 ext. 230 or 605-0823.

