

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ I would like to speak to
someone about receiving
the care of a Stephen
Minister



Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ I would like to learn more
about becoming a Stephen
Minister

*If you feel that you are in need of a
Stephen Minister, or if you know
someone who may wish to receive
care, please contact:
Rev. Sheri Smith
770-963-0386 Ext. 157
E-mail: ssmith@fumclv.org

*All information is kept
strictly confidential!*



First United Methodist Church
of Lawrenceville
395 West Crogan Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
Phone: 770-963-0386
Fax: 770-963-0668



"Bear one another's burdens, and in this
way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:2

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry is a caring ministry in which trained lay people, through one-to-one caring relationships, offer support and care to those in our church family and the community who are hurting. Everyone experiences difficult times at some point in life. Having someone to care, to listen, to share Christ's healing love with you can help as you encounter trying times.

Stephen Ministry provides distinctively Christian care with the utmost confidentiality. Stephen Ministry is a structured program of training and preparation for caring relationships that focus on the unique needs of each person.

Stephen Ministry was established in 1975 and is working in more than 5000 congregations from all over the world and with 75 different denominations in all.

Stephen Ministry was named after St. Stephen, the first deacon in the early church, commissioned by the apostles to care for the needs of the community.

Stephen Ministry provides a meaningful way for our church to more fully use our talents and gifts in sharing one another's burdens and joys. Lastly, it is a commitment to caring and supporting one another to build a Christ-centered, sharing community.

STEPHEN MINISTERS HELP PEOPLE THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are:

- Hospitalized
- Terminally Ill
- Grieving the loss of a loved one
- Relocating to a new community
- Separated or divorced
- Experiencing a loss of employment
- Undergoing financial stress
- Recovering after an accident or disaster
- Disabled
- Aging
- Suffering from depression
- Chronic illness
- Going through birth, adoption or infertility
- Experiencing loneliness
- New parents
- Empty nesters
- And many more

A **Stephen Minister is:**

- A lay person, who through training, learns skills and develops their spiritual gifts for caring ministry.
- A caring and sharing person who reaches out a supportive hand to the spiritual, social and emotional needs of our church family and the community.
- A caring Christian, who walks beside a hurting person, who really listens, and maintains and preserves confidentiality.

How do referrals work?

- A person—either you, a relative, or a friend—is hurting and in need of Christian care.
- The Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator learns of this need for care from a pastor, the person, or friend, *always with the person's permission.*
- A Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- *With the persons permission,* the Referrals Coordinator assigns a Stephen Minister to meet with you on a weekly basis.
- The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for the person with the strictest of confidentiality.