

# From the Pastor

September 19, 2017

Do you know someone who might benefit from our Stephen's Ministry program here at St. Mark's?

It has been said that Stephen Ministers are "after" people-----



...after you find the pink slip in what's now your final paycheck;

...after the doctors have said the diagnosis is not encouraging;

...after the relationship ends but the wounds are still bleeding;

...after family and friends have heard your story one too many times but you still need to talk it out.

That's when Stephen's Ministers come in. Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have been trained to help folks struggling through a difficult time.

Named after St. Stephen, the first lay person commissioned by the Apostles to minister to those in need, Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist realized he could not meet the emotional needs of his congregation alone. He trained nine members of his congregation as the first Stephen Ministers. Today, more than 12,000 congregations are part of the Stephen Ministry program representing 170 Christian denominations.

If you know someone going through a tough time who could benefit from the Stephen Minister's program contact Jim Clardy or Paul or Rachel Givens at the church office. They can talk with you about getting the person connected with someone who has been trained to walk beside those who are hurting in a healing way. Thank you for all you do in lifting others up here at one of the great churches of our community!

Blessings,

Craig