

What Is a Stephen Minister Like?

They Are among Us

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others. The Scriptures describe their service well: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3). If you or someone you know wants to do more as a caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is St. John's congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. A training class is starting in January 2024. Please contact . contact Rob Hartmann (Rhartmann6948@gmail.com), John Mertens (Jmertens1241@gmail.com), Penny Winder (PWinder44@gmail.com), or the clergy.

for more information.

Living Right

"I must be living right!" You've probably spoken those words in the midst of a very good day. What does it mean to "live right"? Peter lays it out for us: "As servants of God, live as free people. . . . Honor everyone. . . ." (1 Peter 2:16-17 NRSV).

Those *[who will be]* involved in Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry, *[will]* do just that. They *[will]* serve God and respect others by providing Christian care. Is this a way you want to serve the Lord? If so, contact *[name and phone number]*.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Ever Thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?

[Insert name of church] will be training another class of Stephen Ministers on *[date and time]*. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. If you think you might be interested, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *[names of Stephen Leaders]*.

Do It All in Jesus' Name

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others—listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith. If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. A training class is starting soon. For more information, contact *[name and phone number]*.

It's a Match

Matching is an important part of what Stephen Ministry is all about. Those who are interested in serving are matched with the best job for them. Those who need care are matched with the best caregiver for them. Find out whether Stephen Ministry is a match for you by contacting *[name and phone number]*.

A Meaningful Ministry

C-O-S-T

Searching for a new ministry opportunity in our congregation? There will be a cost, you know, but there will also be great rewards. Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one caring ministry. Right now we're looking for members who are willing to pay the

Commitment
Of
Self and
Time

and become Stephen Ministers, remembering that the blessings will outweigh the costs. To find out more about this ministry, please contact *[name and phone number]* today.

Stephen Ministers Care

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that undistracted, full-attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others.

We need *[more]* Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Will you consider serving in this way? For more information, please contact *[name and phone number]*.

Feel the Warmth

Sometimes it takes more than a parka or a blanket to keep another person warm. Sometimes it takes the presence of a caring Christian friend.

Stephen Ministers share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting?

Consider serving as a Stephen Minister. For more information, please contact *[name and phone number]*.

Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Gifted to Care

Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. How are you using your gifts right now? Are you looking for a new way to use them? If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following—faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing—consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. This may be just what you've been looking for! Contact *[name and phone number]* to le