What is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is . . .

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person;
- A caring Christian who really listens;
- A member of our congregation who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care;
- A person who is ready to focus on your needs;
- A trustworthy confidant who will keep everything you say – and even your identity – confidential; and
- Someone who will faithfully meet with you for as long as your need persists.

A Stephen Minister is NOT . . .

- A counselor or therapist;
- A problem-solver;
- Someone who runs errands or helps with chores; or
- A casual visitor.

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with the confidential, one-to-one Christian care you need to make it through a crisis or help you through a difficult time.

Why Stephen Ministry?

Because the Bible tells us to:

"Love one another as I have loved you."
John 15:12

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

"Encourage one another and build up each other."
1 Thessalonians 5:11a

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."
Romans 12:15

"Serve one another in love."
Galatians 5:13

"Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers and sisters, be compassionate and humble."
1 Peter 3:8

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32

The Stephen Ministry logo, with the broken person behind the cross and the whole person in front of the cross, symbolizes that we are all broken people and that it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole.

Does Stephen Ministry replace the Pastoral Ministry of our pastors?

ABSOLUTELY NOT! Stephen Ministry expands pastoral ministry by providing more workers in the Body of Christ. Part of any pastor's job is to "equip the saints" (all of the members of the congregation) to provide this kind of care for one another. In so doing, the caregiving is greatly multiplied.

How are Stephen Ministers Trained?

- Through approximately 50 hours of training that is Biblically based and drawn from the best tools of the health and psychological sciences;
- Continuing education in a variety of subjects.

How would I benefit by being a Stephen Minister?

- Growing in the understanding of your own Christian calling;
- Experiencing the privilege of working closely with others;
- Experiencing the fellowship of a warm, loving, and caring group of people; and
- Using the skills you learn in training in your everyday life experiences and relationships with others.

How do I know if I might benefit from our Stephen Ministry Program?

- Is life more than you can handle alone right now?
- Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move—or just experiencing a lonely or difficult time in your life?
- Could you benefit from having someone listen and care and walk with you through this difficult time?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes" THERE IS NO NEED TO STRUGGLE ALONE!

- Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, and to share God's love can help you deal with the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

- God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

- Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.

Are you in need . . .

of a caring, Christian who will listen, empathize, encourage, pray, provide *confidential* care, and patiently support you as you work through a crisis or difficult time?

Do you know someone, ...

perhaps a friend, neighbor, coworker, colleague, or relative, who could benefit from this type of care?

Then contact ...

one of our Stephen Leaders listed below. He/she can tell you more about our program and how you (or your friend) can be matched with a Stephen Minister.

Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus	784-9175
Nancy Toth	688-4722
Warren Dolsen	783-2312

Consider becoming a Stephen Minister to walk with others on their journey to wholeness by contacting one of the individuals listed above.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

STEPHEN MINISTRY

AT

Jackson's First Presbyterian Church
743 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201
www.jacksonfirstpres.com

"They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit . . And the Word of God increased; and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem . ."

Acts 6:5-7