

## WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

*What is my part in bringing God's love into action by helping others?*



***“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”***  
*Galatians 6:2*

**PROVIDENCE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

*592 Bernhard Road  
Fayetteville,, GA 30215  
www.provumc.com*

## What is Stephen Ministry?

Our congregation’s Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

### A Stephen Minister is . . .

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting.
- A congregation member with gifts for care-giving who was carefully selected to serve in this role.
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care.
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports and encourages.
- Someone who will “be there” for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there’s a need.

## Stephen Ministers Care For People Facing Tough Times

We all experience challenges in life — times when we would benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as —

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Divorce or separation/marriage difficulty
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- A terminal illness
- Incarceration
- Aging/Care of the elderly
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, infertility
- A chronic illness
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- Many more life situations

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remain private.

## Stephen Ministry Is YOUR Ministry

You play an important role in our Stephen Ministry. Here's what you can do:

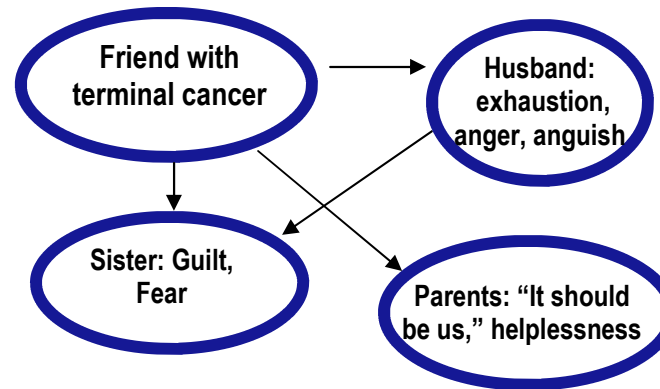
- **PRAY** for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.
- **ACCEPT CARE** from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- **TELL A FRIEND**, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry program. We care for all of God's children, not just those belonging to our congregation.
- **CONSIDER** becoming a Stephen Minister if you are a good listener and a compassionate person.
- **CONTACT** our Senior Pastor or one of our Stephen Leaders if you know someone who could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister or if you are interested in possibly becoming a Stephen Minister:

Carol Axford— 770/461-2623

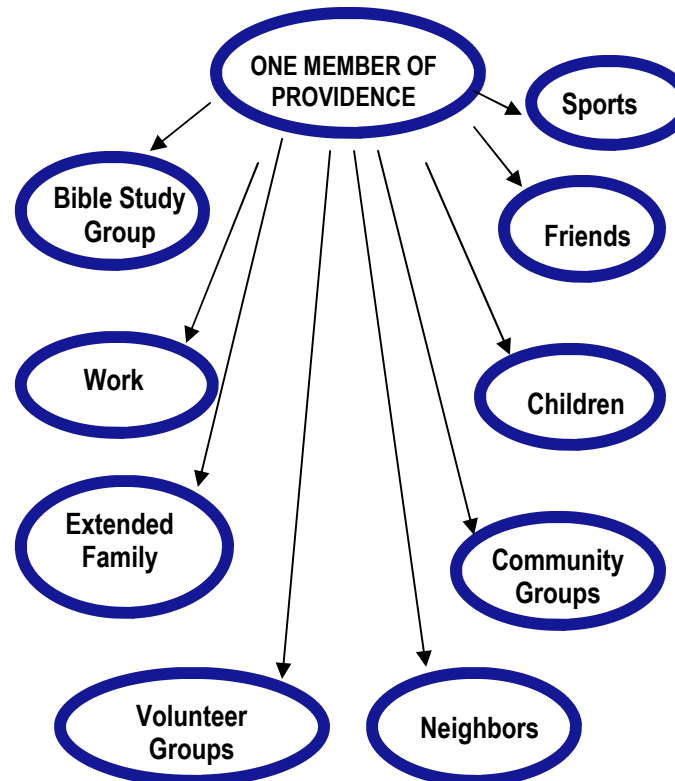
Karen Post — 770/377-0125

Rev. Warren Huddleston—770-654-0125

## THINK OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE



## WHO DO YOU TOUCH?



The Stephen Ministry logo symbolizes that we are all broken people and that it is through the cross of Jesus Christ that we are made whole.

**“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other.” 1 Thess.5:11**

### STEPHEN MINISTRY MULTIPLIES MINISTRY

Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.

Stephen Ministry provides a Biblical solution by equipping God's people for ministry. Gifted lay people are trained to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministers reach out with God's love to people who are hurting—both congregation members and nonmembers alike.

**“To equip the saints for the work of ministry.” Ephesians 4:12**