

## Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are carefully trained lay people who serve as Christian Caregivers. They are not therapists, but are trained and prepared to listen and walk through life's difficult times with those who are in need. It is a confidential and pastoral ministry that serves both church members as well as the community at large. We also continue to make hospital visits on the weekends at both Athens' hospitals. After these visits reports are made to the Rector concerning patients' needs and requests.

Our Stephen Ministers have continued serving individuals as Christian friends who listen, pray with, encourage and support them as long as needed. They are true care givers and receive continuing education at their semi-monthly meetings. We also have a yearly day-long retreat where we set goals, assess the past year's progress and learn new techniques in helping our care receivers. If you are aware of someone who would benefit from the services of a Stephen Minister or if you would like to become a Stephen Minister please contact the Rector or the ministry leader listed on the contacts page.