

What Our Care Receivers Have Said:

"How grateful to God I am that Aldersgate had the foresight and initiative to start the Stephen Ministry in our church."

"I want to let you know how much I appreciate your providing me a Stephen Minister. It was important to me that our relationship and everything we talked about was completely confidential, and she never broke that trust."

"My Stephen Minister encouraged me beyond words. She walked the road with me, and I am thankful."

What Our Stephen Ministers Have Said:

"As a Stephen Minister I have the privilege of being God's ears as well as His hands and feet as I take time to care for another person, in His name."

"I never knew quite what to say to someone who is experiencing loss, whether it is the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, or the loss of a dream. My training as a Stephen Minister taught me that it is not what you say that matters, it's that you are present."

"I have been stretched way beyond my comfort level as I have given my time and energy to invest in another person's life."

A final word about Stephen Ministry...

Stephen Ministry is about encouragement, listening, being present through some of life's difficult times. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a Christian willing to walk alongside with love and support, please contact our Stephen Minister Leadership.

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." 1 John 4:11-12

"And let us stir one another with love and good works... all the more as we see the day approaching" Hebrews 10:24, 25

Do you want to be a Stephen Minister?

- Receiving training in confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, reflective listening and many other useful skills.
- Monthly supervision and continuing education
- Two year commitment



stephen MINISTRY®



A Caring Ministry of
Aldersgate United Methodist Church

When You Need Someone

To talk to...

To confide in...

To walk with you...

To pray with you...

To listen to you...

To encourage you...

A Stephen Minister will come!

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

What is Stephen Ministry and is it right for me?

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them.

- Is life more than you can handle alone right now?
- Are your health, your attitude, or your relationships suffering?
- Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move?
- Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares?

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



How does the referrals process work?

- A person—either you, a relative, or a friend —is hurting and in need of Christian care.
- The Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator learns about this need for care—from the pastor, the person, or a friend, always with the person's permission.
- The Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- With the person's permission, the Referrals Coordinator assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.
- The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for the person in strict confidentiality.

A Stephen Minister is:

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person;
- A caring Christian friend who really listens;
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care to those in need.

A Stephen Minister is NOT...

- A counselor or therapist;
- A problem solver;
- A casual visitor.

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



Aldersgate UMC
6610 Vaughn Road
Montgomery, AL 36116

In need of a Stephen Minister?

Place in the offering plate or mail to Aldersgate UMC. Remember, your name and need will be kept confidential.

I am in need of a Stephen Minister in my life. Please contact me.

I am interested in knowing more about Stephen Ministry. Please contact me.

I am interested in supporting Stephen Ministry. Enclosed is a check to be used for training material.

Name _____

Address _____

Phones _____

Email: _____

You may also contact any of our Stephen Leaders who will be glad to discuss this ministry with you.

Peggy Massey 613.0176

Donna Barrs 399-1843

Rev. Michael Cobb 272.6152