



The Stephen Ministry logo symbolizes that we all are broken people—and that only Jesus can make us whole.

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 thoroughly biblical solution—*equipping God's people for ministry*. Gifted laypeople receive training to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

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



stephen
MINISTRY®



Stephen Ministries St. Louis Supports Our Congregation's Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministries is a not-for-profit Christian educational organization based in St. Louis, Missouri. Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministries provides training and resources to thousands of congregations and organizations worldwide.

Log on to www.stephenministries.org to learn more.

HELP
HOPE
HEALING

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

A Stephen Minister Is . . .

- A child of God who walks beside someone who is hurting.
- A congregation member who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- A layperson with 50 hours of training in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver 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 could benefit from care and support. Stephen Ministers can 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
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- A terminal illness
- Incarceration
- Aging
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- A chronic illness
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- Many other life challenges

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, coworker, or relative who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry.
- If you are a compassionate person and a good listener, prayerfully **consider becoming a Stephen Minister**.

Stephen Leaders Are . . .

Trained leaders in our congregation who support and direct our Stephen Ministry.

- If you could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister . . .
- If you know someone who might benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister . . .
- If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister . . .
- If you have any other questions about Stephen Ministry . . .

. . . contact one of our Stephen Leaders.

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

GALATIANS 6:2

HELP
HOPE
HEALING

"Therefore encourage
one another and build up
each other."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Why Stephen Ministry?

We have many needs for care in our parish and in our community: Our Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are:

- Grieving the death of a loved one
- Hospitalized/ recovering from hospitalization
- Lonely or discouraged
- Coping with a terminal illness or caring for a family member with a terminal illness
- Dealing with divorce or separation
- Caring for a family member with Alzheimer's
- Unemployed or in a job crisis
- Disabled or caring for a disabled family member
- Moving or relocating
- Anticipating the birth or adoption of a child
- Homebound or institutionalized
- Dealing with the crisis of aging
- Experiencing a spiritual crisis
- Victims of a disaster or accident

Testimonial from a Care Receiver

"After enduring several surgeries and different health issues, I was recently diagnosed with a disease that takes away some of my independence. Having met with a Stephen Minister several times, I realized the benefits of talking to an impartial listener. And listening is what a Stephen Minister does so well. I was able to say anything without feeling that I was being judged."

Stephen Ministry Parishes in Camden Diocese

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Absecon
(609) 641-1480, setonstephenministry@aol.com

Christ the Redeemer Parish, Atco
(856) 767-4386, srench@ctratco.com

Our Lady of Hope Parish, Blackwood
(856) 228-4331, stephenministry@ourladyofhopenj.org

St. Gabriel the Archangel, Carneys Point
(856) 299-3833, StGabrielStephenMinistry@gmail.com

Catholic Community of Christ Our Light, Cherry Hill
(856) 667-2440 - Ext. 327, pslater@christourlight.net

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Collingswood
(856) 858-0298, stephenministry@stteresaoftcollingswood.org

St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Egg Harbor TWP
(609) 645-7313, dot.urban@skd-parish.org

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Galloway
(609) 652-0008, parishoffice@olphparish-nj.org

St. Clare of Assisi, Gibbstown
(856) 467-0037, care@stclarenj.org

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Lindenwold
(856) 627-2222, chanley813@gmail.com

Church of the Incarnation, Mantua
(856) 468-1314, phouwen@incarnation-church.org

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla Parish, Northfield
(609) 646-5611, cjohnsonpeterson@gmail.com

Church of the Holy Family, Sewell
(856) 228-1616, stephenministry@churchoftheholysfamily.org

St. Charles Borromeo, Sicklerville
(856) 629-0411, StephenMinistry@saint-Charles-Borromeo.org

Infant Jesus Parish, Woodbury Heights
(856) 848-0047, frankdunleavy@yahoo.com

For more information on Stephen Ministry care or how to begin the ministry at your parish, please contact:

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STEPHEN MINISTRY

Diocese of Camden



"Bear one another's burden, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."
(Galatians 6:4)



VITALity

Catholic Healthcare Services

A HEALTHCARE MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

What is Stephen Ministry?

- Stephen Ministry is a distinctively Christian confidential caregiving available to people going through difficult times and who are in need of support in their lives.
- It is a Christ-centered ministry, where God is the “curegiver” and Stephen Ministers are “caregivers”.
- Stephen Ministers are lay members of a parish who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge in life.
- They provide one on one confidential care to members of the church and the community.
- Stephen Ministers are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver for about an hour a week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it.
- Stephen Ministers also participate in twice monthly small group peer supervision to provide the best care.

Why Lay Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is based on the idea that all Christians are called to minister to others.

The responsibility for passing on God’s love is for all Christians, not just for a chosen few.

God has given us all gifts for ministry and called us to put those gifts to use.

Stephen Ministry is a way for people with special gifts for caring to use those gifts to bring Christ’s love to people in need.

Who benefits from Stephen Ministry?

- Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face.
- Stephen Ministers benefit through the training and the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in a meaningful ministry.
- Priests benefit because the caring ministry at the parish is expanded, and fewer people will slip through the cracks.
- Most of all you benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative, or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes our parishes a much more caring place!



How does Stephen Ministry work?

- When someone requests a Stephen Minister, the Stephen Ministry Coordinator/ Leader of the parish will meet with that person.
- The Leader will explain what Stephen Ministry is, and help determine whether Stephen Ministry is the kind of care that person needs.
- The leader then matches that person with one of the available Stephen Ministers.
- The Stephen Minister will then call that person to begin meeting with him or her for about an hour each week as long as there is a need. Everything a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept confidential.
- The Stephen Minister doesn’t try to solve problems; rather, he or she listens, cares, prays, and helps the care receiver find his or her path to healing and wholeness.
- The Stephen Ministers receive continuing education and twice monthly peer group supervision so that they are equipped to provide the best care.

*“...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
(Matthew 25:40)*