



Join Stephen Ministry in Bringing Christ's Healing Love to Hurting People

St. Mary's Stephen Ministry ... has been helping parishioners going through difficult times since 2015. We have helped people who lost a loved one, who were preparing for death, who were caring for a loved one who was facing death, who were dealing with a bad medical diagnosis, and many other difficult situations. Stephen Ministers go through extensive training to learn how to support others in such situations by walking beside them, listening, and helping them think through their situations and work through their difficulties.

We are planning to offer a Stephen Ministry training class starting this fall.

Come be a part of this beautiful ministry that helps people get through all sort of problems and situations. Ministers help care receivers by being a listening, non-judgmental friend. They help other care receivers by helping them sort out their situations and helping them find ways they can deal with it. Ministers help others find peace in situations that will never change. Ministers do not 'fix' problems, but help care receivers find their own way to acceptance, peace, and a path forward.

We need you! For more information to apply to join our next class contact one of our leaders:



Karen Edlund at 803-443-3439

Emily Hanna at 803-221-6978

Mary Ellen Jackson at mjackson@charlestdiocese.org

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed. www.stephenministries.org

Copyright © by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. All rights reserved. Representatives of a congregation have permission to photocopy this document for use within their congregation to build support for Stephen Ministry. 2018-011

