

Stephen Ministry Program Summary FY 2008-2009

The Stephen Ministry Program of Brevard FUMC continues to be a caregiving, Christ center ministry. Rev. Kerry Purselle is our staff advisor and the program is led by four trained Stephen Leaders. Each Stephen Minister participates in one of three peer supervision groups which meet on the third Monday evenings in the Asbury Room, the Library and the Parlor.

Currently we have twenty active Stephen Ministers of which four are Stephen Leaders. We also have two Stephen Ministers on sabbaticals. Two of our current Stephen Ministers plan to attend Stephen Leadership training in Orlando, FL in January 2010 and one of our current Stephen Leaders will retire at the beginning of the year.

Stephen Ministry began at FUMC Brevard in June 1998 with Sandy Blackman and Bill Brock as trained Stephen Leaders. Since that time, there have been ten other Stephen Ministers trained as Stephen Leaders, as well as four transfers-in from other congregations. Fifty-nine members of our church have been trained as Stephen Ministers, along with four from Etowah UMC and three transfers-in. Since 1998, we have been blessed to minister to about 110 members -- praise God!

New Class: A training class for new Stephen Ministers began in August with six participants including one each from Rosman and St. Timothy UMCs. Jim Alderman coordinates these classes and all Stephen Leaders including our Associate Pastor participate as instructors. The successful participants will be commissioned on January 17, 2010 along with the two new Stephen Leaders mentioned above.

Continuing Education: On the third Monday of each month all Stephen Ministers participate in a Continuing Education program. Most of these involve outside speakers who discuss various resources in the community that might be of assistance to our care receivers. Others involve internal training and refreshing on the various skills so critical to the caregiving ministry of the Stephen Ministers. Stephen Leader Jim Alderman arranges these programs.

Other Ministries: Our Stephen Ministers continue to support other ministries of Brevard FUMC. Stephen Leader Marian Wolf coordinates and presents programs at the Alzheimer's unit at the Brian Center and Stephen Minister Brenda Whitcomb coordinates the church's prayer ministry including the Tuesday morning prayer services in the chapel.

In Christ,

Bob Hayward

Stephen Leader