

## 2012 STEPHEN MINISTRY REPORT

Christ United Methodist Church became one of 11,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations in 2009. Our ministry continues to strengthen as we walk alongside members of our congregation and community through difficult times. The Stephen Series system trains and organizes lay people to do caring ministry under the direction of Beth Hart, Director of Stephen Ministry, and Nancy Drake, Stephen Leader, along with the support of Pastor Don Tabler. Those who have received or are receiving care understand that their identity and what goes on in the one-to-one caring relationship will remain strictly confidential. It is a fundamental component of Stephen Ministry. We think of ourselves as the one important ministry we can't really discuss! But the appeal of this Christ-centered care is growing, and the worth of this ministry is being felt more and more.

Our Stephen Ministers – Evelyn Arroyo, Dan Conklin, Suzanne Conklin, Lu Ebrado, Millie Grey, Marge Hendrickson, Brian Mortensen, Elsa Mortensen, Elaine Nurse, Sherry Peterson, and Sallie Trainor – have received 50 hours of intensive training. Leaders Beth Hart and Nancy Drake received additional training. And our Stephen Ministers remain committed to meet twice a month for continuing education and supervision.

Moving forward, our plans are to offer a training course in 2012-13 so that a Stephen Minister will always be available when needed.

We are proud of the positive impact our Stephen Ministers are having. We are finding that as we minister to those who are struggling with various issues in their lives, we, too, are growing as caring individuals as we allow God to give us the direction. We are here to care while God cures!

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hart, Director of Stephen Ministry  
Nancy Drake, Stephen Leader