

# Stephen Ministers: The After People

Frequently friends will ask, “I know you’re involved in Stephen Ministry. Can you tell me exactly what a Stephen Minister is?” I like to explain that Stephen Ministers are “After People.”

## **Stephen Ministers are there:**

- ... **after** you’ve washed and returned the last casserole dish.
- ... **after** the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... **after** the last child honks the horn, waves and drives away—and the house suddenly seems incredibly empty.
- ...**after** you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ...**after** the doctors have said, “There’s nothing more we can do.”
- ...**after** the door has slammed shut—for the very last time.
- ...**after** the phone call you’d always hoped you’d never get.
- ...**after** you realize the hands on the gold watch you received at your retirement party move more slowly than you ever imagined.
- ...**after** the nursing home director shakes your hands and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ...**after** the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ...**after** the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ...**after** you find the pink slip inserted with what is now 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.”** We are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long “after” as we are needed.