



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

February 2026



First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
4 S Ridge Ave., Ambler PA 19002 fpcambler.org

A LIFE TOUCHED BY CARE - A HEART CALLED TO SERVE

Introduction by Jodi Wolper, Editor

Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministries (SM) is celebrating 51 years of equipping God's people for ministry. The program trains and supports lay people to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to those who are experiencing difficult times.

First Presbyterian Church of Ambler (FPCA) enrolled in Stephen Ministry in September 2023. Linda Bishop and Jenn Vincent completed leadership training to serve as Stephen Ministry Leaders and were joined by Carol Brumbaugh, commissioned on September 28, 2025.

Our second class of Stephen Ministers class is currently training and we look forward to having male Stephen Ministers offer care.

One of our Stephen Ministers, Wendy Kazen, has shared her reflections on answering God's call.

Wendy Kazen, Stephen Minister



The year was 1991 and I was part of the "sandwich" generation. I was 40 years old, living in a beautiful home with my husband and caring for my two young sons and my elderly mother. Mom lived with us for years but eventually was diagnosed with dementia that was becoming worse as time passed. I found myself feeling alone and depressed as I tried to be a good mother and daughter. I knew I needed help and turned to the church which was a big part of my life. There was a new program called Stephen Ministry (SM), and I asked our associate pastor about it. Soon I was connected with a Stephen Minister, and I became a Care Receiver.



A Life Touched by Care (continued)

I would visit my SM at her home weekly or even less if necessary. I discovered someone who would listen intently with no interruptions. It is difficult to find someone like that, and it was so helpful and comforting. She prayed with me before and after our meetings. She showed me she cared about me. She was not there to fix my problems. She was there as a caring Christian to show compassion and acceptance. I believed in the program and eventually felt called to train as a Stephen Minister in 1993. I knew this was all in God's plan. My faith continued to grow.

Fast forward to 2024, when Stephen Ministry training was offered at our church, I prayerfully considered whether to go through the training again. I felt strongly I wanted to offer care, support and encouragement to someone who was hurting. I felt God had given me that gift to walk beside people who are going through life challenges. Caring for one another is a sign of Christian faith. I was very glad I refreshed my training skills. It made me a better Stephen Minister. Many people are hurting within our church, and our hope is that they will seek help from one of us.

I look forward to meeting with my care receiver weekly. We pray, I share a blessing, devotion, and choose a scripture according to what might be helpful to her at that time. I sit quietly and most importantly listen as she shares whatever is on her mind that day. It is up to each SM to decide, along with their CR, what they are comfortable sharing about their faith.

Stephen Ministers meet monthly, or more, for continuing education, to support each other, pray, and discuss resources. *To protect privacy and trust, the names of care receivers and our conversations with them are kept strictly confidential and are never shared.* We have an amazing bond and know we can always turn to one another for prayer and support.

My journey as a SM has truly enhanced my spiritual growth. We call each other sisters, and it truly feels that way. Seeing my CR benefit and change in a positive way has also strengthened my faith. I feel God's presence as He walks with me. I am guided by the Holy Spirit through a persistent, quiet voice that brings me inner peace and guidance. It is a feeling inside me that is hard to explain, but I am so thankful it points me to Christ and away from sin.

"Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

If you would like to connect with a Stephen Minister or have an interest in training to become a SM, please contact Linda Bishop, Jenn Vincent, or Carol Brumbaugh, our Stephen Ministry Leaders at stephenministries@fpcambler.org