



Swansboro UMC will Commission Six New Stephen Ministers

On **Feb. 19th** at all services, we will commission our newest Stephen Ministers. They are:

***Allison Devechio, Jill Droze, Marie Hurst,
Heather Minch, Lisa Potts, Mitzi Stephenson.***

These women have received 50 hours of specialized training in Christian caregiving and joined a team of active Stephen Ministers serving our congregation and community. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receiver for around an hour to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support for the person. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's need persists.

Stephen leaders Laurie NardoKunst and Cleve Folger provided the training from August until February 1st. *"This is a very special group of ladies who are totally committed to helping those in need. Swansboro is fortunate to have such a wonderful group of serving individuals"* said Cleve Folger. These new ministers join the existing group of Stephen Ministers who are actively helping others in our church.

If possible, please attend one of the February 19th services to show your support for this ministry. Pray for our new Stephen Ministers—ask God to bless their ministry and work through them to bring hope and healing to those whom they serve. Pray also for the ongoing ministry of our current Stephen Ministers.

Our congregation is one of more than 13,000 worldwide, representing 160 Christian denominations, that use the Stephen Ministry system of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis, MO.