

## **Bulletin insert for December 4th:**

### **Stephen Ministry Training Begins**

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, we launched our 50 hours of training for 15 parishioners who have committed themselves to learning the skills of caring ministry. This is an exciting adventure in learning and doing ministry at St. Francis of Assisi. Our Stephen Minister trainees have begun the task of studying, discussing, experiencing, and trying out the skills involved in sharing God's love and compassion with those who especially needs these gifts.

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "The Art of Listening." In this presentation, they will be honing their listening skills and finding out that listening well is extremely helpful and caring but is also hard work. Let us thank God for these ministers and ask his continued help and blessing through the coming months.

**Bulletins inserts should be placed on the following dates which are just ahead of the training scheduled for the upcoming week, on either Monday and/or Saturday.**

### **January 1, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Distinctively Christian Caring." In this presentation, they will be discovering more effective ways of using resources such as prayer and Scripture as tools in caring ministry. We thank God of the continuing dedication of our Stephen Minister trainees and ask your continued prayers for them and for God's blessings upon their ministries.

### **January 15, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Process versus Results in Caregiving." In this presentation, they will be learning the difference between their role as caregivers and God's role as Caregiver. We thank God of the continuing dedication of our Stephen Minister trainees and ask your continued prayers for them and for God's blessings upon their ministries.

### **January 22, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly." In this presentation, they will be finding out the difference between passive, assertive, and aggressive behavior and gaining skills that will help both in relating with others and in

affirming their own worth. We thank God of the continuing dedication of our Stephen Minister trainees and ask your continued prayers for them and for God's blessings upon their ministries.

### **February 5, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving," where they will be learning how to guard against being manipulated and how to recognize their own tendencies to foster dependency by doing too much. They will also be tackling the module on "Crises Theory and Practice," studying exactly what happens when a person goes through a crisis and how caring Christian ministry can help turn a potential danger into an opportunity for growth. Those who are participating in Stephen Ministry training are excited about what they are learning. We look forward to the work of our Stephen Ministers among us.

### **February 12, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Confidentiality." In this presentation, they will be learning the principles of confidentiality so that anyone who is ministered to by a Stephen Minister can be confident that any communication will be kept secret and private. As the Stephen Ministry training continues, we get closer to the commissioning of these people for their ministry among us. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

### **February 24, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Telecare." In this presentation, they will be learning specific techniques that they will use in ministering to people over the telephone. Also, they learning about "Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources," discovering the many and varied resources that exist in our community to help meet people's specific needs. Those who are participating in Stephen Ministry training are excited about what they are learning. We look forward to the work of our Stephen Ministers among us.

### **March 5, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of "Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief." In this presentation, they will learn that grief can be healthy and taught to recognize and help people through the various stages in the process of grieving. As the Stephen Ministry

training continues, we get closer to the commissioning of these people for their ministry among us. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

### **March 12, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of “Dealing with Depression: The Stephen Minister’s Role,” looking into the very common problem of depression – it’s causes, symptoms and the very special role Stephen Ministers have in the lives of people who are in depression. Also, we will be considering “Helping Suicidal Persons Get the Help they Need”, learning how to minister to suicidal people. As the Stephen Ministry training continues, we get closer to the commissioning of these people for their ministry among us. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

### **March 19, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Continues**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class will be considering the subject of “Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close,” considering how the sometimes difficult process of bringing a caring relationship to a close can instead be turned into a relationship-strengthening event. Also, in a special retreat Saturday, as training nears complete, they will learning about “Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care,” learning how to engage in the process of small group peer supervision so that they will be able to offer the highest quality Christian care possible for their care receivers. As the Stephen Ministry training continues, we get closer to the commissioning of these people for their ministry among us. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

### **April 2, 2006**

#### **Stephen Ministry Training Approaches Completion**

This coming week the Stephen Ministry training class at St. Francis of Assisi will be considering the subject of “How to Make a First Caring Visit”. In this presentation, they will be receiving nuts-and-bolts information on how to get a visit with a care receiver off to a good start. They will also review what they have learned and get ready for their commissioning as Stephen Ministers on Holy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Stephen Ministry is adding an important dimension to the ministry here at St. Francis of Assisi. We thank God for this opportunity he has given us for growth and service.

