



Simsbury United Methodist Church
2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Nurturing Ministries

By Charlotte Ray
Chairperson

Stephen Ministry

This past September the Stephen Leaders and Pastors Woody and Peter held a Retreat Weekend to kick off our Stephen Ministry Training for 2016-17. We are blessed to have seven members of our congregation, two men and four women who feel called to this wonderful caring, distinctively Christian ministry. The SM Training classes are held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00pm; 50 hours of training will be completed by the end of March, 2017. We look forward to commissioning members of this new class sometime in April of 2017.

Keeping Stephen Ministry vibrant and strong at SUMC is the goal of our Stephen Leader Team: Linda Swearingen, Barbara Vasquenza, and Charlotte Ray

Eucharistic Ministry

The SUMC Eucharistic Ministers celebrate Holy Communion with those who are unable to attend worship service, usually on a monthly basis. Currently our Eucharistic Ministers have been celebrating Holy Communion with only 3 of our members because several communicants have died within the last few months.

Family to Family

The Family to Family committee continues to serve those families in the SUMC community who are going through a "rough patch" and would benefit from a meal delivered to their door. As compared with 2015, we did not have quite as many people to serve. We served 9 families (24 people) in 2016. Jo Anne would like to add more members and possibly have the group get together once every two or three months and make meals (casseroles) so that we are able to freeze and use when needed.

Volunteer Drivers

We continue to drive people to medical related appointments and errands where necessary. We had more folks needing rides this past year. We may need to do a better job of making people aware of our volunteer driver ministry and encouraging people to use it.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Prayer and Praise Chain

Thirty SUMC members and friends form the "links" of our prayer chain. When the pastors or a person in need let us know of a prayer request, we covenant to add that person (whether known to us by name or anonymous) for a minimum of a month (less or more as need presents). We are pleased to add updates from the prayer recipients when offered. Requests are sent out by email but if needed by phone call if "link" is not computer friendly. We welcome all comers to join the group and respect the confidentiality of the prayer receivers.

Greeters

Kathleen has been able to schedule greeters for all of the 10:30 services. It was very helpful to be able to split the summer months with the 9 o'clock service.

Visitation Team

This group visits members of the congregation who are either largely homebound or in assisted living situations on a regular basis. They want to be sure that no one "slips through the cracks", so they are assessing the current status of this group and how to stay in contact.