



What is Stephen Ministry?

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

A Stephen Minister is...

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting.
- A congregation member with gifts for caregiving who was carefully selected to serve this role.
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care.
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need.

Commissioning of the following Stephen Ministers on Sunday, May 5

Bob Ernest (Skidaway Community Church), Rick Tallon (Messiah Lutheran Church),
Ben Jones (St. Peter's Episcopal Church)

BOB ERNEST



RICK TALLON



BEN JONES



Rick Tallon

My wife Trish and I have been married for 45 years and met at the University of Missouri-Kansas City dental school where she was studying to be a dental hygienist and myself a dentist. We lived and we practiced dentistry in Branson, Missouri for 40 years before retiring here in Savannah to be close to our son and his family that live on Isle of Hope. Three of our six grandchildren live here and three in Texas.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve others in our community through Stephen Ministry. Since Missouri is the original home of Stephen Ministries in St. Louis I had been asked soon after it started in the early 1980's to be trained for this ministry but my commitments to my practice and family took priority in my life at that time.

When asked last year...I had time now and I was grateful to be able to finally accept to be trained...40 years later.

God is never early, never late, his timing is always perfect,

Rick Tallon

Ben Jones

"Ben is a Postulant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, and an intern at St. Peter's. He is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School, finishing with his Master of Divinity in Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies. While in Nashville, he worked at The Episcopal School of Nashville as both Chaplain and After School Care Counselor as well as Seminarian Intern at Saint David's Episcopal Church. Ben moved to Savannah in 2023 with his partner, Jace, who attends Mercer School of Medicine at Memorial. In his free time, he likes to read James Joyce, John Steinbeck, and noodle on his guitar in between."