

Caring Ministries

Shepherds

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..." Such is the basis of the Shepherd Ministry here at VPC which has commissioned 40 Shepherds, currently visiting over 100 of our members with special needs, and may be unable to participate regularly in community life. The Shepherds connect these people to the Body of Christ by their presence and prayers. Jesus, the good Shepherd, is our model for love and care here at VPC. This program replaces, in part, the deacon ministry, and is under the direction of Pastor Lyn Olson.

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry program is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. **Through one-on-one caring and confidential** relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need. Having someone to care, to listen, and to share God's love eases people through confusion, stress or loneliness. 22 trained Stephen Ministers stand ready to walk with others on their journey to wholeness. Call the church office with any questions.

AL-ANON

If you are dealing with a loved one who struggles with addiction of any kind, Al-Anon is a safe anonymous gathering of friends who meet for support. All are welcome to attend the meetings at the church in the Children's Ministry Center on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm.

Care and Repair

Our skilled **Care and Repair Team** stands ready to assist others with light repairs and maintenance to the inside and/or outside of their residences. If unable to provide the service, a reliable professional can usually be recommended. There is no cost for this service—only a genuine "thank you." Contact Bob Mowers @488-4262 to schedule or volunteer assistance.

Caring Meals

The goal of this ministry is to provide meals to those who are temporarily unable to prepare them due to illness or other special circumstances. Contact Bette Keys @ 485-5694 if you would like to prepare meals, or if you know someone who would benefit from this caring ministry.

Flower Arranging and Delivery

Following our Sunday worship and funeral/memorial services, the chancel flowers are rearranged and delivered to friends and members who are hospitalized or in care facilities. If you'd like to serve in this ministry, contact Burke Johnson @ the church office for additional information.

Have A Heart

This ministry helps us stay in touch with those who are currently serving in our country's armed forces. In addition to our prayers, this thoughtful team sends cards and care packages that remind our military personnel of our love and support. Call Betty Ehik @ 493-4685.

Medical Equipment Closet

The Medical Equipment Team provides donated wheelchairs, walkers, bedside tables and miscellaneous equipment to members and friends with special medical needs. Should a need arise for you or someone you know, please call the church office at 488-2258. If you have medical equipment to donate, please contact John Wyne @ 492-5695 to discuss the inventory needs.

Prayer

Prayer Request Cards — Prayer cards are located in the pews and confidential prayer requests may be placed in the offering plate or the box located on the Ministry Patio. Requests are prayed for by the church's pastors and prayer teams.

Prayer Chain Requests — People in need of prayer can also call Dorothy Brown @ 486-5198 who will engage a chain of people to pray and "pass it on" when a prayer need is known. If you'd like to participate in the Prayer Chain, she can also assist.

Prayer Shawl Ministry — This ministry meets Mondays in Fellowship Hall at noon to knit and crochet shawls, blankets and caps as gifts of comfort to people in crisis or illness.

If you have any questions or know someone who would be comforted with a prayer shawl, please contact Peg Moffett @ 485-9204.

Transportation

This ministry provides courteous and reliable drivers for those in need of transportation to church, essential errands or doctor appointments. Drivers are needed! Contact Pastor Burke Johnson @ 488-2258 if you need assistance or would like to be a driver.

Bereavement Ministries

Transitions

"Transitions" is a loving support and grief recovery group for individuals who have lost loved ones. Through a Christ-centered, six-week program, experienced leaders help people find a renewed personal purpose, and a deeper and sustaining faith, in a small group setting. The group meets in the Heritage Room. Contact the church office about upcoming sessions.

Grief Follow up Visitation

Under the direction of the pastoral staff, this ministry of presence helps people continue the journey toward healing through occasional yet intentional contact during the months and even years after the death of a loved one. This team offers assistance in sorting out affairs, as well as friendship and support as people continue in a lifestyle of singleness.

Funeral/Memorial Receptions

This ministry provides hospitality for families and friends following memorial or funeral services. Light refreshments are lovingly prepared and served on the Hospitality Patio. Individuals interested in participating in this ministry may contact Pastor Lyn at the church.

**Caring Ministries
Leadership
Team**

Lyn Olson
Pastor of Congregational Care

Lois Schmoe
Elder of Congregational Care

Assistant Pastors:
Burke Johnston
Chuck Moffett
Howard Taylor

Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Bonnie Johnston
Jack Perkins
De Simon
Lois Armstrong
Rev. Burke Johnson
Rev. Lyn Olson



**CARING
MINISTRIES**



*"To Know Christ
and to Make Christ Known"*



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