

Meet Our Stephen Ministry Leadership Team

One of the most important care giving ministries in the Damascus/Friendship Parish is the Stephen Ministry. This ministry provides one-to-one lay care for both church and community members. In conjunction with the pastoral leadership, a special team of people oversee and manage this ministry – our Stephen Leaders. The leaders have completed Stephen leadership training and are fully equipped to ensure that this ministry runs smoothly. Do you want to talk with someone about having a Stephen Minister in your life? If so, please contact Reverend Janet Cornelius (h) 301-926-4925 (c) 240-418-0516 or email her at janetmccornelius@comcast.net.

Reverend Janet Cornelius – Reverend Janet Cornelius is retired from appointed ministry and is a member of DUMC. She was trained as a Stephen Leader in 1988 & functioned as head of the Stephen Ministry at her church for several years. She serves along with Jan Mullinix as a referrals coordinator. She has an MA in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University in Maryland, & is a trained & experienced Spiritual Director from Shalem Institute in Bethesda. Janet welcomes the opportunity to serve as a Stephen Leader at DUMC. A heart for those who are suffering and/or in crises motivates her to respond to the healing ministry of Jesus the Christ.



Jan Mullinix – Jan serves as the Supervision Coordinator for the DUMC/Friendship Stephen Ministry. Her responsibilities include: providing support to the supervision groups, training, recruiting, monitoring, and maintaining the overall effectiveness of small group peer supervision, which is vital to the Stephen Ministry program. Jan serves as the chairperson for the Stephen Ministry and is both a Stephen Leader and a Stephen Minister, which Jan feels is a real blessing in her life. Jan has a background in counseling, training, planning, and administrative tasks. Jan was commissioned as one of the first Stephen Leaders at DUMC/Friendship in 2005, & the ministry has grown from that time until now to serve our churches & the community to help heal those facing tough times.

Bonnie Custer - Bonnie serves as one of the Continuing Education Coordinators to provide ongoing training for the Stephen Ministers at DUMC and FUMC. As a Continuing Education Coordinator, she works with the Stephen Ministers, the Supervision Coordinator, as well as others on the Leadership Team, to identify specific training needs & desires, & interests. She researches and arranges for guest speakers, panels, and audio-visual presentations designed to enhance the skills of the Stephen Ministers. Bonnie was in the first DUMC Stephen Minister class commissioned In May 2006. She felt called to pursue a deeper understanding of the global & ecumenical nature of the SM program by becoming a Stephen Leader. As a mom, a grandmother, church leader, retired classroom teacher and school system administrative specialist, Bonnie brings skills that are natural to the role of Continuing Education Coordinator.



Hazel Strahorn - Hazel moved to Montgomery County in 2005. Hazel recently retired from Montgomery College as an adjunct professor in the Education Department & had a long career as a public school teacher & administrator. She has served at DUMC in many capacities. She trained as a Stephen Leader in 2008 & now serves with the Continuing Education team. She is also a member of the WWJD Circle. She currently serves in the Thrift Shop as a volunteer & wants you to volunteer there too! None of these positions are as important as her family; Scott and Cora Horst, Sarah Strahorn, & her two grandchildren, Cameron & Megan. Hazel enjoys cycling and participates in the MS Chesapeake Challenge every year.

Jan Jaremko – Jan is both a Stephen Leader and a Stephen Minister. She retired from Montgomery County Police Department after a 22 year career and opened a Native American/earth friendly gift store. She subsequently worked with special needs kids in several capacities. Jan has experienced a deep spiritual calling in her life & the Stephen Ministry is one of many areas where she has been called to serve. She embraces finding the similarities between Christianity & other belief systems. Jan holds master/teacher certifications in several Reiki traditions & in a field called “sound health.” Jan’s awareness of energy & her deep love of & connection to Nature enhances her spirituality on a daily basis. Jan’s role model is Jesus.



Ted Ross - Ted moved to Montgomery County in 1989 while still on active duty in the US Navy. He served as Command Master Chief of the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda. Ted also worked with many people on a variety of issues during his 20 year career as a Navy diver and engineer. Ted serves as a representative in various leadership capacities on many boards and trade associations related to his long and successful career as an engineer and property management associate. He is an instructor of classes and seminars for many of these groups. Ted is very active in many areas at DUMC and is often seen as a greeter, an usher, and as someone who is always willing to help and to recruit for our Sunday service needs. One of his favorite ministry activities is to provide help to people who have lost a loved one by gifting them with a special packet of books, designed for this purpose specifically by the Stephen Ministry, and by offering his time and his prayers (versus flowers). Ted is our newest Stephen Leader and we feel so blessed to have him!