

## Deacon

### **DEACONS Responsibility:**

The Moorings Presbyterian Church has a “Board of Deacons” consisting of 24 members elected from the congregation. According to our tradition, “The office of deacon as set forth in the Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ....It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.”

### **Specific Ministries of the Deacons include:**

#### **MOORINGS FRIENDS**

Moorings Friends is a Moorings Presbyterian Church program to assist and expand the work of the Board of Deacons. It utilizes our congregation’s rich resources of time, talent and energy on behalf of the Lord’s work by assisting church members who have special needs.

Typical activities are:

- Be a phone contact for those needing support.
- Provide food during illness or recovery.
- Provide transportation for an appointment.
- Do emergency babysitting.
- Give respite care in order to offer a regular caregiver some needed free time.
- Make a personal visit to a homebound person or take someone on an outing.
- Make visits to hospitals or nursing homes.
- Help the disabled do errands, read, or do simple chores.

#### **HOSPITAL VISITATION**

There are many times in the life of a person when the church can make a significant difference. One such time is when a person is in the hospital facing illness, facing the unknown, or when a person faces the prospect of a loved one in the hospital. At such a time it is important to know that the church family is there, praying with you. One of the important ministries of our church is the Hospital Visitation Ministry. Our church has a hospital visitor at the downtown Naples Community Hospital seven days a week. Visits are made to additional hospitals as needed. This is possible because of a group of dedicated trained church members who make a difference.

#### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry is a system whereby members of the congregation are trained as Stephen Ministers working alongside the pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness or loneliness.

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others-listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith.

Our goal is to have a group of interested people participate in training beginning in January 2008. A second goal is to have two people from the congregation participate in the Stephen Leaders Training in June 2008.

### **HOMEBOUND COMMUNION**

Homebound communion takes place in April and October. If you wish a family member or friend to receive the sacrament, please call Reverend Jim Kirk (213-5226)

### **OTHER DEACON ACTIVITIES**

- Flower delivery to shut-ins.
- Hosting the Red Cross Bloodmobile three times annually.
- Serve as Greeters at the Sunday worship services.
- Prayer groups
- Memorial/Funeral support.