



LOVING CHRIST  
SHARING HIS GRACE  
SERVING ALL

We are so happy you are  
worshiping with us today!  
If you have questions or need  
any assistance, please  
see an Usher.

**Assistance Hearing Devices**  
are available from an usher.  
To activate the LOOP HEARING  
SYSTEM please turn your  
hearing aid to T-coil.

The **Cry Room** (off the Narthex)  
is available for nursing moms and  
those with special needs.

Children, K-5th grade may attend  
**Church School** following the  
Children's Sermon. Youth  
will not meet in July.

A **Nursery** is available in the  
Christian Education Building for  
children under the age of 5 yrs.

Please note on the prayer card  
or call the office (941-778-0414)  
if you or someone you know  
would like a **Pastoral Visit**  
or is in the hospital.

PASTOR  
Rev. Dr. Robert O'Keef  
910-580-7359

ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
Rev. Neil Crowell  
980-521-7129

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES  
Kristen Stanton

# ROSER COMMUNITY CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP • 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM  
July 16, 2017 • 6th Sunday after Pentecost

An asterisk (\*) indicates when those who are able will stand.

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

A time to quiet our hearts, minds and voices in preparation for worship.  
Please fill out your prayer request cards at this time to be handed to the  
ushers later in the service.

PRELUDE *Give Me Jesus* arr. Hayes

## SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Register with your name and address for our  
records of attendance and pass along to your pew mates.

**\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison) No. 41 vs. 4**  
**Stand up and bless the Lord,  
The Lord your God adore,  
Stand up and bless his glorious name,  
Both now and ever more.**

**\*HYMN OF ADORATION A Mighty Fortress No. 43**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION (In Unison)**  
**We give glory to you, O God. Your power, working in us, can do  
infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. We give glory to you,  
O God of hope, for you fill us with joy and peace, and strengthen us  
with the power of your Holy Spirit. Praise be to God! Amen.**

## GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

CALL TO PRAYER *Be Still, for the Spirit of the Lord* Evans

**(Your prayer request cards will be collected by the ushers.)**

(Minister). . . In your steadfast love and mercy,  
**(People). . . Hear our prayers, O God.**

## SILENT PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day  
our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is  
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM (10:00) *Christians All, Come Sing His Praises* Beall/Carter

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## THE GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY** *Just As I Am* arr. Smith  
Grace Notes: JoAnne Moyer, Carol Clements, Jeanette Rothberg

ACOLYTE Tres Maddox  
 DEACON OF THE MONTH Susan Cheshire  
 MISSION OF THE MONTH  
 Wycliffe Bible Translators  
 SOUND DIRECTOR Alan Ward  
 SOUND TECHNICIAN Michael Jennis  
 NURSERY LEADER Lisa Lardas  
 SUNDAY CUSTODIAN Jim Webb  
 FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR Charles Wade  
 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR Matt Meehan  
 CHURCH SECRETARY Cyndy Custis  
 MEDIA FACILITATOR Bev Hunsberger

**The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God:**

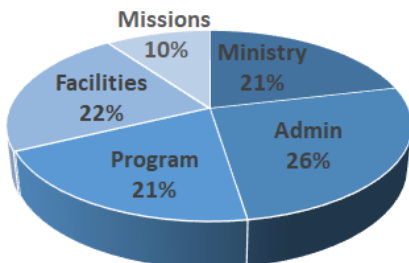
**Happy 21st birthday Jim, from Marilyn Shirley.**

To honor a loved one with **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**, please sign the book in the Narthex or contact the office (941-778-0414).

**HOW ARE WE DOING?**

YTD Attendance  
 2016 - 10,704  
 2017 - 10,306  
 YTD Contributions  
 2016 - \$261,846  
 2017 - \$277,497  
 YTD Expenses - \$289,926  
 YTD Income - \$367,627

Contributions comprise the portion of income donated by the congregation. Monthly financial reports available in the church office provide full detail.



2017 YTD Use of Cash Received

**\*DOXOLOGY** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 809  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
 praise Him, all creatures here below;  
 praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
 praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostle’s Creed (Unison)*  
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION** *More Love To Thee* No. 555

**SCRIPTURE** **Matthew 13: 1-9**  
 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

(Leader) . . . The word of God for the people of God.  
 (People). . . **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **“THE SOWER, THE SEED AND THE SOIL”** Dr. Bob O’Keef

Call to Discipleship

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** *My Faith Looks Up* No. 552

BENEDICTION

**Benediction Response** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* **Boertje**  
**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

POSTLUDE *Sortie Toccata* Dubois

# Special Music

**SUNDAY, JULY 16 • 8:30 AND 10:00 AM**  
**GRACE NOTES**

**SUNDAY, JULY 23**  
**JAZZ COMBO**

**8:30 AM • Island Praise Quartet**

Phyllis O'Keef, Bob O'Keef, Marc Deur and Joy Bennington  
**10:00 AM • Chancel Choir**

**SUNDAY, JULY 30 • ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM • FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY**  
**WOMEN'S CHORUS**

Ladies young and old who enjoy singing are invited to join us!  
 We will rehearse on Thursday, July 27 at 7:00 PM in the Colman Building.  
 Please let Kristen know if you are interested in joining us.  
 (941-778-0414 or kristen@roserschurch.com)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 • 8:30 AND 10:00 AM**

**SADIE ELBERT - VOCAL SOLOIST**

Sadie Elbert is a 2017 graduate of Manatee School for the Arts and will attend Palm Beach Atlantic University in the fall. Sadie is the granddaughter of Marc and Mary Deur.

## Mission of the Month

### WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

JULY



The Bible is one of the oldest and most popular books of all time. But is it just a book, or is it much more?

We believe that the Bible is God's Word to us — something that everyone should be able to understand in their own language. But more than 1,600 languages around the world are still waiting for a translation project to

begin. When people finally get the Bible in their own language, lives often change in amazing ways. People are transformed as they are led to Jesus Christ and a right relationship with God.

That's why Wycliffe Bible Translators exists — to help these remaining languages get the Bible for themselves. And we won't stop until all people have God's Word in a language they understand.

To donate to the Mission of the Month, please use the envelope in the pew or go to GIVE online at [www.roserschurch.com](http://www.roserschurch.com).

## THIS WEEK AT ROSER

**SUNDAY • July 16**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Grace Notes  
**8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE** .... Chapel  
**8:45 Adult Sunday School Class** ... FH  
**10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE** ..... S  
**10:00 Church School** ..... CD

**MONDAY • July 17**

**9:30 Stew/Fin Board** ..... FH  
**12:00 Bridge** ..... FH  
**7:30 AA & Alanon** ..... FH & LB

**TUESDAY • July 18**

**9:00 Volunteer Workday**  
**9:30 Executive Meeting** ..... CB  
**9:30-2:00 Thrift Shop** ..... Pg 8  
**11:00 Staff Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY • July 19**

**9:00-11:00 Thrift Shop Donations**.. Pg 8  
**9:30 Roser-Robics** ..... Pg 6  
**2:45 Golfing for God** ..... Pg 6

**THURSDAY • July 20**

**9:30-2:00 Thrift Shop Open** ..... Pg 8  
**10:30 AA Meditation** ..... CD  
**7:30 AA & Alanon** ..... FH & LB

**FRIDAY • July 21**

**9:30 Roser-Robics** ..... Pg 6

**SATURDAY • July 22**

**10:00-1:00 Thrift Shop Open** ... Pg 8

**SUNDAY • July 23**

**MUSIC:** Jazz Combo  
**8:30 WORSHIP SERVICE** .... Chapel  
**8:45 Adult Sunday School Class** ... FH  
**10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE** ..... S  
**10:00 Church School** ..... CD



### PLEASE NOTE:

On Sunday, July 30 there will be one service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

### ROOM KEY

CB - Classroom B, CD - Classroom D,  
 CM - Colman, FH - Fellowship Hall,  
 LB - Library, S - Sanctuary

# Hands On Missions

Call the Church Office for contact information— 941-778-0414.

## ► Join the Missions Committee

Never a dull moment... we are growing—adding programs and missionaries. If you have a passion for missions—check us out! Contact: Pam Alvord

## ► Our Daily Bread • July 10 & 30

To help serve contact Ann Jones. The Roser team serves on every 2nd Monday and 5th Sunday! This is a community-driven organization that provides free daily meals to all who are hungry. Hot lunch is served to over 200 people a day, 7 days a week.

## ► Youth for Christ

Volunteer, listen to the kids at club, bring food and drinks or money for food and drinks. Send a kid to camp—it could change his/her eternal future. Contact: Pam Alvord

## ► Jim Russo Prison Ministry

Donations of towels, linen, and men's needs are welcomed. Contact: Mike Oney

## ► Roser Food Pantry

Volunteer/donations  
Contact: Jack & Lynn Brennan

## ► Roser Thrift Shop

Volunteer/donations  
Contact: Peggy Nash

## ► Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Any and every donation helps the migrant workers. Contact: Anne Morse

## ► Roser Women's Guild

Can tabs, canceled stamps cut from envelope with 1/3" border, school box tops and labels for education can be left in the Women's Guild Box in the church office or given to Glenda Beck for AME.

# The island's first church is honoring its roots to draw new crowds

BRADENTON HERALD • JUNE 30, 2017 • BY SARA NEALEIGH



The island's first church is going back to its roots as it looks forward.

Rev. Bob O'Keef, lead pastor at Roser Memorial Community Church, said the church is trying to restore itself as a religious vacation destination.

O'Keef said the plan is similar to how the church operated shortly after it was built in 1913. The chapel was the dream of John Roser, who wanted to commemorate the life of his late wife, Caroline. His son, Charles, provided funds for the structure to be built thanks to his fortune as a successful businessman. Charles Roser is credited with the creation of what is

now known as the Fig Newton, which was purchased by the National Biscuit Company (NABISCO).

The Rosers stipulated that the church be nondenominational; meant to be a place where the community, residents and visitors alike, could come together in faith. "The congregation is unique in that it's diverse," O'Keef said. "That's been fascinating and wonderful."

As long as Roser was alive, he would bring in pastors from across the Tampa Bay area to preach at the church, offering them a vacation in exchange for a Sunday sermon, O'Keef said. It was a system that O'Keef said worked well then, and sees potential in bringing something similar back. To get a feeling for how the program could work, the church is holding a **SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES**, including a sermon on Sunday.

The speaker will be Mike Slaughter, who was lead pastor of Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio. His church was named one of the top 50 churches in the United States by the Church Report magazine in 2005 and 2006. Slaughter's final weekend as lead pastor of Ginghamburg Church was June 25 after 38 years in the position. He will host three sessions at Roser Memorial Community Church between July 30 and Aug. 2.

The series is all in an effort to stay current as the population of the island changes. O'Keef said during season, the added-on sanctuary could see up to 1,000 people, but the rest of the year, the two Sunday services combined could see just 200. Since O'Keef's arrival in August 2014, church attendance has increased by 30 percent. *Invite your friends and join us for three days on Anna Maria Island!*

There are more plans to allow the church to continue to grow. O'Keef noted they are in the early planning stages of a contemporary service that could expand to the mainland, since the majority of their congregation commutes to the island for worship.

**An Island Church uses the past to inspire the future**



## LISTEN TO AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. MIKE SLAUGHTER

**PART 1** 8:30 AM Wednesday 7/19 • **PART 2** 8:30 AM Thursday 7/20

*NOTE: Tune in 10 or 15 minutes before the scheduled time as schedules may change. LISTEN LIVE at [www.moodyradioflorida.fm](http://www.moodyradioflorida.fm)*

91.1 FM Tampa Bay • 90.9 FM FT Myers • 91.9 FM Crystal River • 104.3 FM Sarasota/Bradenton

# DISCOVERING GOD'S

# NEXT

# 2017 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

# JULY 31 TO AUG 2



SUMMER LECTURE SERIES FEATURING

## REV. DR. MIKE SLAUGHTER

Sunday, July 30

**ONE SERVICE: 10:00 AM**

Worship Services

Topic: *Activate Faith*

EVENING SESSIONS

**5:00 - 7:00 PM**

MEAL served at 7:00

Monday, July 31

*The Passionate Church*

Tuesday, August 1

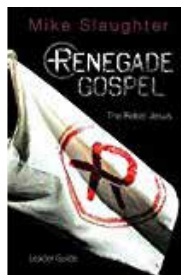
*Discovering God's Next*

Wednesday, August 2

*Activate Health and Healing*

- **Invite family & friends SNOWBIRDS...**
- **Invite your Pastor and church members!**

**10 scholarships available!**  
**Contact Neil if you or someone you know would like to take advantage of this offer.**



**COST \$75 OR \$30 PER NIGHT**

Includes meal, daily sessions and Mike's book:

## *The Renegade Gospel*

REGISTER [www.RoserChurch.com/next](http://www.RoserChurch.com/next)

or with a check—noting attendee name(s)

For more information call Rev. Neil Crowell at 980-521-7129

**MIKE SLAUGHTER** is lead pastor and Chief Dreamer of Ginghamburg Church where he has served for 36 years. He is a catalyst for change in the worldwide church. Ginghamburg has grown from just 90 people in worship to a thriving mission center where thousands of people serve Jesus. His dynamic teaching, heart for the lost and innovative approach to ministry has led Ginghamburg Church to outgrow all paradigms for a church in a cornfield. *Mike's call to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted will challenge attendees to wrestle with God and their God-destinies.*

In 2005 and 2006, Ginghamburg was named as one of the top 50 churches in the U.S. by The Church Report magazine. In 2007, The Church Report listed Mike as one of the 50 most influential Christians in America. As a mentor, Mike travels globally to speak and uses his "gift of irritation" to equip ministry leaders to minimize brick and maximize mission so that they may fully deploy the mission of Jesus into the world. He is also the author of multiple books including *The Passionate Church: Ignite Your Church* and *Change the World* (Abingdon Press) and many more.





# ROSER ROBICS

## 9:30 AM Wednesdays & Fridays

IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

All ages and skill levels are welcome as variations are shown, including standing exercises to improve balance and flexibility. This chair-based exercise class is appropriate for older adults and those looking to lessen the impact on their joints.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit... so let's glorify God, have fun, and move to the music through exercises designed to increase your endurance.

### THE COST:

Donation-based

BRING: 2 cans of fruit of equal size and weight to be used for class activities. Cans may be donated to the Food Pantry.

### ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

The instructor, Melissa Merkle, is certified as an AFAA Group Exercise Instructor and Personal Trainer and Health Coach.

For more information, visit [boomersNmotion.com](http://boomersNmotion.com), call Melissa at 330-990-0990 email to [coaches@boomersNmotion.com](mailto:coaches@boomersNmotion.com).



## The Gospel of John!

Dr. Bob O'Keef is teaching through

The Gospel of John celebrates Jesus as the Word of God, the source of life, light, and truth. It is the most **SPIRITUAL** of the Gospels, and the most **BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN**. Scenes of night and day are intended to help its

readers move from **DARKNESS** to **LIGHT**. Only in the light of Christ can we **TRULY SEE, TRULY LIVE, and TRULY BE ALL THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE.**

**g4G**  
GOLFING  
FOR GOD

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

IMG Academy, Bradenton

Dinner & Bible Study 5:30 PM • \$20

Dinner & Bible Study + Clinic • \$40

Dinner & Bible Study + Golf 2:45 PM • \$35

9-hole scramble for all levels of golfers

Register: Online, in the Narthex, call the office

or go to [www.roschurch.com/golfing-for-god](http://www.roschurch.com/golfing-for-god)

Next dates: August 9 & 30

## Congratulations!

The team of Ron Engstrom, Allan Gilchrist & John Skladany CLOBBERED holes 5-13 with a score of 35 at IMG to win our 7/5 outing.



BREd (Board of Religious Education) has scholarship funds for those who would like to attend Cedarkirk Summer Camp 2017. Call the church office or contact Linda Gianotes for information. Campers will try new things, explore their faith during Bible study and worship, and have lots of fun! It's not too late—go to the Cedarkirk website to see July dates based on age.



Love the Word.  
Learn the Word.  
Live the Word.  
**40 Days in the Word**  
is a journey of eternal significance.

**TUESDAY, JULY 25 • 2:00 PM** All ladies are invited to join us. Call the church office (941-778-0414) for location and more information.



# Roser Library

**COME AND BROWSE...** The Library is located next to the Chapel and can be accessed from the Fellowship Hall. The Library is open during office hours and on Sundays following the Worship Service. There are new books on the shelves just inside the door that are waiting to be taken home and read.



BIRTHDAY  
BLESSINGS  
JULY

## APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

**158Dye** Dyer, Wayne W. *The power of Intention.*

## PHILOSOPHY AND THEORY OF CHRISTIANITY

**201Rob** Robinson, Marilynne. *The Givenness of things.*

**202Mar** Mark, Barbara. *The angelspeake storybook, how angels work in people's lives.*

## BIBLE

**220Com** Comay, Joan. *Who's who in the Bible.*

**220Hea** Heath, Dale E. *The inherent nature of scripture.* (Bible)

**221Joh** Johnson, Wallace F. *Following the good shepherds.* (Old Testament)

**225Ehr** Ehrman, Bart D. *The Orthodox corruption of scripture.* 2nd ed.

**225Eis** Eisenbaum, Pamela Michelle. *Paul was not a Christian.*

## CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

**230Bor** Borg, Marcus J. *Convictions, how I learned what matters most.*

**230Rue** Ruether, Rosemary. *Sexism and God-talk, toward a feminist theology.*

## GOD

**231Bick** Bickel, Bruce. *God is in the small stuff.*

**231Ehr** Ehrman, Bart D. *God's problem, how the Bible fails to answer our most important question, why we suffer.*

**231Mor** Morse, Dave *The God question, a layman's search for the proof of the almighty.*

**231Sta** Stanley, Charles F. *Living in the power of the holy spirit.*

## JESUS CHRIST

**232Bor** Borg, Marcus J. *Jesus, uncovering the life, teachings and relevance of a religious revolutionary.*

**232Kel** Kelly, Matthew. *Rediscover Jesus.*

## SALVATION AND GRACE

**234Ham** Hamilton, Adam, 1964 *Forgiveness, finding peace through letting go.* (Salvation and Grace)

**238Ham** Hamilton, Adam, 1964. *Creed, what Christians believe and why.* (Apostles Creed)

**239Lim** Limbaugh, David. *Jesus on Trial, a lawyer affirms the truth of the gospel.* (Apologetics)

**242Ear** Earley, Dave. *The 21 most effective prayers of the Bible.* (Devotional literature)

SEE MORE LISTING ONLINE: [www.roserchurch.com/roser-library](http://www.roserchurch.com/roser-library)

- 18 Linda Moore
- 20 Bill Anderson
- 21 Jimmy Shirley
- 22 Jan Kidger
- 22 Bill Willis
- 23 Karen DiCostanzo
- 25 Cherrie Birkman
- 26 Michael Gilchrist
- 26 Michael Hook
- 26 Jennifer Wells
- 30 Steve Walter
- 31 Cass Robertson
- 31 Cory Stewart
- 31 Barbara Zerby

If your birthday is not listed or is incorrect, please call the office (941-778-0414) or email [info@roserchurch.com](mailto:info@roserchurch.com)



## Died to Life EVERLASTING

**WALLY SODERSTROM** Died to Life Everlasting on July 6, 2017 in North Carolina. Wally attended Roser Church before he moved to North Carolina. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and friends, especially Dale Crall who accompanied him to church on Sundays.

**HERBERT H. DITZEL** Died to Life Everlasting on June 28, 2017. He attended Roser Church for many years with Macel Vandesteege. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family and friends. A Memorial Service will be held in the Roser Chapel on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 1:00 PM.



To receive **eUpdates**  
 [WEEKLY eBULLETIN plus]  
 please sign up on the Sunday  
 attendance pad, text **ROSER**  
 to 22828 or scan code above.  
 Please **LIKE** us on  
 Facebook to receive instant  
 updates and photos.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
 and Annual Report are available  
 in the Narthex.

**THE BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
 is every Monday at Noon.  
 Please send your submissions to  
[bulletin@roserschurch.com](mailto:bulletin@roserschurch.com).

**TO SCHEDULE AN EVENT**  
 check the online calendar at  
[www.roserschurch.com/calendar](http://www.roserschurch.com/calendar)  
 then scroll down and complete  
 the form or call the church office.



**THRIFT SHOP**

**TUES & THURS: 9:30 to 2:00**  
**SAT: 10:00 to 1:00**

Donations are accepted on  
 Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to  
 11:00 AM. Special arrangements  
 can be made for other times.  
 Many thanks to our tireless  
 volunteers and the friends whose  
 donations are so important!  
**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**  
 Please call the church office or  
 see Peggy Nash to volunteer.  
[www.roserschurch.com/thrift-shop](http://www.roserschurch.com/thrift-shop)

**CLASSES PLANNED**  
*for those who wish to become*  
**STEPHEN MINISTERS**

We are determining the best schedule for the next Stephen Ministry course at Roser, to be offered next winter approximately **JANUARY-MARCH 2018**. Members of Roser Memorial Community Church are eligible to enroll, and there is interest from several potential students at this time. Once we have a definite group of students lined up, we will be able to determine the best day of the week for classes to be offered. Those who are interested in taking Stephen Ministry classes and becoming Stephen Ministers, please call the church office at 941-778-0414 or contact Betsy Grundy. If you or someone you know would like to have a Stephen Minister, please call the church office or contact JoAnne Moyer.

Stephen Ministry is the **ONE-TO-ONE LAY CARING MINISTRY** that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting, by carefully and calmly listening, providing perspective, maintaining total confidentiality and privacy, and helping the Care Receiver walk through difficult times.

**OVER 50 HOURS OF INITIAL TRAINING** takes place in basic counseling and ministry, and students actively participate in their own Christian growth and effective sharing with others. The training takes place before Stephen Ministers are commissioned and assigned to their first Care Receivers. Continuing education takes place during the months after commissioning.