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## *Stephen Ministry Training to Begin in September*

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one confidential ministry provided by trained and caring lay ministers. This ministry, which we do jointly with Beach UMC, is beginning a new training class on Monday, September 8th. It involves a commitment of 50 hours, meeting weekly. Our own **Jill Bennett** and **Larry Bradford**, along with Carmen Johns, will be teaching the class at BUMC. After being trained our Stephen Ministers will be assigned care-receivers, with whom they are equipped to walk alongside as they face trials common to so many of us: divorce, serious illness, death of someone we love, to name a few.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul writes "Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God."

Is God calling you to this ministry? Do you have questions? Please call Jill Bennett at 285-2134 or Larry Bradford at 992-0196.

## *Children's Mission Month.....It Takes A Village*

For the past month, each Wednesday a group of children have been learning about the value of helping others who are less fortunate within our community. Week One: We formed an assembly line and each child helped fill and wrap presents for the Children's Home Society. The Society receives a great deal of donations during the holiday season, however throughout the year many children staying there will have a birthday without a single present. Through the efforts of our children the Society now has 30 wrapped presents to store and use as needed. Ask anyone of the PVUMC children why they did that and they will tell you "because some children don't have any family so we need to be their family."

Week Two: A little grocery store was set up in our church. The children were baggers, checkers and customers filling sack lunches for the Donner Community Center in Mayport. Children that are on the free or reduced lunch program during the school year receive breakfast and lunch. However, during the summer that program does not exist. The Donner Community Center helps feed and clothe those in need including the homeless. Thanks to the efforts of our children the Center received 40 sack lunches with non-perishable foods. Ask any child that participated why they did that and they will tell you "because some people don't have enough money for food or a place to live."

Weeks Three and Four: The children decorated clay pots for some senior citizens at Vicars Landing. Then they took their lovely voices to Vicars Landing to sing a few songs and present those listening with a potted flower. We learned about the value of older people and grandparents. Ask why they did that and you will hear "because some people don't have any grandchildren or they live far away so we need to be their grandchildren."

Thanks to all those who volunteered to make this a success. Thanks to all the children who gave their hearts unconditionally and God bless all those who have been touched by the children's efforts.