

CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT
ASSISTANT IN MINISTRY
DUKE MEMORIAL UMC
OCTOBER 8, 2000

My job as assistant in ministry encompasses many areas: Children's Ministry, Singles Ministry, Older Adult Ministry – programming for older adults and visitation of shut-ins, Stephen Ministry, Education, Friday hospital visits, teaching study groups, and Wonderful Wednesday. This report will highlight a few of these areas.

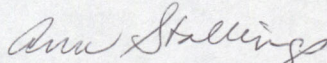
Children's Ministry includes all the children's programming, the childcare for Sunday School and church nursery (hiring and training), and the Parents' Morning Out program. The Parents' Morning Out program employs 12 teachers serving 134 children five mornings a week. Our program cares for babies 8 months to children three years old. We have a long waiting list as we are one of the oldest Morning Out programs and try to do an excellent job. We have helped several other churches begin their programs.

As of this year, about half the people in the United States are single – including widows, widowers, separated and divorced folks, and all other singles. We try to reach out to them by having two events a month – guided hikes, trips to ball games, eating out, and so on. Most of them get a phone call once a month to see how they are doing and remind them of upcoming happenings.

Our older adults have a lunch and a special program once a month. This is a good time of fellowship and learning. Recent topics have been "What the Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens does," the Eno River Association, and spiritual dance.

We are reaching out to our homebound on Sunday, October 1, when ministers and Stephen Ministers from our church are going to many homes to bring cheer and communion to these folks. We also have an ongoing visitation ministry to visit shut-ins in their homes – the Thursday Group visits once a month and others visit individually.

The Stephen Ministry program reaches out to people in crisis – whether from the loss of a loved one, a divorce, a troubled marriage, loss of a job, critical illness, and so on. We have just completed a new training class of 6 Stephen Ministers, bringing us to a total of 15 Stephen Ministers in our church. We have training in such areas as listening skills, dealing with feelings, Christian assertiveness skills, hospitalization, and the small-step approach. We are currently helping 15 people with transitions in their lives. We are studying a book now in continuing education helping us to see the Lord in the everyday things of our lives.


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Assistant in Ministry