

**January 2019 From the desk of Steve Herner**

**Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

*As we move along the path of our life we need the constant companionship that is given by those who love us. And no one loves us more than the one who gave us life, our God. He has given many messages through the Bible that tell us about His faithful companionship because He loves us, not because He has to love us, but because He chooses to love us. So as we move through life we can remind ourselves of His love each day with the words from the Psalms;*

***I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord: The maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. The one who watches over you will not sleep; he does not rest or sleep. The Lord watches over you- The Lord is your shade at your right hand; The sun will not harm you by day ,Nor the moon by night. The Lord will watch over all your ways both now and forever. Amen.***

*Our Lord also calls upon each of us to support our siblings as they face the ebb and flow of life’s experiences.*

***A Stephen Minister accepts a special calling to be a support, a listener, an encourager, a prayer companion. A Stephen Minister will follow a planned schedule of one on one meetings, with total confidentiality, and not making judgments, but encouraging by listening in love and patience.***

*Be encouraged by a brother or sister in Christ. Be supported in your situations by someone who is acting in the love that God gives to us, and requires us to share with others. God knows your needs and faith. **Mark 5:28 tells us that because she thought “if I just touch His clothes I will be healed.” And in another place within Scripture He says “your faith has made you whole.”***

*Have faith and accept His love and also the love of a Stephen Minister whose only desire is to be your companion filled with trust and compassion..*

***Need a Stephen Minister please contact one of the pastors at 630-968-3112 or Flora Allgaier at 630-969-7689 or Beth Spilky at 630-541-3623 or Steve Herner at 630-515-1951.***