



“I needed
someone
to hold my
hand.”



PRILL WIESE

1983. Life was very painful. I was going through a divorce, with three children, facing a future where I was going to need to resurrect some sort of career to support myself and my family. There was nothing pleasant about my days or those of my kids. We were all very sad. I was able to get a Stephen Minister to hold my hand through this time, and it was a bright spot among all the gloom. The primary recollection I have of my time with this sweet lady was Phillipians 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” She reminded me of this verse each time we met, and it has been a part of my life ever after.

1985 or thereabouts. I was asked to take the Stephen Ministry training myself. I did, and stayed with it for a year or two. Unfortunately, I was now working fulltime, taking care of my family and attending graduate school parttime. Needless to say, my time was limited, so I became inactive. I had even dropped out of Chancel Choir at Bonhomme (quite a sacrifice for me).

2003. I had been married to my second husband, Charlie, for almost 15 years now, and he had become a Stephen Minister at Bonhomme. He was quite excited about it, and I encouraged him in the great work he was doing. This was the year I was laid off from my job. It was again a painful time for me – nothing like the divorce, but still a situation where I felt the need for a Stephen Minister. I called June Davis, who was the referral coordinator at that time. She said “Did you say you want to come back and be a Stephen Minister again?” I said no, and explained that I wanted a Stephen Minister to be assigned to be my caregiver. After we stopped laughing, she volunteered to be my Stephen Minister herself. I was delighted with this and she was quite a comfort for me. She did have an ulterior motive however. At the same time she was holding my hand and praying for me, she was able to convince me to come back to active participation in Stephen Ministry.

2008. It had been a year now since my dear husband, Charlie, died, and once again my life was in shambles. This time I received a great deal of support from the Griefshare classes led by Clair Allyn, who was at that time an inactive Stephen Minister, and doing these classes as a service to those of us at Bonhomme who had lost loved ones. He had lost his wife to cancer several years before. It didn't take long before I was selected to attend Stephen Ministry Leadership Training, which was a fun, informative and spiritual experience like nothing I had ever experienced before. Once I completed the training, I was asked to be the Stephen Ministry training coordinator at Bonhomme.

2016. I have now, with a great deal of help, completed training four classes of Stephen Ministers at Bonhomme (23 new Stephen Ministers in all.) To say this has been a fun, informative and spiritual experience would be an understatement. I have never done anything which brought me so much joy. Needless to say, that was not the goal. The goal was to equip those in the classes to be effective Stephen Ministers who would continue to provide Christian caregiving to all who are in need of it. Each class has had a unique ‘personality’, and each member of each class holds a special place in my heart, as well as I am sure they do in the hearts of the many care receivers they have served.

One thing I left out is that, when asked to be training coordinator for Stephen Ministry at Bonhomme I was terrified. I had no idea what was involved, or if I could be effective in this role. That is when I remembered Phillipians 4:13: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Thanks be to God for this wonderful ministry.

