

STEPHEN MINISTRY

MATCHES SUPER BOWL EXPERIENCE

“Before I retired from coaching, my team was in the Super Bowl six times,” says Bill Arnsparger, who coached for 23 seasons in the NFL. “I thought nothing would ever match that. But being a Stephen Minister has been one of the greatest experiences of my life.”

During his coaching career, Arnsparger heard about Stephen Ministry at his church several times. “I knew it was important, so I couldn’t wait to get involved,” he recalls.

So, once he retired, he trained to become a Stephen Minister.

“I find serving as a Stephen Minister very rewarding,” Arnsparger says. “The hours I’ve invested into Stephen Ministry have brought me closer to the Lord and to others in my congregation. It’s an opportunity to work with people and really help them. Each care receiver inspires me to build my faith. I always benefit from our time together.”

Arnsparger’s caring relationships have taught him to trust in God’s healing love. “I’ve learned that I can’t always predict



Bill Arnsparger spent 23 seasons as an NFL coach, with stops in Baltimore, Miami, New York, and San Diego. Upon retiring, he became a Stephen Minister at his church in La Jolla, California. He passed away in 2015.

and plan what each visit will be like,” he says. “I work to be open to new developments, and I hang in there when new problems come up. I know I can’t just make my care receiver feel better. My job is to listen and to care; God takes care of the rest.”

Although Stephen Ministry and football might not seem to have much in common, Arnsparger sees similarities between the two. “Stephen Ministry builds confidence, both in the Stephen Ministers and in the care receivers,” he says. “Stephen Ministry takes teamwork, too. In supervision, we need to work together to provide the best care possible—to our care receivers and to one another. Each opportunity to care is a new challenge, a new experience, just as each game is.”

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