

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE LAY MINISTRY OF CAREGIVERS?

On Sunday March 31, 1996, seventeen members of First Baptist Church were commissioned as lay caregivers after completing a six-session training class. In July of that year, the caregivers established a mission statement which was recently updated to “*visit, comfort and minister to the well-being of the sick and shut-in as requested.*”

WHY WAS THE LAY MINISTRY OF CAREGIVERS FORMED?

The ministry was formed to maintain the bond of fellowship between our shut-ins and the church.

WHAT SERVICES DOES THE LAY MINISTRY OF CAREGIVERS PROVIDE?

Caregivers provide sick and shut-in members with support through visitations, phone calls, cards, gifts for birthdays, Valentine’s Day baskets, other remembrances, scriptures and prayers. The Caregivers Ministry gives special recognitions to members who are 90-plus years old.

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CAREGIVERS MINISTRY?

The ministry supports the First Baptist food pantry, Senior Services Meals-on-Wheels Program, Operation Inasmuch, toiletries for men at the homeless shelter, and gifts for residents of G.W. Holland Homes. In past years, the ministry has supported the Louise Smith Summer Adventure Camp, the community “Give-a-Kid-a-Coat” Campaign, and winter gloves for homeless men.

WHEN ARE THE LAY CAREGIVERS MEETINGS HELD?

The Caregivers meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (except July and August).

WHAT TRAINING DO LAY CAREGIVERS RECEIVE?

Potential members attend a series of training sessions before being commissioned. Trainees are then partnered with an existing Caregiver to gain visitation experience.

Caregivers attend periodic training sessions to refresh and reinforce their learning.

HOW CAN I JOIN THE LAY MINISTRY OF CAREGIVERS?

Membership is open to any interested member of First Baptist Church. Contact a coordinator or member to express interest in joining or attend a Caregivers meeting.