A Penguin Parable

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

A prayer for our clergy and their families…

I said a prayer for you today
and know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart
although He spoke no word.
I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
I knew you wouldn't mind.
I asked Him to send treasures of a
far more lasting kind.
I asked that He'd be near you
at the start of each new day.
To grant you health and blessings
and friends to share your way.
I asked for happiness for you
in all things great and small.
But it was for His loving care
I prayed the most of all.

Author Unknown

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.”

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Central Shores Care Team

Offering the love of Jesus Christ

Caring for clergy and their families

Statement of Purpose

To provide a connectional, uplifting ministry of support to pastors, spouses, and families of the Central Shores District through prayer, support, caring, and resources.

We care about you!

Some of the ways we expect to support clergy:

- Developing a support system for clergy and their families
- Planning a clergy retreat
- Working with the District Superintendent and district leadership to bring in speakers to address topics of special interest. The team welcomes suggestions.
- Compiling a list from each Connexion Zone of favorite local activities, eateries, parks, playgrounds, attractions, shopping, etc., which will be shared throughout the district.

What does the Care Team do?

Ministry is demanding. (You knew that, right?) And the demands are not limited to the pastor alone. The family is affected in ways most church members will never imagine.

Support is the foundation for the Central Shores District Care Team. This committee seeks to provide moral support and special activities for our district clergy and their families. The team is a mix of clergy and laity.

As a ministry of the Care Team, cards are sent to pastors and their families on different occasions. The team shares prayer concerns and prays at each monthly meeting for specific needs.

Team Members

Janice Buckley

Jessica Cobb

Mary Jo DeLany

Valerie DeLany

Cindy Gibbs

Benita Graf

Debbi Kasper

Cathy Kelley

Melanie Zalewski
(ex-officio member)

We would like to extend an invitation to clergy and laity to join the Care Team. We strive to have a representative from every Connexion Zone as we anticipate the growth of our district. If you are interested in joining us, please contact one of the team members for more information or email the team at careteam@centralshoresumc.org.