# **Shepherd's Ministries**

Dr. William J. Amstutz

As I look to the future of our ministry, I would like to share with you some truths found in 1 Timothy 1:5 ESV. "The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." I hope you see that as a ministry we do have this love, and our love comes out of a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith.

I look at it this way. In order to move ahead at Shepherds, we must first have a clear conscience. God has given us a conscience to help us stay on track, able to discern right and wrong. It is important to keep a clear conscience to move forward in our lives. Having our sins confessed up-to-date allows us to keep our conscience clear.

A pure heart speaks to the motives I have for my words and actions today. My desire is to "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14 ESV)

And finally, sincere faith. This is imperative to moving forward into the future. All three of these items are to be used in our individual lives and collectively as we strategize for the future. "We will, with an eye to the future, walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7 ESV)

#### PRAISE!

God continues to sustain us in our ministry to people with intellectual disabilities.

God continues to provide qualified, loving staff to serve.

God blesses us with dedicated volunteers who save us thousands of dollars a year with their labors of love.

#### PRAYERS!

For the Lord to continue to call volunteers to work at Shepherds, especially local people who can come regularly.

For our local community to continue to open up employment and volunteer opportunities for our college graduates and Catalyst clients. For God to raise up new monthly donors so Shepherds can thrive, not iust survive.

For our staff to be wise, discerning, faithful and mission-oriented. For God to be at work in and through our students and clients, and that His Spirit would call all to faith in Him.

Bill Amstutz

President....and still a servant



Awana Closing Ceremony – we're in need of donations of cookies/bars for the Closing Ceremony at 6:15 pm on April 25th. Closing Ceremony Please drop them off in the kitchen labeled "Awana". Thank you!

Awana STORE - Since Awana was cancelled last Wednesday, Awana Store will now be held following the Closing Ceremony on April 25th. There's still time to bring items in for the Store!

Pipeline Class April 29th ~ Please join us at 9 am in the Nehemiah Center to hear our supported missionary, Andy Thoman, with InterVarsity at UW-Oshkosh, explain how God is working through the YWAM, UW-Oshkosh ministry. Everyone is welcome!

Pipeline Class May 6th ~ we will do a study called Go Fish. Our 9 AM class will include a short video segment with discussion about how to naturally talk about our faith in Jesus... Topics Include: We Were All Fish Once, Why Go Fishing, Fishing Together, and The One That Got Away. We all want to be better at creating discussion that allows us to talk about Jesus and our faith... Join us and let's learn together!

**Softball** ~ if you would like to play for MBC in the church softball league this summer, sign up at the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Bob Hauri, 608-325-9952 or email bobdebhauri@gmail.com

Women's Ministry - Priscilla Shirer Simulcast ~ Friday, May 11th from 6:30-8:30 pm and Sat., May 12th from 9 am - 3 pm at Faith Community Church in Davis, IL. Lunch is provided Saturday. Tickets are \$15 per person. Make checks payable to Monroe Bible Church. We'll be carpooling from MBC. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Contact Jane Thoman with questions at 214-9660.

**Graduation!** ~ Monroe Bible Church is in need of **5-6 photos of each class** of 2018 High School graduate: from birth, through the years, to Senior year. We will be recognizing our High School graduates on Sunday, May 20th during Worship Services. A slide show with your son's or daughter's photos, put to music, will be shown during each of the services. Please email your photos to the church office in a jpeg format. If you are unable to do that, bring your photos in to the office and we will scan them into our computer. Photos for the slide presentation must be in the church office *No Later* than May 1st (that's next week!).

Don't wait - send us your photos TODAY!



#### Sunday, April 29

Worship Services: 9 am & 10:30 am Café Pipeline Class ~ 9 am, NC. Guest speaker Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106

#### Monday, April 30

Prayer Meeting ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102



#### Tuesday, May 1

Missions Meeting ~ 6 pm, LL #106

#### Wednesday, May 2

Men's Noon Bible Study ~ LL #104 Awana Leaders Meeting ~ 6 pm, NC

## Thursday, May 3

National Day of Prayer Breakfast ~ 6:30 am, Ludlow Mansion

Women's Philippians study ~ 9:30 am, LL. Room #106

Narcotics Anonymous ~ 7 pm, LL #102

### Saturday, May 5

Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC/K

### Sunday, May 6

Ignite Service at Monroe Clinic ~ Meet at MBC, 4 pm

Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106

Next Steps "Step 3" ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102

## Tuesday, May 8

Primetimers Dinner ~ 5:30 pm, NC/K

### Friday & Saturday, May 11 & 12

Priscilla Shirer Simulcast ~ 6:30 - 8:30 pm Fri., & 9 am – 3 pm Sat., Faith Community Church, Davis IL

### Friday, May 18

Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch ~ 11:15 am Ministry Leader Appreciation Dinner ~ 6 pm, NC

## Week of April 22 - 28

### Today, Sunday, April 22 Lord's Table

Worship Services: 9 am & Café Service 10:30 am

Ladies Pipeline Class Concludes ~ 9 am/NC & 10:30 am/LL #106 Men's Pipeline Class Concludes ~ 9 am,

Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106 Next Steps-Step 2 (s2) ~ 6:30 pm, LL102

#### Monday, April 23

Prayer Meeting ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102

## Tuesday, April 24

Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106

#### Wednesday, April 25

Men's Noon Bible Study ~ LL #102 Awana Closing Program ~ 6:15 pm Cookies & Bars needed. Awana Store open following the closing program

#### Thursday, April 26

Women's Philippians study ~ 9:30 am, LL, Room #106 Narcotics Anonymous ~ 7 pm, LL #102

# Prayer Focus – Women's Ministry Ministry Leader – Jane Thoman Please Pray:

- † Prayer for the planning of the Women's retreat.
- † Prayer for the speakers.
- † Pray that we can see and meet the needs of the women of the church.

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST May 3rd**

<u>Volunteers still needed</u>: 6 youth prayers, 2 table hosts, and 1 breakfast casserole server. Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center. Sign up today, or contact Helen Tuttle, 325-3145.

If you would like to <u>pray at the Justice Center</u> with us following the breakfast, please sign up at the Welcome Center. We will be praying there from about 8:30-8:45 AM. If you have any questions, contact Dan Keen, 608-897-4563.



Thank you to all who donated treats, the Missions Ministry for sponsoring expenses, and for all who helped with the Good News Club. We had a successful first year! Please pray for this next school year's club.

Sincerely, Lucy Whyte

<u>Primetimers Fellowship Dinner</u> ~ Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, coffee/punch at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 PM. Bring a dish to pass and provide us with a graduation picture, or one of you at around 18 years of age, and think of a story to share. If you have any questions please call Ray & Becky, 325-4240.



<u>Step 2 – "Our Core Beliefs"</u> Session 2 - Today, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 PM, Lower Level #102. Children are welcome to attend with you.

<u>Step 3 – "Our Commitments"</u> (1 s.) ~ Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, Lower Level #102. Children are welcome.

\*Steps 2 & 3 are required for membership. Sign up at the Welcome Center!

