Shepherds College

Our Mission

Shepherds College exists to educate and train students with intellectual and developmental disabilities by equipping them to reach appropriate independence through the development of vocational, social and life skills while inspiring a lasting awareness of God's plan for their lives.

Stop and think back over the past ten years of your life. What has changed? What has been accomplished? Ten years can seem like such a long time when you are in the midst of it, but in hindsight, events that took place ten years ago can seem as though they are recent history.

At Shepherds College (formerly Shepherds Ministries), the past ten years represent years spent as a pioneer in postsecondary training for young men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Accreditation for Shepherds College was determined to be a critical factor even before the school opened. Early on, it was decided that we would pursue accreditation from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), whose leadership expressed a genuine desire to assist us and help us reach this never before attainted status for a school serving people with IDD. After hosting two different accreditation review teams, in 2011 Shepherds College was granted accreditation through NCA CASI as a non-degree granting postsecondary school. This achievement allowed us to pursue and be granted full participation in the Federal Student Aid program, an important factor in helping families make attending Shepherds College a reality.

A few years later, NCA CASI decided to no longer accredit schools who were also wanting to access Federal Student Aid, leaving Shepherds College with an 18-month window to find new accreditation. Through the guidance of our volunteer educational consultant, the decision was made to pursue new accreditation through the Council on Occupational Education (COE). The accreditation process with COE required meeting 100% of 252 criteria across ten different standards. It was a daunting task and involved each of our faculty members under the leadership of our Dean of Education. Incredibly, when the COE review team assessed Shepherds College on the 252 criteria, they determined that we met every one, a classification they call "zero findings". This was an unbelievable accomplishment and something that fewer than 5% of the schools seeking accreditation through COE attain. Praise God!

A Next Steps "Step 3" class will be held in the Lower Level Room 102 TODAY at 10:15 am.

<u>Next Steps – Step 1</u>: Sunday, December 9th at Noon in the Nehemiah Center. Learn what our mission and vision are and how you can become a part of it. Lunch is provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center today.

If you are interested in attending the <u>2019 Guatemala Missions trip July 6-13</u>, the last Informational Meeting is on December 9th at 11:50 am, in the Lower Level. If you haven't already attended one of the earlier meetings, you must attend this final informational meeting if you plan to go on the trip. Applications for the 2019 trip are due in the church office by Sunday, December 30th.

Mark Your Calendar! A "<u>Gathering of Friends</u>" ladies' event will be Tuesday, December 11th from 7 pm – 9 pm in the Nehemiah Center. All ladies high school age and up are invited.

There will be an <u>Awana Christmas Store</u> on Wednesday, December 5th. If you have items to donate to the Store for kids to "purchase" with their Awana shares please bring them to the church by 4 pm on Wednesday, December 5th. Items suitable for a man's gift are most welcome. Clearly mark your bags/boxes Awana Store.

All are invited to a <u>Christmas Open House at Watson's</u> (W6750 Cnty. B) on Thursday, December 13th from 6 pm – 8 pm. Please join us for treats and a sweet time of fellowship!

A short Kid's Christmas Skit will begin each Service on Sunday, December 16th.

LIFE GROUPS will be taking a break for the holidays beginning December 22, and resume January 6, 2019. Please take this time to evaluate how your group is doing with inviting, discipling, and community service. There are great opportunities for serving through the holidays (leaders should have a list of ministries). If any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to email or call me: mmw3rdjohn4@1791.com or 608-576-4046. Thanks for being a part of the Kingdom work. Mike Westcomb, Ministry Leader



MBC Community Blood Drive ~ Thursday, December 20th from 1-6 pm in the Nehemiah Center. Sign up at the Welcome Center to help.

Would you like more time to meet and visit with your fellow worshippers? Following the Gathering Service on December 30th there will be a "Cookie Fellowship" in the



A Gathering of

Friends

Nehemiah Center. Please bring cookies to share. Following the Cafe Service you are welcome to bring a sack lunch, and more cookies to share, to extend our time of fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!



Sunday, December 9

The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline "Disciplemaking" ~ 9 am, NC MBC Library Open after each Service Guatemala 2019 Info Mtg. #4 ~ 11:50 am,

Next Steps "Step 1" ~ Noon/Lunch, NC Men's Study ~ 12:15 pm, LL #106 Ignite Caroling ~ 4 – 6 pm, Meet at MBC Fusion Christmas Party ~ 6–8 pm, NC

Monday, December 10

NC/K in use

Prayer Meeting ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102

Tuesday, December 11

Library Open ~ 10 - noon & 1 - 3 pm Ladies Gathering of Friends ~ 7 pm - 9 pm, NC/K

Wednesday, December 12

Awana: Trek & Journey $\sim 5:30$ pm, & Clubbers $3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. -6^{th} grade $\sim 6:15$ pm

Thursday, December 13

Women's Hebrews Study Concludes ~ 9:30 am, NC. Potluck lunch afterwards.
Good News Club ~ 4 pm, Parkside
Elementary

Open House Christmas Party at Watson's ~ (W6750 Cnty Rd. B) 6 pm – 8 pm Narcotics Anonymous ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Young Adults Study ~ 8 pm, LL #106

Sunday, December 16

The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am No Pipeline MBC Library Open after each Service Men's Study ~ 12:15 pm, LL #106 Ignite Christmas Party ~ 4 – 6 pm, Watson's (W6750 Cnty Rd. B) Fusion Caroling ~ 5 – 7 pm, Meet on the Monroe Square

Week of Dec. 2 - Dec. 8

Today, Sunday, December 2

The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline "Disciplemaking" ~ 9 am, NC MBC Library Open after each Service Next Steps "Step 3" ~ 10:15 am, LL #102 Men's Study ~ 12:15 pm, LL #106 Ignite Middle School ~ 4 pm – 6 pm, LL Fusion High School ~ 6 pm – 8 pm, LL

Monday, December 3

Care Net Chili Supper Fundraiser ~ 4:30 pm – 8 pm, Hope Community Center, Desserts (uncut) are needed!

Prayer Meeting ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102

Tuesday, December 4

Primetimers Games & Lunch ~ 10 am – 1 pm, NC/K Library Open ~ 10-noon & 1-3 pm

Wednesday, December 5

Awana Store ~ Donations of gift items for the Store are welcome! Awana: Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, & Clubbers 3½ yrs. – 6th grade ~ 6:15 pm

Thursday, December 6

Women's Hebrews Study ~ 9:30 am, NC Good News Club ~ 4 pm, Parkside Elementary Narcotics Anonymous ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Young Adults Study ~ 8 pm, LL #106

Prayer Focus – Facilities Ministry Ministry Leader – Randy Whyte Please PRAY:

- † Thanks to all those who have helped around the church
- † For wisdom on future projects and current maintenance
- † For more people to join the facilities team

Entire Bible	Family Plan
Lev 13, Job 3-4, James 2	Acts 20:13-38
Lev 14-15, James 3	Acts 27
Lev 16-18, Job 5, James 4	James 1
Lev 19-20, Job 6, James 5	James 3:1-12
Lev 21-22, Job 7, Gal 1	Galatians 5
Lev 23-24, Job 8, Gal 2	

This Week New City Catechism: Part 1, Question 10





Card Shower ~ Our dear friends Ray and Becky Jones will be moving to Oshkosh, WI very soon. They are as appreciative of everyone at Monroe Bible Church as we are of them. If you would like to bring a card to church for Ray and Becky there is a card box located behind the Sanctuary on the table. Thank you!

