

The Shepherd's Center Receives 2009 Statewide Award

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem was selected by the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services as the recipient of the **2009 Ernest B. Messer Award**. The Messer Award recognizes a community or organization that has excelled in addressing the needs of its older citizens. The other recipient of the Messer Award was the Orange County Department of Aging.

The award is named for Ernest B. Messer, a champion for aging in the General Assembly and former assistant secretary for aging for the NC Department of Health and Human Services between 1981-1985. The Honorable Ernest B. Messer served ten terms in the NC House of Representatives from Haywood County, and also served as the director of the Division of Aging in the early 1980's.

The Messer Award is one of three awards presented each year to individuals, organizations or communities that have excelled in meeting the needs of older citizens in the state. Given by the Division of Aging and Adult Services in the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the awards are the Dr. George L. Maddox Award and the Edwald W. Busse Award along with the Messer Award. Drs. Busse and Maddox, and Mr. Messer were three pioneers in the field of aging in North Carolina.

The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem is an interfaith ministry that has served the needs of older adults in Forsyth County for 25 years through the Faith In Action Care Program (transportation, minor home repair, visitation and respite care as well as family caregiver education and support services); Senior Center programs throughout the community with over 25+ program offerings per week; life long learning programs; intergenerational programs; and co-coordination of the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) for Forsyth County. A new program initiated in 2009 coordinates the Congregational Nurse and Health Ministry Program for Forsyth County.