



Epworth Center news

Issue 3:1

"Sow abundantly... reap abundantly." -2 Corinthians 9:6

Winter 2005

Greetings from the Epworth Center!

The SOWER Work Mission is alive and well in 2005! Groups will be coming from Michigan and Ohio to make building repairs for individuals, families, churches and non-profit organizations who could not otherwise afford them. SOWERS make repairs such as painting, siding, roofing, building handicap accessible ramps, constructing decks, and much more.

Because of the three floods in this area, there are a number of persons who need assistance. We are in the process of selecting worksites for this summer's ministry.

One location that we will be working in is the Neffs community. They lost 125 homes and trailers. What has been encouraging is the good spirit of cooperation between the pastors and churches in this area. They have rallied together to make a real difference for so many that have been devastated.

At the Epworth Center we emphasize hard work, discipleship development and relaxation. Our cook, the Reverend Lou Verdi, makes great meals and some fantastic chocolate chip cookies! He keeps good order in the kitchen as he has a black belt in karate...

Breakfast is at 7:00 a.m., followed by devotions and cleanup. By 8:00 a.m. you're off to the worksite. Lunch is served at noon at a local church, and dinner is at 6:00 p.m. After cleanup, your evenings are basically free.

Thursday evening is a time of Communion and reflection. Wednesday is an optional "fun day," but half of our groups choose to work. There are a number of possibilities for your enjoyment if you choose to take a fun day. These include Oglebay Park in Wheeling, whitewater rafting in Pennsylvania, Kennywood, swimming, shopping, mini-golf, and bowling.

On the Epworth property, there are a number of trees which are more than 300 years old. There is also a pond for fishing and a basketball hoop. The Lodge is air conditioned and we have a game room.

By participating in the SOWER Work Mission, you can make a difference for an individual or family in need. You can make a positive contribution and leave knowing you have made a difference.

We would like to invite you to consider coming to the Epworth Center to participate in the SOWER Work Mission! Come, grow and serve the Lord, and receive a blessing for your participation.

Contact the Epworth Center or visit www.epworthcenter.org for more information.

-Rev. Lester Wilson



In the words of...

Enriching relationships is an essential part of the SOWER Work Mission Program. Both volunteers and clients benefit from participating in the program. How can taking part in the SOWER Work Mission touch your group?

"Thank you so much for all that you and your organization do! I hope that God will guide me to impact teens in the same way you and your team impacted my life! It is so hard being a Christian and living for Christ everyday in this crazy world... it's not easy at all... but because of people in your organization, you have brought sooooo much hope and inspiration and joy and passion into my life, nothing could ever compare to that gift." -Jennifer, Youth SOWER

"The young people did such a wonderful job and it was great to see their enthusiasm. I pray that I will be able to do some great act of kindness... Thank you for the work that you are doing, not just for me but for the many people that your organization serves. God does work through others." -SOWER Client

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send?
And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" -Isaiah 6:8 NIV

Epworth Friends

Epworth Friends are believers in the ministry of the Epworth Center and commit themselves in the following ways:

- ✦ Work to create awareness and interest in the Epworth Center
- ✦ Gather prayer support for the Epworth Center
- ✦ Give \$100 or more annually OR four \$25 gifts / yr.

You can *help make a difference* to those in need by becoming an Epworth Friend. If you wish to support the ministries of the Epworth Center by becoming an Epworth Friend, please send your gift of \$100 or more to the address below and note "Epworth Friends" on your check. Thank you and God bless!


Prison Ministry

On December 16, the Epworth Center held a special luncheon honoring inmates and staff from the Belmont Correctional Institute for their flood relief efforts. Because of the massive amount of flood damage locally, the inmates worked long hours mucking out homes, and doing other various tasks.

Not only was food served at the luncheon, but fellowship and fun were also on-hand. The inmates decorated the Center's Christmas tree, listened to music performed by Jacilyn and the Kittens and visited with residents of one of the communities they assisted. Praise God for this wonderful opportunity!

Extension Ministries @ Epworth Center

The following are some of the projects / programs that the Epworth Center is in the process of considering:

- Parish Nurse Program: this ministry is concerned with the local health needs of persons who cannot afford health care.
- Tutoring Program: this will provide tutoring opportunities to both grade school and high school students; students who benefit from tutoring will most likely take a positive step away from poverty.
- Hunger Program: this program will help the "working poor" provide food for their families. 
- Technology for Today & Job Search Opportunities: this will provide basic computer classes for those who may not feel comfortable in a college setting; therefore, enabling them to feel connected in a modern society.
- Counseling: the aim is to provide a safe place where persons can talk about their issues; it is the hope that growth and positive choices will be the outcome.
- New Cabin Project: the Epworth Center is in the planning stages of building a new cabin which will sleep forty and have a sizeable common area for guests.

If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the Epworth Center.

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SOWER Work Mission

SOWER is an ecumenical ministry of the St. Clairsville District of the United Methodist Church. The acronym "SOWER" means Sharing Our Witness Enriching Relationships.

SOWERS come to the Epworth Center as servants, willing to do whatever is necessary to assist the clients they serve.