



# Epworth Center news

Issue 2:1 "Sow abundantly... reap abundantly." -2 Corinthians 9:6 December 2004

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## Christmas Greetings from the Epworth Center!

Advent is the most wonderful time of the year. We as Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who comes to bring us life, hope and forgiveness of sins.

We at the Epworth Center have many reasons to be thankful. We are very pleased with the interest in the SOWER Work Mission. A number of groups have already registered and plan to be with us in the Summer of 2005. We look forward to all the building repairs that will be completed for persons in need. We also look forward to the fellowship that will be shared from returning groups and new groups alike.

We also want to give thanks for the ministry of assisting victims of the two recent floods. In working with other United Methodist churches, we were able to channel much needed supplies to persons in need, and have been very encouraged by the generous response of Christians to those who have suffered so much in this area. For example, in the Neffs community, 125 people lost their homes.

Also, we are thankful for the response that is beginning to come in for the "Adopt-A-Family" project of the St.

Clairsville District. This is where an individual or church adopts a family that has been devastated by the flood. We provide you with a list of necessary items to help a family get back on their feet again. If you or your congregation might be interested in adopting a family and learning more about this program, please contact us at the Epworth Center.

On December 16, the inmates of the Belmont Correctional Institute will be honored by Epworth Center for their labor of love in assisting the flood victims. A tasty luncheon is being prepared by gifted cooks as our way of saying "thank you" to the inmates and bringing them encouragement at Christmas time.

Your prayers for the SOWER Work Mission of the Epworth Center are appreciated. We are looking forward to a good season of building repairs in 2005!

It is our prayer that God will bless each of you richly and that you will know the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding. Have a Merry Christmas!

-Rev. Lester Wilson



## SOWER 2004 Wrap-Up

The Epworth Center had a successful SOWER Season 2004! Fifteen groups, totaling in approximately 254 SOWERS, came from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota to make building repairs for individuals, families, churches and non-profit organizations.

SOWERS worked in 16 local communities on 34 sites and completed 52 separate building tasks. Projects included handicap accessible ramps, windows, doors, roofing, siding, painting, decks and even the addition of a room onto a trailer.



Thank you to all who participated in the SOWER Work Mission Program... the SOWERS, volunteers, staff, those who prayed for and supported the ministry, and the clients!

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## Contact Us

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## SOWER Celebration Dinner Report

The fourth annual SOWER Celebration Dinner was held at the Epworth Center on Saturday, November 6. Over 60 people came to the Center to celebrate Christ's many blessings.

Thank you to all who came, prayed for and / or participated in the event! God bless you! If you were unable to attend, there's always next year! Mark your calendar early—next year's SOWER Celebration Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2005.

## Flood Relief Tidbit

There has been significant flooding in the areas surrounding the Epworth Center. Work teams are needed to help individuals and families recover from this disaster.

If your group is interested in participating with flood relief, please contact the Epworth Center. YOU CAN HELP those who were affected by the flooding by forming a group and coming to the Epworth Center! Visit [www.epworthcenter.org](http://www.epworthcenter.org) for more information.

### You Can Make a Difference...

There are many ways you can make a difference at the Epworth Center. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Pray for the ministries of the Epworth Center
- ◆ Help find people in need of building repairs
- ◆ Sponsor a youth SOWER worker (\$250)
- ◆ Donate materials fees for a SOWER group (\$1500)
- ◆ Become an Epworth Friend
- ◆ Volunteer at the Epworth Center

*"Be anxious for nothing,  
but in everything,  
by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to  
God."*

*-Philippians 4:6*



## New Cabin Project



The Epworth Center is excited to announce its plan of building a new cabin! The proposed new cabin will sleep forty and have a sizeable common area for guests. It is the hope of the Epworth Center that building a new cabin will generate more participation in the SOWER Work Mission Program; therefore, bringing more assistance to individuals, families, churches and non-profit organizations in the area. Fundraising efforts are underway. If you would like to help fund the new cabin project at the Epworth Center or if you would like more information, please contact us.

## Client Referrals

If you know someone who would greatly benefit from the SOWER Work Mission Program, please refer them to the Epworth Center. In order to qualify for SOWER, the following must be met:

- ✓ There must be financial need.
- ✓ Client must own (not rent) home / property.
- ✓ It must be a safe working environment; ie. the absence of attack dogs.
- ✓ There must be restroom facilities nearby for the SOWERS to use.

To refer someone to SOWER, please visit [www.epworthcenter.org](http://www.epworthcenter.org) and go to the SOWER Work Mission Page and download the available Client Referral Form. You may also email or call us for a form. Potential clients may also contact the Epworth Center. They need to send in their name, address, phone number, directions to their home, special circumstances, who referred them (if applicable), number and ages of children in the home, and the work needed.

**The Epworth Center will close on December 24 and reopen January 3.  
Have a blessed Christmas and a safe New Year 2005!**