

# Epworth Center news

Issue 4:4

*"Sharing Our Witness Enriching Relationships"*

Fall 2006

## *From the director...*

Greetings Friends,

Fall is my favorite time of the year. This fall we have been quite busy working on the cabins and in the woods of the Epworth Center. The inmates from the Belmont Correctional Institution have been with us for the past week and were here for two weeks in September. The cabins were painted, and water shut-off valves were installed in each cabin. Additionally, the inmates cut and stacked wood, and burned shrubbery and old wood from fallen trees.

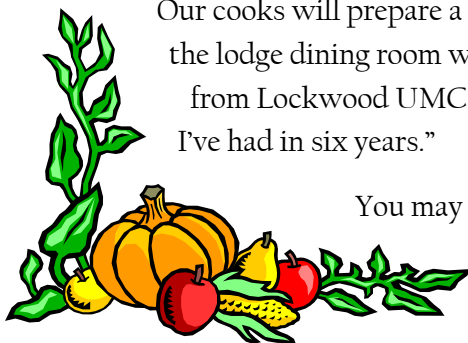
It's interesting how the Epworth Center's ministry of encouragement and compassion with inmates has expanded. Over the past five years these men, often under Jim Webber and Junior Merckle's supervision, have been the labor force behind the extensive building improvements at the Epworth Lodge, its property and five cabins. For example, they built a handicap accessible restroom, painted the lodge, sanded and varnished the wooden ceilings, doors and window frames. They installed new showers and lighting in the lodge and showers in the cabins. They removed the lodge's old paneling, installed sheetrock and painted the surfaces. We have come to appreciate the inmates as individuals and skilled persons.

In December, we will host the third annual Inmates Christmas Party. The men are looking forward to this event!

Our cooks will prepare a good meal. The inmates will decorate a Christmas tree with lights and tinsel, and the lodge dining room with poinsettias they have grown. Special music will be provided by "Joyful Noise" from Lockwood UMC in Boardman. After our first party, one inmate stated, "This is the best Christmas I've had in six years."

You may ask, "How can I help?" *Your prayers and financial gifts will help fund this event and are appreciated.*

-Rev. Lester Wilson



*"There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven... A time to plant and a time to harvest." -Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

## *Join us for SOWER!*

Thinking about a work mission trip for 2007? Join us for the SOWER Work Mission. Come and make building repairs for individuals, families, churches and non-profit organizations who cannot afford them. We are collecting client forms and will soon start posting pictures and information for projects on our website. This allows groups to choose their own work mission projects. There is still room available for your group. **You can make a difference.** Visit our website or contact us for more information.



Join the Epworth Center's mailing list! Visit [www.epworthcenter.org](http://www.epworthcenter.org) to sign-up today.



The Epworth Center and Real Life UMC are jointly sponsoring **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University** in two-six week sessions. The first six week session will be held at the Epworth Center on Mondays from 7:00—9:00 pm, beginning October 23. The basic cost is \$25. The first session will focus on budgeting, reducing debt, establishing an emergency fund, maintaining a good credit score and handling bill collectors. The second session, beginning in January, will focus on insurance, investments, saving on big purchases, and retirement/ college planning. Contact the Epworth Center or Pastor Vicky Kelley at 740.310.4991 for more information.

### We need your help!

Christmastime is fast approaching and we have a growing wish list this year. With the help of many of you we helped over 20 SOWER families to have a great Christmas meal last year. THANK YOU! What a great feeling of Christian family when we extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters! We are hoping to help at least 50 families this year and we are in need of any assistance you may provide. We would love it if your church, organization, or your family would pledge to provide even one item for these baskets. If you'd like to pledge a ham, turkey or even 10 cans of green beans, please contact us! We would be grateful if you would assist us in crossing needed items off our list. The complete list will be posted on our website soon. This is a great project for youth groups to take part in and feel like they are giving the true gift of the season. If you have a craft or card to include in these baskets, we're sure our families would enjoy that as well! The mission of Outreach is an important one and we are blessed to be able to show the love of Jesus in such a practical way!

-Brenda Myers, Outreach Ministries

### Prayer Requests ...

1. Hunger Program
2. Parish nurse program
3. SOWER 2007 & Clients
4. Prison ministry



“You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.” -Psalm 65:11



## Donate Online - NEW

### Mission Statement:

Making disciples for Jesus Christ by working with local churches to make building repairs for individuals, families, churches, and non-profit organizations who cannot afford them.

The Epworth Center is listed as both an East Ohio Conference Advance Special and a General Advance of the UMC.



Advance Special	#9140
General Advance	#180758 Cabin project
General Advance	#180759 Extension ministries

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### SOWER Work Mission

A ministry of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, working within the Southern Hills and Ohio Valley Districts.

SOWER has an ecumenical focus, welcoming groups from many denominations.