



# Epworth Center news



Issue 5:5

*"Sharing Our Witness Enriching Relationships"*

Winter 2007

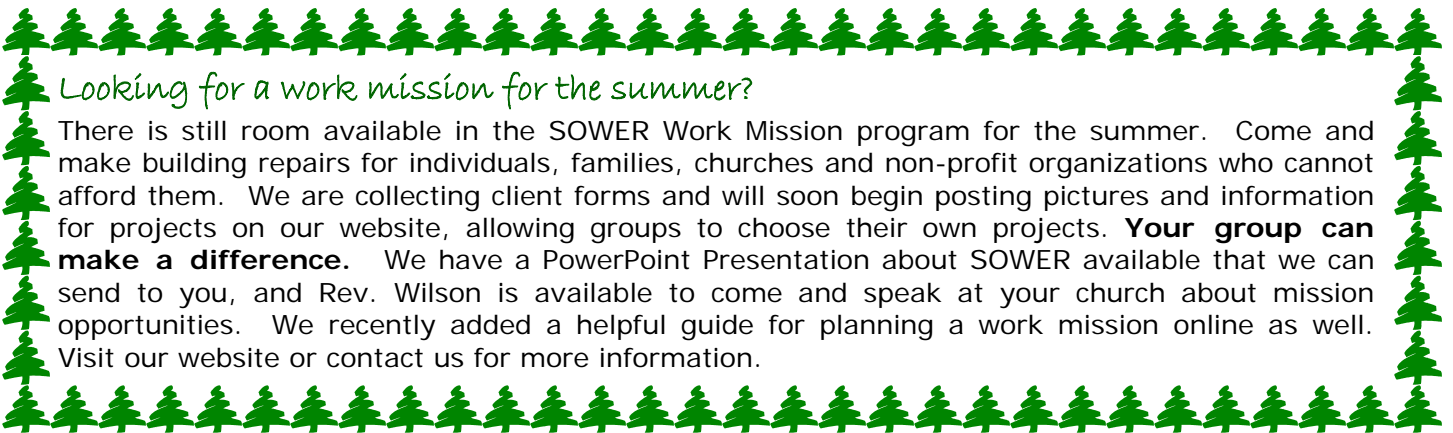
*From the director...* Greetings friends,

The Lord has blessed the ministry of the Epworth Center in 2007 and we're looking forward to making a difference in the Southern Hills and Ohio Valley Districts in 2008. We already have received reservations for SOWER— work camps and Vacation Bible Schools— for this summer. There are many individuals and families that need a building repair so that their home is safe and handicap accessible. We would like to invite you to be a part of the SOWER program.

The Epworth Center is a good place for a youth winter retreat. One of our cabins has been enlarged and completely renovated. It will sleep 20 individuals. We encourage you to visit our website to see updated photos. The Epworth Center is in need of work teams to assist in the renovation of a second cabin this summer. If your group would like to help with this project please contact us.


The Epworth Center continues to work with the inmates of the Belmont Correctional Institution and the teenage girls from the local group home. We also have a medical outreach, a hunger program and a furniture ministry. It is our goal to be a positive image of God's love to individuals in this area.

We would like to wish each of you a blessed New Year in 2008! May the Lord Jesus Christ guide and use you in His service.  
-Rev. Lester Wilson



*Looking for a work mission for the summer?*

There is still room available in the SOWER Work Mission program for the summer. 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 begin posting pictures and information for projects on our website, allowing groups to choose their own projects. **Your group can make a difference.** We have a PowerPoint Presentation about SOWER available that we can send to you, and Rev. Wilson is available to come and speak at your church about mission opportunities. We recently added a helpful guide for planning a work mission online as well. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

	<b>Reminder</b>
	<b>January 07—18:</b>
	Our office will be closed for the Holy Land Biblical Discovery trip with Bishop Hopkins.
	

*Epworth Center Prayer Requests ...*

SOWERS and clients, hunger ministry, prison ministry, volunteers, staff, medical ministry, cabin renovation

**Visit our website for recent cabin renovation photos! We're about finished!**

*SOWER client referrals needed*

Are you "local" to the Epworth Center? Do you know someone who could use a building repair? To qualify for assistance there must be financial need, the person should own the home, the working environment must be safe, and there needs to be restroom facilities for the SOWERS. You need to personally visit the applicant and receive their permission to submit an application. We give preference to mothers with children and families who are trying to help themselves. Do not pick the worst looking houses in your community, as most of these are beyond repair and exceed our budget and skill level. Visit us online to download the referral form (with complete details) or contact us. Deadline to receive referrals is March 15.

## Outreach Update

The Epworth Center has been busy with its outreach ministries. You may visit our website for more information, including pictures, about our outreach ministries.

- ◆ **Health:** In November, we had our first flu shot event! We also had free health screenings available. Many people took advantage of these services and we wish to thank the agencies who were here bright and early on November 2 to make this possible! We also wish to thank Panera Bread in St. Clairsville for the generous donation of bagels and coffee. We will have a health fair in July — watch for more details!
- ◆ **Hunger:** The Epworth Center was able to deliver about 10 hunger baskets at Thanksgiving and 50 baskets at Christmas! We wish to thank the many people and churches who donated to or helped with this outreach ministry! We thank Pied Piper Nursery in St. Clairsville for choosing Epworth Center as its Christmas outreach and collecting food items. We also wish to thank Wilson's Furniture for collecting toys for the families we gave baskets to this year. It has been amazing to see how God has blessed this outreach ministry and watch it grow. THANK YOU!
- ◆ **Prison:** Not one... but TWO Christmas trees?! This December we held our annual luncheon for the inmates and staff of the Belmont Correctional Institution. As is tradition, the guys decorated the Christmas tree, enjoyed Christmas carols, had a delicious meal and were able to take a devotional if they wanted. We also held a luncheon for the girls from the local group home. They helped pack and decorate food baskets, decorated another Christmas tree, and received gifts and Bibles.
- ◆ **Epworth Center's ministries do make a difference!:** Visit our website for a heartfelt story about one of the families we were able to assist.

Still wondering what to give Aunt Jean for Christmas? Stuck on birthday gift ideas for your friend Sam? **Consider giving family and friends an "alternative" gift!** Donate to one of Epworth Center's ministries in the name of a family member or friend. You can choose from the following ministries: SOWER Work Mission, Hunger, Medical, Prison (outreach to local institutions). This is a new program at the Epworth Center. Contact us or visit our website for more details!

## Mission opportunities are knocking... Will you answer and make a difference?



Are you looking for ways to get involved in mission? Each edition we will highlight a new idea or ideas about how you or your church can support the Epworth Center. Visit our website for a complete list or contact us for more details!

Volunteer at Epworth as a youth group, a UMW or UMM project, an individual, a family, <you fill in the blank>. Be creative with your talents and gifts! The Epworth Center could use volunteers for tasks such as cooking, cleaning, light office work, and grounds care. During SOWER, volunteers with construction experience are needed on worksites and material runners are also needed.



### Mission Statement:

Making disciples for Jesus Christ by working with local churches to make building repairs for individuals, families, churches, and nonprofit 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- SOWER; 9191- Outreach  
General Advance 180758 - Cabin project  
General Advance 180759 - Extension ministries

## Contact Us

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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.