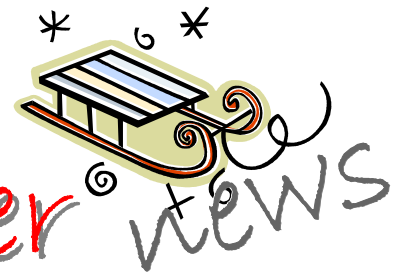




# Epworth Center



Issue 7:5

*"Sharing Our Witness Enriching Relationships"*

Winter 2009-10

## dashing thru the snow... a look @ ministries

Winter is a great time to pause and do a mental assessment, if you will, of the year's past events and ministries, and to dream of the opportunities ahead. Not only are we thinking of the ministries accomplished, and dreaming of what's to come, but we are implementing strategies to make the dreams a reality.

The **SOWER Work Mission**—making building repairs for individuals, families, churches and nonprofit organizations who cannot afford them. Anyone who has been around the Epworth Center knows how important SOWER is. It's our primary ministry. It reaches a number of people in need. It brings groups together for a common good. It changes lives—in those we help, in those who come to work, and in those who are paid staff and volunteer during the summer.

We also have a **hunger ministry** that continues to grow. We give boxes of food to individuals and families at different times of the year. We also participate in Great Food For All. At Thanksgiving, we were able to provide a free family-style meal to over 100 people!

It's amazing to see how ministries flow into one another. The **girls from the local group** home help us with our hunger ministry by packing food boxes. They also decorate the boxes with personal messages of hope and love. At Christmastime we give presents along with the food boxes, which the girls wrap. They also helped us at Thanksgiving by serving people at our meal. As an outreach to the group home, we host luncheons at Christmas and Easter. We have Mary Kay makeovers, presents, a delicious meal, a "Revolve" New Testament Bible magazine for each to take, they decorate a tree or eggs (depending on the holiday!), and more. It has been a wonderful outreach.

We also host luncheons for the **inmates and staff** from the local prison at Easter and Christmas. They decorate a tree at Christmas, we have great food, and devotionals are available for them.

Our **medical ministry** has continued through health fairs and screening events, and we have a great working relationship with Ohio Hills Health Services.

One other outreach we began in 2009 was that of **prayer cloths**. This was something that originally began as a promotional tool, but God turned it into a ministry! One of our prayer cloths made it into the hands of a soldier serving in Iraq. She emailed us with her story of how the prayer cloth has been a source of comfort for her. Since receiving the email, we encourage others to make a send prayer cloths to soldiers. As with each of our ministries, you can learn more by visiting our website—we even have the pattern and saying available for the prayer cloths.

There have been many other awesome outreach experiences this past year and we could go on and on about them; however, we think it's important to outline a few exciting, **new ministries** for the new year! One of which is a satellite feed opportunity we are thrilled to make available! Epworth Center is going to use Church Communication Network to have seminars, educational/training events, and more broadcast either live or via DVD! The first one will be offered for youth in February... stay tuned as more develops! You will NOT want to miss it! There's also been talk of a quarterly clothing drive and meal... February is slated as the kick-off. More to be announced soon!

Also, we are excited to offer more **retreat and educational events/training** to local groups, churches and organizations, host **youth events**, **nurture** pastors and families, and **partner** with Emmaus and Project Manna.

The Epworth Center is blessed to see God at work in so many areas and we look forward to growing our current ministries and developing new ones. As it reads in Romans 8:31, "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" We are trusting in the Lord!



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 work environment must be safe, and there needs to be restroom facilities for the SOWERS. Please personally visit the applicant and receive their permission to submit an application. We try to stay within an hour radius of the Epworth Center, since our groups travel daily to and from the worksite. Visit us online to download the referral form (with complete details) or contact us. Deadline to receive referrals is **March 15**.

## A Word of Appreciation to...

*everyone who supported the Epworth Center in 2009 either through donating your time, talents or treasure. Thank you... we couldn't have accomplished so many things without your support!*

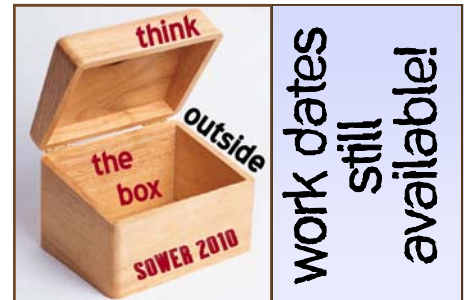
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Years from the Epworth Center!** Our office will close beginning at noon on December 24. Dawn will be out of the office until January 11. We will check emails and messages until she returns. Beginning January 11 we will have office hours of Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am—4:00 pm; closed Fridays for the winter.

Sign up for our online emailing list at [www.epworthcenter.org](http://www.epworthcenter.org)!

**Make your voice count...** Submit to our "top 10" list. Finish the following statement: The Top 10 Reasons to go on a SOWER Work Mission Trip are.... Submit 1, 2, 3, 10 ideas - you get the point! Submit by email or post on our Facebook page.

*Epworth Center prayer requests*

SOWER participants and clients, outreach ministries, volunteers, staff



### 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 an East Ohio Conference Advance Special:  
9140- SOWER  
9191- Outreach

### Contact Us

Executive Director: Rev. Lou Verdi  
Associate Director: Dawn Livingston

301 N. Main St., PO Box 538  
Bethesda, OH 43719

Phone: 740.484.4705 Fax: .0252  
Email: [epworthcenter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:epworthcenter@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.epworthcenter.org](http://www.epworthcenter.org)  
Facebook: Sower Mission



### 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.