

First Presbyterian of Columbiana Receives Eliza Doolittle Award

By Rev. Christy Ramsey

The 2006 \$2,000 **Eliza Doolittle Award** was awarded to the **First Presbyterian Church of Columbiana, Ohio**. This financed a part of their \$15,000 project of bringing their sanctuary up to date with technology to foster greater vitality and involvement in worship.

Cindi Parsly, a member of First Presbyterian in Columbiana, tells us that the Worship Incubator introduced the concept of multimedia worship by using a borrowed computer and projector during the worship services for the month of July. Song lyrics, unison prayers and scripture passages were displayed. During the second week, the congregation was asked to submit their written comments. In was an overwhelmingly positive response; of the 31 comment cards received, only one was in opposition to multimedia.



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The worship leadership did expect many younger people to enjoy the change. What they did not predict were the benefits the older people discovered: help with vision problems, elimination of hard to hold hymnals, and finding pages. Many commented that they enjoyed the fuller sound of the congregation singing when their faces were lifted to view the screen.

The Communications and Nurture committee is happy to be a part of Columbiana's use of technology to involve young and old in worship. They will use the award to buy a screen for their sanctuary.

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Stewardship and Discipleship. The Acts 16:5 Team of the Evangelism and Church Growth Commission and I will help new churches to get "up to speed" on the Acts 16:5 Initiative basics. My goal is to at least double the number of churches involved in the Acts 16:5 Initiative Year 3. All pastors in Eastminster Presbytery will be receiving a phone call to tell them more and to encourage our sessions to become a part of this adventure in congregational transformation.

Eastminster Presbytery

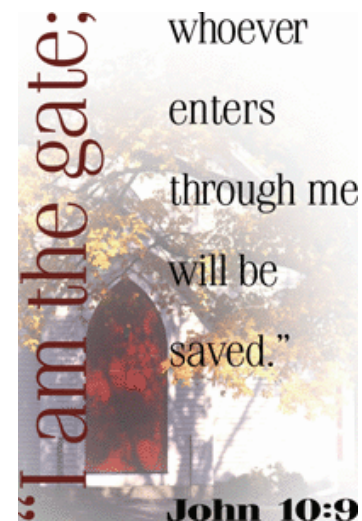
EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

Presbytery Supports Congregational Transformation

By Rev. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily" (Acts 16:5). These words, to a greater or lesser extent, describe the journey of thirteen of Eastminster's churches since November, 2004. For two years these congregations have been experiencing the beginnings of transformation under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. E. Stanley Ott of the Vital Churches Institute. Pastors or point persons in each of the congregations have led Acts 16:5 Teams in the exploration of how to develop a defining vision, identify defining practices, bring ministry in line with those defining practices, use Action Learning Teams, design transformational missional endeavor, and much, much more.

When pastors and teams met for the final time with Stan Ott on November 2, the consensus of the group was that there must be a Year 3 for Acts 16:5 in Eastminster Presbytery and that it must be open to all of the churches in the presbytery. Stan Ott will lead participating churches in exploring two critical topics in 2007 *continued on back*



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL QUARTER

3rd Annual KidzFest a Success!

Over 4000 people came to the third annual "KidzFest," an evangelistic multicultural festival at the parking lot of the Super K Mart in Niles on Saturday, August 26. Sponsored by 55 congregations in Trumbull County, over 100 volunteers helped at this fun-oriented event designed to connect unchurched children (and their families) with churches. There were giant inflatable rides, games, food, prizes, performers, and lots of creative presentations of the gospel ~ all of it free!! "The Good News Tent" at "KidzFest" was a clearly marked place for those who wanted to know more about Jesus, the Bible, and any other matter of faith. Presenters and performers on stage referred kids to the tent if they were curious to know more about faith.

Here are some of the highlights from "The Good News Tent":

- A grandmother accompanied by her 5-year old granddaughter came to talk about heaven. Both of the girl's parents had died. A teenage sister had also tragically passed away. The granddaughter was excited to hear about hope in Christ. Holding her grandma's hand she prayed to receive God's gift of eternal life. The grandmother was so grateful for this tender time of caring and hope.
- A man came with his three boys. After hearing a thoughtful gospel presentation using an object lesson, the boys and their

father all prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

- A boy came into the tent to check out what was going on. He stayed to listen to a gospel presentation and then prayed to receive Christ as his Savior. Later on in the day he brought back two friends to hear about Jesus.

In all, 40 children made first-time commitments to Christ and 808 unchurched children were referred to local sponsoring congregations. Since its beginning in 2004, the event has grown each year it grows in participation and attendance. Included in the 55 churches involved are: Champion Presbyterian Church, Warren Covenant Presbyterian Church, Warren Calvary Presbyterian Church, Hubbard First Presbyterian Church, Niles First Presbyterian Church, and Kinsman Presbyterian Church were all sponsoring churches. Pastor Paul Gaug and Elder Herb Bollenbacher of the Champion Church serve on the Executive Committee.

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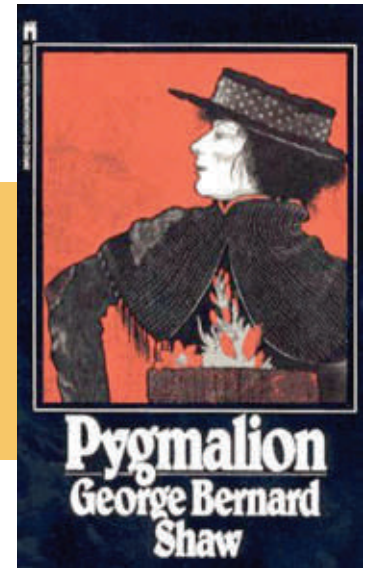
Read the Latest

Interest is high concerning the actions of the Hudson and Stow Presbyterian Churches and the response of Eastminster Presbytery. To discover the latest, you are encouraged to check the presbytery website at www.eastminsterpresbytery.com.

Doolittle Award Spurred Growth and Enthusiasm

By Elder John Graves

"The songs are 75% better since we got a new projector and computer with Eastminster's Eliza Doolittle Award," according to Rev. Paul Johnson of Vienna Presbyterian Church. "This has made worship more vibrant and the congregation more enthusiastic. People lift their heads and sing out. The evangelism aspect works as well!" says Johnson. "We have had several young couples join the church because they said they really liked how we used technology to enhance our worship service." Johnson explained that he put the text of hymns and prayers on screen, but did not use images or text on screen during the sermon. "I want them paying attention to me when I preach," he laughed. Johnson said that young and old members appreciate the words to songs on the screen. The greatest challenge has been developing the team that assists with creating the Power-Point slides each week. "The Eliza Doolittle project is well worth it," according to Johnson, "I'm really happy we received an award."



What Is The Award?

By Rev. Christy Ramsey

Eliza Doolittle Award is named after a fictional character in the play "Pygmalion" by George Bernard Shaw and the musical version, "My Fair Lady". **Eliza** is a Cockney flower girl who is taught to communicate according to high society standards. This award attempts to help churches enhance their communication and presentations in worship.

EVANGEL

MISSION INTERPRETATION SPEAKERS

The PC (USA) Office of Mission Connections has made available a list of mission workers available for local church mission interpretation assignment. This can be found at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections.