

# The Partnership Campaign

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## Partners *in* Christ's Service **UP-DATE**



July 2004

### Thank You!

The Partners in Christ's Service Campaign began in the spring of 2000 with a presbytery-wide kickoff event held at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The goal was to raise 2 million dollars for Developing Churches and Leaders, Outdoor Ministry, and Stewardship Support. To date, we have received over \$825,000. The Campaign Committee thanks the many individuals who have contributed, either directly to the campaign or through their churches. We also thank the sessions of churches that have contributed church funds.

Thank you to the churches that have donated in excess of their pledges:

Parma-South	\$67,488
Bay	17,500
Independence	14,549
Western Reserve	6,000
St. Paul's	1,310

Thank you to the churches that have met their pledges:

Covenant	\$150,000
Forest Hill	75,000
Glenville	10,000
Valley	10,000
Lyndhurst	5,000
St. Mark's	3,006
Immanuel	3,000
Pierpont	1,800
North	1,500
Orwell North	1,360
Highland Sixth	1,121
First Willoughby	1,100
Prospect	1,000
Boulevard	900
Beachland	513
Grace	300
Rome	50

Thank you to the following churches for their contributions:

Rocky River	\$88,086
Old Stone	71,164
Avon Lake	53,707
Korean Central	37,500
John Knox	27,389
Lakewood	6,509
Faith	3,857
Fairmount	3,750
First Ashtabula	1,030
St. Andrew's	750
Kingsville	441

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### Developing Churches

This year, Campaign funds have been given to Boulevard Church in Euclid and First Presbyterian Church in East Cleveland for the purpose of exploring methods of transforming their congregations. These funds also enabled the churches to receive matching grants from the General Assembly.

After three years of part-time pastors, First Church, East Cleveland has hired the newly ordained, energetic Estelle Aaron as full-time Stated Supply Pastor to lead the congregation through this process.

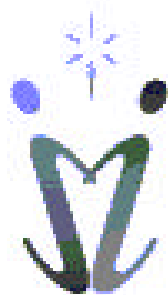
On February 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year at Boulevard Church, a group of elders and other lay people implemented a Sunday Evening contemporary worship service that has exceeded expectations. Boulevard's objective is to reach new people and a new demographic group. About 40 to 50

percent of those attending the new service are under the age of 18 and/or are not members. The average attendance since the first service on has been 28, with the highest attendance at 34 worshipers. Following the contemporary worship service, the teen youth group meets as well as a newly implemented group for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

The church received a donation of a computer. Four people attended a workshop on multi-media presentation. The struggle for now is music leadership. A worship team is developing its own format with youth co-hosts helping to design the services. Boulevard has also been working in shared ministry with Wickliffe Presbyterian Church to develop the services at Boulevard. In return, members of Boulevard Church are helping to serve community meals at Wickliffe.

The transformation hasn't stopped at developing a new worship service. The church is also reaching out to people through monthly mission projects, which vary from month to month. The people are truly working hard to spread God's Word to those in their neighborhood! In May, the Church Session covenanted with the Rev. Anne McCabe to help them through the process of exploring transformation methods.

Lance Haverlock and the Session thank the Presbytery for its support and ask that you keep Boulevard Church in your prayers so that they continue to be able to reach out and touch others.



## **Cluster VBS Completes 4th Year**

For the fourth summer in a row, the Presbytery of the Western Reserve with help from the Campaign is sponsoring cluster Vacation Bible School. The program provides ministry to children in four areas of the Presbytery, increases the visibility of Presbyterian ministries, and develops leadership skills in the interns who lead the program.

The Presbytery was introduced to this summer's VBS interns and program coordinator at the July stated meeting. Caroline Eaton was an intern two summers ago and the musician for last summer's program. Her experience was so wonderful and touching that she returned this year as coordinator. The interns this summer were: Erin Cook, Susan Scheaf, Tina SwartzenDruber, and Samathryn Witham, all of the College of Wooster; and Rachel Dyke, of Alma College.

At the Presbytery meeting, they spoke about how the Cluster VBS program was a blessing to them as well as to the churches served. The churches that participated would have had a difficult time providing a vacation Bible school program on their own.

This year's theme was based on the book, "A Tale of Three Trees." Each week for four weeks, a different church hosted the program, providing additional adult supervision and snacks. The children presented the musical program at the end of the week. The worship attendance on the Sunday of the program at Boulevard Church was 97, the most they've had in a few years.

Other churches that hosted the Vacation Bible School program this summer are Heritage Presbyterian Church, in Amherst; Lakewood Presbyterian Church, in Lakewood; and First Presbyterian Church in East Cleveland.