

SUMMER 2014 EDITION
Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church
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Clarence, NY
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Engaging
Stories
of God's Grace



Eternal Truth



New Heart



God's Grace



Authentic Living



Growing Relationships



Everyone Equipped



Do you have a story you would like to share?
Email stories@easternhillchurch.org

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With prayer and thought, I initiated a 6-month fast from purchasing clothing and shopping for shoes/clothing, jewelry, etc. for myself. I want to be grateful and appreciate all that I have. I do not want to long for more. I want to reduce the importance of new things. I want to use my free time – instead of online browsing for things – to study God's word more each and every day. I want to show gratefulness and express my thanks for all God has given me. I want to recognize and honor Him – above all else. Giving up shopping is just one small way I can show God my love for Him.

– Anonymous

The last two years have been very challenging for me pertaining to work. For years I was employed in the graphic arts. To make it short, for a few reasons, I was no longer employed in the field. Since there are plenty of jobs in trucking, I decided to get training and become a commercial driver. After going over the road for a time, I finally got a local job. I quit that job because they changed my schedule. My new local job was not a good fit and they let me go. We prayed at a small group for my job search – I'm ineligible for unemployment. I received three interviews in one week. I accepted an offer for a job, same pay, and same type of runs, better overtime and a better schedule. And not a bad commute.

– Anonymous

Fellow Disciples,

As you read the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament, you will meet people, read about conversations, be present at dinners, overhear what people were thinking and sit at the feet of Jesus with others as He taught. You will also do something else that is important for us today: You will hear people give testimony about what God has done for them.

Engaging Stories follows in that same tradition. It does not contain Scripture (unless the person sharing includes some in their writing), but it does contain personal testimonies to the fact that Jesus Christ is alive and He is changing lives today. The Scriptures say that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to us.

These stories can inspire us and give us the hope that if God has done that for them, perhaps He will do the same for us. And the reality is He will.

Enjoy and be blessed and give God the glory for the great things He has done.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat



My family has started an "electronics-free" day once per week thanks to the "gods at war" series. Day one was rough as we turned off all TV's, iPad, phones, computers, etc.! My son and I in particular were beside ourselves just 15 minutes into it... And I ended up tearing apart my upstairs bathroom as a do-it-yourself project that was probably too big for my britches. Ugh. But I also read the entire book of Revelation with my 13-year-old daughter for the first time together. We shared tears of sadness and tears of joy and hope together because of it! And we've begun reading the Bible and having great conversations ever since. God has blessed us more richly because we have honored Him. — Tom Orcutt

IGNITE: Retreat 2014

On May 30-31, IGNITE: College & Young Adults went on our second annual retreat to Duffield Camp & Retreat Center. We were blessed to have 45 people join us for the weekend. We spent our time looking at how Jesus is LIFE and how that changes us! Many of the stories here are shared with us via social media testifying to God's powerful work in our students' lives. To Him be all the glory for lives transformed!



This weekend I went on a one-night retreat with my church and that retreat opened my heart to feel and embrace God like never before. I realized a lot, one being that in the world we live in today we want to see changes right here and right now. We live in a generation where you can fill yourself up with a \$2 meal from McDonalds...Although we know places like McDonalds aren't good for us in the long run, we continue to go for quick and easy gratifications. I think that today a lot of us look at our spiritual lives the same way. Praying and trusting in God's time isn't quick or easy. It takes a long time to prepare a healthy meal that would benefit us in the long run and the same goes for our relationship with the Creator of the Universe...So why settle for less than the unconditional LOVE God has to offer.
-Dana Macchia



Just got back from a retreat with my church college ministry EHchurch Ignite:. It was a great time to get to know people and grow in my faith in Christ. - Jamie Robinson



This weekend was wonderful retreating with Ignite!! Being in the midst of beautiful nature...the things HE CREATED...always astounds me. The stars were extra pretty and the company was extra sweet. I am so grateful God meets us right where we are, coming to us so graciously, revealing Himself to us in unimaginable ways. He is so, so good. - Megan Pericak



Yes, I am not a retreat person at all, but I actually really enjoyed it. I had not had opportunities to get to know many people outside my small group, but even in our short time away I felt like I was able to connect with several others, bless them, and of course be blessed in return. I think our time was short and sweet, a refreshing weekend with the Lord and our fellow believers. - Christopher Ashbaugh



Well, I will start off by saying that I have never felt better. Life is good! This weekend I went on a retreat that changed my life forever. I had a mind-shattering experience with God and felt a peace in my heart. That was an awesome time and I thank all my friends that made it enjoyable. - Eric Becher

