

## STRATEGY FOR THE NEW YEAR

**H**ard to believe we are beginning 2012 already. The unwritten days ahead are filled with opportunities for us to engage every person to become a passionate follower of Jesus Christ. How did your 2011 go with your "five"? Remember to list them by name, pray for them every day, contact them in some way once a week, and do something nice for them once a month. Every one of us can do this. It is simply being a true friend and then as the Lord gives opportunity, share your faith story with them. It will make an eternal difference for them and you.

A strategic theme for 2012 is going to be family. Depression, suicide, divorce and familial conflicts seem to be abounding. We have discussed how if we are going to have a strong church, it will take strong families. And strong families begin with transformed individuals. So we will trace how God works in families, whether they are committed to Him or not. We will be turning to the Old Testament and find that almost every conceivable family issue is addressed there. During the summer we will turn to studies of some of the basic doctrines of our faith and the arguments raised against them. This kind of study is called apologetics. It will help us be better equipped to dialog with those who doubt the faith. In the fall, we will study a seldom-preached book, the book of Ecclesiastes. Its pages also speak to challenges families face through the pursuits of individuals.

2012 will also hold some new opportunities for more of us to learn how to pray and be involved with various prayer gatherings. Some transitions will take place in how we welcome people to EHWC and help everyone connect. We are looking to have our own Eastern Hills app for your smart phone or device that will keep you connected wherever you go. So there are some exciting days ahead that will build an atmosphere where the Lord can continue to grow each of us up in Jesus Christ.

Please join me in praying for the Lord to give us wisdom, passion and grace for all He has planned for us in the New Year.

*Pastor Pat*

## A HEALTHY BALANCE

by David Holmes, MD

Medical research has demonstrated that health and well-being are determined by four factors: physical body; thoughts and feelings; relationships with family and others; relationship with God (spiritual beliefs and practices).

I encourage my patients to improve each area and assist them in accomplishing their goals. In order to have good health, happiness and well-being, we need to live a balanced life.

We are each responsible to God for how we live and take care of our God-given gift of life by taking good care of our bodies, souls, and relationships.

It's estimated that half of all deaths in the U.S. are premature and caused by poor lifestyle choices. #1 Smoking; #2 Obesity/ poor nutrition. Following both medical and biblically-based advice is vital to improve our health and well-being.

The Bible, our owner's guide, doesn't promise an easy life. However, if we are committed to Him and His word, we can experience God's strength and peace even during difficult times. If we do not follow God, we will feel unhappy and empty inside.

People try to fill that inner emptiness with money, drugs, pornography, sex, possessions, work, hobbies, status, power, alcohol, cigarettes, and relationships. This will not work, because God created us with a God-shaped hole in our soul. The only thing that fills that hole is God. Nothing else will satisfy.

How you are living? Physically (junk food? exercise? weight? smoking?); Emotionally (stressed out? anger outbursts? depressed?); Socially (relationships? children? parents? co-workers? friends?); Spiritually (relationship with God? prayer life? reading and following the Bible?) If you continue on the same path, what will your life look like in 10 years? 30 years?

If your life is not heading in a healthy direction, you need to change course. If you don't change your unhealthy behaviors, you may become a sad statistic. Pastors, counselors, social workers, physicians, dentists and other health professionals can assist you in improving your health and well-being. With God's power, your determination and the assistance of others and you can improve your health, happiness and well-being.

# eastern hills preschool

Karen Spencer, Director

## CHILDCARE SERVICE

Loving, qualified, adult caregivers are available to provide quality care for your children ages 1-5. Our wonderful Playschool allows you the freedom to shop, relax or run errands while your children are in a safe, nurturing, Christian environment. This service is open both to Eastern Hills' attendees and the local community. There is a small hourly fee for the service with sibling discounts available. Open weekdays, 9 am – 1 pm, through May 23, 2012. Please call 961-9586 for information or reservations.

## EASTERN HILLS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE! The Eastern Hills Preschool will open up its 2012-2013 school year registration to the community on March 5, 2012. If you are looking to find programming for your preschooler, we offer enriching, interactive classes for children ages 2-5. Classes fill up quickly, so be sure to enroll early. For more information, please contact Janelle Jones at 688-2883, or check out our website at [www.ehpreschool.com](http://www.ehpreschool.com).

# college/young adults



Pastor Justin Jones



## IGNITE:

Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm in The Underground. Starting out the New Year, I just wanted to write a personal note to the adults in our church about our college students and young adults. We live in a generation that is really falling apart and our college students and young adults are in the trenches every day. I am on campus at local colleges at least once every week and I am seeing things that sometimes astound me. The things that are being talked about and acted on are getting exponentially worse. Professors are fighting against Truth more often than not, schools are restricting good and healthy things while allowing awful things to happen in the name of freedom, the party scene is commonplace everywhere and for everyone now, and workplaces are increasingly dark and dangerous for young people. The chances of finding anyone who is following after Christ in a passionate way in our generation is so rare.

This leads to meaningless and hopeless lives for most. Drug and alcohol addictions are common, sex is cheap and doesn't mean much to most, and depression and suicide are rampant.

Why do I tell you all this? First, I wanted to let you know the environment in which we are doing ministry. God has done amazing things in the lives of so many of our students, but it has been a hard road for most. Some students have come out of addictions. We have had several people that before they came to IGNITE: tried to commit suicide (and thankfully failed), and we have had more people than I can count who have had to find healing for sexual mistakes in their past.

Second, I wanted to ask you to be praying for them. So many of them have been transformed because of Christ's power in their life, but so many still need God to do something in their life.

Third, and most importantly, I ask that this year you find a way to influence a college student or young adult around you. It's a myth that college students don't want to hear advice from older adults. The vast majority of students hunger for real, meaningful conversations with older Christians who have been there and can give them wisdom for their present. So I plead with you to find a way to interact with a college student or young adult around you this year. You never know what kind of influence you could have on their Christian life.

## KIDZPARK

(Sunday Worship for Infant - 4 years)

This month, we will share several of the miracles that Jesus performed during His time here on earth, showing us that nothing is too hard for Him. Enjoy the fun and excitement with your children as you partner with us to help your child get a first impression of their Heavenly Father that made them, loves them, and wants to be their friend forever.

## UPSTREET

(Sunday Worship for K - 3rd Grade)

& 45<sup>TH</sup> STREET CAFÉ

(Sunday Worship for 4th & 5th Graders)

**GAME ON!** This month it's all about changing the way you play! January is a great time to work on changing the way we play this game of life. So we're going to spend the month in Proverbs, a book packed full of wise and visual verses to challenge our thinking—especially about the topic of Self-control.

Self-control means choosing to do what you should do—and not what you want to do. In the moment, that's hard for a lot of us. The good news is that God doesn't ask us to do anything all on our own. We'll share verses like 2 Peter 1:3 that says: "God's given us everything we need to lead a godly life." Self-control is a way to display to the world around us that we have God in our lives. And He's present every hour of every day, ready to help us take control of our thoughts, words and actions.

Each week, we'll talk specifically about choosing to have self-control in areas where we know kids (and adults) typically struggle, plus we'll focus on faith skills like navigating the Bible and personalizing Scripture in their everyday lives. We will finish up the month with a "Game On" Celebration Day with leaders and kids during their regular service hour.

## FAMILY FUSION

(for Kids K - 5th Grade and Parents)

Friday, January 27 from 6 pm - 8 pm in the West Atrium and Multiplex. The cost is \$3/person and includes pizza, drinks, dessert, and activities for the family. Pizza and games are followed by the Family Fusion production at 7 pm in the Multiplex. January we will be kicking off the virtue of SELF-

**CONTROL**—choosing to do what you should do – and not what you want to do. To pre-register your family for meals, go to [easternhillschurch.org](http://easternhillschurch.org), the Eastern Hills Resource Center or call the Next Generation Department at 688-7165.

## SNOW CAMP 2012

(Grades 6-12)

January 20-22, 2012 at Circle C Ranch. The theme this winter is "Rise Up" based on 1 Peter 2:9. Only the first 35 girls and 35 boys to register will be able to go with us! Cost is \$120 per student. Spots will fill up fast this year so register soon. Please contact Rachel Olinski at 688-7165, ext 151 with any questions.

## SUPER BOWL PARTY

(Grades 6-12)

Sunday, February 5, 6 pm in The Underground. Come out and join us for the Bills next Super bowl Victory!... well maybe not. We are having a Super Bowl blow-out with the game shown on 4 big screens, tons of food and lots of friends hanging out. We'll see you at 6 pm, kick-off is at 6:30 pm so don't be late!

## SERVING

Have you been waiting for the perfect service opportunity to find you? That probably won't happen. But, if you are looking for your place to serve, it may be on The Next Generation Ministry Team. Teens to adults are needed! Our ministry is held together by passionate volunteers who love Christ, but we need more. We need all types of leaders for all age groups (from infants to students):

Coach: act as a greeter and support person; Small group leaders and assistants (we provide curriculum and supplies ahead of time for you); Storytellers, hosts, actors tell the Bible story and interact with the kids; Tech support (we will train you); Worship: lead kids in meaningful worship.

Everyone has a gift that can be used for Christ. Let's see if Next Gen is the place to use it. So step out of your comfort zone (even a little). Contact Rose Vohwinkel (688-7165, ext. 159) or Melissa Hartwig (688-7165, ext. 102) and we can figure out where to use your gifts.

# women

Robin Schara, Director

## ESSENCE

Fridays from 9:30-11:30 am in the Greenfield Theatre. Ladies, come join us and learn about the eternal truths of the Bible together. January's topics:  
January 6: Testimony from Laura Friend  
January 13: ENGAGE: The Core Values  
January 20: Social Media: Good or Bad for Families?  
January 27: "Honor: Letting Someone Know You See How Valuable They Are" by Robin Schara

For further information about these Women's Ministries or others, contact the Women's Ministry office at 688-7165 or [essence@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:essence@easternhillschurch.org).

## INSPIRE

On Tuesday, January 10 at 7 pm in Greenfield Theatre, a new Bible study is starting "Mark—Christ: God's Perfect Servant." Mark tells the story of the One who found great value and satisfaction in serving—Jesus Christ: God's perfect servant. This will be a 12-week study and it will greatly impact your Easter. Please RSVP by January 2 to [inspire@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:inspire@easternhillschurch.org).

## SECRET PRAYER PALS BRUNCH

Be an encouragement to a woman secretly through prayer, cards and notes. The annual brunch is Saturday, February 4 from 10 am-Noon in The Living Room. Attend the annual celebration to receive a pal and/or to have your pal revealed. For more information, e-mail [secretpals@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:secretpals@easternhillschurch.org).

# eastern hills men

Pastor Mike Dwyer, Director



## A NEW YEAR!

January is a time of new beginnings. The puritan pastor Jonathan Edwards had 70 resolutions. The first one was that he would "do whatever I think to be most to God's glory." I pray that we will all commit ourselves to living for God's glory in 2012!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PASTOR JUSTIN JONES

On Saturday, January 21, 7:45 am in the Multiplex come for a wonderful breakfast and time of worship. Our guest speaker, Justin Jones (Pastor of College & Young Adults), will continue our ENGAGE series by speaking on Growing Relationships. Cost \$5 person.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PASTOR MIKE DWYER

On Saturday, February 18, 7:45 am in the East Atrium join us for a delicious breakfast and great worship. We will be concluding our ENGAGE series with Pastor Mike speaking on Everyone Equipped. Cost \$5 person.

## CONTINUE TO "DO GOOD"

We have many places to continue to "do good" and I would love to speak to you regarding this or any other questions or concerns you may have! "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

I am looking forward to several upcoming events after the first of the year: Daddy/daughter dance, Winter Fun night, etc.

## CONTACT

For more details on any of the above, please contact Pastor Mike Dwyer at [mdwyer@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:mdwyer@easternhillschurch.org) or 688-7165, ext. 129.

## YOUNG AT HEART BREAKFAST

Join us Saturday, January 14 at 9 am for breakfast at the Old Country Buffet on Transit Road. Please sign up at the Information Wall if you are able to join us.

YOUNG AT HEART BIBLE STUDIES  
SUNDAY MORNINGS at 7:45 am in the Greenfield Theatre. This class is taught by Pastor Dave Hill.

MONDAY MORNINGS: Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday (January 9 and 23) at 10 am in the Greenfield Theatre for a Bible study taught by Pastor Dick Bennett.

# marriage

Julie Fischione, Coordinator

## TEN THINGS TO NEVER SAY TO YOUR SPOUSE

- Ⓞ What's wrong with you?
- Ⓞ I wish you were more like \_\_\_\_\_
- Ⓞ All you ever do is complain
- Ⓞ I can never please you
- Ⓞ What did you expect?
- Ⓞ You got what you deserve
- Ⓞ You're lazy
- Ⓞ You're irresponsible
- Ⓞ You're impossible
- Ⓞ I don't know why I put up with you

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## RECOMMENDED READING

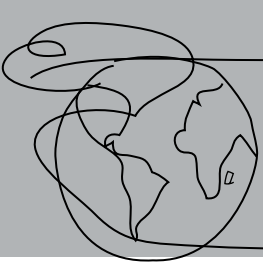
"What Husbands & Wives Aren't Telling Each Other" by Steve Chapman; Copyright © 2003 by Steve Chapman; Published by Harvest House Publishers

## 2012 SWEETHEART BANQUET

Friday, February 10 from 6:30 pm – 11 pm at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Join us for a fun evening of dinner, dancing, and Christian speaker and humorist, Ann Palmer, who is our featured guest. Tickets (\$55/ couple) are available at the Resource Center. For more information, contact Julie Fischione at 688-7165, ext. 110 or [jfischione@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:jfischione@easternhillschurch.org).

## "WEEKEND TO REMEMBER"

These getaway weekends from Dennis & Barbara Rainey are meant to strengthen your relationship no matter what state it is in: good, great, or needs help. This spring there are two in our area, one in March/April in Cleveland and one in Niagara Falls (U.S.) in May. A group discount of 50% for registration costs (\$159 savings) is available for our church. Brochures are at the Information Wall or contact Julie Fischione at [jfischione@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:jfischione@easternhillschurch.org) or 688-7165, ext. 110.



# global missions

Robin Schara, Director

## MISSIONARY UPDATE: KEITH & PATTY NORRIS

Keith serves as the Director of Rural Development for World Hope International. He is focused on water well, agriculture and livestock projects in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mozambique and Zambia. All staff members of the projects seek to witness about the good news as they help the poor to have the skills necessary to make a better life for themselves.

Prayer requests:

- For the recipients of the assistance to open their hearts to Christ and become faithful members of a local church.
- For adequate funding for these holistic ministries.

## CAMBODIA MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Interested in finding out more about a mission trip to Cambodia from April 23 - May 3? Come to the informational meeting on Thursday, January 5 from 7 pm - 8 pm in the Family Room. Find out about fund raising and other important information. E-mail [globalmissions@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:globalmissions@easternhillschurch.org) with any questions.

## STOP! ORIENTATION

On Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 am - 11:00 am in the Greenfield Theatre, we will have a Stop! Orientation for anyone interested in finding out more about human trafficking. There are currently 27 million slaves worldwide, and that number is rapidly increasing. This is more people than ever before in the history of the world. It is time to get involved! E-mail [stop@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:stop@easternhillschurch.org) if you have any questions.

# small groups

Pastor Kimberly Gladden, Director

## “GROWING IN GOD” CLASSES

Don't forget to register. The weekend of January 7 & 8 there will be a table in the Atrium to register for our upcoming "Growing in God" classes. So stop by the table or pre-register by e-mailing Julie Fischione at [jfischione@easternhillschurch.org](mailto:jfischione@easternhillschurch.org). Both of the classes listed below will start Sunday, January 15 and run for six weeks:

**NEW BEGINNINGS:** Sundays at 9 am. Taught by Pastor Dick Bennett of Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. If you know of anyone who is a new believer or who just wants to review some of the basic tenets of the faith, please invite them to this class.

**THE LIFE OF JESUS THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:** Sundays at 11 am. Taught by Dr. Kulli Toniste, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Houghton College. This class will focus on Jesus' life and teachings as portrayed in the Gospel of John, studying the seven miracle stories

(signs) told in John and how they reveal who Jesus is. The class will look at Jesus' claims about himself in his "I AM" sayings, and survey the meaning of the cross and resurrection in John. As a church father once commented, John's gospel is shallow enough for a child to play in, but deep enough for an elephant to drown. This class is meant to be inspirational for both beginners and seasoned readers of the Scripture.

## SINGLES

Singles' Ministry at Eastern Hills is coming alive again! A new year, a fresh start! Join us Saturday, January 14, 7 pm in The Underground for the SINGLES GAME NIGHT. Bring your favorite snack and come match wits in a variety of games. (Want to see Pastor Kim's competitive side? Come out on the 14th and try your hand at a game or two).



## WEEKEND COMMUNITY HOUR

On Saturday, January 7 & Sunday, January 8, we invite everyone in the congregation to bring a snack food in a disposable container and leave on the café counter in the Atrium. We will provide the coffee. Enjoy some added fellowship after the services.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed through Monday, January 2. It will reopen Tuesday, January 3. All weekday ministries will be canceled December 26 - January 2 unless otherwise communicated.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY FAMILY SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, January 1 at 10 am in the Sanctuary for a family service. There will be no Nursery, Children or Middle School programming so your entire family can enjoy the service together. Families with young children are welcome to worship in a more casual atmosphere in the Multiplex with a live feed of the service. Activity bags and snacks will be available. There will be no evening service on Saturday, December 31.

## COMMUNION AND HEALING SERVICE

On February 4 & 5, during our weekend worship services, we will set aside a special time for prayers of healing along with celebrating Holy Communion.

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY INTERFAITH PASSOVER SEDER

Thursday, March 29, 5:30 – 8:30 pm at Temple Beth Zion (805 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo). Cost: \$25/person and includes full Seder dinner. Participate in the joyous retelling of the story of Exodus – a people's escape from slavery – and partake of the traditional Jewish "Seder" meal and ceremony with people from many faiths and origins. For reservations, please call the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo at 886-7750 or e-mail labate@jfedbflo.com.

## CROSSROADS

(Eastern Hills Career Transitions Ministry)

This is a one-day workshop for those who are re-entering the work force or are between jobs. It provides assistance on resume writing, job interview skills and job search training. The cost is \$29/person. Brochures with registration forms are available on the Information Wall.

## BABY DEDICATION SERVICE

Here at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church, we choose to dedicate children to God following the Biblical pattern, where even our Lord Jesus was brought to the Temple by his parents: "...Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord...)" We see baby dedication as an act of identification with Christ, where parents present their child to our Lord with the intention of seeing to it that he or she grow in wisdom and knowledge of Jesus until the day that child accepts Christ as personal Savior. We incorporate our baby dedications into our weekend services and have a weekend set aside every other month for the dedications. Our next baby dedication weekend will be February 18 & 19. If you are interested in dedicating your child, we ask that you attend a 30-minute class on Sunday, February 12 at 12:45 pm in the KidzPark Gathering Room. Please contact Dawn Waggoner (dwaggoner@easternhillschurch.org or 688-7165, ext. 101) by February 9 to sign up for the class and Dedication Service.

## EASTERN HILLS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This program is for regular attenders of Eastern Hills Church planning to attend a participating Wesleyan College in the fall of 2012. Pick up a Wesleyan Matching Scholarship application at the Welcome Center. Deadline is February 1, 2012. For more info., contact Dawn Waggoner at dwaggoner@easternhillschurch.org or 688-7165, ext. 101.

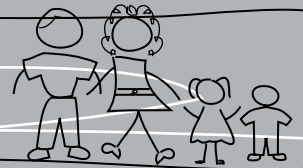
## FIRST IMPRESSIONS TEAM

Our First Impressions Team exists to welcome and serve all who enter our building for worship or other events. We believe that a warm welcome creates a powerful First Impression on those who are guests at our church. There are many openings to serve in this ministry as Ushers, Hospitality Team and Resource Center. For more information, contact Dawn Waggoner at 688-7165, ext. 101 or dwaggoner@easternhillschurch.org.

## EASTERN HILLS CAFÉ

During the week, come and enjoy lunch at the Eastern Hills Café which is open Monday – Friday from 11 am - 1 pm. To pre-order your lunch, call Tom Dossett at 573-6398.

# family happenings



## NEWLY WEDS

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
**Richard & Sandra** (Hussar) **Pratt**  
who were married December 20, 2011



## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Would you like us to recognize a loved one or friend serving in the military through prayer and weekend Power Point displays? Please contact Peggy Farrington at 688-7165, ext. 127 for more information.

# money matters

## YOUR GIVING

Your Weekly Giving Makes A Difference	Actual	Budget
Total General Fund Giving 6/1/2011 - 11/30/2011*:	\$ 1,208,569	\$ 1,245,512
Missions Giving 6/1/2011 - 11/30/2011*:	\$ 98,568	\$ 79,342

*\*Our fiscal year for the General Fund is June 1 through May 31. The Missions budget year runs from November through October, in conjunction with our annual Missions Conference.*

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the many generous gifts that have come in for the benevolence fund. Because of your generosity we have been able to assist numerous families during this difficult time. We on the staff are so very proud of you and feel blessed to serve such a caring community.

Over \$6700 has been received for designated Missions giving. These gifts have blessed Morris Liana in Myanmar,

Disaster Relief, Soles4Souls, The Gideons, Buffalo City Mission, Operation Christmas Child and Mozambique. We continue to thank God for your generous heart of giving. (Please note that these funds are given over and above regular missions donations.)

For more information on how your giving can make a difference, please contact Anieta Hopper at 688-7165, ext. 103 or [ahopper@easternhillchurch.org](mailto:ahopper@easternhillchurch.org).

**ONLINE GIVING** We praise God for the many that are taking advantage of our "Online Giving" which is available on our website: [easternhillchurch.org](http://easternhillchurch.org).