



SPEAK OUT!

SPEAK OUT!: THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF EASTBROOK CHURCH
WINTER 2014/2015 - ISSUE 1

Everybody loves a good story. If you sit with a child to read a story to them, watch out! You may find yourself being asked to read it again and again and again. If you open your house for a movie night on Friday, you will likely have a big group of friends show up to hang out and watch a story unfold on the screen. When you visit family over the holidays, if one of the "older generation" starts to tell about times gone by, regardless of their age, many people will likely gather around to listen, ask questions, and find out more. Why? It is because everybody loves a good story.

Psalm 107:2 says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story." These words rise up near the beginning of a powerful song of praise and celebration, remembering the goodness and love of God to His people. Another translation of that same verse says, "Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!"

There are a lot of things we can speak out about in our world today. One thing we must do as a church is to speak out about how we have experienced the good work of God in our lives. This gives us the opportunity to remember that God is at work all around us, both individually and in our life together as the church. Speaking out about God's work in our lives gives us a chance to enter into worship as we say together: "it is good to live life with a God like that!"

So, as you read the following pages, celebrate with me the stories of how God is at work. And at the same time, think about how you, too, can speak out about the love and goodness of God!

Matt Erickson
Senior Pastor



This inaugural issue of our new quarterly magazine features articles around the topic of telling our stories. We look forward to how God will use this magazine for His glory in the future!

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Becoming **the** Community

A call to community shared by Pastor Matt at the October 2014 Leadership Forum

As God's people, we make the following commitments to one another:

We will love one another

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

We will serve one another

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)

We will look to others' interests as more important than your own

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

We will deal with wrongs and sin together

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along." (Matthew 18:15-16a)

We will forgive one another as the Lord forgave us

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)

We will speak the truth but do so in love

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." (Ephesians 4:15)

We will aim for peace with everyone

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18)

We will uphold the unity in the Body of Christ

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." (John 17:20-21)

JOIN US AT THE NEXT LEADERSHIP FORUM JANUARY 26, 2015 AT 7 PM IN THE WORSHIP HALL



“You are my Son,
today I have become your Father.”
—Psalm 2:7

MY **STORY** GOD

by Robin Trulen

It all started when I was very young! I was born March 5, 1952 while my family was living on a farm in Waterford, Wisconsin. I was the youngest of five with two older sisters and two older brothers.

Although my dad loved farming, my mom was a city girl, so after many years of farm life—in the middle of raising five children and taking care of 26 foster children—my mother told my dad she was moving back to the city with or without him.

We moved back to Milwaukee when I was five. My parents together began to operate small restaurants throughout my childhood. As I grew up, with very little direction from my parents, I experienced neglect, bullying, and physical abuse from my brothers, classmates and a church leader. I had very little guidance because my parents believed that sending me to parochial school would help me. Unfortunately, it did not. I only experienced guilt, shame, hypocrisy, and an unholy fear of God. At the age of 16, I left the church and lived the next eight years in a sea of drugs, alcohol, and feel-good living. At age 21, I got a job working in an auto factory, which allowed me to buy cars and motorcycles and fueled my carefree and careless living.

At the age of 24, I began to tire of a life that had no direction and my feel-good living became shallow. I wanted to change. I quit drugs and used alcohol sparingly, began meditation, and tried

college.

During my freshman year, I met a girl who asked me if I'd ever considered the claims of Jesus. I told her, “I tried religion and it doesn't work.” After a few discussions and a few curious trips out to Elmbrook Church, I heard I could have a personal relationship with Jesus by confessing my sin and He could forgive me and help me live without guilt and shame if I invited Him to live inside me by His Holy Spirit.

Although I was skeptical of this new idea, I began to read the Bible and one day I read Psalm 2:7 which says, “*You are my Son, today I have become your Father.*” I knew at that moment I felt His forgiveness, the guilt and shame left me, and I experienced forgiveness.

Over the next four years, I grew stronger in my faith and graduated from college—a miracle in itself. During my senior year (the fall of 1979), I met my future wife, Paula, through a Bible study I was co-leading. We were married in August of 1980.

After three years of a wonderful marriage, things began to change. We were swindled out of half our savings, we'd just co-purchased a duplex, and Paula had quit her job because we were expecting our first child. Two years later, we had our second child and we continued to struggle. I felt like a failure, as did Paula. It seemed like nothing was going right and we didn't like each other. We

tried some counseling, but that only got us into more debt. I was tempted to separate, because I couldn't handle the stress any longer. All I experienced was anger, fear, disappointment, and sadness. At our wit's end, we sought help from two Eastbrook pastors: Dave Brown and Dolores Wenzler. After a summer of private counseling, one day we all got on our knees and prayed together. Over the next year I knew God was challenging me to honor my marriage vows and learn to love and accept my wife no matter what our struggles were. I knew God was telling me I needed to be faithful to her and my kids, and things would get better.

I read James 1:2-4 which said: “*Count it all joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*”

I recommitted myself to love my wife no matter what my circumstances were, and things did get better. I got a better job, Paula got stronger due to my acceptance and support, and we were able to raise two wonderful kids into adulthood. We couldn't be happier as a couple—now married for 34 years and more in love each year. We are experiencing 1 Corinthians 2:9, which says, “*No eye has seen, no ear heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.*” ■

ARE YOU READY TO SPEAK OUT AND TELL YOUR STORY? CONTACT LIZ, LCARVER@EASTBROOK.ORG.

#WEAREONE

FINDING UNITY ON THIS YEAR'S COMBINED JR. HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

BY MARK LYNCH



JR. HIGH PASTOR WILL BRANCH GOT A PIE TO THE FACE!



JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



FEMALE LEADERS

GET INVOLVED!

The high school ministry is currently in need of leaders for both Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. We are also always looking for adults that can provide transportation and support for events throughout the year.

We would also welcome your prayers throughout the year. We understand that not all people are able to lead in student ministry, but our desire is for the entire church to be praying as we strive to empower the next generation.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO GETTING INVOLVED BY CONTACTING ABBEY HARKINS, aharkins@eastbrook.org.

In the hours leading up to his arrest, Jesus provided his longest recorded prayer in John 17. The prayer was for unity. Jesus prayed for all of us to be unified as Jesus was unified to the Father and Spirit. Unity starts with understanding the perfect unity that God has exhibited and placing our faith in Him. Our call is to then live out unity in our schools, church, city and world. That was the prayer of Jesus and the plan of God the Father. Our theme at the combined Jr. High/High School Fall Retreat in October was to embrace and live that unity. #WEAREONE

"I had an amazing time on retreat, I enjoyed the quiet time we were given by ourselves and experienced God on a whole new level, realizing the copious amounts of detail He puts into everything, and how important being one body of Christ is and being friends—not just for the benefit of myself but for the benefit of others, making sure everyone feels included and understood." HATAYA JOHNSON, SENIOR

"From capture the flag, to the dark corn maze, to wheel barrow races, to a photo shoot, to ziplining, to good conversation, to bonfires, to late night hot cocoa, to watching the stars, to incredible worship, to glowsticks, to becoming one as a body of Christ—the fall retreat 2014 was wonderful!" ABBY THOMPSON, SENIOR

GET TO KNOW AN EASTBROOKER

Jessie Dropp

We sat down and interviewed Jessie Dropp, an Eastbrooker who you might recognize from the platform as one of our Worship Leaders. Jessie also serves as a Jr. High leader. Let's take a step towards making our big church feel small and get to know Jessie!

How long have you been attending (or a member of) Eastbrook Church?

I have been attending Eastbrook since my sophomore year of high school. I became a member my senior year of high school by taking the membership class with Nick Carver.

Describe one or two memorable church experiences.

Going into my first fall retreat as a high schooler, I was nervous because I was new, didn't know a lot of people, and tend to shy away from big crowds. But God really put things in perspective, provided new friends—and they are still some of my closest friends today. On that retreat, I realized that He really did desire a relationship with me.

Another memorable experience for me was this past summer with the Wilderness Trip to Colorado. It was my first big trip as a leader, not a student. It was so humbling to travel through the gigantic mountains, feeling so small, yet knowing the God we serve can move these mountains in a split second. My team bonded, as well as the entire youth group and leaders. It was a trip where we truly put our trust in Him!

How did you first get involved in serving at Eastbrook?

When I moved back home in January 2012 after graduating college, I wanted

to get involved with the youth group. I wanted to serve in the ministry that made a huge impact when I was in high school. That following fall, I joined the choir. It was cool to be a part of a group of people who have a similar passion to worship. Choir challenged me musically and spiritually, and this year I joined a worship team.

What are the most challenging and the most rewarding parts of serving?

I would have to say that continually pouring into the students' lives and committing time every Wednesday is a big time commitment, but it's totally worth it. Going through the Word with my small group of 8th grade girls has been so rich and beautiful. Hearing their hearts and what the Lord has been teaching them has been such an encouragement!

What is God teaching you now?

I am being asked to rest. Now—do I always do it when I should? No. But God is teaching me how to rest in Him even when things are crazy. He is constantly filling me with His grace and giving me the strength to balance all my commitments. With His strength, I am able and privileged to give back in the ministries I am involved in, as well as in relationships with family and friends. I cannot express how thankful I am for my church family, how they have been a huge support system and are prayer warriors.

What is your "Life Verse"?

Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand!"



Photography by Shanna Mason

Anything else you'd like to say?

Since coming to Eastbrook, my relationship with Christ has been challenged in so many growing ways; through small groups, ministries, worship, and prayer. It blows my mind to think of how many opportunities Eastbrook provides to help each of us grow closer to Christ. Eastbrook has become my home, and I am so thankful for that. The people of this church body have become my family and I can't wait to continue to walk with them in His love. ■

LOOKING TO GET CONNECTED HERE AT EASTBROOK? CONTACT JIM TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP; JCALER@EASTBROOK.ORG.



Returning Home

Pastor Matt and Kelly recently returned from a three-week trip to East Africa and the Middle East. While there, they visited with our field workers and other church partners. On this page are some of their photos from the trip. Please continue to pray for our extended church family around the world, including Abbey, Jessica, Marshall & Terri, Gregg & Rawda, Second Circle Church in Amman, Jordan, Ken & Paula, Scott & Sharon, ShaRon, A&B in East Africa, as well as Rev. Francis Omondi in Kenya.

1:A view of the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives **2:**The Dead Sea at sunset **3:**Abbey teaching refugee children **4:**Second Circle Church in Amman serving Iraqi refugees **5:**A prayer gathering with Jordanian believers **6:**Marshall & Terri **7:**Standing in front of the Eastern wall in Jerusalem **8:**Rushing Waters Adventures work in East Africa **9:**On the streets of East Africa **10:**A & B's language learning ground

AS A STAFF, WE ARE CONSTANTLY EVALUATING WHAT OUR CONGREGATION'S NEEDS ARE AND WHERE GOD IS DIRECTING US TO PLACE OUR EFFORTS. IN LIGHT OF THIS, WE ARE LAUNCHING TWO NEW MINISTRIES IN EARLY 2015.

By Ruth Thompson Carver



Have you met Bill John? You may have, without knowing his name, because he is an usher for 1st service on the 2nd Sunday of every month. At the beginning of the new year, Eastbrook is launching a new ministry for older adults called *Boomers and Beyond*—and Bill could be the poster child for it.

People are living longer than ever before, with greater health than ever before. Because of the huge number of Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964), a greater percentage of our population is in the “older adult” category than ever before in history. **God wants us to serve Him and one another for all of our days—we know that.** There must be a reason that He is allowing so many older adults to live long at this time in history. It surely isn't so that more golf can be played and more vacations can be taken (although there is nothing wrong with golf or vacations)!

Take Bill—he worked as a shop teacher in Rhinelander, Richland Center, and at Whitefish Bay Middle School for

35½ years total. Although he retired from his job in 2001, he still uses his amazing skills and expertise for the benefit of the whole church. Bill is one of Eastbrook's “Wednesday Volunteers,” guys you can see during the day on Wednesdays doing whatever needs to be done—carpentry, repairs, drywalling, electrical work, anything!

To learn more about how to make your life count in the cause of Christ in your older years, come to the Launch of *Boomers and Beyond* on Sunday, January 25, 2015, 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. Amy Hanson, author of *Baby Boomers and Beyond*, will be our special speaker, and we will have ministry fair where you can learn about the various ways you can use your interests and passions to serve the whole church. This is for everyone from ages 50 to 100—that's right, *Boomers and Beyond*! Call Ruth (414.228.5220 x208) or Joan (262.242.5345) for more details.

And if you see Bill, ask him to show you the projects he and the other Wednesday guys have worked on. Their handiwork is everywhere!



If you or someone in your family gets a diagnosis of diabetes, heart disease or cancer, chances are you will go to someone at the church for prayer and help. Christians rally around the sufferers, offering spiritual and practical support and resources. It is wonderful to see the body of Christ at work!



But have you noticed that when someone is diagnosed with a mental illness, it's not the same? The church (not just Eastbrook!) has been weak in helping its members and their families cope with mental illnesses. A lot of this is due to ignorance and maybe fear—but now is the time to change all that.

Beginning in February, Eastbrook is going to be offering a 12-week educational course developed by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) called *Family to Family*, to help families of those with mental illness understand diagnoses, medications, resources, advocacy, etc. Eastbrook's class will be faith-based and people will be invited to stay around for a while after the classes to pray together. We are hoping and praying that *Family to Family* will help many people. Who knows what will come next—a support group for families? A support group for those with mental illness? An educational workshop for the whole church?

Space is limited in the 12-week *Family to Family* course, so be sure to contact Diane or Angela as soon as you can. Classes are on Monday nights beginning February 9, 2015, from 6-8:30 pm at Holy Grounds. Find info at eastbrook.org/nami.

DATES TO KNOW

(December 2014-February 2015)



Women's Christmas Event

"This is the One!"

Wednesday, December 17, 7-9 pm, Worship Hall

eastbrook.org/one

Christmas Eve Services

"A Savior for All Nations"

December 24, 2:30, 4 & 5:30 pm, Worship Hall

eastbrook.org/christmas

Family Worship Weekend

December 27/28

eastbrook.org/familyworshipweekend

Mid-Year Ministry Launch

January 5-11

eastbrook.org/ministries



2nd Tuesdays: Worship & Prayer

Tuesday, January 13, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Duffles with Dignity Drive - FAST Ministry

January 24-February 1

eastbrook.org/fast

Boomers & Beyond Launch!

Sunday, January 25, 12:30-2 pm, Fellowship Hall

eastbrook.org/boomersandbeyond

Quarterly Leadership Forum

Monday, January 26, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

eastbrook.org/leadership

2nd Tuesdays: Worship & Prayer

Tuesday, February 10, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Child Dedication

February 14/15 (in all 4 services), Worship Hall

eastbrook.org/children

Lunch With the Staff (for Newcomers)

Sunday, February 15, 12:30-2 pm, Fellowship Hall

eastbrook.org/lunch

DID YOU KNOW?

You can find a full, up-to-date list of calendar events at eastbrook.org/calendar. Use the drop-down menu on the right side of the screen to select a specific ministry's calendar.



COUNCIL PROFILE MANUEL ROSADO

In the summer of 1999, through a job transfer, our family moved to Milwaukee and we have been attending Eastbrook ever since. We chose Eastbrook for its solid Biblical teaching, rich diversity, and commitment to serving the community both locally and abroad. My wife, Kari, started attending Eastbrook as a teenager, and it's where her parents, Lys and Jim Reiskytl, remain actively involved to this day. We are excited to worship, to grow and to serve here, as well as, to call Eastbrook Church our home.

In Mark 19:14, Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* I was one of those "little children" who came to know the Lord and accepted Christ as my Savior at a young age. My family sought after the Lord and He covered us. *"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.'" (Psalm 91:1-2)* Christ is part of the fabric of my life. I am so grateful and blessed to have parents who know the Lord and that introduced me to Him from the very beginning. I grew up in the faith and learned how to serve the body from my parents' example: from washing the floor, to preparing a meal, to leading in worship or Bible study. To this day, they continue to serve within the church body in Puerto Rico. I give thanks to the Lord for the gift of Godly parents who live out their faith in authentic and tangible ways.

As a native of Puerto Rico, I really enjoy when we have the opportunity to sing in Spanish or in other languages and styles. It resonates with my roots and it provides a glimpse of Heaven, where there will be people worshipping God *"from every nation, tribe, people and language."* (Revelation 7:9b) It also provides an opportunity to corporately proclaim that we come to worship, in the name of Jesus, and that one day *"every knee will bow, in Heaven and on Earth, and under the Earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father."* (Philippians 2:10-11). In fact, Kari and I were the first couple to get married on the current Eastbrook Church campus in 1996, and enjoyed a bilingual celebration led by Pastor Marc Erickson and Pastor Jose Padin.

Our family's faith has deepened through opportunities provided here at Eastbrook. Beginning with dedicating Raquel and Marcos to the Lord: individually and corporately. Then, walking alongside of them as they worked through their Faith Markers, and now bridging



with them as they dig deeper into the Word through youth group opportunities like their retreats and the Go Conference this summer. We are truly blessed by those who faithfully serve at Eastbrook. It was also a special moment to witness my wife, Kari's baptism, down at the lake front by her youth group friend, Tyler Loomis.

Currently, my wife Kari serves in the Stephen Ministry as well as, on the leadership team for the Women Unlimited Bible Study. Our daughter Raquel is 14 and is a high school freshman at Eastbrook Academy. Our son Marcos is 13 and is in 7th grade at Eastbrook Academy.

Serving on the Church Council is a blessing and a humbling experience. I am grateful for this opportunity. Romans 12 instructs us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices unto the Lord as true and proper worship. This includes our everything, such as our time, energy and talents. In my work, I am a partner at Spectrum Investment Advisors, a registered advisory firm focusing on retirement plans and personal investment management. It's rewarding to serve at Eastbrook, using how God has designed me with organization, administration and communication to help build up and support the body. As we are one body with many parts serving the Lord. *"God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."* (1 Corinthians 12:24b-26) ■

Manuel is completing the first year of a three-year term on the Church Council. He also coaches basketball and volleyball at Eastbrook Academy and serves on the Board of Trustees for his alma mater, Taylor University.