



SPEAK OUT!

SPEAK OUT!: THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF EASTBROOK CHURCH
SUMMIMER 2015-ISSUE 3

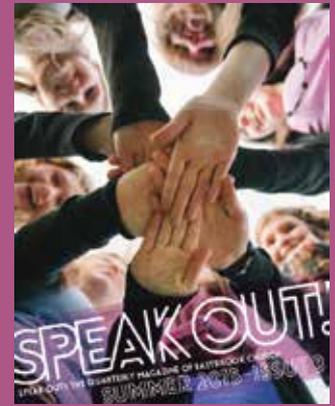
There's an old proverb attributed to Theodore Roosevelt that says, "No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." I first really thought about that statement when working as a part-time chaplain in a hospital on the very edge of the city of Chicago. When I made the rounds through the Emergency Room during the day and at night, I had to earn an opportunity to talk about Jesus by showing the care and love of Jesus.

Jesus displayed this truth in vibrant color as He walked this earth, "proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness among the people" (Matthew 4:23). Not only did Jesus show this, but He taught about it. When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus pointedly linked together love for God with love for neighbor as the best way to live out the sum-total of all the law and the prophets (Mark 12:28-34).

One of the most striking parables of Jesus on this theme is found in Matthew 25:31-46. There, Jesus gives a picture of humanity divided in two groups, as a shepherd might divide sheep from goats. The division of the two groups falls from their response to those around them. Specifically, the King says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (25:40).

As we live our faith out each day, we have amazing opportunities to share the truth and grace of Jesus in our words and our deeds. In these next pages, you will see story after story of people who put their faith into action. May they be an encouragement to us to do likewise!

Matt Erickson
Senior Pastor



Milwaukee-area Pastor and founder of the GO Conference for students (July 19-23 at Eastbrook), Brandon Brown, captured this image for his photography work through roostmke.com. We thought there was no better image to represent how we as believers come together to be the hands and feet of Christ as we serve.

||| THIS ISSUE:

- 2 GOD STORY: Michael Ford
- 3 THE UNIQUE LANGUAGE OF LOVE
- 4 FAKING IT
- 5 ETHNOS: GOD'S CRAYON BOX
- 6 GET TO KNOW AN EASTBROOKER: Brian Dreger
- 7 FAITH IN ACTION

SPEAK OUT!
TEAM:

Matt Erickson, Senior Pastor
Liz Carver, Editor/Designer
Carol Beimborn, Writer
Ruth Thompson Carver, Editor
Maritza Diaz, Proofreader
Brian Dreger, Writer
Laura Fears, Writer
Sue Fendrick, Editorial Assistance
Rosemary Rorabaugh, Writer
Virginia Sunu-Davis, Writer
Michael Shabo, Photographer



5385 N. Green Bay Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53209
414.228.5220 | eastbrook.org | [f](#) [@](#) [t](#) [v](#)
SERVICES Sat. @5 pm, Sun. @8, 9:30 & 11 am
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm



"It's not about me and what I go and do—it's about God. He empowers people, I don't. But He can use me to encourage people. It's a privilege to be able to teach those who are called to children and family ministry in Kenya, or anywhere that God may send me."

Eastbrook Children & Family Pastor Leslie Osborne recently traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to teach an intensive course in Children and Family Ministry at Carlile College. Here she is, pictured with one of her students, Louise, and her family at Commencement.

STORY

Michael Ford

Michael Ford is an accomplished drummer, life-long Milwaukeean, businessman, father to Amanda and John, and husband to Carol. Beginning in June, he stepped into the role of Executive Pastor here at Eastbrook Church.

My wife Carol and I grew up in the neighborhood that lies in the shadows of what was to become Eastbrook Church. In fact, my paper route was the next block on the South side of Villard Ave. We have been married since 1982 and lived in California for 9 years. Since returning to Milwaukee we have lived in Brookfield, Shorewood and now Fox Point. We have two wonderful children: Amanda (17) and John (14). Both have attended Eastbrook Academy for the majority of their school years. Amanda started in first grade and is now a senior at EBA. She will be graduating soon and plans to attend Valparaiso University in Indiana. John started at K4 and attended Eastbrook Academy through 8th grade. He is finishing his freshman year at Nicolet High School.

We officially came to Eastbrook Church 13 years ago seeking a body of believers that taught from the Bible and had a strong youth program. However, my first experience at Eastbrook was as part of a visiting worship team from Parklawn Assembly of God, where we attended for many years. Parklawn provided a Praise & Worship team for an event where Eastbrook hosted multiple local pastors. Our pastor Walter Harvey was one of them. When we first started attending Eastbrook I did not serve for about 1 year as I had been serving for over 10 years with few Sundays off. My first service to Eastbrook was as a member of the Audio team under Dane Barber. I think that lasted for about a year before I was introduced to [former Worship Pastor] Geor-

gine Wenzler as a musician by Linda Wade, a former member of Parklawn. Geor-gine recruited me to start playing and I have been serving since that time.

Last December, I was elected to the Church Council. After one of our meetings I received an email from [council member] Manuel Rosado, asking if I would be willing to discuss taking on the role of Executive Pastor. After prayer and reflection, I agreed to meet with Manuel to talk about the expectations of the role in detail. Over time and many conversations, it became clear that God has been preparing me for this role for quite some time.

I have been working in business for over thirty years. More than once in my career, I have left wonderful jobs that I enjoyed for promotions into management. I never quite understood that at the time, but now I see how I was being prepared for my current role as Executive Pastor. As a manager, I had the privilege of helping to direct and guide the roles and careers of some really good people, as well as be involved in strategic decision-making.

For the last 15 years, I have also been serving the community. I have served on the boards of some small and large organizations. Approximately 14 years ago I helped start an Alumni Association for my High School here in Milwaukee, which had seen many undesirable changes since my graduation. That organization has had a big impact on the lives of the current students and faculty in a much needed challenging environment.

Throughout this time, in addition to my business and community experiences, my walk with the Lord has been shaped



by an increasing desire to seek Him. I have never really had to time to serve Him satisfactorily due to the demands of other responsibilities. At this time I feel a strong calling on my life to make the time.

I believe God has pulled all of these things together at the right time—His perfect time!

The role of Executive Pastor can take on different forms depending on the needs of the church and senior leadership. At Eastbrook, the Executive Pastor's responsibility is to ensure that the vision of the Senior Pastor and direction of the church is implemented consistently and graciously in the entire church. I look forward to working closely with staff to bring greater unity and coordination among all departments including: Worship, Prayer, Communication, Administration, Finance, Adults, Students, Children & Family, Pastoral Care, Local Outreach, and International Outreach. It is an honor to be serving in this role, and I will continually do my best to humbly seek God's wisdom as we make decisions for Eastbrook Church. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6) ■

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

THE UNIQUE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

by Laura Fears

Most refugee families simply desire to live a normal and quiet life here in America. They want their kids to succeed in school, to have some type of job and contribute back to society in some way. However, to accomplish this, to become fully integrated into a society one must first learn the language.

Milwaukee is a beautiful city rich in personality and charm; it is by far my favorite place in the world! I love the city buildings, the lakefront, the various parks, the old houses, the custard, and the numerous festivals. However, if you travel a few miles south of downtown, you will come to a place that is very near and dear to my heart. The south side of Milwaukee is home to thousands of refugee families from all over the world. Because of the various cultures, traditions, and backgrounds, the south side has a particularly unique beauty all its own.

It is an undeniable fact of life that change is inevitable. Sometimes circumstances beyond our control interfere with our dreams and plans and put us on a whole new track in life. No one understands this better than the refugee community. From their earliest days they had dreams, hopes and plans for their futures. At some point, the reality of war, violence, poverty and evil shattered those dreams, forcing them to seek a new life and leave behind their homes, families, friends, possessions, and in many cases their honor, dignity and sense of belonging.

HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH CHANGE IS INEVITABLE IT IS NOT ALTOGETHER UNBEARABLE, FOR HOPE CAN WITHSTAND THE TIDES OF CHANGE AND CAUSE DREAMS TO SPRING TO LIFE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

The International Language Center and Tutoring (ILCT) was established by Eastbrook Church in March 2011 in part to accomplish this very thing. I have been serving refugee families through the ILCT since 2014. However, what we do is much more than teach English. By meeting our clients' most practical needs, we have been given the privilege of being welcomed into their families and community. It is through these relationships that joy is returned, hope is rekindled, and dignity is restored. But more importantly, Christ's love is being communicated and the Holy Spirit is working to open their hearts to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Love is a complicated but incredibly powerful language for it requires our time, effort and sacrifice. True love should cost us something. God's love for us brought Jesus to the Cross; this powerful act of sacrificial love rendered death defeated and brought about salvation for all who believe.

Love is a unique language and the amazing thing is it doesn't always require words to be communicated. We can communicate love through service as we distribute furniture and clothes, provide transportation for various appointments, help with immigration paperwork and teach English. But love is best communicated in the context of a relationship as we sit with families, eat together, talk together, walk together and share life together. Service opens

the doors for a relationship and the families on the south side are dying for relationships. At our very core, we were made for relationship so it only seems right for us to crave the love and attention of others.

A simple act of friendship is a powerful tool for the Holy Spirit to work. Many of our families on the south side are very lonely. If the husband is working, the wife stays home alone all day with her children. If she doesn't know English, her isolation is even worse. A simple visit can completely change her life and as she sees your love and sacrifice, her heart is unknowingly drawn to God.

Working on the south side has been an incredible blessing for me. The families I work with have gone through much suffering and heartache, but they still have joy and hope. I'm encouraged by their love, blessed by their generosity, and challenged by their courage. At the same time, my heart breaks for them because they have yet to know the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ alone. However, God has shown me that He is the one who opens eyes and enables hearts to turn to Him. What an amazing God we serve. ■



Laura recently signed on to serve as a Ministry Resident for Eastbrook Church within the area of International Outreach. She will be serving in this area for the next year, working on the south side with the refugee community. If you're interested in serving at ILCT, contact Adam, ashidler@eastbrook.org.

faking it

by Carol Beimborn



Freddie Adams is an outgoing, charismatic and capable woman. She has a strong work ethic and varied skills that have enabled her to obtain jobs and secure promotions to responsible positions.

In school, she was told that she had dyslexia, a condition that makes it difficult to integrate visual information, like letters and words. Consequently, school was difficult for Freddie, and struggles with reading often caused her embarrassment. Ultimately, she dropped out of school. Her lack of a high school diploma limited her job opportunities, but she always had a job because of her strong work ethic and superior problem solving skills. According to Freddie she “always acted confident but wasn’t really confident because I couldn’t read. People would ask me about topics and I didn’t know what to say.” People didn’t know that she didn’t know how to read because she is such a good communicator and she knew how to “fake it.”

Freddie was afraid that her sons would have difficulty with reading, so she, as a single mother, provided private education for her two sons. After they became educated adults, relatives convinced her to return to school. After trying a few programs that just weren’t a good fit, an educator suggested that Freddie check out the Neighborhood Learning Center (NLC) of Eastbrook Church. After having “faked it” or guessing a word based on its beginning letters, she is learning to read, sounding out syllables (“I never knew you could break

words into syllables”), and combining syllables to read words.

“I am so thankful. God is good. I faked it a lot, but now I don’t have to fake it any more. Now I tell people why I am going to school. They think that I am going to college, but I tell them that I am going to school to get my GED. I am learning how to read. I am not ashamed anymore. God is good. My grandma used to say, ‘Wait on time’ or never give up. ‘Go around that corner and see what will happen.’ I went around that corner and I found this place [the Neighborhood Learning Center.] I found Sue; I found Jerre.”

Jerre and Sue, like all the NLC volunteer tutors, consider it a privilege to teach Freddie and many others with slightly different stories who have gone around a big corner in an effort to secure a high school degree. We also consider it a privilege to pray with the students collectively at the start of each day and individually throughout the day. The Neighborhood Learning Center offers tutoring services in reading, math and computers and is located behind Holy Grounds right on the campus of Eastbrook Church. ■

Carol is a longtime Eastbrooker who has been volunteering at the Neighborhood Learning Center for the past two years. To get involved in serving at the NLC, contact Sue, sfendrick@eastbrook.org.

TWO CENTERS?

One of the questions we hear a lot at Eastbrook is about the two “centers” that we have started in the last ten years. Here, we will try to answer some of your questions about these two vital ministries:

Neighborhood Learning Center (NLC)



The NLC brings the love of God to the community by working with adult students to help them achieve their GEDs.

Where: On the Eastbrook Campus, behind Holy Grounds

When: Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

More Info: eastbrook.org/nlc

International Language Center and Tutoring (ILCT)



ILCT provides a safe learning space for refugees coming into Milwaukee to learn English, and receive care.

Where: 12 miles south of Eastbrook’s Campus on Howell Ave.

More Info: eastbrook.org/ilct

ETHNOS: GOD'S CRAYON BOX

by Rosemary Rorabaugh

In September 2014, Eastbrook joined together with other churches in Southeastern Wisconsin to plant Ethnos Church, a multi-ethnic church in the Brewer's Hill neighborhood of Milwaukee. Since September, the church has grown, people have come to Christ, babies have been dedicated, and they are even hosting their first membership class this summer. Rosemary Rorabaugh was a part of the group from Eastbrook that stepped out in faith to be a part of this new church plant.

I think of Ethnos Church as the "Revelation Communion." Mixed and matched, blessed and bruised, we find ourselves thanking God for the rag-tag group of believers He's brought together through Christ. We're not perfect, we're not professionals, and we're certainly not always sure what He has us doing specifically, but we are united in a vision that we hold on to: every tongue and tribe, every age and identity, is called to praise our Creator together.

I am blessed to see God's crayon box spilled out over our skin tones, His unique weaving in our hair textures. I hear His musical compositions in our voices singing His praises in the languages of His people from all over the world. I see His soft touch in our embraces as *"we greet one another with a holy kiss."* I hear Him laugh with us when we have an issue in translation, and hear His deep tones in the various speech patterns in our conversations.

A MULTI-ETHNIC COMMUNITY ISN'T ABOUT PUTTING DIFFERENT PEOPLE TOGETHER TO TRY TO BECOME THE SAME. INSTEAD, WE CELEBRATE THE CREATIVITY OF GOD'S DESIGN IN HIS PEOPLE.

This year was an awakening of "home" in my heart. Through the praying, planning, and launching (and now maintaining) of Ethnos, I have had to ask God to "bring me home" to Milwaukee. I moved here in 2013, when "All Nations Church" was first being planned. Before that, I had never lived north of the Mason-Dixon line! I was torn in moving to Milwaukee. I originally thought it was God's will for me to move overseas for mission work, but quickly learned to trust that He wants me to serve wherever I am! I am beginning to learn that home is wherever God is having me feed His lambs, keep His sheep, and feed His sheep. For now, that's here at Ethnos!

My favorite memories from Ethnos are the quiet ones, the nameless ones. Moments like sitting on a summer porch talking about race and the church; prayer-walking through the neighborhood and hearing the gunshots down the street from us; struggling to pronounce Korean lyrics; watching kids shoot hoops after the weekly stacking of the chairs; bringing the absolutely worst pear cobbler to a potluck; chronically surprising everyone with the beat-box button on the complicated keyboard I play; breaking dishes repeatedly at my small group. The humanity of it all is also the holiness of it all: despite our imperfections and failed attempts to have everything run smoothly, God meets us where we are, no matter who we are. ■



Rosemary is a music teacher at HOPE Christian Schools. In her spare time, you can find her cooking, biking, tickling her nephews, writing for her missions blog, or scrounging Goodwill. Learn more about Ethnos Church at ethnoschurchmke.org.

You might have noticed Brian as a guitarist in the worship ministry, but he's also a Life Group leader, formerly taught the membership class and helped start a Young Couples ministry (Delta) years ago here at Eastbrook.

How long have you been at Eastbrook?

My wife Jennifer and I have been attending Eastbrook for 17 years and in that time we've had our children, Jackson (14) and Sarah (11). Our children attend Eastbrook Academy and we've really woven the Eastbrook community into the fabric of our lives.

Describe a favorite Eastbrook memory...

We have so many memories, but one stands out with regard to ministry. Years ago, while having dinner with Marc and Nancy Erickson, we shared our concern that there was no pastor for young married couples. We had pastors from nursery up through the singles/college age, but who was ministering to those in the next phase? Marc said, "I agree, let me know what you need." With that, the Delta ministry was born! That seems to be the beautiful way many people get involved in ministry at Eastbrook. God taught us the role we play in getting connected.

How did you first get involved here?

We had been here for 10 years before anyone even discovered I played guitar. I actively hid the fact, though secretly I wanted someone to find out and ask me to join. But I left it in God's hands and was going to wait as long as He wanted. One day a friend mentioned he wanted to buy a guitar for his son. I offered to sell him one and that let the cat out of the bag. Later, when the guitar player for Family Camp fell through, my friend's wife suggested me, never having heard me play a note. Someone at Family Camp heard me and 'volunteered' me to Helene Pickett, and the rest is history. Fun fact: Before joining the worship ministry, I'd never been in a band that played in front of actual humans.

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

The challenges are mainly those of time: making time for service and not having time to help in all the ways we want. In

our family, we have placed a priority on serving the Lord and His church. So, we choose how to allocate our time on that basis. In nearly every way, the rewards and blessings far outweigh any contribution I've made. When I am serving others, I end up being blessed more by them.

What has God taught you recently?

God has built in me a heart for what I've come to call 'hidden' people at the church; they're not lost and they aren't hiding. These are people who walk through the front door of our church, but somehow we don't see them or assume someone else knows them. In truth, they are searching for an access point to become connected to the church community. My wife and I were 'hidden' at Eastbrook for 6 years before we made a single connection. That wandering in the wilderness causes me to search the back rows and corners of the building for people wanting to connect. Each time I talk to someone who's felt hidden, I am blessed beyond words. After all these years, God has kept those feelings fresh so I understand what they might be going through. If I help them connect, I find peace and healing within me as well.

Tell us a little about your work & family.

I work as Director of Accounts at a B-to-B graphic design firm in Riverwest. I work with our clients to understand their needs (brochures, apps, websites, displays), and then work with our staff to make sure the client's vision matches what we're producing. My wife has been working in the office at Eastbrook Academy for about a year, and really loves it. Our kids have come up through the Academy and our son Jackson will be starting high school there in the Fall. We pretty much have our church, work, school, and coffee all on one campus.

How did you come to know the Lord?

I had been attending church with Jennifer and her family for a few months and each sermon seemed to have some secret insight into my private life! I learned who I was, who Jesus was and what he'd done for me. One day I was riding my bike through Estabrook Park

GET TO KNOW AN eastbrooker

(not a coincidence I'm sure) and I just told Jesus how sorry I was, and turned my life over to Him. No turning back, no turning back.



Brian Dreger

What is your Life Verse?

1 Corinthians 15:58, which says: "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." For me, it encapsulates whom I serve, why I serve, and that my service will be made useful by the Lord. It also gives me motivation when I may not feel like serving. What else should I be giving myself fully to?

Anything else you want to add?

The worship ministry at Eastbrook is a community. We pray together, share our lives, and spend a lot of time together. I think all ministries here are similar. The best way to become part of the community is to get into any ministry. God will take care of the rest. It just takes a single step, but we need to choose to take that step. So what are we waiting for? ■

Are you ready to get involved at Eastbrook? Take the first step and reach out to Jim Caler; jcaler@eastbrook.org, 414.228.5220 x213.

DATES TO KNOW

(June-August 2015)



Alpha Begins (for those exploring faith)
Saturday, June 6, 9:30-11:30 am, Holy Grounds

Unity in MKE: Concert of Praise
Sunday, June 7, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Lakefront Baptism
Sunday, June 14, 12:45 pm, McKinley Beach

Summer Camps for Kids
June 15-19 & 22-26
eastbrook.org/summercamps

The Art of Marriage Event
June 25-26, Fellowship Hall
eastbrook.org/artofmarriage

Life Group Connect Event
Sunday, July 12, 11 am-2 pm, Kletzch Park

2nd Tuesdays:Worship & Prayer
Tuesday, July 14, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Lunch With the Staff (for Newcomers)
Sunday, July 19, 12:30-2 pm, Fellowship Hall
eastbrook.org/lunch

GO Conference (for Students)
July 19-23 | eastbrook.org/go

Family Camp
July 31-August 2 | Green Lake Conf. Center
eastbrook.org/familycamp

Playground Re-Build Day!
Saturday, August 8, All Day

2nd Tuesdays:Worship & Prayer
Tuesday, August 11, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Annual Meeting
Monday, August 25, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall
eastbrook.org/leadership

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.



FAITH IN ACTION by Virginia Sunu-Davis

I recently attended a class on the book of James through the Adult Education Series on Sundays at 9:30 am. I've said to others that if they knew what it was like, I think they would attend. There were three teachers, Tony, Jacob and Larry, and each week we studied several verses in James. Although we mostly studied James, we flipped all over the Bible, tying verses together in the Old and New Testaments.

This class allowed for questions which often prompted the most robust Spirit-led discussions. "I don't understand this. Why does it say this and then this? How does this play out today?" Many asked questions or made comments in this informal setting. The teachers pointed us to Scripture and attendees often chimed in with what they understood that part of Scripture to mean. I learned so much from everyone who participated.

There were many "aha" moments where we finally understood what it means and how the Bible fits together. We laughed together. There were some weeks we shed tears and prayed for each other. I found myself in a smaller-size church, not just in an adult class.

Over time, I found it ironic that the verses we studied on Sunday were coming up in conversations during the week. I remember writing notes about God being holy and just. Because God is holy and just, His justice requires sin to be punished and this is why Jesus died to take that punishment for us. Christ satisfied this wrath of God by His sacrifice on the Cross.

The next Saturday I went to serve at the Eastbrook Food Pantry with my friend, Barbara, to pray with guests. I met one guest, and as our conversation progressed I sensed that she wasn't sure about her salvation. After taking some time to talk to her, I asked her if she was saved. She said that she was because she attended church and was confirmed. I

saw my notes flash in my eyes and I was able to explain to her that God is holy and just, and about Jesus paying the cost for our sins. That day, Barbara and I prayed with this pantry guest to receive Christ!

In addition to Sunday classes, I attend the Downtown Bible Study. For the past five years, Eastbrooker Mark Toth has led a study every Wednesday at noon in Joey Buona's Restaurant on Water Street. This one hour topical study offers lunch for about \$10 and is a wonderful way to connect with believers and study God's Word. This study is open to all and also offers a place to ask questions as we discuss the Bible. Over the years students, downtown business workers, retired folks, teachers and more have attended. We always end each session with prayer requests which brings a strong sense of community.

My friends at work know I attend this study on Wednesdays and it has brought up many conversations about God. They often ask me what we do there. I remember telling someone in our IT department about the Bible Study while we were in our work kitchen. I found out that day he had been a Christian for one year. I invited him to the study and he has been attending for several years now!

There have been a number of people who have attended this study with me from work. It's been a huge blessing in my life and I am so thankful for the chance to meet mid-week with other believers to learn more about Jesus and to be encouraged. I hope you will consider checking out either study! ■

Summer is a great time to try something new! This summer, Eastbrook is offering a variety of Adult Education Classes at 9:30 am on Sundays. Find all information in the Summer Connect, Grow + Serve Brochure or online at eastbrook.org.

