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2019 ANNUAL REPORT



EASTBROOK CHURCH

Dear Eastbrook family,

This is a special time for us as Eastbrook Church as we celebrate forty years as a church, beginning with small groups in 1979 and then our first public worship services in 1980. Of course, even as we celebrate forty years, we remember that this is not primarily a celebration of “Eastbrook,” but a celebration of God, who has graciously and faithfully been at work in our midst over these years.



In Psalm 145:3-4 we read these words:

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.*

*One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:3-4)*

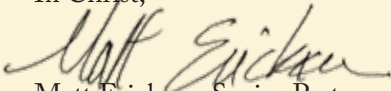
When we come together to celebrate God and His work in our midst, there are a lot of stories we could tell from one generation to the next.

At Eastbrook, we could tell of the small cluster of people who forty years ago had a vision for a Jesus-centered, Bible-based, mission-driven church on Milwaukee's eastside. We could tell of the commitment to be in the city, living as a bridge-church where people from many different ethnicities, political persuasions, and socio-economic backgrounds could come together around the Cross to worship the Triune God. We could tell of the early commitment to share the message of Jesus with those who had not heard, that led this young church to send a team of people to go to Somalia to rebuild a hospital and care for a community in the name of Jesus. We could tell of a church community that extended sacrificial generosity to support the work of God in an orphanage in China. And then, when it became clear that no one would adopt orphans with special needs, the church opened their homes and lives to them. We could tell of how roughly twenty-four years ago, after searching and searching for a permanent home, God opened the doors for Eastbrook to move onto this campus, continuing to build upon the foundation that St. Nicholas Church and school had established for decades.

Stories like this help us know where we have come from and who we are. But more than telling about us, or our amazing acts, these stories really tell us, as the Psalm says, of God's mighty acts. Whether you've been here for forty years or a lot less, this annual report is a chance for us to celebrate God's mighty acts. When you read this, take some time to prayerfully read this report and thank God for all that He is doing in our midst as a church. As you do that, ask God to continue to keep us focused on Him and His kingdom purposes in the coming year and for years to come.

I am so thankful for all who have served so faithfully and given so sacrificially. Let's keep stepping forward with God together for His glory in our church, in Milwaukee, and around the world.

In Christ,

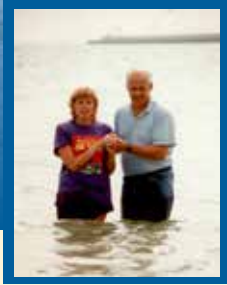
  
Matt Erickson, Senior Pastor



**Summer Camps for Kids...then and now!**



**This year we celebrated 21 baptisms in Lake Michigan. We've been baptizing people in the lake since 1980.**



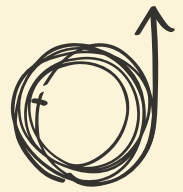
This past year, we saw the evidence of God at work in all of our ministry areas as new disciples were made and current disciples grew deeper in their relationship with Christ.

Discipleship happens in many settings, from weekend services, to Sunday Adult Classes, and Bible studies throughout the week. But one of the best spaces for community to foster and discipleship to happen is in Small Groups. This past year, we had 35 Eastbrook Small Groups for adults and 14 small groups for Students all over the Milwaukee area. Over 100 people attended our Small Group Connect event, and around 150 young adults attended our Young Adult Connect events, with 40 newcomers joining 4 new groups as a result.

Our Eastbrook Kids mark new phases of spiritual development with Faith-Markers. 26 children were dedicated to the Lord, the most in three years! Between the 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade Faith Markers, 48 children and their families took significant steps in their faith, learning about prayer, loving God's Word, and communion/baptism.

GROWING DISCIPLES  
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Our Support Groups are also an important space for healing. 10 people and 9 children suffering because of divorce or separation were helped by DivorceCare and DC4K. 32 people were helped by our GriefShare ministry this year. GriefShare participant Jeff says, *"After Mom and Dad died (3 months apart), I was in an emotionally messy place. GriefShare helped to validate and process those feelings in a healthy God-centered way. GriefShare is truly a blessing."*



**Our students spent 10 days in the wilderness of West Virginia on an intense discipleship pilgrimage.**

We celebrated 25 baptisms last year: 21 in Lake Michigan, and 4 in an inflatable baptismal in our very own Lobby during the cold month of November!

12 students and 7 leaders trekked 15 miles through the West Virginia wilderness on their annual discipleship pilgrimage. Our campus was busy this July as we hosted 12 camps led by 18 directors, 16 counselors with 158 campers. Camp Director Rachel says, *"My favorite part about summer camps is the way I get to witness the kids grow in their faith and in their friendships. This last summer I saw kids from across the city reuniting at camps after a long year of school and getting to experience the love of God together this summer. It's the best job."*

42 men and women worked toward healing in Christ together in our Living Waters program, and our One-to-One Care Givers spent over 500 hours with Care Receivers, journeying with them through difficult times. Our Eastbrook Pastors were on-call for 1,992 hours; meeting with drop-ins, receiving phone calls about the church, God, and practical needs, and solving problems around campus. All Glory to God!



**26 children were dedicated to the Lord this year, the most since 2016: Taye, Autumn, Aurelia, Lucille, Owen, Truman, Johanna, Cooper, Benjamin, Norah, Eleanor, Julian, Eva, Daizy, Elijah, Elise, Joseph, Elliot, Kyrie, Kendyl, Wade, Logan, Ezra, Eliana, Seth, and Madeline.**



**Loving and Serving in the Horn of Africa since the mid-80s.**



**Tour of Milwaukee**

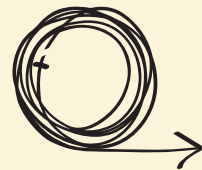
**This year, we emphasized the importance of “reaching out” through neighboring. We spent 4 weeks teaching about loving our neighbors, we handed out 2500 Neighborhood Block Maps and held our first Lighthouse Initiative training group with 5 households represented.**

One of the things we’re aiming for as a church is to reach out beyond ourselves through evangelism, outreach in our community, and outreach around the world.

Last year, we saw God at work through Eastbrookers near and far. One of the highlights of the year was that our Adult Worship Choir led their first-ever choir concert at Ellsworth Correctional Facility. 31 choir members and 5 instrumentalists led worship and shared the Gospel with over 100 women. Choir member Ben says, *“The choir outreach to Ellsworth was quite the ordeal! It remains true as to what they say...we were blessed way more than the people we went to serve. The women were truly moved, even those who weren’t there involved. If they could hear us...they received the Peace of the Lord! Amen!”*

We continue to serve and share the love of God with internationals and refugees here in the city of Milwaukee. The International Language Center and Tutoring (ILCT) on the South Side served 19 students/day for a total of 6,732 hours of instruction last year. 25 people helped with government paperwork, 42 helped with housing needs, and 30 people helped with insurance and medical needs.

Our students also reached out in a new way this year. In June, 18 high schoolers and 4 leaders from Eastbrook spent a week serving at 4 different Milwaukee-area sites including the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, ILCT, and Adullum.



On the East Side of Milwaukee, 55 people on average attended Friday Night Dinners with 25 countries represented. The Tour of Milwaukee welcomed 120 new international students to the city from 23 different nations, and over 140 people helped drive and host these newcomers.



**International Language Center & Tutoring**

The women's prison ministry led 5 different discipleship studies in prisons this year. They had 11 volunteers and 7 new volunteers serving in this ministry this year!

Here on our campus, we welcomed 123 women and 72 children from 15 nations to the 3rd annual International Women's Tea. The Bread of Healing Clinic at Eastbrook continued their important ministry and continues to be the only free eye services in Southeast Wisconsin, in addition to offering many other specialties. Our Food Pantry served 2,806 households representing 8,004 people and distributed more than 376 Bibles to our Food Pantry guests. Eastbrookers donated 559 Boxes of Love to distribute for our thanksgiving food outreach, and 15-25 young men from our neighborhood joined us to play basketball and participate in weekly Bible studies and discussions on Saturdays.

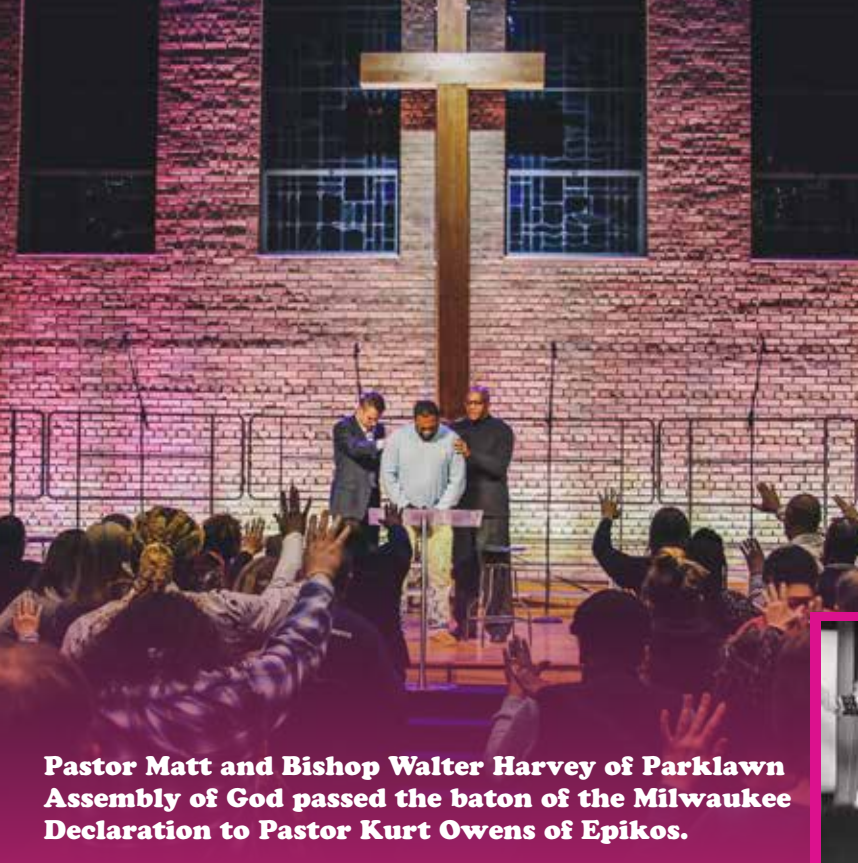
Finally, around the world, Eastbrook supported 35 missionaries serving in 15 different countries. 16 people went on 3 short-term trips to some of the "hard places" of the world. We praise God for all of these opportunities to reach out, and look forward to what He has for us next year!



**Neighborhood Picnics... then and now!**



**Christina Serves in Japan**



**Pastor Matt and Bishop Walter Harvey of Parklawn Assembly of God passed the baton of the Milwaukee Declaration to Pastor Kurt Owens of Epikos.**

One of the things we're aiming for as a church is to make leadership growth a priority. We take Paul's words seriously in 2 Timothy 2:2, *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."*

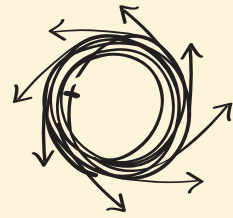
Last year, God was at work as we continued our Ministry Residency program, which is now in its 4th year. We had 2 year-long residents, Shamund and Luke, who served in many ways, but most notably had 42 different teaching and preaching engagements during the course of their year. We also continued our summer internship program with 5 summer interns coming from 4 different schools: UW-Milwaukee, Eastbrook Academy, Old Dominion University in Virginia, and 2 residents came from Concordia University-Mequon. They served in the areas of children's ministry, worship, production/design, and social media.

We also continued to pour into the lives of leaders within the church. As our membership booklet says, we aim to be a church that is staff-guided, council-guarded, and congregationally gifted. 162 congregational leaders attended the 2018 Leader Launch and other Leadership Community gatherings during the year.

MULTIPLYING LEADERS  
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MULTIPLYING LEADERS

This past year, we were led in worship by 87 worship leaders on the weekends and 18 worship leaders for our 2nd Tuesdays Worship & Prayer Nights. Over 170 individuals serve on our various Welcome Teams.

Our NextGen teams grew this past year. We saw 22% growth in our Children's Ministry team with 167 leaders last year. We saw 36% growth in our Student Ministry team with 41 serving our students last year.



**"My house shall be called a house of prayer..." (Matthew 21:13)**



**Ministry Resident  
Shamund Gordon**



**We saw tremendous growth in leadership in our NextGen Ministries this year:**

**22% growth in our Children's Ministry team**

**36% growth in our Student Ministry team (above left)**

A new Special Needs Resource Team also formed with 11 individuals who will be working to make our NextGen Ministries more accessible.

Yet, in the midst of all of these numbers, it is important to note that there are also *countless* leaders who serve in missions, women's and men's ministries, Sunday Adult Classes, and as small group leaders.



**Our first-ever Maundy Thursday service in 2019**



**82 people participated in 3 Christmas Eve services this year!**



**Serving at Holy Grounds**

Another thing we're aiming for as a church is to increase levels of engagement as reflected in attendance, service, and giving. Our weekend worship services saw steady attendance with an average of 1335 adults in the Worship Hall each weekend. We saw 7% growth in the number of children in our various Eastbrook Kids ministries on Sunday mornings, increasing from an average of 285 last year to 304 this year. 72 of those kids rehearsed 45 hours throughout the year to prepare for the musical "Danny and the Shacks" this May.

On average, we saw 40 people in the Worship Choir, 70+ people in our Sunday Missions Class, 255 women at the weekly Women's Bible Studies, and 110 students at Student Night, showing 27% growth over last year.

2018-2019 was a year marked by deeper levels of service. Over the course of 14 days in July, 42 people served day and night at Holy Grounds, using over 30 gallons of paint, giving the space a much-needed face-lift!

1200 paper copies of the 2019 Lenten Devotional were passed out, with 1467 online readers and an additional 110 email subscribers. 41 writers from within Eastbrook wrote 23,046 words for this key discipleship tool. We also added an Advent Devotional, written by 11 Eastbrook staffers.

In addition to hosting ongoing gatherings for older adults (Boomers & Beyond) and young adults (Kaleo), 60 individuals from these 2 generations got together and asked each other questions about what their lives are like at the 1st Annual combined Kaleo/Boomers & Beyond potluck in May. Emily said, *"We were all a tiny bit anxious beforehand I think, because it was a totally new thing that hadn't happened before—but of course God had it all under control!"*



**As a congregation, we sang 182 different songs this year in our weekend services. We sang "Living Hope" and "How Great Thou Art" most often!**



**Our Video Production team recorded 60 minutes and 7 seconds of the "Eastbrook Minute," our video announcements, with 4 regular hosts and 12 special guest hosts!**

494 new profiles were created in CCB, our church database, signifying the number of newcomers who filled out Connect Cards! Approximately 120 of these newcomers attended our quarterly Lunch With the Staff.

This year, we added 58 new members for a total of 1142. We had 222 first-time givers, and added 248 recurring online gifts.

Special services were well attended. 2117 people attended 3 very crowded Christmas Eve services, leading us to expand to 4 for this upcoming year. We held our first-ever communion and foot-washing service for Maundy Thursday and 147 people attended. 999 people attended 2 Good Friday services, and 2247 attended 4 Easter Weekend Services, our highest attendance in 3 years and 4% growth over last year.

One area that showed significant growth in church engagement is our digital media platforms. We added a new TV app so that Eastbrookers near and far can stay up to date with Eastbrook from their living rooms. We had 683 new downloads of our app, for a total of 3,465. Since the TV App was added in Spring 2019, 1,876 sermons have been played!

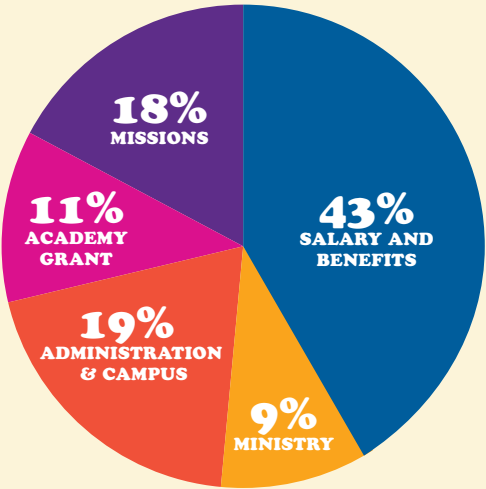


**Kids Musicals... then and now!**

2018/19 FISCAL YEAR AT A GLANCE

EXPENSES	\$3,154,621
RECEIPTS	\$3,295,272
BUDGET	\$3,307,000

2018/19 FISCAL YEAR  
ACTUAL EXPENSES



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW  
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*"This past year, while giving increased year over year, we narrowly missed our budgeted goal for the year. We were careful with our spending and our expenditures came in well under our receipts. We were also able to undertake a major upgrade to our worship facilities, which has been well received by our members. In addition to what you see here, we were also overwhelmed by the generosity of Eastbrookers who gave generously towards our Thanksgiving offering in 2018. We were able to send \$23,847.50 to support Francis Omondi and Sheepfold Ministry in Kenya."*

-Michael Ford, Executive Pastor

RECEIPTS	FY 18/19 (BUDGET)	FY 18/19 (ACTUAL)	FY 19/20 (BUDGET)
General			
General Fund	2,400,000	2,375,447	2,500,000
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	557,000	569,825	557,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,307,000</b>	<b>3,295,272</b>	<b>3,407,000</b>
EXPENDITURES	FY 18/19 (BUDGET)	FY 18/19 (ACTUAL)	FY 19/20 (BUDGET)
General			
Salary & Benefit	1,429,622	1,349,513	1,578,633
Ministry	307,600	285,811	246,360
Administration & Campus	558,516	603,308	548,900
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	353,207	350,000
Missions	504,515	562,782	557,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	156,747	140,651	122,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,307,000</b>	<b>3,295,272</b>	<b>3,402,893</b>



**Last year, we wrote more than 1,200 prayers on the floor of our Worship Hall, creating a literal foundation of praise and thanksgiving in our space.**

