



# **CHURCH DISPERSED**

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**EASTBROOK CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



**“Those who trust in the Lord  
are like Mount Zion, which  
cannot be shaken but endures  
forever. As the mountains  
surround Jerusalem, so the  
Lord surrounds his people  
both now and forevermore.”**

**Psalm 125:1-2**

## FROM PASTOR MATT

Dear Eastbrook Family,

Who would have thought six months ago that I would write this letter in the midst of such a unique time in the world and in our lives. Here we are in the midst of a global pandemic, unrest in our nation related to racial justice, and personal strain related to all of it.

I continue to ponder the verses at the end of each of the letters to the seven churches in Revelation: *“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches”* (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). As a staff and Council we have been reflecting on what we sense God is speaking to us in this moment about what it means for Eastbrook to be the church in this moment and into the future.

This of course requires a tremendous amount of prayer, so I hope you will join me in prayerfully asking God what He has for us now and in days to come. There is no greater power in all the world than prayer. What a gift, as it says in Hebrews 4:16, that we can *“approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

This also calls us to great creativity in both inward and outward ministry. We have obviously changed the way that we do our worship services, both in-person and through Eastbrook at Home. This serves the church, but we have also found new ways to reach out through our online services. The inward growth of discipleship and the outward growth on mission requires us to step forward in new ways with greater creativity and faith than any previous time. This ever-changing moment calls for changing methods of ministry that still keep Jesus and His call upon us at the center.

We are on a journey with the Lord in this time, and so let me encourage us to think of this time through the lens of pilgrimage. A few years back we walked through the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) as a way to remind us that our life is a journey of faith. That theme returns in Hebrews 11 as the author, speaking of the great heroes of our faith, writes, *“All these people were still living by faith when they died.... they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them”* (Hebrews 11:13, 16). Their journey in life was walking with God, living for God on earth, but moving toward the city of God at the end of their days. May we learn from these heroes of our faith to walk with Him day by day, even when it becomes dramatically clear that *“we walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Thank you for your faithfulness and service for the Lord. Let’s see what God does in the days ahead!

With thanks in Christ,



Matt Erickson, Senior Pastor



## MORE THAN A BUILDING

While traditionally, our Annual Reports reflect ministry data and God stories from the previous 12 months, this year we have decided to focus the majority of our 2020 Annual Report on the months of March-July 2020. These five months were disruptive and challenging for us all. New challenges caused our ministries to pivot and find new approaches as we seek to proclaim and embody the love of Jesus Christ in the city and in the world...even during a global health pandemic. These are the stories of a church dispersed.

When the Safer at Home order came, many of our ministries moved from in-person to online. Some outside of the church would say that “churches are closed.” This couldn’t be further from the truth.

One of the first pivots came even before the Safer at Home order was made. Our Production, Worship, Preaching, and Communication teams quickly put together a plan to distribute our worship services to the church each week online. They have since produced 20 Eastbrook at Home services—editing over 100 hours during Holy Week! These services have been viewed 58,778 times in over 50 countries. This team is currently finishing work on a broadcast room on campus to allow us to live stream our services moving forward.

During COVID, a team of pastors and ministry leaders reached out to the folks on our database with about 1200 phone calls. Many people wanted to talk and pray. We caught up on lots of news from people, some of whom are living in different states now. Some sweet relationships were formed and many prayers were offered together to our Lord.

One of our first ministries to shift to Zoom was the young adults. They consistently had about 20 young people each week gathered for fellowship and to hear various speakers talk about their experience of learning spiritual disciplines within dark places.

We completely redesigned our website, creating space for specific COVID response pages: Lend a Hand and Need a Hand. Over 230 individuals signed up to serve, and we heard from around 30 who we were able to help out.

God brought us new and deeper ways to connect with our own neighbors in each of our neighborhoods. We heard of members running errands, doing chores, and providing encouragement as their neighbors adjusted to the new normal. Simple gestures of cards or sidewalk chalk translated to hour-long socially-distanced conversations at the end of driveways. When our members slowed down and leaned in to these moments, we were able to proclaim the hope of Jesus Christ in the midst of such disruption in the lives of our neighbors.

Zoom proved to be a wonderful space to further ministry in creative ways. Ministry Resident Angg Tucker organized a Zoom call with over 60 ladies who gathered to talk about pursuing freedom in the body, mind and spirit. Our Worship Choir continued to gather on Zoom with 46 members. Women’s Global Prayer now is able to meet on Zoom with the field workers they have been praying for! Virtual Small Groups started up during this time, and so much more. We hope that as you read these stories in this year’s Annual Report, you are encouraged by what God can do when the church is dispersed.



“Everyone at Eastbrook was so kind. They all welcomed me with open arms and invited me into their church family instantly. This church centers Christ in all they do, even when it comes to the design of rooms and stages. They are intentional and love people well. They go above and beyond when it comes to loving and walking like Jesus.”

*2020 Summer Worship Intern Jessie Garcia from Judson University found Eastbrook after her original summer plans were canceled. We also had a Kids Ministry intern, Ella Neuman, from Moody Bible Institute.*

**22 PEOPLE\* HAVE COMMITTED THEIR LIVES TO CHRIST THROUGH EASTBROOK AT HOME**

*\*that we know about between June 22-July 31, 2020!*



## FOOD PANTRY RESPONSE

As COVID-19 came to our area in mid-March, our Food Pantry was putting the final pieces in place to make the transition to a new “choice” format for our guests, but our plans were put on hold in order to meet the increasing needs of our community. We served 769 individuals each month and 267/week during COVID, which is a 138% increase from last year at this time. Our food needs have been covered by donations from Eastbrookers and our partnership with Hunger Task Force. Our Food Pantry team even delivered food to those who needed to stay at home and distributed 3,145 disposable masks to our neighbors.



**63 PANTRY  
VOLUNTEERS**

**138% MORE  
PEOPLE SERVED**

**3,145 MASKS  
DISTRIBUTED**

## LENDING A HAND

### ZOOM PRAYER

Mission Prayer Class has continued during this season via Zoom. Each week we are joined by field workers around the world as they respond to how COVID-19 is impacting their lives and neighbors. Each of our 21 field workers have been impacted by stay-at-home orders in their respective 13 countries. 40% of our field workers were either displaced or had to abruptly change their travel plans. Some even contracted the virus. Some Sundays we had as many as 30% of our field workers join us for Missions Prayer, which is more than we've had even at our annual Missions Fest! And our Thursday Women's Missions Prayer has deepened to a beautiful time of both prayer and pastoral care for our field workers.

Because of COVID, we have been able to identify most of our healthcare workers. There are at least 67 healthcare workers in our church. They are wonderful and we appreciate them so much! We said “thank you” to our wonderful healthcare professionals with Starbucks gift cards, a small token of our gratitude!

*-Ruth Carver, Congregational Care*

The Safer at Home order created some space for our team at the ICC (International Community Center) on the South Side to expand & to make some needed improvements to their space.

“Jane came in tough—with almost a sneer. She has been a Christian her whole life and doubted she'd get anything out of our group. Over the weeks, though, she softened, started to laugh, opened up about a lot of tough stuff in her life, and began acknowledging her need for Jesus. She said our group and the love we showed her made her realize she's not alone. She said that every week she learned something new and understood Jesus and herself a little bit more.”

*Women's prison ministry completed 5 studies this year before the COVID lockdown kept them out of the prisons. During COVID, we were still able to provide DVDs for the women to watch.*

### PASTOR ON CALL HOURS

BEFORE COVID:  
**1280**  
DURING COVID:  
**3360**

### BREAD OF HEALING CLINIC

PATIENTS SERVED  
IN PERSON:  
**1306**  
VIA TELEHEALTH:  
**109**

### DONATION DRIVES

BOXES OF LOVE:  
**750**  
DUFFLES WITH DIGNITY:  
**615**



John's heavenly vision in Revelation 7:9-10 is an image that anchors us as a church: that one day, people from every tribe, tongue, and nation will gather together and worship the Lamb of God! This summer, as the pain of racial tension has risen to a new high in our city and world, we are reminded again that what makes Eastbrook such a special place is our ability to celebrate the beautiful diversity of the Kingdom of God, while not sanitizing each other's experiences or diminishing each other's differences. Instead, we come together in diversity, in a posture of unity and humility, around the throne of Jesus Christ, to worship our risen King and Lord.



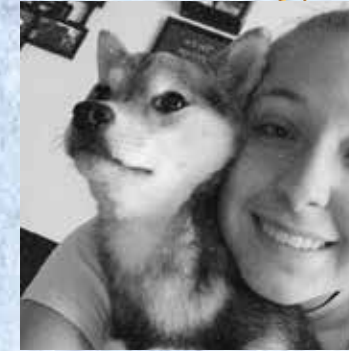
CITY-WIDE PRAYER WALK, MAY 2020

## PILGRIMS ON THE JOURNEY



**KATEY ERICKSON**  
Guatemala

"A few years ago I found your church on twitter during Lent and started reading your Lenten devotions and I have read them every year since! Then this year in the middle of this global pandemic I have been able to join you all through Eastbrook at Home and I am very grateful. I live and serve in a rural area of Guatemala and many people are struggling. I have felt so burdened, but attending church with you all every Sunday morning has been very refreshing for my spirit. Thank you! I am praying for you all as a church."



**ALLIE HAMMACK**  
St. Louis

When Student Ministry moved their weekly gatherings online, students no longer needed to be physically close to Milwaukee in order to connect. Students from all over—even as far away as New Zealand—joined in on Wednesday nights. High Schooler Allie from St. Louis was brand new to Eastbrook. She says: "It was an amazing and fun experience. Everyone was so welcoming and super nice. Getting to still connect with God during the pandemic was a blessing for me. Even though we were on a call, it still felt that God was present."



**KARROL ROGERS**  
Milwaukee

While the world (and our church!) was shifting online in March, we found out that Karrol, a longtime Eastbrooker, didn't have access to our Sunday services each week through Eastbrook at Home. She had been driving to Eastbrook's Campus most Sunday mornings to read her Bible in her car in the parking lot, sometimes with the sermon notes, sometimes just with the passage for the weekend. When people asked her about going to church on Sundays, she would say, "I was technically at church, just not inside. Every Sunday."

**36 NEW MEMBERS  
THIS YEAR**

**232% INCREASE  
IN HOLY WEEK  
SERVICES**

**65 VBS KITS  
HANDLED OUT**



## BY THE NUMBERS

### FAITH MARKERS

**17 people** were baptized pre-COVID, **10 Children** were Dedicated to the Lord pre-COVID (Ezra, Bennett, Audrey, Peter, Akintayo, Jahyda, Zachary, Margot, Ezra, and Ethan), **8 Kids** at Apple-ooza, **13 Families** at the Living Forever Zoom Event, **12 Kids** at 2nd Grade Faithmarker, **19 Kids** at 4th Grade Faithmaker, and **18 Kids** at 6th Grade faithmarker.

### LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

**3 Ministry Residents** are launching now into ministry around the city, **28** leaders served students each week, **65** served in Women's Ministry, **44** served in Support Groups, **21** in Production, **94** led worship, **98** in Kids Ministry, **205** in our Welcome Ministries, **25** at the ICC, and **45** Eastbrookers wrote the Lenten Devotional this past year.

### CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

**120 newcomers** attended Lunches with the Staff (pre-COVID), **21 students** went on the Wilderness Trip, **63** on the Fall Retreat, and **80** on the Winter Retreat. Digitally, **899 people** attended the virtual Way of the Cross during Holy Week, email lists have increased by **268 people**, web traffic at [eastbrook.org](http://eastbrook.org) is up **83%**, app engagement has increased **786%**.

## WELCOME CHANGES

Last August, Holy Grounds not only changed its aesthetic from a dark, shadowy and compartmentalized coffeehouse to an open concept, bright and efficient coffeehouse, it also changed its spiritual vision from being a coffeehouse on the Eastbrook campus principally serving the Church to one that serves the local community. This shift in thought was even evident in changing the WiFi password from "God Is Watching" to "Welcome." These efforts produced fruit as we saw frequent customers and connections made with local faith leaders and business people. But of note is that this was the first year that Holy Grounds broke even financially, a fact that is even more significant when you note that the coffeehouse has been closed since March.

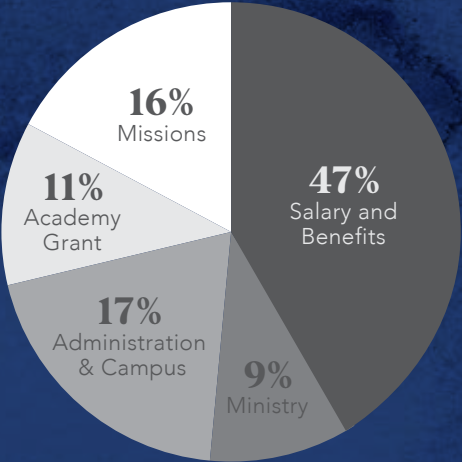
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EXPENSES	\$3,140,762
RECEIPTS	\$3,486,385
BUDGET	\$3,407,000

"Who would have imagined this past fiscal year could have ended this way? This Spring, as everyone scrambled to figure out the impact of the pandemic, God clearly had a plan for Eastbrook Church. He provided the resources for us to not only make, but to exceed our giving budget for the year! Thanks to the generosity of our Eastbrook family, we were able to continue to meet the challenges of the pandemic and adapt to our ever changing circumstances. That blessing has allowed us to equip our church with live streaming technology, start much needed upgrades to the A-wing building, bless individuals in need, and continue the ministry of our Church. Thank you for your prayers, love and support as we continue to navigate these uncertain and difficult times."

-Michael Ford, Executive Pastor

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020  
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES



	FY 2019-2020 (BUDGET)	FY 2019-2020 (ACTUAL)	FY 2020-2021 (BUDGET)
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
General			
General Fund	2,500,000	2,593,043	2,500,000
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	557,000	543,342	557,000
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,407,000</b>	<b>3,486,385</b>	<b>3,407,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General			
Salary & Benefit	1,578,633	1,488,545	1,624,150
Ministry	246,360	249,494	263,680
Administration & Campus	548,900	533,523	553,100
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	557,000	519,200	557,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	122,000	292,306	59,070
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,402,893</b>	<b>3,140,762</b>	<b>3,407,000</b>

This past Spring, as  
the world scrambled  
to figure out the  
impact of the  
pandemic, God  
clearly had a plan for  
our church.

Read the story of  
what happened when  
Eastbrook Church  
was dispersed around  
the city & world.

