

Walking Together with God
65 Years of Marriage
Fred & Gini Schneider

SPEAK OUT!

SPEAK OUT!: THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF EASTBROOK CHURCH
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A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is Psalm 1. I love the way in which that psalm describes life through the rich imagery of fruit-bearing trees, life-giving streams, and the blowing chaff of the harvest. Maybe that's because I grew up in farm country, but the images stick in one's mind.

*Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.* (Psalm 1:1-3)



As a tree sends its roots deep down into the soil as a basis for its growth, the people who live with God must send their roots deep into the life and truth of God. In the same way that a deeply-rooted tree sends its tree branches wide, bringing the goodness of shade and sweet fruit, so, too, the people living with God should reach wide to bring blessing into the lives of people, drawing them close to God. Like a fruit-bearing tree sends its fruit and seed into the earth, we know the intent of God is for His people to not only go deep in Him and reach wide for Him, but also to be multiplied into the earth for exponential blessing. This is the people of God going deep, wide, and multiplied.

One way we are living into this rich calling of God at Eastbrook is by encouraging and training those who are called to ministry through summer internships and year-long ministry residences. Please take the time to get to know our ministry residents for the year (below)!

Matt Erickson
Senior Pastor

LAURA FEARS

International Outreach Resident

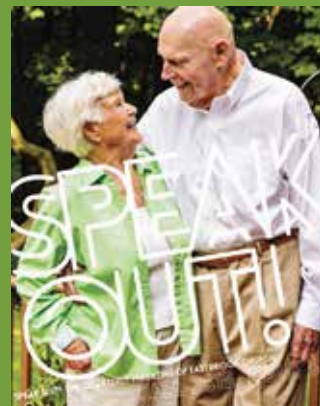
"I love working with people and having the opportunity to live life with them. I love meeting people from different cultures and religious backgrounds, but my absolute favorite part is sharing the love of Christ through relationships and watching the Holy Spirit work in the lives of the lost."

MICHAEL SHABO

Worship Resident of Student Ministries

"I love that worship is the way to communicate with God and express yourself. It's a living relationship with Him—to be open to Him and talk to Him. It's an opportunity for change in our lives."

FALL 2015



Longtime Eastbrookers Fred & Gini Schneider's story is one of God's faithfulness to them through 65 years of marriage. Read their story, written by Eastbrook Summer Intern, Caitlin Gent, and photographed by Anna Mayer, on page 3.

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OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm

STORY

*From the
Front Row
by Jay Wriedt*

It is no secret that being in the front row is the best place to be. Whether it's a sport's game, a theatre performance, or your child's kindergarten play, the front row is not only ideal, but the placement changes your whole experience. I have found the same concept to be applicable in my life. God has called me to the front row to kneel before Him in obedience so that I can clearly witness His grace playing out in my life story.

My journey to the front row did not come easily. It took the death of my brother and an intervention from God.

On December 31, 1995, my brother David died in a car accident. That same day, at that exact time, I narrowly avoided a car accident that could have cost me my life. I had been drinking; he had not. A week before his death, David told me that Jesus transformed his life by replacing his depression with joy. David had surrendered his life to God; I had not. Now, just days later, sitting by my dying brother, I cried out to God, "Why David and not me?" I asked Him for a sign from heaven that heaven was real and that my brother was there.

God answered me the next day. I came home from the hospital and my wife Lynn told me that she had the most amazing experience the previous night. As she said this, tiredly I glanced out the

window and noticed a hawk fly onto a tree branch ten feet away and stare directly at me. Lynn proceeded to tell me that when sleeping, she suddenly had woken up, felt an overwhelming sense of peace and heard my brother's voice telling her, "I am all right. I am in a great place. Don't worry." As my wife finished the story of this miraculous gift of peace from God, the hawk flew away! What a sign from the heavens! God answered my simple prayer.

This transformational experience marked the beginning of obedience to the Lord Jesus for Lynn and me. Our lives began to change as the Holy Spirit patiently began the process of transformation within us. Jesus inspired us to serve at church, we dug deeper into His word—even our careers changed. I left the business world and entered into the world of education. With each venture into obedience, I was able to trust God more and experience the richness of staying focused before Him in the front row.

Numerous times this has led me out of my comfort zone, such as when God brought me to Eastbrook Academy (EBA) seven years ago. EBA is truly remarkable and unique; a classical Christian school, founded so that both city and suburban populations could unite to experience academic rigor and diversity. It began seventeen years ago with a vision that has blossomed into a thriving school of 400 students from K4 through high school. Under God's direction, we now educate both city and suburban students with no compromise of high expectations.

Our students have performed extremely well on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, ACT five-year average is 26, 100 percent of our high school seniors have graduated, and in 2015, *The Washington Post* recognized EBA as the 5th most challenging high school in Wisconsin. We have a committed core of families who support the mission of the school. We also have a strong partnership with Eastbrook Church and collaborate regularly with the staff and Church Council. Our teaching staff is seasoned and dedicated to the mission that God has laid out for us. We are committed to prayer. Our philosophy is to "pray first." We work in a collaborative environment, utilizing each other's gifts, as well as serving each other.

Presently, God is leading me to trust Him on a deeper personal level. The day after accepting the position, I discovered through a routine physical that I have Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. However, God encouraged me through numerous individuals who have helped me to move forward in faith. I am trusting God to daily enable me with energy and wisdom to fulfill my commitment to Him and the school. I will continue to humbly sit in the front row of grace, my eyes and attention focused on the Savior and Provider of all. ■



Jay Wriedt began his fourth year as Head of School at Eastbrook Academy this fall. Learn more about this ministry at eastbrookacademy.org.

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

BELARUS TRIP



"a light in the farthest corners of the earth."
5 Eastbrookers traveled to Belarus this July to serve the Lord there.

LAKEFRONT BAPTISM



"dead to sin...alive in Christ!"
Making a public declaration of their new life in Christ, 14 Eastbrookers were baptized in Lake Michigan this June.

SUMMER CAMPS



"one generation commends your works to another."
Campers at the Eastbrook Summer Dance Camp perform a dance routine on the last day of camp this year.

What We Did This Summer 2015

WHAT AN AMAZING SUMMER! EASTBROOKERS WERE BUSY SERVING GOD NEAR AND FAR. WITH A SUMMER AS JAM-PACKED WITH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AS THIS ONE, WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR OUR CHURCH, CITY, AND WORLD THIS YEAR!
follow @eastbrookchurch on instagram for more photos!

MEXICO TRIP



"those who serve will themselves be served"
Eastbrook students traveled to Mexico. Here, leader Angela Sanfelippo is working alongside some new friends from Cristo Rey, our church partner in Mexico.

GO CONFERENCE



"dancing before the Lord with all their might"
Eastbrook hosted the GO Conference for high schoolers from all around Milwaukee. Here they are at the end of a day of service, worshipping like David, with all their might!

SUMMER CAMPS



"...so we do not lose heart."
After a few weeks of hosting summer camps on the Eastbrook Campus, an Eastbrook staffer found this beautiful note of encouragement on the pavement.

INTERNSHIPS



"bear one another's burdens..."
Pastoral Care Intern, Caitlin Gent, described her internship as relational and challenging. Caitlin, shown here sharing in a staff meeting, is also a gifted writer. Read some of her work on Page 5.

INTERNSHIPS



"for we are His workmanship..."
When asked to describe her summer internship in two words, Communication & Design Intern, Laura Shires (pictured here doing some oil painting for the 2016 Women's Ministry Retreat), said that it was "Bible-centered."

UNITY IN MKE CONCERT



"bound together in perfect unity..."
In June, the Eastbrook Worship Choir joined forces with worship collective, MKE Worship, and the Majestics Community Choir to come together in unity and worship the Lord!

PLAYGROUND



"plans for a hope and a future!"
In partnership with Eastbrook Academy and numerous other organizations, we were able to build a brand new playground for our neighborhood, church & school!

FAMILY CAMP



"...we are one family in Christ"
Eastbrook families descended on Green Lake Conference Center this July for our annual Family Camp.

INTERNSHIPS



"declare His glory among the nations..."
"I constantly felt that God was teaching me something each week, and it was amazing." -Gabe Douglas, Preaching Intern

INTERNSHIPS



"together with one voice, giving praise to God."
"The best thing about being a part of the Eastbrook staff was that everyone was supported by everyone else. It was a great example of how God's people should be." -Robert Larry, Worship Intern



Photography by Anna Mayer

Walking Together With God

by Caitlin Gent

Fred and Gini Schneider, who are charter members of Eastbrook, recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Both Fred and Gini have been active servants at Eastbrook and elsewhere for many years. They led a couples Bible study group at Eastbrook for about 15 years, and also co-led a group for single parents. Gini has been a table leader for the Friday morning Bible study, and Fred was one of the original members of the men's breakfast and Bible study on Saturday mornings. The Schneiders have also been hosting the same Life Group for 25 years, about which Fred said fondly, "The average age of our group is 75. We have four people over 90!"

Outside of Eastbrook, Gini serves as a prayer consultant for Southeastern Wisconsin with Brothers and Sisters in Christ Serving (BASICS). Gini says that her work with BASICS allows her to "...know what God is doing [in Milwaukee]. He is so active in our city, and the news doesn't let people know that—they only show the bad stuff." Fred, also, has worked in the city for many years, and has served with the St. Charles Ministry for Incarcerated Youth for 15 years. He has also co-led a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) with Eastbrook Pastor Tom Meyer.

The Journey Begins

Fred and Gini met at UW-Madison in September 1947. As Fred recalls, "I saw this beautiful blonde-haired gal with a green dress on, and I told my buddy: 'See that girl? That's my future wife!' It really was love at first sight."

Their journey of marriage has not always been an easy road. In fact, the early years were really rough. According to Fred, "I had a drinking problem, but my life really changed when I met the Lord Jesus. We've had a radical change in our marriage since then as well."

Over the past thirty years, Fred and Gini have been active members of Eastbrook. When asked how they found Eastbrook, Fred said, "We were looking for a Spirit-filled Christian church."

We wanted to get with a church where the Holy Spirit and the Word were preached, and Eastbrook was the answer."

During their time here, the Schneiders have made wonderful friends and have shared their lives with many people. Fred and Gini continue to share openly about their life together with Christ. In Gini's words, "Most of all, I want [Eastbrookers] to know we've been married for 65 years. To be alive and married at 87 is unusual, and that's strictly a God thing. That's what I feel our mission is now: to glorify God with our marriage."

65 Years and Counting

Throughout the past 65 years, Fred and Gini have learned, together, how to sustain a God-honoring marriage. To that end, Gini said, "The most important thing is to forgive. God gives you the grace to forgive; there are all kinds of verses that say that. This is how to get through the times when you want to quit. If you can get through those, the marriage grows stronger."

Fred nodded, and chimed in; "Yes, and a problem arises when you're both coming from living alone, because you're not used to saying 'yes' to the other person."

"The first time Fred said, 'You're right,' it felt like an atomic blast in the room," Gini laughed. She continued, "You have to always say 'forgive me' and 'you're right.'"

When asked what they wanted Eastbrookers to know, this is what the Schneiders said:

Fred: "To walk with the Lord is not easy."

Gini: "...but it's very peaceful."

Fred: "And we love our church; we love the people of our church."

Gini: "Yes. People at Eastbrook will pray for you."

Fred: "Eastbrook is an opportunity to mix generations, and that's extremely important." ■

DATES TO KNOW

(September-December 2015)

Lakefront Baptism

Sunday, Sept. 13, 12:45 pm, McKinley Beach

Eastbrook 101 (Saturday Session)

Saturdays, Oct. 3 & 10, 3-5 pm, Fellowship Hall

The Heart of the Matter: Living Well Seminar Sponsored by Boomers & Beyond

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 am-12 pm, Holy Grounds

Lunch With the Staff (for Newcomers)

Sunday, October 11, 12:30-2 pm, Fellowship Hall

"Both/And" Missions Conference

October 11-25 | eastbrook.org/bothand

An Evening of Worship & Prayer (2nd Tuesdays)

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

Fall Leadership Forum

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

Eastbrook 101 (Sunday Session)

Sundays, November 1-22, 11 am, FH3

An Evening of Worship & Prayer (2nd Tuesdays)

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

Walk Thru the Old Testament

Saturday, November 14, 9am-2 pm, Worship Hall

Registration required at eastbrook.org/OT

Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 26, 10 am, Worship Hall

Lunch With the Staff (for Newcomers)

Sunday, December 6, 12:30-2 pm, Fellowship Hall

An Evening of Worship & Prayer (2nd Tuesdays)

Tuesday, December 8, 7-8:30 pm, Worship Hall

Christmas Eve Celebration

Thursday, December 24, 2:30, 4 & 5:30 pm

DID YOU KNOW?

Find a full, up-to-date list of calendar events at eastbrook.org/calendar. Or, download the Eastbrook App, available on smart phones, and now on Apple Watch!



Esther Welch is a dedicated servant at Eastbrook. Not only does she lead the Prayer Care Team, a group which weekly calls members of our congregation who need prayer, but she also serves on the leadership team for the One to One Care Ministry. Let's get to know her!

How long have you been at Eastbrook?

I started attending in an exploratory fashion in October 2006. It was a total surprise to me that God was leading me to a new church home. EBC's love for the nations confirmed for me that I was meant to be an Eastbrooker. I completed the Membership Class in 2007.

How did you first get involved here?

My first involvement with EBC ministries was by a telephone call seeking information from me, which ended in a delightful invitation to join the Ministers of Prayer Ministry. Another earthshaking experience for me was when a man representing Stephen Ministry (now known as One to One Care) stood on stage and talked about helping hurting people. I absolutely love loving on the hurting. I couldn't tell you what the message was on that day. I became absorbed with rushing to the sign in table to meet the man who represented that ministry. Following this ministry, I was asked to serve on the Prayer Care Team by a Stephen Ministry classmate.

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

Without a doubt the most rewarding part of all my ministry involvement is helping people. Letting them know that someone cares about them and their concerns. Taking the time to listen to them, holding their revelations in strictest confidence gives me an opportunity to share the limitless nature of the Lord's love for them and His faithfulness.

Most challenging for me is coming alone. I started serving knowing no one. I'm still so new that I have to come to events by myself. Being connected to the ministries I've mentioned has given me places of refuge from these feelings. It's an ongoing challenge to fight the feeling, but I am happy here at EBC and I know I'm where I should be!

How do you "go deep" with God?

The biggest change in me is in my prayer, study and meditation habits. I spend much more time with God, specifically for Him to fill me so that I have something to pour out. Of the three habits, adding meditation was the biggest change. It is so much a part of my

GET TO KNOW AN eastbrooker



ESTHER WELCH

time with the Lord now; I frequently ask myself, why didn't I start it much earlier in my Christian walk? There are plenty of things in the Bible and life that need a healthy dose of meditation.

God is pouring into me in every way imaginable. From my health to the skill set needed, God is there supplying. I've had these two areas tested and retested; God has not failed me once.

Tell us a little about your work & family.

I was born and raised in Delaware. I moved to Wisconsin in 1980 to work as a Field Director with the Girl Scouts of Milwaukee. After 4 years with the Girls Scouts in Milwaukee, I became a Sheriff's Deputy. I was the first African American female to be promoted to Deputy Inspector within the Agency. I have two children, Charles and Fenesha. They have blessed me with six grandchildren!

What is your Life Verse?

James 1:2-4. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." ■