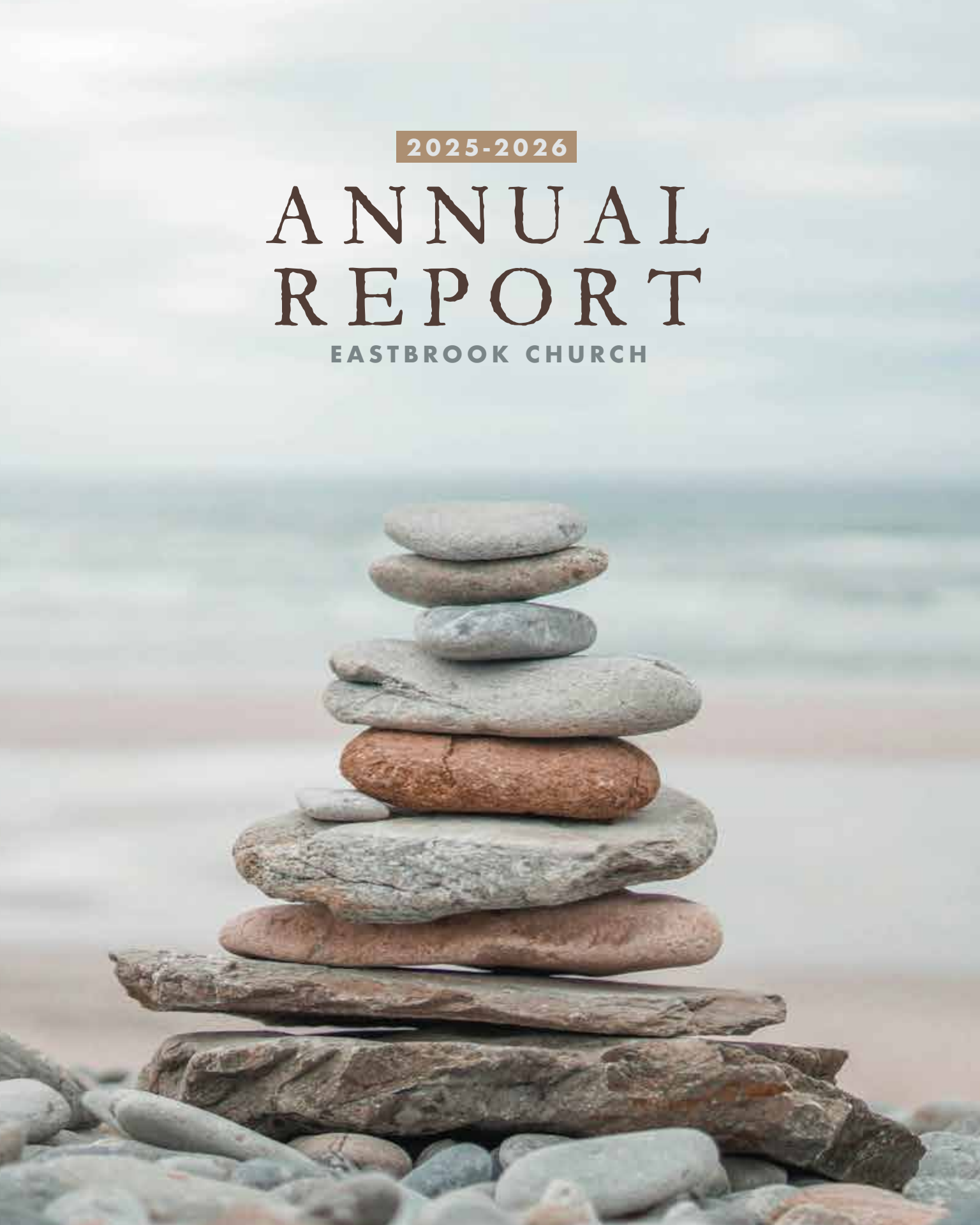
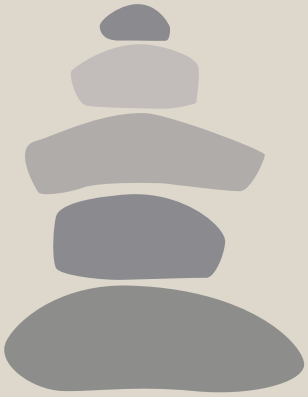
2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

EASTBROOK CHURCH



"THEN SAMUEL TOOK A STONE AND SET IT UP... HE NAMED IT EBENEZER, SAYING, 'THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US'"
(1 SAMUEL 7:12)



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is one of my favorite hymns, with words that catch hold of me and lead me into worship every time I sing it. Whether it's the opening phrase inviting us into worship, *"Come, Thou Fount of every blessing / tune my heart to sing Thy grace,"* or the third verse that resonates so deeply with my need for God, *"Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, / prone to leave the God I love; / here's my heart; O take and seal it; / seal it for Thy courts above."*

However, a strange line in the middle of the hymn may not immediately make sense: *"Here I raise my Ebenezer; / hither by Thy help I've come."* When I heard this as a kid, I always wondered what Ebenezer Scrooge from *The Christmas Carol* had to do with us singing in church. It was only later I discovered this line in the hymn references a biblical event from the Old Testament.

Before the time of King Saul and King David, Samuel the prophet leads the people of Israel to a great victory over their opponents. To remember that God is the One who has given the victory, we're told: *"Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the LORD has helped us.'"* (1 Samuel 7:12). A footnote in our Bibles may tell us that "Ebenezer" means "stone of help" in Hebrew.

To raise our own "Ebenezer" is symbolic of remembering God's goodness and faithfulness to us. That is the theme of our annual report this year. Looking back at this last year as a church family, we can recall so many good things that have occurred. And as we look at page after page of this annual report I hope we also remember that all the good we see reflects God's gracious activity in our midst. At the end of one ministry year, we can truly say, *"hither by Thy help I've come."* Looking forward to the coming year, we also admit to God and to one another that anything good that will come in and through us as a church family will come by God's presence and power in our midst.

In a well-known passage where Jesus compares Himself to a vine and us to branches in the vine, Jesus says, *"apart from me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). The stones of remembrance remind us this is true, and invite us to recommit ourselves to the Lord. In that same verse, Jesus also said: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."* The stones of remembrance also bring to mind that with our life in His and His life in us, fruitfulness will graciously continue.

Looking toward this coming year as a church family, I have high anticipation of God graciously working in and through us, taking us deeper into abundant life and leading us out as ambassadors of life in Christ into the world. As we read through these pages may we thank God for what we see and also be encouraged to step out with God in the coming year.

In Christ,

Matt Erickson

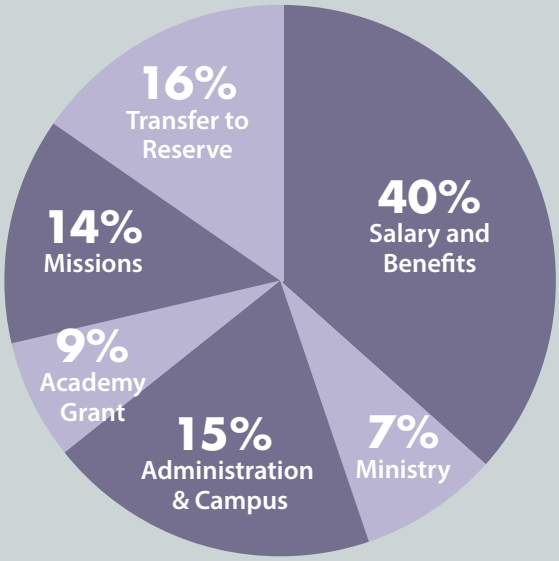
Matt Erickson
Senior Pastor

FINANCIALS

FISCAL YEAR AT A GLANCE:

BUDGET	**$4,075,000**
RECEIPTS	**$4,269,504**
EXPENSES	**$3,580,441**

2025-2026 EXPENDITURES:



Last fiscal year the Lord provided blessings to Eastbrook Church through the generosity of the congregation. The General Fund receipts of $3.3 million were 5% over budget. God's commitment to Missions was evident by receipts 6.7% over budget providing nearly $670,000 towards Eastbrook's mission, "To proclaim and embody the love of Jesus Christ in the city and in the world."

As Matt mentioned in his letter on the previous page, Samuel names his stone Ebenezer, saying, *"thus far the Lord has helped us."* Ever since my wife and I started attending Eastbrook Church in 2000, I have seen God graciously working through us and many other members of the church to be the 'Stone' in the community to remind everyone of His blessing. Thanks again to everyone who was prompted by the Holy Spirit to make Eastbrook a blessing to the city and the world.

Church Council Treasurer
Gary Swick

2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

RECEIPTS	**FY 2025-2026 (ACTUAL)**	**FY 2025-2026 (BUDGET)**	**FY 2026-2027 (BUDGET)**
General			
General Fund	3,252,504	3,100,000	3,500,000
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	667,000	625,000	640,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**4,269,504**	**4,075,000**	**4,490,000**

EXPENDITURES	**FY 2025-2026 (ACTUAL)**	**FY 2025-2026 (BUDGET)**	**FY 2026-2027 (BUDGET)**
General			
Salary & Benefits	1,683,234	1,786,560	1,800,300
Ministry	311,686	337,550	367,600
Administration & Campus	633,415	692,700	679,000
Eastbrook Academy Grant	350,000	350,000	350,000
Missions	602,106	625,000	640,000
Transfer to Reserve Fund	689,063	283,190	653,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**4,269,504**	**4,075,000**	**4,490,000**

CHURCH-WIDE

an average of **892** people attended worship services in person each week and an average of **490** screens watched online
1482 in person and **288** online on Christmas Eve
1163 in person and **400** online on Easter Sunday

2 people gave their lives to Christ in our online services!

81 newcomers attended Lunch with the Staff
481 new profiles were added to our church database

61 individuals chose to become members of Eastbrook for a total of **838** members overall

$77,508.95 donated at Thanksgiving for the people of Sudan
901 recurring gifts online

144 leaders attended Leader Launch 2025

23 Eastbrookers wrote the 2025 Advent devotional
50 Eastbrookers wrote the 2026 Lenten devotional
900 paper copies were distributed, **469** people received daily devotionals by email, **673** read each day on our website and **345** read each day on the Eastbrook App

67 people helped clean up our section of the Milwaukee River
7 facilities volunteers serve faithfully every Wednesday
countless animals live on the **8.62** acres of our campus, including coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and even the occasional deer

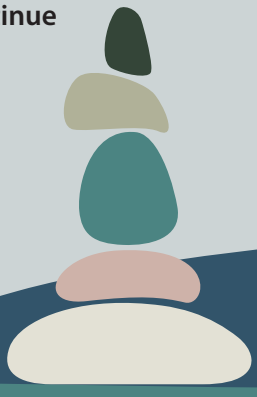
395 students attended Eastbrook Academy from **266** families with **29** zip codes and **85** churches represented
4 EBA athletes competed at state in track. Congratulations to: **BEN, DONOTELLO, JEREMY,** and **AMOS!**
Congratulations also to **VINCENT** for being a National Merit Scholar Finalist

502 new downloads of the Eastbrook App last year
233 push notifications were sent to **1189** total app users

48 people were baptized at **3** baptisms last year! We celebrate with: **ALYSSA, ANDREW, ARCELIA, CARL, CAROLYN, CASSANDRA, CHARLIE, CHRISTIAN, DONOVAN, EDEN, ELIZABETH, ESTHER, GIDEON, GRACE, GRACE, ISAIAH, JEMIMAH, JULIA, KALLIE, KAROL, KATE, KATE, KIRSTEN, LAUREN, LEILANI, LILIA, LILLI, LISA, MAGGIE, MAGGIE-ANNA, MATTHEW, MEGAN, NATHANIEL, NICHOLAS, OLIVE, PARIS, PAIGE, ROBERT, ROSEMARY, SARAH, SEAN, SEMEDIONG, SHAWN, SHEILA, STEPHEN, SYLVIA, TYLER,** and **ZEKE.**

we ordained **2** new pastors last year: **GABRIEL** and **JORAN**

we had **1** summer intern and **1** year-long ministry resident last year—let's continue to pray for **NOAH** and **GRACE.**



KIDS+FAMILY

At the outset, I dubbed 2025 "the year of the parent", and that theme definitely carried into the 2025-2026 ministry year.

Early in the year, K5-1st Grade Coordinator, Colleen Mittag and I participated in a learning cohort through the *Center for Faith and Children*, which focused on the importance of empowering parents for discipleship. Since research shows that parents are the no. 1 predictor of whether or not children will continue to practice their faith, we felt convicted of the need to better equip our parents. Throughout this past school year, we offered a monthly "Family Discipleship Conversations" class to address discipleship in the home. Colleen offered a "Taste and See" class, where whole families sampled a different discipleship practice each month; we continue to model some of these practices during our Family Worship Weekends.

This focus on family discipleship continues this year, as we hope to offer the "Conversations" class again, and to pull together resource kits for families going through transition or crisis. A group of parents, headed by Erica and Bob Short, have offered to facilitate a post-Sunday School "Family Stay & Play" time in the gym to help families build more connection here at church. Also, coming this Fall, our whole NextGen team looks forward to hosting Worship Wednesdays—a 30-minute midweek "pause" for worship, open to the whole church family.

NextGen Pastor
Laure Herlinger

117 volunteers taught Sunday School
136 kids attended Sunday School each week

34 kids sang in the Credo Choir and Kids' Praise Choir
34 kids performed the 2026 musical, *Praystation*

213 summer campers at **21** summer camps
23 summer camp counselors & **19** VBS crew members

21 kids went on the spring retreat

13 volunteers served in the accessibility ministry

49 kids completed Faithmarkers
16 children were dedicated to the Lord

As a Church, we committed to praying for these young kids and their families: **ARNETTA, AVERY, BAIRD, CALVIN, CLARA, ELLIOTT, EMERSON, EVALYN, GENEVIEVE, HEATHER, LILY, LUKE, MAELYNN, MASEON, PIPER,** and **THEODORE.**

"WHEN PARENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO LEAD FAITH AT HOME, DISCIPLESHIP BECOMES A DAILY PRACTICE, NOT JUST A PROGRAM."

STUDENTS

40 high schoolers & **70** middle schoolers attended Student Night
29 leaders served each week at Student Night

42 students & **19** leaders went on the 2025 Fall Retreat
123 students & **35** leaders went on the 2026 Winter Retreat

24 high schoolers & **12** leaders went on the wilderness trip
38 middle schoolers & **7** leaders went on the wilderness trip

51 middle schoolers completed the communion faithmarker
5 students were baptized

20 high schoolers & **51** middle schoolers attended SundayAM
15 students sang in Adonai Singers
26 volunteers led students on Sunday mornings

8 seniors graduated from high school

As a Church family, we commit to praying for these students:
BEN, ESTHER, HELENA, HANNAH, LEILANI, MAGGIE-ANNA, MAKENNA, and **SAGE.**

"GOD IS AT WORK IN THE HEARTS OF OUR STUDENTS AND WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO WALK WITH THEM."

This past year I once again was given the front row seat to God working in the hearts of students. From fifth grade all the way to graduating seniors God showed his power, love, and compassion. He never ceases to subvert my expectations on how He will work.

One story stands out—every year we in student ministry feel the pressure of the competing interests of students. Choosing between extracurricular activities, homework, sports, and church is an impossible decision (though I have a bias!). Students and parents struggle deeply with this, and I totally relate having growing children of my own.

One student did something different this year—they chose Christian community over other offerings. This student committed to being present in our student ministry every chance they got, and it changed the tone of the year. Not just for them, but for everyone in our ministry. This student grew deeply in their walk with God in their leadership in youth group, and this choice and example trickled into many other students' lives. God is at work in the hearts of our students and we are so fortunate to be able to walk with them.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support of our Student Ministry, know that this is just one story of what God is doing in this generation. There are many many more that we simply have no space to tell!

Student Pastor
Nic Fridenmaker

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Looking back on this past ministry year, one thing I have been excited about is the number of new leaders stepping up, whether teaching or serving. As is typical in most churches, there are always core members who serve in multiple ways throughout Eastbrook, but this year especially, I have seen those core individuals reach out and recruit others to serve alongside them. It is truly a joy as a pastor to see team members bringing other people into their role! Inviting others to serve in the church builds community and helps fulfill our mission to make disciples. Serving together shifts our focus outward, deepens both our faith and the faith of those we invite in, and helps connect new people into the family of God.

Specific areas I have been able to witness this happening in this year: In our men's and women's Bible studies, new teachers emerged to help supplement the teaching teams! On Sundays, new communion cleanup teams have emerged, several new greeters and info desk personnel have risen up and our coffee team has grown. Serve Sunday helped boost our ministry teams in both size and depth. Again—it is not just about numbers of people doing things, it is about their journey with God taking them to the place where they want to contribute to His kingdom by giving of their time and talent, ultimately connecting them more with God and His people.

Adult Discipleship Pastor Jim Caler

89 people signed up to serve on our first-ever Serve Sunday

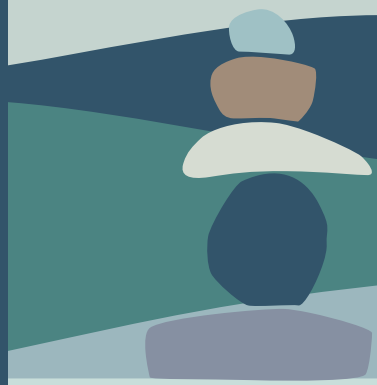
47 small groups with **464** people participating in groups
3 new groups formed at connect events
159 people participating in connect events

14 Sunday adult classes were offered
60 adults attended on average each week
19 explorers attended Alpha last year

274 women attended weekly Women's Bible study
115 women attended the spring worship celebration
54 women served as leaders: **8** on the leadership team,
40 table/zoom leaders, and **6** worship leaders

41 men attended quarterly Men's Breakfast events
53 men attended the 2026 No Regrets Men's Conference

60 greeters and ushers served weekly on Sunday mornings
67 people served Communion
17 individuals served on the safety team
34 volunteers worked the Info Desk & Connecting Point
17 people serve coffee each Sunday



"SERVING TOGETHER SHIFTS OUR FOCUS OUTWARD, DEEPENS OUR FAITH, AND HELPS CONNECT NEW PEOPLE INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD."

52 people attended the Living Well Seminar on loneliness

6 Eastbrookers received care at GriefShare
2 Griefshare leaders

10 people were helped through DivorceCare
5 kids were helped through DC4K (DivorceCare for Kids)
3 DivorceCare & 2 DC4K leaders

11 attendees and **2** leaders participated in our monthly caregiver support group (new this year!)

Living Waters saw **4** people and **2** leaders meet weekly

Through One to One Care, **13** individuals received care from **18** trained care givers this past year

Eastbrook pastors spent **2,080** hours on-call

"MAY WE CONTINUE TO EXTEND THE LORD'S COMFORT TO OTHERS IN THEIR SUFFERINGS."

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us." (2 Corinthians 1:3-7, NLT)

This year in the care ministry we have talked a lot about the combination of reactive spiritual care—God's comfort in life's major crises, and preventive spiritual care—God's comfort in everyday joys and sufferings.

It has been a joy to see the flourishing of many of our reactive care groups: GriefShare, DivorceCare, DC4K, and One to One Care. We also overhauled our pastor on call ministry. Our preventive care groups have likewise been a place of comfort for many—the Care Givers Support Group and CrossCurrent. We have tried to further 'bulk up' the preventive spiritual care available through Eastbrook, through a seminar on loneliness, a revamp of our homebound visitation ministry, and continued care of small groups.

May we as a church continue to seek out both the reactive and preventive care we need, that we can then extend the Lord's comfort to others in their sufferings.

Care Director
Joanna Jotterand

MISSIONS

In missions, we are where we are today because of the Lord's leading and help. As I reflect on our stones of remembrance, I am reminded of Paul's image of God's people being built together into a dwelling place for Him, one life, one story, one stone at a time. We are blessed to have many such Ebenezers, each one a reminder of God's faithfulness and provision through the years.

For example, long before Eastbrook, Pastor Marc & Nancy served in Somalia. There they met Ahmed Haile. Building on those stones, Ahmed brought Eastbrook into Somalia to rebuild a hospital. From those stones, God brought Ahmed and Martha into the early faith life of Abdi Duale, who is now a field worker of ours in the region. Building on that foundation, Pastor Matt helped launch a team from Eastbrook to return to the Horn in the 2010's. From those stones, we met a young believer who our team mentored. This young man just graduated Bible College this year, and is joining Abdi's missionary team to form a Somali-led, Somali-staffed mission team reaching out to the Horn of Africa.

The same can be told of the Food Pantry, Bread of Healing clinic, ICC, International Student outreach, and with many more workers around the world. God has built a firm foundation for us, and He is now gathering the stones for our next chapter. We look forward to what He has in store for us as a church in missions!

Missions Pastor Dan Ryan

1525 households and **4819** people served at the Food Pantry
155 volunteers served at the Food Pantry this past year

164 patients call the Bread of Healing Clinic their medical home
64 new patients established last year
38 volunteers served at the Clinic
933 total patient visits, with **196** specialty care visits

55 international students from **33** nations met each Friday
42 drivers and **9** homes hosted the 2025 Tour of Milwaukee with **113** international students served from **24** nations

235 daytime students from **25** nations served at the ICC
29 evening tutoring sessions with an average of **24** students
86 volunteers from **18** churches—**44%** from Eastbrook

632 boxes of love were donated by Eastbrook Church members and **175** from Eastbrook Academy students

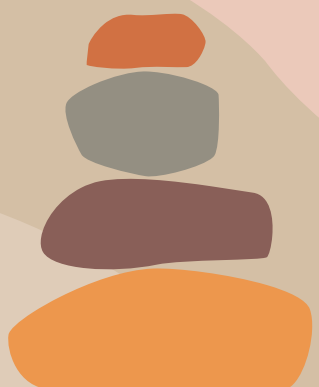
60 people on average attended Missions Prayer each Sunday

32 people were sent out on **8** short-term trips

28 people serve as full-time field workers in **15** countries

As a church, we are committed to supporting and praying for our field workers around the world: **ABDI & KAWSER, ADAM & LISA, DAVID, FARIDA, FRANCIS & ANNE, GREGG & RAWDA, JEFF & GHADA, JOHN & NAZYM, JOHN & TERRI, KATIE, K&A, MELODY, Q&L, SHAHRAZAD, SHARON, SUJITH & SUNITHA, TJ, and ZACH.**

"WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE MANY SUCH EBENEZERS, EACH ONE A REMINDER OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND PROVISION OVER THE YEARS."



28 worship leaders led worship in **156** services last year
22 volunteers in production provided A/V and live stream support
40 adults sang **12** songs in the Worship Choir
35 members of our orchestra led worship
9 dancers led **6** times last year

4 dance outreach events & **3** choir outreach events

an average of **30** people attended **9** 2nd Tuesday services

10 sermon series and **8** guest preachers
7 God Stories in service last year

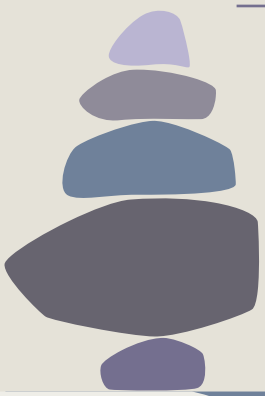
36 online prayer sessions
728 sermons watched online

6 Global Gateways
1 Black History Month celebration

31 prayer ministers

14 volunteers at the Holy Week prayer walk

24 hours of prayer during MissionsFest



"THIS PAST YEAR, CONGREGANTS LAID DOWN THEIR STONES OF REMEMBRANCE AND DECLARED GOD'S LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS IN THEIR LIVES."

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100: 4-5)

As I look back on this past ministry year, I am amazed at what the Lord has done as we worshiped and prayed to Him. The stones of remembrance in our worship and prayer services are plenty. Several to mention include the God Stories that were shared during our worship services this past year—congregants shared how God walked with them in their childlessness, financial difficulty, mission work, disability, and creation work. These God Stories declared God's greatness even amid joy, pain, service, challenge, and waiting. Congregants laid down their stones of remembrance and declared God's love and faithfulness in their lives.

Morning Prayer has also been a time to remember what the Lord has done. A group of congregants consistently attend morning prayer every weekday and intercede on behalf of our Church family, loved ones, neighbors, the city, and the world. It has been great to see the Lord answer prayers this past year, and we remember with thankfulness the lives changed, people being saved, healed, getting work, graduating from school, and journey mercies. We prayed for rain, and the Lord gave us showers of blessings. The answer to some of our prayers was *"My grace is sufficient for you,"* and some of the people we prayed for passed away. But through it all, we have learned to trust in Jesus. What a great God we serve. Blessed be His Holy name.

Worship & Prayer
Pastor Femi Ibitoye

...TO PROCLAIM & EMBODY
THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST
IN THE CITY & IN THE WORLD.

eastbrook
CHURCH