



Community Outreach Newsletter

Third Presbyterian Church

2018

Essential Stats from 2017

by Members of the Third Church Sessions and Administrative Team

Average Church Attendance

40 children & adults

Church Membership

48 members

Vacation Bible School Attendance

79 youth (over 100 participated)

Recreation Center Youth Participants

2012 distinctive names

Meals Served per Week

180-200 meals (weekday evenings & Sunday Church lunches)

Neighborhood Statistic (Harrison/McHenry)

60% reduction in violence score (2/14/2018)



Basketball Dreams, Funding Needs



Third Presbyterian Church's Recreation Center is a very bright light in the center of East Westwood. Daily, children and young adults are playing a game of basketball in the parking lot and finding an energy outlet and peace on the sparse grasses surrounding the building. However, the space is limited. The spirited dreams of a few are changing this. The project team has acquired three adjoining lots, razed the houses and have been collaborating with environmental engineers, landscapers, and surveyors to develop plans for a regulation outdoor basketball court for the community youth and the Praise God Ballers, as well as, an adjoining equipped children's playground and organic community garden. The project's dream is to provide a safe place for youth and families to gather throughout the year. While also fostering time for adults to provide guidance, teach sportsmanship, respect for themselves and others, and being good students, neighbors, and citizens. The dream and excitement for these projects have stimulated funding and unique collaboration's. We hope to start construction this summer to ensure the slopped land is properly raised and structurally sound. The project's final results are guaranteed to provide this community with an enriching, pleasant, and safe place for the children, young adults, and families of East Westwood to live and raise families. Projects like this show a community and the city that they are loved and this love and light will contribute to further positive changes that spread beyond the project's physical boundaries.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Men's Breakfast



Third Presbyterian Church has a tradition of prayer breakfasts. Ages for those attending begin at about 8 and include men of all ages. About 8-12 men from four nearby churches show up at 8 AM the third Saturday of each month and begin a lively kitchen ministry of preparing breakfast. The spirit in that kitchen from 8-10 AM is lively and congenial. We have incorporated some of the young men in preparing the breakfast and Coach Mike leads the team. At 10 AM, there is an opening prayer, and everyone shares delicious food and conversation. After breakfast, the program committee presents a speaker relevant to the issues confronting the young men of the community. We begin clean up by about 11 AM. Sometimes a work crew winds its way down McHenry Avenue picking up debris along the street and in front yards to improve the appearance of the community. This sends a powerful message. We are a growing ministry. Recently we have been joined by a partner church on the corner of President Drive and Baltimore Avenue. Now we have a combined ministry of Third and Knox Presbyterian Churches, President Drive United Church of Christ, and Bread of Life Church.

Our **mission** is to bring together young men and adults from all walks of life in an environment that allows them to speak openly and honestly on the issues that they face in their daily lives. To identify their dreams and goals and work together to achieve them.

Our **vision** is to guide these men on the road to becoming men of Christ.

Mission Possible



The Annual Community service event brought together a large group of volunteers from Knox to work on cleaning and building projects needed both inside and outside of Third Presbyterian church. Led by Israel Bonnell, a very dedicated group of young adults and adults worked on cleaning up and painting the basement area and many closets in the recreation area.



Another group headed outside, and thanks to great weather, the team was able to pick-up trash in the grassy areas, and dig-out and mulch the garden areas on the left side of the church. The tool area was also cleaned up and new peg board hung-up to help keep tools and cleaning supplies organized. The teams worked non-stop and accomplished an amazing amount of work. Everyone enjoyed working together. Our ongoing collaboration is strengthening bonds among Third and Knox church members and is proving that the dedication of love is just as important as the dedication of time.

Vacation Bible School



We need to start preparing now for this year's Vacation Bible School.

- Date: July 8th -12th
- Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

This year the elementary and preschool lesson is titled "Group's Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus" <https://www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/vbs/shipwrecked.do> and the teen lesson is TBD.

Volunteers are needed.
So if you are interested, please save these dates and contact cintichristineroberts@gmail.com

NEW EVENT:

Community Fundraising Carwash

- ❖ **DETAILS:**
 - At Third Presbyterian Church
 - Twice monthly till we reach the goal of \$5000
 - Free with a donation of any amount
- ❖ One of the carwashes will be held a Knox on July 28th...more details to come!

