



Parker Street Ministries

Fall 2009

www.parkerstreetministries.org

Parker Street Ministries is pleased to announce the launch of a brand new Web site!

Features of the new site include:

- Secure online giving via QGiv
- Photos and stories, updated regularly
- Calendar of events
- Frequently updated ministry information
- Tips on how to get involved

Check us out today!



A screen shot of the new Web site's home page. You can view the new site by visiting www.parkerstreetministries.org

Did you know...?

Using our Web site to obtain information about our programs rather than requesting paper copies of brochures and other printed materials is a great way to **GO GREEN**. Want to know how else you can go green with PSM? Check out page 3!

Ministry Tours Now Available

Are you passionate about Parker Street Ministries and what the staff does to serve this underprivileged neighborhood right here in the heart of Lakeland? Do you want to share the vision and scope of PSM with your friends, family members or colleagues?

If so, we encourage you to call our office to schedule a **Ministry Tour** with PSM executive director, Tim Mitchell.

During this tour, you and your peers will have the opportunity to see the neighborhood like never before: up close and personal, and from the

perspective of those living there. Tim will share his vision for ministry in this neighborhood in his characteristically honest fashion, and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and find out how to get involved and support what Parker Street is doing.

Give back to your community and get others involved. Call **Hannah at 682.4544** to schedule a tour today.



Tim sharing ministry stories with supporters at a recent event

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Upcoming Events:

♦ **August 18**
Donor Appreciation Open House at Wesley Memorial 5:30 - 7p

♦ **August 24**
AEP begins for the 2009-2010 school year

♦ **September 26**
Philanthropy Event with Woodmen of the World

Education Update ~ by Christina Allen, Education Director



To all of our supporters:

This summer I had the privilege of working with six wonderful staff members, 38 students in grades kindergarten-8th and *many* volunteers, including several high school students from the Parker Street neighborhood who have completed our program.

We started off our eight-week summer program with four weeks of art lessons provided by the Polk Museum of Art. Led by Krystal Lockhart, our students worked with clay, painted, wove baskets, practiced book making and learned many other art-related skills. During the remaining four



weeks, staff and volunteers have shared their gifts and talents through drama, music, science, cooking and sports. To further enrich our students' lives, we have enjoyed several field trips, including Explorations V Children's Museum, the Gandy pool, bowling, the Florida Aquarium and Lowry Park Zoo.

Although we have had lots of fun, our primary focus is to work on crucial language arts and math skills with our students. Our goal every summer is to help our students maintain the knowledge that they have gained in the previous school year and prepare them



for the year ahead. We have seen a great deal of growth in reading and writing fluency as well as confidence in these areas among our students.



With all of the support we receive from our volunteers, donors and staff I know that the 2009-2010 school year will be full of success stories and great opportunities! Next summer I hope to report, as I can this year, that all of the students enrolled in our Academic Enrichment Program have successfully moved up to the next grade level! Thank you for all of your support and please prayerfully consider how God is leading you to enrich the lives of the students in Parker Street.

Faithfully, Christina Allen

Donor Appreciation Open House

We are grateful for your support and would like to thank you! The Staff and Board of Trustees of Parker Street Ministries would like to invite you to our first-ever Donor Appreciation Open House on **Tuesday, August 18, 5:30 - 7p.** Join us at Wesley Memorial United Methodist (719 N Massachusetts Avenue, on the corner of Parker St. and

Massachusetts Ave.) to view our facilities, tour our classrooms, learn more about our programs, take part in a collaborative art project and socialize with staff, board and neighbors.

If you have questions, please contact our office. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Family Fun Fair

Save the Date!

Woodmen of the World will sponsor a philanthropy event to benefit Parker Street Ministries on **Saturday, September 26.** This event will be a family fun day at Peterson Park with games, activities and food. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.



Disney World with Desire Street Ministries & AirTran!



Thanks to a unique partnership between **Desire Street Ministries (DSM)** and **AirTran Airways**, as well as our relationship with Danny Wuerffel (executive

director of DSM), 25 staff and children from Parker Street Ministries' Summer Camp were given the opportunity to



visit the happiest place on earth - Disney World!

Staff and children from DSM, PSM and Summerhill Community Ministries (Atlanta) met in the Orlando International Airport on Thursday, July 30. They first attended a press conference at the Orlando International Airport with AirTran CEO Bob



Fornaro, then headed to The Magic Kingdom for a day of rides, shows, characters and the other joys of the theme park.

Parker Street Ministries extends a huge thank you to AirTran Airways for this opportunity!



Don't Forget ~ Go Green!



Parker Street Ministries is making an effort to be eco-friendly. If you would like to join us in these efforts, then please opt to receive our quarterly newsletter via e-mail instead of through the postal service. You will help us save paper, ink and postage!

If you received this newsletter via the postal service but would like to begin receiving it electronically, please send an e-mail to news@parkerstreetministries.org and we will add you to our distribution list.

Meet Hannah!

If you've called the Parker Street Ministries' office in the past month, chances are you've been greeted by a new voice.

Originally from Ocala, FL, **Hannah Ferguson** is a graduate of Southeastern University and is the most recent addition to our team. We are delighted to have Hannah serving with us as our new Administrative Assistant. Join us in making her feel welcome!



*Hannah Ferguson,
Administrative
Assistant*

God's blessings to former PSM employees Brittany Jackson and Travis Jones, who were married on July 25, 2009 and have left us to pursue opportunities in Orlando, Florida.

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends & Supporters:

I remember learning about the Fruit of the Spirit early in my life. I heard about it enough that I knew it must be important. I thought to myself, "Here's an idea: I'll pray for the Fruit of the Spirit."

Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit – that is what I have been doing for the past 20 years, and I really have seen God transforming me in these areas. Had I known that He would first expose the ways I don't have these qualities, I probably would have been fine to stay just as I was!

For example, I prayed for real joy, and His answer was to let me face the deepest sorrow of my life as I strived to love the people of the Parker Street neighborhood. I prayed for peace, and His answer was to make me the executive director of Parker Street Ministries (not many peaceful nights in this neighborhood). I prayed for patience and I was given the call to give my life to the Parker Street neighborhood, where we may never really see the results of our labor. I prayed for a better prayer life, and God gave me the privilege of taking in a 16-year-old son (if you don't believe this makes me pray more, just ask any other parent of a teenager!). This calling has stripped away all of my comfort zones.

I say all of this to express to you that we serve an amazing God who knows what it takes for us to be truly transformed into His image. Without all of these challenges, I would never have experienced this kind of spiritual growth. Please don't misunderstand – I know that I still have a long way to go. The road I am on is one that at times I love and at times I just want to run away.

If you are thinking about your life and you have a list of things you want God to work on, then by all means ask Him! He will transform you, but be ready because it will hurt and most likely it will not look the way you might have planned. But all along the way you will be getting to know and see a God that you have never known. Pray with boldness knowing that the God of the universe hears you, loves you and promises to act on your behalf.

As a young man with miles left to go on my journey (God willing), I want to encourage you that whatever the pain or discomfort, following God's will is always worth it. Thank you for all of your prayers and financial support along the way. I would not have had as much fun without all of you behind me.

For HIS Glory,
Tim Mitchell

“Pray with boldness knowing that the God of the universe hears you, loves you and promises to act on your behalf.”



"The WORD became Flesh
and moved into our
Neighborhood"

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Want to Get Involved?

Are you looking for a way help Parker Street Ministries? You don't have to look very long to find that we have many different opportunities for you to get involved!

If you are an individual looking to assist us, we can certainly use your help in our Academic Enrichment Program (AEP). We host AEP every weekday after school. Volunteers are needed 4-6p to assist with homework and to give our kids a little one-on-one attention.

If you are part of a civic organization or church group that would like to help out in the neighborhood, we would love for



A group of high school students from Covenant Presbyterian Church who came to help out

you to host a Community Dinner (the first and third Monday of every month).

We need your group to set up, provide the food for dinner, serve and clean up.

Handy with projects? Consider the many **manual labor projects throughout the neighborhood**, ranging from mowing grass, gardening, painting, general maintenance and trash clean-up.

And don't forget that **the holiday season is our neediest season** - we will need volunteers to help with

turkey dinner deliveries and our annual Christmas Store.

One more way to help - we always need **financial contributions** to retain our staff and to sustain each of our many programs. You may donate by visiting our Web site and clicking the "DONATE" button.

Your support allows us to continue our work. Thank you for enabling us to continue to serve the Parker Street neighborhood and its residents.

If you have questions about any of these opportunities, or if you would like to sign up yourself or your group to help us, **please contact admin@parkerstreetministries.org or call Hannah at 863.682.4544.**