

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES BELL TOWER



In a place where police sirens and angry shouts are common, there is "a new, loud voice that says, 'you're loved, you're cared for, and we're here.'" Those words, from neighborhood resident and Executive Director Tim Mitchell, greeted guests who came to celebrate the Anne MacGregor Jenkins Bell Tower dedication on August 9.

Ringin' bells began the dedication and later commemorated four new homeowners and 70 AEP students who had progressed to their next grade levels. The dedication was planned to foster community by including guests from inside and outside the neighborhood. Side-by-side, teens, parents, and supporters enjoyed donuts, beverages, and student art in the Community Center followed by guided classroom tours in the Family Life Center.



Residents' accomplishments recognized

The bells are intended to call the community to mark hours, reflect, and celebrate. They currently ring on the hour on weekdays from 8am to 6pm. The tower is named through generous gifts from the George W. Jenkins Fund and the Anne M. Jenkins Fund within the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland.

CALENDAR

Afterschool Academic Enrichment Program - contact christina@parkerstreetministries.org

For neighborhood students, kindergarten through 8th grade, registration required

Monday through Friday, 3pm - 6pm, most school days

Snack, homework help, math and reading enrichment in Christian environment

High School Students have homework help from 3pm - 4pm then may volunteer in AEP

High School Nights - Tuesdays, 6:30pm - 9pm. If you're a highschooler in this neighborhood, join us!

Housing and Facility Workdays - Monday - Friday - Come with friends or come alone.

To schedule, contact tom@parkerstreetministries.org

Plan Ahead:

PSM's *Mucky-muck* is part of **Cardboard Boat Race** on Lake Hollingsworth, September 15, 9:30am

Fall Festival - Saturday, November 3 at 4pm - For neighborhood residents. Will you help? Contact Hannah for more info at admin@parkerstreetministries.org

Neighborhood Christmas Store - December 8, 14, 15 - Watch for sign-up information

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Parker Street Ministries serves residents in these boundaries: In-Town Bypass to the south, Memorial Boulevard to the north, Florida Avenue to the west, and Ingraham Avenue to the east.

FROM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Mitchell



What a summer!!! We are tired but encouraged by all that God is doing.

We have been especially encouraged by our neighborhood teens' involvement in summer camp and in our Tuesday Teen Nights. We've hired an AEP staffer, Marcus Ballard, to work some extra hours each week to help us discover more about our teens and their unique needs. **If you have a teen in the neighborhood, please talk to me about your vision for teen ministry.**

It is with mostly excitement that I tell you that, after five years of faithful service, Ben Turner has left PSM to pursue his vision of becoming a pastor. He will be missed around the office. I am delighted that he and Nicki will continue to live in the neighborhood and that Nicki will continue to serve as our AEP volunteer coordinator.

Please help us Ring It on Home for operations in 2012. You can be part of the transformation of this neighborhood by giving generously. More details are on the back page.

THANK YOU for your support, and please pray:

- That hearts of people **inside** and **outside** our 'hood will act on behalf of it
- That R. will be able to break Satan's grip and get into a rehab program
- That we will not be overwhelmed by the waterfall of needs we face

tim@parkerstreetministries.org



Teens helped on field trips

HEARD AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

• **Over 100 AEP students and high school students received backpacks filled with their needed supplies and two new sets of school uniforms.** Helping our students prepare academically *and* physically for school is a blessing to them, their parents, and their teachers. Thank you to all who gave in this uniquely personal drive.

• **PSM was recognized** by Historic Lakeland, Inc. and the City's Historic Preservation Board **for our efforts to preserve Lakeland's architectural heritage.**

• Our neighborhood is in LPDs Delta Zone. **In 2011, 9,582 calls for service** were received from this zone, reflecting a 13% decrease from 2010.



AEP students performed their first talent show for parents at summer camp registration and picked up books for summer reading.

• What makes a good renter? Do renters have rights? Almost three-fourths of the homes in this neighborhood are rentals. We've noticed an increase in evictions lately and, in response, will be holding a seminar later this fall to educate the neighborhood about renter/landlord relationships. Neighborhood residents register with Kim at 863.682.4544.

• **Upcoming free Lakeland events:**

First Fridays of each month—themed activities downtown—6pm - 8:30pm

Pics on Promenade showing *E.T. The Extra-terrestrial* on Lake Mirror at Dusk on October 26.

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CLOSING LEARNING GAPS AT SUMMER-BRIDGE CAMP

by Christina Allen

Education Director & NAWBO Woman of Distinction 2012



This summer we grew to serve nearly 100 students in grades K through 8. We had a wonderful staff who grew in their leadership ability right alongside the students they led in math, reading, and extracurricular activities. In the middle of the busy-ness,



Parents served breakfast on the final day

three milestones were achieved:

- **100%** of our students were **promoted** to the next grade level.
- Students were tested in math and reading skills before and after summer camp. **Testing revealed an average of three months' progress.**
- **Neighborhood teens** formed a 12 member summer team that **served every day.**

Bible

Each week I taught a lesson to the elementary group. They then had follow-up activities. Similarly, I taught a different lesson to the 5th - 8th grade group, and throughout the week they spent time journaling, reflecting on selected scripture passages.

Art and Other Extracurricular Classes

PMoA provided art camp every day for four weeks. Classroom staff provided lots of great activities, including science experiments, cooking lessons, baseball, football, and basketball. Students also experienced a variety of activities through partnerships with our Lakeland community, including

- Drama—Kelsie Smith
- IWait—Women's Choice
- Fitness—Peak Fitness
- Storytime—Linda Chancey
- Christian rap—Ryan Horton
- Dance—Casey Freed
- Dance—Satya Life
- Crocheting—Barbara DeVault
- Volleyball—St. Paul Lutheran School Athletics
- Field trips—Florida Aquarium, Lowry Park Zoo, MOSI, Explorations V, skating, bowling



Hands-on science at MOSI

Academic Time

Each age group spent two hours a day, four days a week working on reading and math skills. I developed a curriculum for K through first grade to help strength their literacy and math skills. Second and third graders used a picture book curriculum; fourth-sixth

Make A Difference in a Child's Education. Volunteer at AEP.



Contact Nicki at
volunteer@parkerstreetministries.org

graders used a chapter book curriculum and seventh and eighth graders used a novel curriculum—all from LitArt. We used Accelerated Math to provide individualized math skill-building activities.

Thank you for joining with us to bridge the gaps!

christina@parkerstreetministries.org

REVITALIZING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

by Thomas Gaige

Housing and Facility Director



The last few months have been both challenging and rewarding on many levels. **We were blessed with two summer interns**, Jordan and Corey, who helped us be incredibly productive in our facility and neighborhood service areas. They also provided support for Summer-Bridge Camp, experienced weekly staff meetings, and attended community events. It was exciting to see these young men continually take the lead with work groups or when we needed someone to jump in and take care of something. It was a real joy to see the amazing amounts of energy they had to serve both our needs and those of the neighborhood.

One of the big facility projects for the summer was the **complete hardwiring of the computer network system** in the Family Life Center. My guys did a stellar job of hiding nearly 5,000 feet of wire and 300 feet of fiber-optic cable by moving ceiling tiles, snaking wires down walls, and drilling countless holes through the concrete. The new network system was topped off by three donated Cisco commercial-grade switch panels. All this work makes the network system very robust, fast, and reliable for our academic enrichment program. Thank you to Randy Banks and Don Higginbotham for their expertise and availability in this process as we crossed the digital divide.

Numerous volunteer groups came throughout the summer and tackled outdoor tasks, serving both the PSM campus and the neighborhood. **We filled a dozen 30-yard dumpsters with lot debris and tree trimmings.** This brings our total up to nearly 30 dumpsters for neighborhood cleanup so far this year. We also helped with roof patches and lawn care. Trash was picked up all over the neighborhood.

One of the most exciting news items is that we now have the **opportunity to renovate three homes we acquired in July as part of our neighborhood stabilization initiative.** The homes are in the bungalow style typical of the Parker Street area in the 1930s. Once beautiful, they now need major rehabilitation. **I am looking for skilled and unskilled individuals and teams to help us revitalize these homes. Please contact me ASAP.** Together we can accomplish great things for our neighborhood.

tom@parkerstreetministries.org



Before—One of the houses

*Stabilization through renovation.
Skilled and unskilled
individuals and teams
needed **now!***



After—Help build the vision

RINGING IT ON HOME FOR 2012

The chart below shows our remaining financial need to *Ring It On Home* for operations this year. Generous contributions from donors, Bridge Builders, and Sustaining Partners enabled us to forgo having a gala fundraising event in 2012 and instead enabled us to concentrate on developing programs in the new facility. Thank you!

We are still short of our goal. Your financial gift helps meet our remaining need AND reduces the amount we take from our reserves. If you like what PSM is doing and want to be part of stabilizing this neighborhood, please send your donation to PSM | PO Box 433 | Lakeland, FL 33802 or give online [here](#).

2012 Budget Update

Donations YTD 8/31	\$429,703
Expected through YE	\$30,000
Operational Reserve	\$100,000
Remaining Need 2012	\$50,772
Total Budgeted Income	\$610,475

GIVING THROUGH EVENTS

Thank you to Woodmen of the World, Lakeland Rotary, and LEDC's Summer Leadership Program for their support.

BRIDGE BUILDERS 2012

Construct

Marcia & Greg Riching
Mike & Tracy Wilson

Traverse

Anonymous
Howard & Deanna Bayless
Regal Automotive Group
The Rock Community Church
St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
Steve & Tammy Scruggs
Matt & Kim Tucker
Justin & Jen Wilson

Bridge Builder sponsorships are available at \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000 levels. Find out more by calling Kim at 863.682.4544 or at development@parkerstreetministries.org.

SUSTAINING PARTNERS

2011-2012

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Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Watkins Christian Foundation

*Gifts through the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland

Sustaining Partners give one-time gifts over \$10,000 or two \$5,000 or greater gifts over two consecutive years. Find out more by calling Kim at 863.682.4544



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SUMMER BREAK ENDS WITH A (BIG) SPLASH

Forget the rain predictions, the long, hot, sometimes wet summer, the beginning of school—forget our cares for just a little while and enjoy good food, good games, and good friends. That's what 250 parents and children set out to do on the afternoon of August 18 at Parker Street Ministries' annual Summer Splash.

Two-story water slides *Palm Blast* and *Wild Rapids* with double lanes and humps were set up for the older kids, while adventures in a *Water Pirate Ship* awaited the youngest. Heritage Baptist Church provided field games, and the Common Ground Connect Group from First Baptist Church at the Mall once again came through with grilled hotdog meals and popsicles.

The next neighborhood party is Fall Festival, scheduled for Saturday, November 3, at 4pm. Want to help? Contact Hannah at admin@parkerstreetministries.org.

In August, PSM received the Guidestar Exchange seal for financial transparency. Guidestar is a national nonprofit watchdog group.



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