

Celebrating the Good



Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8



In his opening remarks at *Ringabration 2013*, Executive Director Tim Mitchell read this truth from the Bible before acknowledging that all around us there was "bad news on every level—internationally, nationally, in Lakeland, . . . even in this neighborhood." But Tim wanted attendees to know that good things are happening in the Parker Street community and that everyone was there to celebrate those good things.

Ringabration, held on the morning of August 8, was a time for those outside and inside the neighborhood to gather on the lawn of the Anne MacGregor Jenkins Bell Tower and recognize the year's accomplishments in housing, education, and growth in hope, dignity and community. The celebration ended with an open house in the Community Center. Pastor Ron Pennekamp, from St. Paul Lutheran Church, led a prayer of thanksgiving and commitment for the year ahead. Thank you to all who took time out to celebrate together.

From
executive Director
Tim Mitchell

*You shall love your neighbor
as yourself.* Mark 12:31



In June, I had the privilege of speaking at Florida's Neighborhood Association Conference in Bradenton. It was a joy to share our story with the people there. As I thought about what to say to this group, I wanted one simple phrase to describe what we hope to do in Parker Street. One staff member, using the language of community development, suggested "neighborhood stabilization." What I ended up communicating at the conference was the Biblical command to "love our neighbors," in the language of Christian organizations.

I hope our love for Parker Street will come across as you read this newsletter. And while you celebrate with us, please include these thoughts in your prayers:

- Academic progress for students
- Wisdom for advocacy issues
- Fun and fellowship at Fall Festival
- Families strengthened by the gift of giving at our Christmas store
- How you can be part of this ministry through your gifts of money and time

Tim (at) parkerstreetministries.org

Calendar

Contact Info: 863.682.4544 admin (at) parkerstreetministries.org

Afterschool Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) - For neighborhood students, grades kindergarten through 8, registration required. Mon-Fri, 3-6p, most school days. Snack, homework help, math and reading enrichment in a Christian environment. Contact to register.

High School Students - Homework help, Mon-Fri, 3-4p, volunteer in AEP until 6p. Contact to register.

High School Nights - Tues, 6:30-8:30p, in Family Life Center, activities include cooking, art, games, and hot topics.

Ladies' Fitness Nights - Tues, 8:30-9:30p, neighborhood ladies, ages high school and up, meet at the Community Center.

Housing and Facility Workdays - Tues-Fri, 9a-5p - Need volunteers with construction experience! Contact to schedule.

PLAN AHEAD:

Kiwanis Cares for Kids Auction to benefit PSM - Fri, September 13, 11a-1p at First United Methodist Church, \$10 per person at the door - great items!


Community Workday - Sat, September 28, 9a-12p - an AEP-focused workday.

Neighborhood Fall Festival - Sat, November 2, 6p.

Neighborhood Christmas Store Registration Days - Mondays - 12/2 & 12/9 from 9a-6p @ PSM Office
Tuesdays - 12/3 & 12/10 from 6:30-7:30p @ PSM Office
Saturday - 12/7 from 2-4p @ Willow Glen

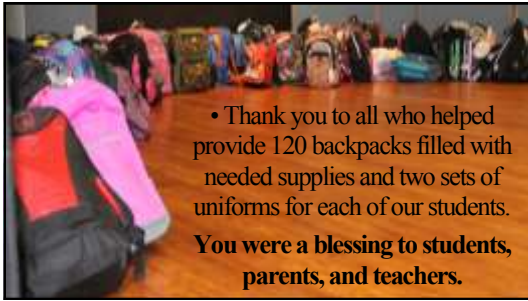
Neighborhood Christmas Store - 12/14 (Sat), 12/20 (Fri), 12/21 (Sat) - registration required.

Neighborhood Christmas
Store
5% off brand new toys!
Watch the mail
for more info right



AEP has
openings for
2nd-5th grade.
Call to
register!

AROUND THE 'HOOD



• Thank you to all who helped provide 120 backpacks filled with needed supplies and two sets of uniforms for each of our students.

You were a blessing to students, parents, and teachers.

• Come cheer for Parker Street's Cardboard Boat Race entry, the *R-U-N-N-O-F-T* (boat name themed to Lakes Awareness and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*). The race will take place around 10:30-11:30a on September 14 on Lake Hollingsworth.



• Before Summer-Bridge Camp, before backpacks and uniforms, there was the End of School Year Show performed for our parents.

• It's good to know that the transportation concerns for Philip O'Brien students have been worked out!



• Members of Lakeland Economic Development Council's Summer Leadership Program walked through the neighborhood and hosted a carnival for summer campers.

• Amazing fact: 73% of Summer-Bridge Camp volunteers came from within the Parker Street neighborhood!!! This included both high school students and many camper parents.

Parker Street Ministries, Inc.

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Bridging Learning Gaps

by Christina Allen

Academic Enrichment Program (AEP) Director



Summer-Bridge Camp was a wonderful time for our 100 K-8 students! They worked hard and played hard for all eight weeks. Below are the highlights:

Peacemaking and Biblical conflict resolution was the focus for Bible time. There was a weekly chapel and follow-up activities. The older students spent time journaling and reflecting on selected scripture passages. As conflicts arose, we were able to apply the lessons, and that practice will continue as conflicts arise.

Students spent two hours a day (Mon-Thurs) working on **reading and math skills**. During the school year, we work on homework assignments while supervising individualized math and free reading. During the summer there is more time for instruction, meaning opportunities to close learning gaps. We utilize the LitArt curriculum for language arts, and we added math mini-lessons to our summer curriculum. These lessons aligned with current standards.

One classroom of ten middle school girls kept track of their academic work over the entire eight weeks of camp. Besides having a lot of fun, they read 5,682 pages and solved 6,350 math problems.



Twenty days of art from Polk Museum of Art

Extracurricular Activities

Art from PMoA	Pottery
Swimming lessons	Rock Springs tubing
Dance	MOSI
Drama	Florida Aquarium
Football	Lowry Park Zoo
Writing workshop	Water day
Girl Scouts	Camping day
I Wait Abstinence	Movie day
Crocheting	Explorations V
Top Buttons	Bowling
Baking	Skating



Six survival swimming lessons for all at YMCA

Thank you for your support!

[christina \(at\) parkerstreetministries.org](mailto:christina(at)parkerstreetministries.org)

Building up High school Youth



Twelve of our neighborhood high school students were chosen from applications to be **Classroom Leader Assistants (CLAs)** for Summer-Bridge Camp. They were each assigned to a classroom leader who regularly evaluated their work. They also attended a training session and three group meetings where they learned about job requirements, responsibility, and communication.

Their service was rewarded with an overnight stay in Family Life Center (guys) and *Hotel Allen* (girls), followed by a fun day at the beach. We are so proud of this group who, along with 10 other neighborhood youth, logged 1,993 service hours this summer! That was 57% of all hours logged! One of our goals is for the neighborhood to take care of itself, and these youth are helping make that happen.

Revitalizing the Neighborhood

by Thomas Gaige

Neighborhood Stabilization Director



Fencing on Myrtle

It has been a very busy summer working in the neighborhood. Besides maintenance on our facility and landscaping upkeep, lots of other projects were accomplished.

A mission group of 30 young people from Arkansas stayed a week, doing neighborhood cleanup and fencing repairs for an elderly resident. Part of this group also helped out every day with summer camp. Thank you to First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland for hosting this group.

The Rock Community Church came with a large group of young people to work with neighborhood services and in summer camp for four days.

Since summer arrived in full swing, we are mowing between 15 and 20 properties every week—sometimes twice in a week, depending on the rain.

Our summer intern, Aaron McCord from Central Michigan University, lived with my family. He was a big help with everything. His special project was to complete the painting of addresses on curbs to aid emergency vehicles in quickly identifying property locations.

The house renovations are moving along and turning out to be terrific collaborations. Two houses are beautifully painted and attracting lots of attention as people travel east on the In-town Bypass. Those houses have insulation, plumbing, electrical and A/C systems installed, despite the setback of having the installed copper wiring stolen from one of the houses in July. A group from Heritage Baptist Church helped tile the floor in PSM's Family Life Center art room and hung drywall in a bungalow. Lakeland Downtown Kiwanis/Two Men in a Truck also helped with drywall. We have received significant material



Installing drywall on Vermont

donations for these homes, including kitchen cabinets, tile, lighting fixtures and bathroom sinks.

We continue to work with the City of Lakeland by helping homeowners in our target area who have code violations on their homes. We have been able to help with simple repairs on house exteriors.

Can you help us? Together we can accomplish great things for our whole community. Contact Hannah at [admin \(at\) parkerstreetministries.org](mailto:admin@parkerstreetministries.org) to schedule work.

[tom \(at\) parkerstreetministries.org](mailto:tom@parkerstreetministries.org)



Tiling in art room



You are invited to Kiwanis Club of Lakeland's **Kiwanis cares for kids Auction**

Friday, September 13, 11:30a-1p at First United Methodist Church at 72 Lake Morton Dr.

Proceeds benefit Parker Street Ministries' *Get in the Zone* for Youth Fitness

Admission and Lunch - \$10 per person View auction items at www.lakelandkiwanis.org

Will help fund indoor activities!

Bridge Learning Gaps
Volunteer at AEP



Assist classroom leaders or teach a Friday extracurricular class.
Contact [volunteer \(at\) parkerstreetministries.org](mailto:volunteer@parkerstreetministries.org)

Thank you for your support!

Your gifts through year-end are vital in helping meet our remaining

need and reducing the amount we take from reserves. If you like what PSM is doing and want to be a part of it, please send a donation to

Parker Street Ministries and mail

to PO Box 408, Lakeland, FL 33801. Every gift matters.

2013 Budget Update	
Donations YTD 8/31	\$325,000
Committed through YE	\$50,000
Operational carryover	\$100,000
Remaining funds sought	\$151,475
Total Budgeted Expense	\$626,475



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LAKELAND, FL



SUMMER SPLASHIN'

Probably the most ginormous waterslide in the world showed up for Summer Splash/National Night Out on August 6. The brave splashed it up, and everyone else enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course and water games. There was a hot dog dinner and a police dog demo from K-9 Deputy Harris, as well as fire truck exploration. How big was the slide? Apparently too big to photograph.

Thank you to the volunteers from Heritage Baptist and First Baptist Church at the Mall.

Fall Festival is scheduled for November 2. Want to help? Contact Hannah at admin (at) parkerstreetministries.org .



Community Partners

We are thankful to Woodmen of the World for hosting a summer golf tournament and for the many, many donors and volunteers who have partnered with us for years!

Below are our Sustaining Partners, listed in alphabetical order:

- Anonymous* (1)
 - Anonymous (7)
 - Atlantic Philanthropies, EDF
 - Joe & Teresa Bray-Paul
 - MattE and Leslee Diaz Family Foundation
 - Desire Street Ministries
 - First Presbyterian Church
 - Gordon Appraisal Services
 - Hazel Haley Fund*
 - Harrell's Fertilizer Group
 - George W. Jenkins Fund*
 - National Christian Foundation (2)
 - Publix Super Markets Charities
 - Trinity Presbyterian Church
 - Watkins Christian Foundation
 - Woodmen of the World
- *within the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland

Together we make a difference!