

The Bridge

The Monthly Newsletter of
Island Community Church - Island Christian School



Our First Issue

Welcome to the very first issue of *The Bridge*. The goal of this publication is to bring together news and information about the student body at ICS, and the church family of ICC.

Each month, we will feature stories, short articles and profiles of people and happenings from both the church and the school. We want to bridge both groups closer together as one, under God's family.

Issues will be included with student's progress reports and mailed to church members every 4 to 5 weeks.

ICS Christmas Festival

The 32nd annual ICS Christmas Festival raised \$52,000 for the school this year. Richard Overfield, or Mr. Festival as he is affectionately called, explained that several changes this year turned out to be very successful. The live auction was held in the air conditioned Family Life Center, more and larger rides were available, and the festival hours were extended to 7pm to allow kids to ride the big rides after dark under the lights.

The festival is the primary fund raising event for the school and a heartfelt thank you is given to all those who volunteered their time and money to this important event. Thanks again to everyone involved at this year's festival.

New School Board Created

Last spring, a group of talented church members and ICS parents were selected to form a brand new school board to serve the needs of ICS. Primary goals of this newly formed board are to expand enrollment at the school, oversee promotional opportunities, create new marketing strategies and brainstorm new ideas that will help the school in many ways.

Some of the accomplishments of the board thus far include the redesign of the school web site, the establishment of new scholarship programs for students, the formation of a public relations committee that is working on new events that will raise awareness as well as funds for the school and much more.

For more information regarding the board, or if you have questions please contact school board president Marlo DeMoss at 305 664-0034 or email her: mdemoss@bellsouth.net



The view at twilight from atop the ferris wheel during the annual Christmas Festival.



December Schedule at a Glance

- 12/5 SAT College Exams
- 12/7 Sr. High Book reports due
Girls Soccer Game/ Away
Boys Basketball /HOME 6pm
- 12/8 Girls Soccer/ Away
- 12/9 Reading Awards
- 12/11 Girls Soccer/ Away
Boys Basketball /HOME 6pm
- 12/12 ACT Testing
- 12/14 7th & 8th Book Reports Due
- 12/15 SAT Deadlines
Boys Basketball Away
Girls Soccer /HOME 4pm
- 12/17 Boys Basketball /HOME 6pm
Christmas Program/ 7pm
3k through 6th grade
- 12/18 Early release 12 noon

Have a *Merry Christmas!*

School Resumes Monday January 4th

Pastors Column

by Tony Hammon



Giving Thanks for the Important Things

It's Thanksgiving afternoon, I'm surrounded by two of my children, my wife, two grandchildren and my son-in-law. We are simply soaking in the joy of being together. "Thanks-giving," what a wonderful concept; what a gift.

God's word says:

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hoofs.

The poor will see and be glad--

you who seek God, may your hearts live!

The LORD hears the needy

and does not despise his captive people.

Psalms 69:30-33

Most of us have felt the crunch in the economy, and experienced the "stuff of life" that can rob us of the joy that God wants us to experience and to lose focus on the most important things – our God, our relationship to Him, our families, love for our neighbors... But Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on all the really important things to be thankful for.

We have just finished two amazing events – the Christmas Festival, and the Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner. Seeing the body of Christ come together and serve at these events makes me so thankful for the privilege of serving along side all of you. The joy of serving is a wonderful gift from God.

As we now look toward the celebration of the birth of Jesus, may we ask God to show us ways we can serve those in our community and to give us opportunities to share His love to those who cross our paths. There is no greater time of the year to share the love of Christ, than the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season.

Island Connect

Starting Wednesday January 13th, 2010 Island Community Church will offer a series of seminars called *Island Connect* covering a range of topics of interest for nearly everyone, such as strengthening your relationship with God, the dynamics of marriage and family, personal financial peace, God's healing power of recovery and more.

Pastor Tony would like to invite parents and students from the school, members of the church body and anyone from the community to attend a **Free Fish Fry** at the Family Life Center on Wed. Jan 13th at 5:45 to kick off the series and explain each discussion group in more detail.

The actual series will begin the following Wednesday Jan. 20th. Each week a meal will be provided at 5:45pm at the Family Life Center with the classes following at 6:30. There is a nominal charge of \$3 for adults and \$2 for kids, to cover the expenses. The series will last 13 weeks.

Be sure to attend this wonderfully enriching event.

Island Connect Series Topics

Financial Peace University:

Money management expert, writer and radio/TV personality **Dave Ramsey** will outline how to maintain emotional, spiritual and financial stability in our lives. How to set things right by understanding the forces behind financial disaster.

Celebrate Recovery:

Encourage fellowship as we celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Group leader support will address addictions and co-dependencies for men and women.

Awana:

For Kids, author Stacia McKeever and cartoonist Dan Lietha will answer questions of the Christian faith, such as "Where did God come from?" and "How did we get the Bible?" Children do not want to miss Wednesday nights!

The Purpose Driven Life:

"What on Earth Am I Here For?" You were not an accident, and God gives you unique talents that only you can share with the world. By following Rick Warren's remarkable book, you will experience personal renewal as you discover your purpose in life.

Marriage and Family:

Pastor Tony Hammon leads this study that is timely and dynamic for issues that all of us face in today's confusing world.

Beginning Wed. January 13, 5:45 pm

Family Life Center



Church Office: 305-664-2781