LOCAL

Hope Christian grads charged to be 'wells of life-giving water'

By RICHARD SHORES

Hope Christian Academy kicked off the graduation season with its commencement exercises on Thursday night, May 22, 2008. A class of 13 seniors achieved this academic milestone.

Co-Valedictorian Leatha Moretz spoke of the importance of finding and fulfilling God's purpose in life. She reminded her fellow graduates that "the future God has chosen for us is far better than the one we pick for ourselves."

Courtney Cox, this year's Salutatorian, offered remarks of thanksgiving for her school and singled out the attitudes and actions of several teachers and staff members that she was especially thankful for. She closed her remarks by challenging her class to achieve their biggest dreams. She told them, "If you shoot for the moon and miss you will still land on a star."

The commencement address was given by Rev. Daryl Lewis. Rev. Lewis serves as the Senior Pastor of East Gold Street Wesleyan Church in Kings

Mountain, which houses Hope Christian Academy. In his address Rev. Lewis made several references to quotes from the book "The Road Less Traveled" by Dr. M. Scott Peck. Rev. Lewis emphasized that the road less traveled is generally the road best traveled when we seek a close relationship with God. As we travel down the path that God has prepared for each of us we should learn to trust in his love and mercy.

Ray Sibley, Hope's principal, complimented the class on being the best graduating class that Hope has ever had. He talked about how their cheerfulness filled the hallways everyday. He then reached under the altar at the front of the sanctuary and pulled out the pet rock that the seniors had adopted as the class pet. Sibley used that rock as an object lesson and referred to the time that God caused water to flow from a rock. He reminded the seniors that God is a well of water that springs forth with life. He closed by challenging the graduates to go out and be "wells of life-giving water."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row, left to right, Senior Homeroom Teacher Mrs. Sandra Ramkissoon, Ashlee Owens, Courtney Cox, Rachel Terry, Linh Pham, Leatha Moretz, and Hannah LaPlante. Back row, I–r, "Bud" Brooks, Thomas McDaniel, Jonathan Blount, Jacob Hoffman, and Ray Sibley, Principal. Not pictured: Lateef McMullan, Ray'Shawn Roseboro, and Christopher Williams.

Library wants kids to catch the 'bug'

EMILY WEAVER

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Attention children of all ages: There is a "bug" going around town that Mauney Memorial Library needs for you to catch. It is sometimes mysterious, often contagious and never harmful, although some possible side effects, including knowledge and creativity may result.

This bug sometimes referred to as fantasy, adventure, science fiction, mystery and drama, flies on the wings of storybook pages. To begin your hunt, swarm over to the library and sign up for this year's "Catch the Reading Bug" summer reading program.

Parents and children of all ages can register online at any time by visiting mauneylibrary.org or by filling out a registration form at the library. The "Reading Bug" mascot will be hidden somewhere different in the community each week. Readers can receive clues from Mauney Memorial's Children's staff on how to find him. Rewards may be given to the best hunters.

Programs for little ones bitten by the "Reading Bug" will begin in June. On every Tuesday in June and July (excluding July 1st), story-time for 3-5 year olds will be held downstairs in the library's community room. On every Wednesday in June and July (excluding July 2nd) at 10 a.m., 6-11 year olds can enjoy special Summer Reading programs at the Christian Ministries Center at Central United Methodist Church, across from the library.

Every Thursday in June and July (excluding July 3rd) at 10 a.m., story-

time will be held for 0-2 year olds in the library's community room. No programming will be held on July 1-4.

The following special programs slated for this year's Summer Reading will be held at Central UMC's Christian Ministries Center:

S Friday, June 13 at 10 a.m. - Kick Off party with Flow Circus "Catch the Bug" (all ages)

Wed., June 18 at 10 a.m. - Bright Star Children's Theatre presents "Sadie's Spectacular Saturday" (ages 6-11) Wed., June 25 at 10 a.m. - Burns &

Co. presents "Leroy Catches the Reading Bug" (ages 6-11)

Wed., July 9 at 10 a.m. - Charles

Wed., July 9 at 10 a.m. - Charles Petiti presents "Bluegrass Bug" (ages 6-11)

Wed., July 16 at 10 a.m. - Marcey Walsh presents "Super Bugs" (ages 6-11)

Wed., July 23 at 10 a.m. - story-time with Donna Washington (ages 6-11)
 Friday, July 25 at 10 a.m. - End of Summer Reading celebration with Zelnik the Magician

Program attendance is not required to participate in Summer Reading. Progress in the summer reading program can be updated on the library's website. Prizes will be awarded each week at the library to those who have completed their weekly goals. Children are also encouraged to visit the "Catch the Reading Bug" store during the summer to cash in points for great prizes.

For more information, call Children's Librarian Christy Conner at 704-739-2371, ext. 673.

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