It’s been happening for over 100 years and it is still very special. It is Commencement at Riverside Christian School.

The graduates of 2012, seniors, eighth graders and kindergarteners, were honored Friday, May 25 in the school gymnasium. Parents, grandparents, family and friends filled the gym and stood as the graduates entered.

The seniors marched in to the traditional “Pomp and Circumstance” played by RCS teacher Miss Meg Plummer. They passed through an aisle of candles, ferns and banners. Then they took their places on the specially constructed stage.

That group included Rebecca Ann Barnett (Valedictorian), James Carl Cody Cundiff, Brandi LaCole Fugate, Patric Dakota Haddix (Salutatorian), William Thomas Moore, Jr. and Heather Lynn Neace.

After opening prayer by Arnett Napier, the combined elementary chorus and Lower Lights sang the “Four Psalm Song.” Each senior had a part in the program, beginning with the Salutatory Address by Patric Haddix. Brandi Fugate and Tommy Moore had a joint presentation as did Heather Neace and Cody Cundiff. Then Rebecca Barnett gave the Valedictory Address.

The one kindergartner, Jesse Keith Bowling, along with his second grade classmates, recited Psalm 150 and sang “Creature Praise.” Although a number of awards had been presented on Honors Day, the highest awards were presented at this time. First were the Curriculum Area Winners: Rebecca Barnett (Bible 12, Journalism, Art). Second were the Baccalaureate Area Winners: Cody Cundiff, Patric Haddix, Brandi Fugate, Tommy Moore, Jr. and Heather Neace.

Riverside’s 2012 seniors appeared for the first time in their gold gowns for the girls and purple gowns for the fellows.

They marched into the Drushal Memorial Brethren Church for the traditional Baccalaureate service. The eighth grade also made their entry at the beginning of the service.

Family members and friends came together to help honor the graduates with music, a message and much applause.

After opening prayer by Pastor Lorie Keck and a congregational hymn, senior Patric Haddix led in a responsive reading, “The Love Chapter.”

Eighth grade graduates followed with a recitation of Psalm 121. The eighth graders are Toby Campbell, Tyler Hudson, Tiffany Johnson, Beacher Noble, Caleb Tapio, and Cody Cundiff.

Graduates honored at Baccalaureate
In my opinion…..by Brandi Fugate

Facebook. Just that one word and you have a teen’s attention. Many people use Facebook every day, from young to, well, not so young. It’s a way to keep up with family and friends, also a way to make new friends.

People have been using the internet for years for many different reasons. They use it for school and work, but ask an average teen what they use it for and they will say Facebook.

Over the past few years, Facebook has become a very popular social media site on the web. You can view friends photos, write on their wall, and like their updates.

You can also do many other things. There are different kinds of Facebookers. You have people who just look, people that post a lot of things, people who like everything, and you also have the people trying to steal your privacy.

Many Facebook users don’t know the hidden dangers. Your information can be shared with third parties and you never know it. When you like something and allow them to view your profile information, it can be sent to people you don’t know. So be careful what you like and post.

Another danger is the new friends. Facebook creator, Mark Zuckerberg, is trying to keep people from adding people they don’t know, but it doesn’t always work. That really cool person you just added might not really be that cool. A big danger is you never know who’s behind the other computer.

If a person keeps private things off Facebook, and only adds people they really know, it can be a great thing. So just be smart when you click “like” and “Add friend” because you never know what could happen. You have to be careful.

In my opinion…..by Rebecca Barnett

Basketball season is the most looked forward to season in Kentucky for one reason, Kentucky basketball.

For a native Kentuckian, there isn’t much more important than basketball, especially when Kentucky is playing. Roads become empty, work places cease production, and airways become crowded as Kentucky fans rush to find the nearest television, computer or radio. Towns become ghost-like because the fans are too occupied with the game to focus on anything else.

To fans, young and old, there is nothing better than watching the Wildcats play a game, watching every play, praising the players for good plays and criticizing them for bad ones. Watching the Wildcats play their hardest to pull off a win brings a smile to every fan’s face.

Fans will do anything in the name of Kentucky basketball, like painting their bodies, coloring their hair, etc. For those fans who are sane, they will stand in long lines or camp out for hours to buy tickets for games, get autographs, get a collectible button, or meet Coach Cal and the players.

This past season was one with few disappointments for the fans. With the exception of two losses, Kentucky had an awesome season. It was made even better and ended the best way possible, with Kentucky beating Kansas to win their eighth national championship title.

Some people view Kentucky fans as crazy for being so obsessed with Kentucky basketball. To the fans, it isn’t about obsession, it’s about tradition. It is about having a good coaching staff, 26 SEC championship titles, 15 Final Four appearances, 8 NCAA championship titles, and having the number one recruiting class for the third year in a row. Some say it’s an obsession, but to us it’s Kentucky basketball…it’s tradition.

Teenagers are caught up with technology more than ever. Cell phones are one of the technologies that nearly every teen has.

On their phones they have text messaging. Some people don’t agree with texting because it could be dangerous and also could become an addiction. The average teenager sends 3,339 text messages per month. DeeDee Noble said, “I send almost 1,000 texts per month.” She also said, “Texting is one of my favorite things to do.” Back when telephones first came out, talking was a big thing. Now teenagers really don’t talk on a phone. If they need to say something, they will put it in a text.

Texting is a good thing when you just need to say something. But texting can also be dangerous. At any given moment there are over 800,000 Americans that are texting, making calls, or using a handheld cell phone while they are driving. Texting and driving can be dangerous. Between 2001 and 2007 there were 16,000 drivers that were killed in the United States from text driving and texting.

People have the urge to text while they are behind the wheel. Some can’t put their phones down and others hear their phones going off and they can’t wait to see who texted them. When people do this, it places you and everyone else on the same road in danger.

Texting can be dangerous. It can be harmful to people’s lives. Teenagers send photos and whoever they send it to can send it on to five or six other people. Teens can also create serious problems by gossiping, and text messaging is one good way to show you who write it. Dottie Neace said, “Teens don’t know how dangerous this is and when they do discover that it might be too late.”

Texting can be an addiction. You just can’t stop texting or put your phone down for five minutes. Zack Godsey said, “I can’t do anything because of my phone. I am more worried about it than anything.” Some teens aren’t getting school work done or other things because of texting.

Texting can be used in a good way or a bad way. It just depends on how you use it. People have choices and we should choose the right way. If you use it the wrong way you will have to pay the consequences.

Lower Lights perform at Indiana churches

By Brandi Fugate
Beacon Staff

Early mornings are nothing for the Lower Lights. After a weekend in Indiana, they became use to it.

They left school on Friday, April 13 at 8:00 a.m. and started toward Indiana. The first church was the Corinth Brethren Church. They had a good dinner of mashed potatoes and noodles.

Then they performed their program. Afterwards they ate cookies and talked with church members. They also spent the night there.

On Saturday they traveled to Shipshewana. Shipshewana has an Amish mall, filled with a lot of homemade things. Afterwards they all got pretzels from JoJo’s.

After Shipshewana they sang at Winding Waters Brethren Church. The performance went well, maybe partly because they had a big dinner first. The kids enjoyed an evening of playing in the gym. One thing they will never forget is the dog who was part of the church.

Sunday morning was a new experience for almost everyone. They sang at the Three Cross Church, a church that is in a warehouse. After they sang the preacher joined them for a few songs and lunch afterwards.

Their last stop was Teegardin Brethren Church, the home church of the Keck’s. After the program the kids got to play outside on the playground. They later played a game inside the church.

Rebecca Barnett, a senior in the group, said “It was fun singing at the different churches, meeting different people, and it was a good experience. I’d like to do it again.”
Seniors…past…present…future

The best opportunity that the seniors have to say their farewells to the student body and faculty is Senior Chapel. This took place Friday morning, the last day of school.

Everyone gathered in the gym with the seniors on the stage. Jammie Napier, vice president this year and president next year of Student Council, opened with prayer.

Deanna Noble presented a gift to senior Tommy Moore

Right: Jammie Napier read the prophecy for the Class of 2012 at the Junior/Senior Banquet and during the senior chapel.

Seniors, faculty and staff revel in role reversal and relays

The Riverside faculty and staff have a somewhat different way of bidding farewell to the seniors during that last week of school.

For one evening, Senior Reception, it is a bit of a role reversal. Starting with a receiving line, the seniors call the adults by their first name and the adults call the seniors as Miss Barnett or Mr. Hadix, etc. And there’s a penalty if you mess up.

That’s when the fun begins. Then everyone gathered in the decorated multi purpose room for some sit down fun games and competition between two teams, seniors on each team.

After that everyone went to the gym for some more fun competition with relays, charades, etc. There was lots of laughter, cheering and applause.

It all helped to build some good memories and some good appetites for the sandwiches, chips, goodies and cupcakes that brought the special evening to a close.

Miss Plummer and Mrs. C. Keck sang for the seniors

Then Coach Keck showed the slide show of the seniors that had been shown at the Junior-Senior Banquet. The show included baby pictures, current pictures, and “future pictures” of each senior. Doubtless, there was a good amount of laughter.

Next was a video of “The Prodigal Son (Senior Style).” This was followed by a duet, Miss Plummer and Mrs. Cassie Keck sang for the seniors. Deanna Noble, junior, had a reading “As You Graduate.”

The seniors came well prepared for their “last will and testament.” They willed a wide variety of items, including mini cars, a super ball, UK cups, a UK flag for Mrs. Roberts (uh, oh), stuffed animals and much more.

In closing, Student Council members stepped up and presented gifts to all the graduates, including kindergarten, eighth graders and seniors.

Coach Keck led everyone in singing “Riverside,” the school song.

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Right: Jammie Napier read the prophecy for the Class of 2012 at the Junior/Senior Banquet and during the senior chapel.

Senior Spotlight

By Jammie Napier
Beacon Staff

Heather Lynn Neace is a senior at Riverside. She was born June 4, 1993. Heather was raised in Hazard, Ky. Heather currently lives with her grandma and grandpa, Dottie Lynn and Willis Ray Neace.

Heather’s favorite color is neon green, her favorite food is Italian, and her favorite TV show is Jersey Shore.

Heather has been at Riverside for five years. She plays center for the Lady Ram’s basketball team and she can be found wearing #11. She was the 2011-2012 M.V.P of the Lady Ram’s team.

When asked what she likes most about Riverside, she replied, “seeing my friends,” and when asked what she’ll miss most, she replied, “my friends.”

Heather was asked what her most memorable senior moment was, but she had too many to count.

After finishing high school, Heather plans on going to Lee’s College and majoring in radiology.

Senior Spotlight

By Jammie Napier
Beacon Staff

Brandi LaCole Fugate is a senior at Riverside. She was born June 28, 1993 to Ray and Kay Fugate.

Brandi has one brother, Toby Fugate and one sister, Amanda Fugate-Noble. She was raised in Hazard, Ky.

Brandi’s favorite color is purple, her favorite food is chicken, and she doesn't really watch much TV, so she doesn't have a favorite show. Also, she really likes Hello Kitty and she likes to play video games in her spare time.

Brandi has been at Riverside for two-and-a-half years. She is an active member of the Lower Lights. When asked what she likes most about Riverside, she replied, “the atmosphere,” and when she was asked what she’ll miss most, she replied, “all of the friendly people.”

Brandi’s most memorable senior moment was her senior trip to Washington, D.C.

After high school, Brandi plans on going to college and either majoring in history or political science.
Juniors host seniors to dinner, all-nighter

Front row, l-r: Jammie Napier, Heather Neace, Rebecca Barnett, Deana Noble, Brandi Fugate; back, l-r: Tommy Moore, Cody Cundiff, Patric Haddix.

By Deanna Noble
Beacon Staff

Hall’s on the River, a restaurant near Winchester, recently had its dining room filled with many young men and women in a very special attire. The occasion was Riverside’s Junior/Senior Banquet.

Everyone had a great time and the restaurant personnel were very nice and willing to let the classes do whatever they wanted to do to make it a special occasion.

After the dinner, the juniors entertained the seniors and the other guests with a video of senior baby pictures and they reminisced about all the good and funny things that had gone on this past year. Also Jammie Napier read the class prophecy.

The night also included two rounds of laser tag, putt putt golf, and eating breakfast at IHOP. The seniors said, “Laser tag was our favorite.”

The evening was very fun and well organized by the junior class and their advisors. Much work was put into the banquet, but it was well worth it. Everyone had a great night.

Continued from p. 1

BACCALAUREATE

and Misty Watts.

The senior choral recitation was “Life’s Mirror.” The seniors are Rebecca Barnett, Cody Cundiff, Brandi Fugate, Patric Haddix, Tommy Moore, and Heather Neace.

Miss Meg Plummer, Riverside teacher, played the piano and sang “Irish Blessing” for the graduates.

Eldon Miller, local Mennonite pastor, had a meaningful message for the graduates. He shared some of the challenges he faced getting his education. Then he spoke on the problems that arise from trying to take short cuts. With

Pastor Eldon Miller

illustrations, words of wisdom, and caring, he emphasized “don’t take short cuts” when you plan ahead and make decisions.

After prayer and a closing

Beverly Burroughs

hymn, the graduates left first and formed a receiving line on the church porch.

Spanish II, Jammie Napier (Bible 11, English 11, Algebra II, Chemistry I, Government, Spanish I), Heather Neace (Art History), Patric Haddix (English 12), Tommy Moore (Earth Science), Cody Cundiff (Advanced Math), Sean Hughes (Bible 10), Michelle Barnett (Bible 9, Algebra I, ICP, World History), Katie Haddix (English 9, Computers I).

Junior High Curriculum Area Winners: Misty Watts (Bible 8, English 8, Pre-Algebra, P.E. 8, Keyboarding), Tyler Hudson (Science 8, Pre-Algebra, Social Studies), Caleb Tapio (P.E. 8), Kaleigh Smith (Bible 7, English 7, P.E. 7, Kentucky History), Judah Voth (English 7, Science 7, Math 7, P.E. 7).

A special Citizenship Award was presented to Misty Watts, eighth grade graduate, by Mrs. Clara Gabbard representing the Jackson Women’s Club. Other Citizenship Awards went to Avery Voth (K-2), Audrey Clemons-Combs (3 & 4), Colton Smith (5 & 6), Judah Voth (7), Deanna Noble (9 – 11).

Three students were recognized for having stayed on the Principal’s List (top spot on the Honor Roll) all year long. They were Jammie Napier, Kaleigh Smith and Judah Voth.

Six students were recognized for Perfect Attendance. They were Avery Voth, Malin Voth, Colton Smith, Wesley Voth, Michelle Barnett and Tommy Moore. A plaque was presented to Tommy Moore who had perfect attendance eighth grade through twelfth grade.

The Matthew 6:33 Award goes to a student who exhibits in their daily lives a concern for the kingdom of God. This award was initiated by Mary Jane Dunn. The recipients were Malin Voth (Elementary), Toby Fugate (Junior High), Tommy Moore (High School).

Coach Andy Keck presented several awards. Outstanding Athletes of the Year awards went to Tommy Moore, Heather Neace, and Katie Haddix (who was also recognized as a State Qualifier in cross country).

Several other awards went to senior Rebecca Barnett. They were the Garvin Scholarship provided by the Neace Memorial Church in honor of Mr. and Mrs. William Garvin and the HCTC Scholarship. Rebecca also received the Senior Citizenship Award presented to her by Jack Niece representing the Jackson Kiwanis Club.

A newly initiated School Loyalty Award was presented to William and Dorothy Moore for their many years of outstanding loyalty to Riverside Christian School.

Two long-time Riverside faculty members who are retiring were called forward and presented with plaques in honor of their many years of commitment and dedication to their students. They are Beverly Burroughs who has been a part of Riverside for 44 years and Larry Monroe who has been on the faculty for 38 years.

Then Riverside Board members Arnett Napier and Rev. James Sluss presented Bibles and diplomas to the graduates: first, Kindergarten – Jesse Bowling; Eighth Graders – Toby Ray Campbell, Charles Tyler Hudson (Salutatorian), Tiffany Nicole Johnson, Beacher Alexander Noble, Caleb Jordan Tapio, and Misty Dawn Watts (Valedictorian); Seniors – Rebecca Barnett, Cody Cundiff, Brandi Fugate, Patric Haddix, Tommy Moore, Heather Neace.

Coach Andy Keck led everyone in singing “Riverside,” the school song and Rev. James Sluss closed in prayer. Light refreshments were available for everyone after the recessional.

Continued from p. 1

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Riverside teacher leaves “family”

“Riverside is always going to be a part of me.” Anyone familiar with Riverside might suspect that those words came from Beverly Burroughs, long-time elementary teacher. Indeed they did.

Now after 44 years of commitment to the ministry of Riverside and dedication to the many students under her care, Miss Burroughs is retiring.

Looking back, she first called Hadley, New York, in the Adirondack Mountains, home. She grew up there with her parents and two sisters. Her dad pastored a community church for 41 years. She earned her college degree at Houghton College in upper New York state and taught in public schools in Buffalo and Lockport for 3 1/2 years.

Many of those who attended her dad’s church were mountain people and “The Lord instilled a love for them in me,” she said. That led to an interest in mission schools in Appalachia. She and a friend went on a journey to learn more about those schools.

Although she had never heard of Riverside, while visiting Houston Mission someone told them about Riverside.

Back home she sent applications to several schools. She waited and then put a fleece before the Lord that she needed to know by Easter. Then a letter of acceptance came from Dr. Harold Barnett, RCS administrator. Other offers came which she turned down and eventually those schools closed.

To any new staff coming on board, Miss Burroughs would say, “You are coming into a mission oriented work. Be prepared to do anything and everything.” She discovered this first hand. One of the first things she did was paint her classroom floor.

Through the years her responsibilities have been many and varied. In addition to 44 years of teaching in the elementary, at one time she was also house mother to girls staying in the dorm. That included working with the girls to prepare breakfast and supper. She also has served as cheerleading advisor, van driver to transport students, school pianist, Parent/Teacher officer, etc.

In later years she also served as assistant principal and for a time was school administrator. After the passing of Doran Hostetler, she was “the rock” that helped take Riverside through challenging years of transition.

Certainly one of her most memorable experiences here took place in the 70’s. In the dormitory were two brothers, Ray and Ron Ash, from a children’s home in Ashland, Kentucky. They were in the fourth grade.

“They stole my heart,” she said. So she took them into her home and had them both in her care for four years. Then Ray left. Ron stayed.

Continued p. 8

BURROUGHS

Honors awards presented to students, K - 12

One of the most important days of the entire school year at Riverside Christian School is Honors Day. This annual special event takes place late in May. After months of hard work, numerous students receive well deserved recognition.

At noon a family style dinner was served for students, faculty and staff. A couple hours later a reception took place in the gym. Many tasty treats and drinks were enjoyed by students and parents who were welcomed also.

Then Mr. Lorie Keck, principal, and Miss Beverly Burroughs began calling off the different categories, bringing students forward, presenting certificates, offering congratulations, and joining in the applause.

First, the eleven members of the Student Council were introduced and honored by Mrs. Cassie Keck. Then Elementary Honors in Academic Areas were recognized.

Elementary High Honors in Academic Areas came next. That group included kindergartner Jesse Bowling, second graders Jesse Daniels, Skyler Fugate, Landen Hostetler and Avery Voth, third and fourth graders Audrey Clemons-Combs and Malin Voth, fifth graders Colton Smith and Wesley Voth, and sixth grader Emmanuel Wilson.

Each of the kindergarten, second, third and fourth graders also received a certificate for having completed the six months “Book-It” program. Some special awards, such as Extra Effort, Team Player and Creativity went to Audrey Clemons-Combs and Malin Voth. Allen Shaw received a Good Attitude Award.

Nearly every student in school participated in the Accelerated Reader program and the points earned varied widely. The top four point earners were Wesley Voth, Judah Voth, Landen Hostetler and Avery Voth. Wesley and Judah each received a gift certificate to Walmart for topping the list.

The next category was Incredibly Improved. Eight students achieved that in one or more academic areas. They are Jesse Daniels, Vanessa Noble, Allen Shaw, Emmanuel Wilson, Toby Fugate, Jimmy Strong, Beacher Noble and Sean Hughes.

A popular group on campus is the C.I.A. (Christians in Action). It is a service organization for students in 5-12. Eleven students were recognized for their faithfulness at meetings and participation by Mrs. Cassie Keck, one of the advisors.

Some recognition was given to the Color Guard. They are the students who faithfully all year raise the flags in the morning and take them down in the afternoon. They are Rebecca Barnett, Michelle Barnett, Patric Haddix, Rose Haddix, and Misty Watts. Five students maintained an 87-90% grade point average all year. They are Cody Cundiff, Brandi Fugate, Katie Haddix, Tyler Hudson and Heath Neace.

Commonwealth Citations, having come by Representative Teddy Edmonds, were awarded to kindergarten, eighth grade and senior graduates. They are kindergarten-Jesse Bowling; eighth grade-Toby Campbell, Tyler Hudson, Tiffany Johnson, Beacher Noble, Caleb Tapio and Misty Watts; seniors- Rebecca Barnett, Cody Cundiff, Brandi Fugate, Patric Haddix, Tommy Moore, and Heath Neace.

Mrs. Kathy Keck introduced the members of Lower Lights, Riverside’s traveling choir for students and staff. Each one received a certificate and a gift, a combination pen/flashlight.

Perfect Attendance, Principal’s List, and other top academic awards will be presented at Graduation this Friday night, May 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Have a great summer!
If teachers are given an apple by a student will they then know they are appreciated? Perhaps.

If each teacher and staff member is given a gift every day for a week, surely they will know without a doubt that they are truly appreciated.

It happened at Riverside Christian School. Last week was designated Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week and the Student Council had many plans.

Each day Student Council members delivered small gift items to faculty and staff around campus. On Wednesday donuts and drinks were in the teachers lounge for them.

On Thursday a special assembly was a highlight of the week. Everyone gathered in the gym and Patric Haddix, Student Council president, led the program. Several Council members and elementary student Malin Voth presented readings about teachers and staff.

Then Cassie Keck had a family feud event based on faculty polling she had done. Students made up the two teams to compete with the power point program. Questions like “What do you like most about Riverside?” and “What is your favorite food in the cafeteria?” brought some humorous guesses that produced lots of laughs.

Each teacher and staff member was presented with a special gift. Once they were all gathered on the gym floor they sang a song to entertain the students. The assembly was closed with prayer.

A special closing to the week was the Student Council treating the faculty and staff to dinner at Ponderosa in Hazard. It was a relaxing and enjoyable evening.

Miss Burroughs and her aide Patty Butters helped the kindergarten celebrate Valentine’s Day several years ago.

After a full year of collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charity, Riverside Christian School is proud to announce that over 60 pounds were collected!

Riverside students collected aluminum tabs from soda cans to help generate needed funds to support Lexington’s “home away from home” for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at Lexington area hospitals.

Pop Tab Recycling for Ronald McDonald House began about 15 years ago and has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Ronald McDonald House Charities across the country. With the support of groups like Riverside, billions of tabs have been collected and recycled.

To conclude the “Collect for a Cause” campaign at Riverside, eleven students, three parents, and three teachers went to Lexington to deliver the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. The donation was greatly appreciated and the money that will come another four years and graduated. They stay in touch.

Another memorable experience she shares is working alongside Doran Hostetler. “He was a mentor to me,” she said. “He was like a big brother I never had.” The Hostetler family took her in and when the children were young they called her “Aunt Bevie.”

The family atmosphere is what she most enjoys about being at Riverside. Also being able to teach in a Christian environment and being free to include Bible teaching in all areas.

“Our student/teacher ratio gives us the opportunity to help kids who need a little extra help and this has been a valued contribution that Riverside has been able to give to the community.” Seeing kids excited about learning is one of her greatest joys in life.

Spare time is at a minimum for RCS workers. When she does have some free time, she enjoys reading, baking, and some knitting.

“Leaving Riverside will be bitter sweet,” Miss Burroughs said. “Although I won’t have to get up at 6:00 a.m. every morning, it will be very difficult because I feel like I’m leaving family.”

Her immediate plans are to move to northern Pennsylvania. Long term plans are indefinite.

A reception for Miss Burroughs and Mr. Monroe will be held Saturday, June 30, 2012 in the school gymnasium. Former students and friends are encouraged to stop by between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information call 606-666-7627. An interview with Mr. Monroe will be in the next Beacon.
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