

“Leaders Are Readers” Program Brought Out Community Leaders And Good News For Library Renovation At Honaker

The **Leaders Are Readers** reception and program October 19, 2010, at the Russell County Government Center was a great success, not only because it yielded good news for the building renovation and construction project slated for the Honaker Community Library, but also because many community leaders expressed their appreciation for libraries and how they contribute to our community.

Randy Williams, Russell County Commissioner of Revenue, used his place on the program to announce that the C.P. “Bud” and Elsa Williams Estate is turning over its profits from several gas wells to the Honaker Community Library in perpetuity. Mr. Williams serves as an executor of the estate, which has donated \$75,000 to the Honaker Community Library for a room to be named for Mr. and Mrs. C.P. Williams in the renovated facility.

The program, sponsored by the Russell County Public Library’s Trustees, featured local officials and dignitaries and regular library users speaking passionately about why the library and reading are important to them, their life and work, and our community.

The first speaker was Jon Bowerbank, known locally as a Russell County Supervisor and businessman, but who also serves on the board



Jon Bowerbank, known locally as a Russell County Supervisor and businessman, serves on the board of the Library of Virginia. He is seen with a battered dictionary given to him by his father to illustrate his talk at the program, where he shared that the Library of Virginia holds the oldest book brought to America on the Mayflower, a Guttenburg Bible.

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Other speakers included Dr. Hughes Melton, who talked about how doctors now encourage patients to participate in their care by learning about their health condition; he sees the public library and Internet access as essential to helping his patients and building a healthy community. The other speaker was Patrick ‘Rick’ Thompson who talked about the value of reading

for young children, calling to mind his experience as an educator and reading to his own grandchildren. Many others stepped up to talk about the importance of literacy, reading and the library’s value.

The refreshments were provided by the Library’s Board of Trustees and the Lebanon Food City. The highlight was a cake embellished with the still new library logo. The evening ended with a regular library board meeting.