

The Wadesboro Police Department has a terrific program they call Shop with a Cop. During the year WPD raises money from the community, and at Christmastime police officers take children from families in need Christmas shopping for toys, clothes and other items. This program brings joy to the children who may otherwise not experience Christmas gifts. This also shows the children and their families that Anson County is a community that truly cares for its citizens.

In support of Shop with a Cop, the Wadesboro Police Department is holding a motorcycle ride to raise funds. On Saturday, October 18 participants can enjoy a day full of fun, centered around the ride. There will be a drawing for money and lunch too. To join in on the fun come to the Wadesboro Police Department for registration between 10 and 11 a.m. The cost is \$15 for single riders, \$20 for two up. For more information contact Chief Thedis Spencer at 704-475-2695 or Sgt. Cannon at 704-475-2997.

Dancing with the Stars Event is Saturday

Dancing with the Stars is coming to Wadesboro! Based on the popular TV show, the event features local dancers and talent. The contest will be held at Wadesboro Primary School beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 18. Tickets are \$10 and are available at First United Methodist Church, 118 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro.

The dancers are Jacob Thomas and Shannon Caudle, William Truett and Ross Huntley, Tim Bennett and Crystal McLendon, Landreic and Cassandra Reid, Gary Henderson and Chrissy Cabbage, Frank and Marlene Richardson, Robert and Kimberly Burr, Chris and Melody Stinson, and Steve James and Vancine Sturdivant. Joe Dutton is Master of Ceremonies, and music will be provided by DJ Kenwon.

There will be two First Place winning teams, one chosen by the judges and one by popular vote. The judges are Patsy Brasington, Thedis Spencer and Steve Whitlock. The audience may vote during the performances or pre-vote online at www.circlesofhopeanson.org/DWTS. Votes are \$2 each.

Refreshments will be available for purchase from the Anson Women's League.

Proceeds will fund programs for Circles of Hope, a nation-wide initiative to eradicate generational poverty, that is at work right here in Anson County. Circles meets every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. For more information about the local program, call 704-994-2333 or visit www.circlesofhopeanson.org.

Homeowners Insurance Rate Hearing to begin October 20

NC Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin wants to remind North Carolinians that a rate hearing for homeowners insurance is to begin Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. in the Jim Long Hearing Room on the third floor of the Dobbs Building, 430 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

The insurance companies, represented by the North Carolina Rate Bureau, requested an overall statewide average increase of 25.3 percent for homeowners insurance rates, varying by geographic territory, on Jan. 3, 2014. Goodwin ordered that a hearing be held in the matter because the proposed rates appear to the Department of Insurance to be excessive and unfairly discriminatory.

The hearing is open to the public; however, there will be no opportunity for members of the public to speak at the hearing. Experts from the N.C. Rate Bureau, on behalf of the insurance companies, and experts from NCDOL, representing the interests of the public, will present their cases for or against rate changes. Goodwin is to serve as the hearing officer and determine what, if any, rate adjustments are warranted.

The filing is available for public review on NCDOL's website. To view the entire filing, go to pserff.ncdoi.net/pc.html and enter the Serff Tracking Number NCRI-129361028.

A public comment period on the rate filing was held from Jan. 3 through Jan. 31 to engage the public in the ratemaking process. During that period, the Department of Insurance received more than 10,000 emailed or mailed comments, and approximately 25 people made comments in-person during a public comment session held on Jan. 24.

First United Methodist Church Celebrates 225 years

First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro is preparing to celebrate its quasibicentennial. In plain talk, the church is observing its 225th anniversary in 2015, and is getting a head start on the celebration.

On Sunday, Oct. 26 Rev. Dr. Sam Moore, District Superintendent, will bring the message at the 10:55 a.m. worship service. Rev. Benny Clodfelter, Pastor of First United Methodist Church, is hoping to have 225 people in the pews that Sunday. All members of the community are invited to attend and remain after the service for a catered lunch. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted. (If you are staying for the meal, please call the church office at 704-694-5179 so the committee will know how many to plan for.)

At 3 p.m. the same day, Thursday's Child Community Choir will perform before Charlotte peace activist and author Sam Wazan's informative lecture on "Ending Religious Violence: the Journey to Peace" in the sanctuary. The program is free of charge. Wazan will have a book signing after the talk.

A canned food drive is underway now, with the target being 225 food items collected by Oct. 26 to be donated to the Anson Crisis Ministry.

In November Charles and Gail Litaker will give a free public Gratitude Concert in the sanctuary. This will take place near Thanksgiving, date to be announced. The Litakers are well known locally for their organ and piano duets. Charles Litaker is the church director of music and organist. Gail Litaker is an accomplished piano player and soloist.

A special observation Sunday, January 18, will kick off the 2015 activities. The date is the 214th anniversary of Methodist circuit rider Francis Asbury's visit to Anson County on January 18, 1801. "Records tell us it rained and snowed on that day, but we're hoping the weather will cooperate," said Charles Litaker, chairman of the Celebration Committee.

Also to commemorate the 225 years the Methodist church has been in Anson County, the church is planning to open a Heritage Room where relics of the past can be displayed. Members of the church and the community are encouraged to donate any artifacts to this project.

Other projects incorporating the "225 years" theme are in the works.

"First United Methodist Church is not just looking back at where it has been. The church is actively planning for the next 225 years," Litaker said.

Brown Bag Book Club Meets Oct. 20

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, October 20 at 12 noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B Allen Library for a covered dish luncheon (every one attending is asked to bring a dish and a friend), followed by fun & crafts with Donnie K Lewis, Children's Librarian, presenting the program. Each one attending will participate and carry home a craft item(s) which they will make.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend - you will have a good time.

For additional information please call the library at 704-694-5177.

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