



Anniversary Celebration for Bessie Chapel Male Chorus

Songs and praises will fill the sanctuary in Lilesville on March 14

A powerful afternoon of gospel music, fellowship and joyful celebration is on the horizon as the Bessie Chapel Male Chorus prepares to mark its 33rd Anniversary in grand style. On Saturday, March 14 at 2 p.m., voices will rise and spirits will soar at Bessies Chapel AME Zion Church on Ingram Mountain Road in Lilesville.

For more than three decades the Bessie Chapel Male Chorus has been lifting hearts and spreading the message of Jesus Christ through song. Their annual Songs and Praises celebration has become a beloved tradition, drawing church members, choirs and gospel music lovers from across the community.

This year's 33rd anniversary is another milestone, marking years of dedication, harmony and unwavering faith. Guests can expect an afternoon filled with soul-stirring hymns, foot-tapping gospel favorites and the kind of spirited worship that leaves no doubt about the power of praise.

Groups, choirs and church members from near and far are warmly invited to attend and take part in this uplifting celebration. Whether you come to sing along, clap along or simply soak in the joyful atmosphere, this is an event designed to encourage, inspire and unite.

The celebration will be hosted at Bessies Chapel AME Zion Church, where Pastor Joletha Dockery continues to guide the congregation with faith and leadership. The church sanctuary is expected to be filled with music, fellowship and heartfelt gratitude for the chorus members who have faithfully served for 33 years.

Those seeking additional information may contact Kenneth Wall at 704-465-6693, Anthony Medley at 704-475-1906 or Robert Dockery at 910-995-1610.

Mark your calendars, gather your family and friends, and prepare for an unforgettable afternoon of songs and praises. When the Bessie Chapel Male Chorus celebrates, it is more than a program - it's a testimony set to music.

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 BEGINS AT 4PM

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Sponsored by NC Cooperative Extension, Anson County, Sandhills Aginnovation, Pilgrim's & Atrium Health
Food given out as supplies last

Church

FEBRUARY 22

11th Annual Family & Friends Day Program At Henry Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2:30pm with Rev. Christian Hall of Flake MBC in Wadesboro.

Black History Program At Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries, 6090 NC-109 S in Wadesboro, 11am.

Appreciation Service For Elder Pandora Little at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Pastor Sandra Ellerbe. All are welcome.

MARCH 1

Spiritual Ministry At Savannah AME Zion Church, 2pm. Theme: Love. Speakers include Rev. Joletha Dockery, Pastor of Bessie Chapel AME Zion Church; Rev. Christine Hall, Co-Pastor of Flakes Chapel MB Church; Rev. Crystal Pratt, Co-Pastor of Flakes Chapel MB Church; Rev. Judy Little, Co-Pastor of West Deep Creek MB Church; and Rev. Donna McNair, Pastor of Fairview Church of God.

MARCH 15

9th Anniversary

Pastor, Overseer Sylvia McLendon at Divine Unity House of Restoration Ministries Fellowship Hall, 3760 Hwy 109 S, Wadesboro, with Pastor Iris Tillman of Church of God of Prophecy in Morven at 11am & Chief Apostle Vanessa Taplah of The Blessing of God Ministry in Lexington, NC at 2:30pm.

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ONGOING

Mass Schedule

All welcome to services at Sacred Heart Catholic Mission in Wadesboro. Masses every Sun-8:30am, Thur-6pm & Sat-9am

Weekly Praise & Worship Schedule

Sandy Plains Christian Fellowship Church, 1154 Cason Oldfield Rd. • Weekly service times: 9am Coffee & Conversation Fellowship; 9:45am Sunday School; 11am Morning Worship. Everyone is welcome.

Events

FEBRUARY 19

Free Food Anson Mobile Food Market At 4pm

at Wadesboro Elementary School, 321 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. Fresh veggies, fruit & bread if available. Blood pressure checks, along with healthy living topics & booths. Nothing required to receive food, just come! Volunteers will help you with the bags. Sponsored by Anson Extension Service.

FEBRUARY 23

Board of Education

Regular Meeting Closed Session begins 5pm to discuss matters related to personnel & property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session begins at 6pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment, sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

FEBRUARY 27

BBQ Fundraiser For Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition at Calvary Episcopal Church, 10am-6pm or until sold out. Take-out only. Delivery available to local businesses with 5-order minimum. Sandwiches \$5, plates \$12, pints \$14, quarts \$22. Call-in orders encouraged. 704-694-4499 or fax 704-694-4515.

ONGOING EVENTS

Direct and Counter Cyclical Program Sign-ups Call the Farm Service Agency Office at 704-694-3516 ext. 2 to complete eligibility forms.

Compassionate Friends Meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm, at the Training Room at First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. Bereaved parents, family and friends who have lost a child of any age are invited. Info 704-694-2425

Senior Box Program at Feed My Lambs starts the third Tuesday each month for seniors only. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820.

Food Pantry

Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182.

After School Program Kid Cafe Mon-Fri from 2:30-5:30p.m. at the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, 704-826-8737

Clover Crawl Promises Big Fun For 4-H Supporters March 13

Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready to follow the clover trail - the Anson County 4-H Clover Crawl is shaping up to be one of the most exciting nights of the spring.

Set for Friday, March 13, from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m., this lively social and dance will be held at beautiful Flake Haven, located at 5298 N.C. 742 North in Wadesboro. The evening will benefit Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise, supporting programs that help local young people grow into confident leaders and community contributors.

Guests can expect an upbeat atmosphere, plenty of fellowship and a dance floor that won't stay empty for long. Entertainment will be provided by DJ Bass FX, who is sure to keep the music pumping and the crowd moving all night.

Tickets are \$60 per person in advance and \$65 at the door. This is a 21-and-over event, and organizers remind attendees that there will be no brown bagging.

Tickets may be purchased at the Anson Cooperative Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street, as well as at Lacy's in Wadesboro. Reserved tables are also available for those who want to gather friends and secure prime seating; call the office for details.

For questions or additional information, contact the Anson Cooperative Extension Office at 704-694-2915.

Whether you're a longtime 4-H supporter or simply looking for a fun night out for a great cause, the Clover Crawl promises music, memories and meaningful impact — all wrapped up in one festive evening.

North Carolina Ranked Top State For Domestic Migration, Remains Third-Fastest-Growing State In Nation

North Carolina remains one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, according to the latest estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Despite a nationwide slowdown in population growth last year, North Carolina added nearly 150,000 residents, ranking third in total population increase behind Texas and Florida. The state was also ranked No. 1 in the nation for domestic, state-to-state migration.

North Carolina's population reached approximately 11.2 million as of July 1, 2025, according to Census Bureau data, and the state ranked third nationally for percentage population growth.

"North Carolina's secret is out. Our strong economic growth, natural beauty, and good people are attracting others from around the country," said Gov. Josh Stein. "We cannot let this momentum slip through our fingers by chasing irresponsible tax cuts for out-of-state corporate shareholders when we can't retain the best teachers and law enforcement officers. Let's pass a fiscally responsible budget that invests in our people and continues to make North Carolina the best place to live, work, and raise a family."

With continued population growth comes increased demand for essential services such as public safety, infrastructure, and education. Economists caution that despite the state's strong economy, projected revenues over the next several years are expected to fall billions of dollars short of what is needed to maintain current services when adjusted for inflation and population growth.

State officials point to pre-programmed tax cuts approved by the General Assembly as a major contributor to the shortfall, creating a projected gap of more than \$2 billion between revenues and the cost of maintaining existing services next year. Officials warn this gap could limit the state's ability to respond to disasters and address staffing shortages in health care and law enforcement, threatening the quality of life that has drawn new residents and businesses to North Carolina.

Highlights from U.S. Census Bureau estimates for North Carolina from July 2024 to July 2025 include:

- 1st in domestic net migration: +84,000
 - 3rd-fastest growth rate: 1.3 percent
 - 3rd-largest population gain: +146,000
 - 3rd in total net migration: +131,000
- Since April 2020, North Carolina has recorded:**
- 3rd-largest population gain: +757,000
 - 6th-fastest growth rate: 7.2 percent
 - 3rd-largest net migration: +709,000

Additional information about the latest U.S. Census Bureau findings is available at www.census.gov.

More information about population growth and economic trends in North Carolina can be found at www.nc.gov.

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