

Las Amigas Sponsors Annual Virtuous Woman Program

The Morven Chapter of Las Amigas, Incorporated will hold its annual Virtuous Woman Program on Saturday, April 14 at 5: p.m. at Kesler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Wadesboro. This year's theme is "Virtuous Women: Using the Power of God."

Each year, a woman is recognized by Las Amigas for living a life of service and dedication to helping others in Anson County. This woman is identified as a Virtuous Woman and holds the position for one year. Ms. Yolanda G. Creech of Charlotte was acknowledged as last year's Virtuous Woman.

This year's speaker for the event will be Norvita Denise Bell of Charlotte. Bell is committed to living out one of her favorite scriptures as recorded in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."



Norvita Bell

Bell was licensed into the Gospel Ministry in 2002 by Bishop Claude R. Alexander of the Park Church in Charlotte, and Minister Bell serves in various ministerial capacities there including the Prayer Ministry and the Women's Ministry. Her community affiliations include membership in the Black Political Caucus of Charlotte. Minister Bell received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She has taught high school for the last 27 years in the North Carolina Public School System, and has received Teacher of the Year Honors at schools in Anson, Union and Mecklenburg Counties. She is currently an english teacher at David W. Butler High School in Matthews. Minister Bell desires to provide tutelage for her students in such a way that they are empowered and compelled to go forth and make the world a better place for all.

In 2011 Minister Bell began sharing daily words of inspiration and encouragement via her social media Facebook page. As a result of those years of inspirational empowerment for the readers, the ministry of "GO and TELL with Norvita D. Bell" was founded on January 27, 2018. In addition to social media, this ministry now includes a weekly inspirational broadcast on Praise 100.9 - Charlotte's Inspiration Station. Praise 100.9 is blessed to have an audience of over 150,000 listeners.

Minister Bell traveled to Kenya, East Africa in 2014 where she preached and taught about the word of God. And, whether called to serve locally or globally, one of her guiding principles is encapsulated in a verse of song by the late great gospel artist Mahalia Jackson: "If I can help somebody, as I pass along...If I can cheer somebody with a word or song...If I can show somebody, that is traveling wrong...Then my living shall not be in vain." Minister Norvita Denise Bell, a native Ansonian, is the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Asa L. Bell, Sr.

For more information about the Virtuous Woman program contact Ms. Joletha Little at 704-694-6278.

Week of the Young Child Celebration is April 15-21

Anson County Partnership for Children celebrates the Week of the Young Child with daily activities for young children and families. Each year, the Anson County Partnership for Children joins communities nationwide in celebrating young children and those who serve young children as caregivers and child care providers.

The week will begin with a Pinwheel for Prevention Garden displayed in front of the courthouse. Monday, April 16th at 7:30 am, the Partnership, Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition, and volunteers will place blue pinwheels in front of the courthouse. Blue pinwheels are the national symbol for child abuse prevention. The pinwheel whimsy and childlike notions are reminders of the great childhoods we want for all children.

Tuesday, April 17th, children in NC Pre-K, Kindergarten and child care will participate in the annual Literacy Parade starting at 10:00 am. Children will be decked out in their penguin costumes in honor of the play "Mr. Popper's Penguins," performed by Children's Theatre of Charlotte. We highly encourage the public to participate as spectators for the children in the parade at 10:00 am.

All Anson County families are invited to the free evening performance of "Mr. Popper's Penguins" at 6 p.m. April 17 at the Ansonia Theatre. Although the performance is free, attendees are asked to reserve tickets by calling at 704-694-4036 or coming by the Anson County Partnership for Children office in uptown Wadesboro. Guests are required to get a free ticket at the Partnership before attending the 6:00 performance. "Mr. Popper's Penguins" is sponsored by Anson Family Optometric, PPLC, Anson County Arts Council and the Anson County Partnership for Children.

The play is based on the children's book written by Richard and Florence Atwater, with illustrations by Robert Lawson. It tells the story of a family whose world is turned upside down after they unexpectedly come into possession of penguins. Before long, something must be done before the penguins eat the Poppers out of house and home.

There will be a "Special Me" Storytime, Wednesday, April 18th at 10:00 am in the Early Childhood Resource Center to celebrate the joys of being unique. Following the story reading, children will get the chance to make crafts and end the morning with a light snack. Child care centers and individuals are welcome to attend this special Storytime. For groups larger than 5, please call the Partnership at 704-694-4036 to make a reservation.

The fun will continue Wednesday with a Play Daze event at Little Park from 4-6 pm. Play Daze is an event that encourages families to play outside for the sake of play. Families and child care facilities are welcome with children ages 3 - 9 years old. Parents are invited to join their children as play partners and learn how free, creative physical play is an educational opportunity that enhances their child's development.

Some of the activities planned are fort-building, bubble station, mud play, sand, dirt, dramatic play, and loose parts.

For further details, please contact Alexandra Harrington at 704-694-4036 or alexandra.harrington@ansonchildren.org.

Foster Parent Support Group Meets April 12

Meetings of the Foster Parent Support Group are held the second Thursday of the month, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Richmond County Department of Social Services, located at 125 Caroline Street in Rockingham. Refreshments and resources are provided for free.

If you would like to attend, please contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769 or by email at connectionsfsp@gmail.com for more information.

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Community Medical, PA of Marshville and Dr. Gary Henry would like to announce the addition of Brandi Thomas, FNP-C, Family Nurse Practitioner to the practice.

As a Union County native, Brandi looks forward to meeting the healthcare needs of her community. Dr. Henry will continue to serve his community, providing the same quality care he has for over 26 years.

Brandi's background is in primary care, chronic disease management, diabetes management/education, hypertension, long term care and aesthetics. She is a Business Management graduate of Wingate University, and has a Masters in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from UNCC.

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