

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

NOVEMBER 7, 2013



Community Calendar

Interfaith workshop
The Food, Faith and Religious Leadership Initiative will sponsor "Prayin' Truckin' Servin' — An Interfaith Workshop on Food, Faith & Justice" on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 8:30 a.m. — 3 p.m. at the Enterprise Banquet and Conference Center, 1922 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. This workshop is free but registration is required at divinity.wfu.edu/pts.

Equalization and Review meetings
The Forsyth County Board of Equalization and Review will meet at 3 p.m. today (Thursday, Nov. 7), Thursday, Nov. 14 and Thursday, Dec. 5 in the Board of Equalization and Review room on the first floor of the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 North Chestnut St.

Sawtooth open house
The Sawtooth School for Visual Art, 251 N. Spruce St., will hold "Arts in the Afternoon," a free community open house event, on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 1 — 4 p.m.

Medicare help
The Shepherd's Center, 1700 Ebert St., is hosting Medicare enrollment clinics on Nov. 8 and Nov. 15 from 1-5 p.m. Appointments may be made by calling the Shepherd's Center at 336-748-0217.

Seniors' conference
The NC Association of Senior Citizens Clubs (NCASCC) will host its state conference from Wednesday, Nov. 6 — Friday, Nov. 8 at Sundance Plaza Hotel, 3050 University Pkwy. Attorney Renita Thompkins-Linville will be the keynote speaker at the opening session. Email Rvb0720@aol.com for more information.

Commission vacancy
Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke is accepting applications from citizens interested in filling a vacancy on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Community Appearance Commission. Interested candidates should contact the City Secretary's office at 336-727-2224 or send an email to reneeep@cityofws.org. The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 8.

'Trust Talks'
The Winston-Salem Police Department and the Human Relations Department are seeking citizens who are interested in participating in "Trust Talks" next year. The Talks give police officers an opportunity to interact and improve relations with residents. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. Interested citizens should call Pam Peoples-Joyner of the Police Department at 336-773-7962 or Jayme Waldeck of the Human Relations Department at 336-734-1228.

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David Williamson plays the piano during the men's rehearsal.

Photos by Todd Luck

Sign of the Season

Amateur singers begin preparing for "Messiah"

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Continuing an 81-year-old holiday tradition, the first rehearsal for this year's staging of "Messiah" was held Sunday afternoon at First Baptist Church on Fifth Street.

"Messiah" is an oratorio, a large musical number performed by a chorus and soloists, composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel. It follows the biblical story of Jesus from the prophecy and His birth to His death and resurrection. It ends with the Second Coming.

Each year, the Mozart Club invites interested members of the public to take part in the elaborate musical event. The chorus is made up of local residents who commit to attend a series of rehearsals before the big show in December. There was a time when the prevailing thought was that the musical scope of the nearly three hour-long show was too complex for amateur singers.

"In the earliest days,



The women practice for "Messiah."

people said it couldn't be done. They said that you couldn't have just regular choir folks because the music is so challenging, but after they proved it could be done, it's just grown and grown in popularity," said Greg Powers, chair of the Mozart Club, a group originally made up of professional musicians that now exists solely to put on "Messiah."

Over the decades, guest soloists and conductors from around the country have been recruited, but in recent



Ola Murrell

years, local talent has been called upon. "Messiah" veteran James

Allbritten, artistic director and principal conductor of the Piedmont Opera, is this year's conductor. He's also the artistic director of the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute at the UNC School of the Arts, and his students often perform as soloists in the production.

Though the chorus attracts new members each year, Powers, who's performed in the show for more than 14 years, said the singers who return year after year have developed a strong

connection.

"It's like a big family reunion," he said. "... We have people who join us from all parts of the Triad community."

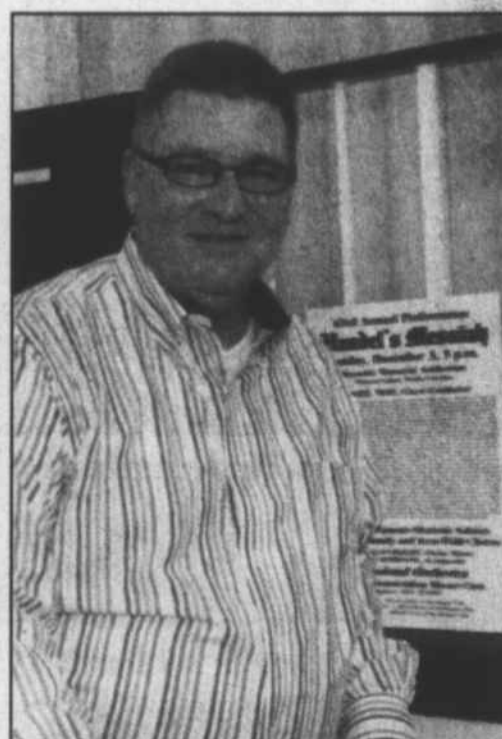
Ola Murrell attended Sunday's rehearsal with a fellow member of Saints Homes United Methodist Church, where Murrell sings in the choir. Murrell has been a member of the "Messiah" chorus about eight times over the years, including two shows with her late mother, Nannie Sims.

"I enjoy it," Murrell

See Messiah on B9



Norma Bernhardt with granddaughter Caroline Averitt and daughter Lydian Averitt.



Above: Mozart Club Chair Greg Powers is a longtime "Messiah" singer.

Left: The men master a classic.