



Masons honor local women

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WFU hears from iconic Civil Rights advocate

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# THE CHRONICLE

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## 'That Man up there, honey'

### Centenarian knows from whom her blessings flow

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Frances Wigfall is celebrating a century of living. The longtime city resident turned 100-years-young on Feb. 21. Friends and family members observed the landmark occasion Saturday with a spirited soiree at Christ Kingdom Building Worship Center.

Wigfall said that even she sometimes has a hard time comprehending her longevity.

"One hundred years old - isn't that wonderful?" the centenarian declared. "...I don't feel like I'm 100 years old. I feel like I might be in my 80s."

A native of Newberry County, S.C., Wigfall relocated to Winston-Salem when her niece, Jennie Wallace, was an infant. Wigfall never had children of her own, but she has always doted on her niece as if she was her own child.

"She was my favorite aunt," declared Wallace, an 83-year-old Western Electric retiree. "She came when I was eight-months-old, and we just got attached to each other. She was one I could always go and talk to. If I had problems as a teenager when I was growing up, I would always go and talk to her."

Wallace is now a great-grandmother, 13-times over. Wigfall takes great pride in her host of nieces and nephews, who now span four generations.

"My nieces and nephews are wonderful," she said. "They do a good job taking care of me, just like my husband did."

Laverne Smoot, Wallace's daughter and one of Wigfall's great nieces, said Wigfall played an essential part in raising everyone in the family.

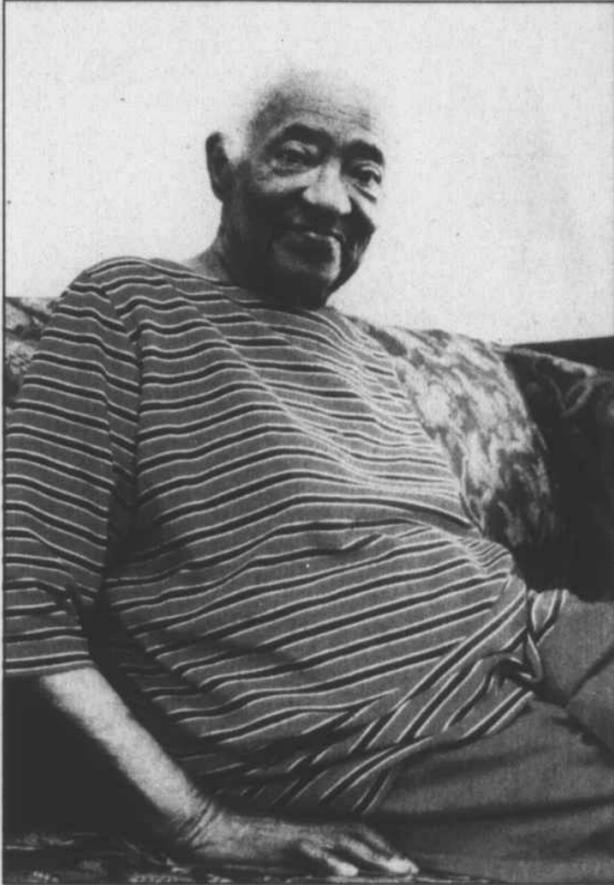


Photo by Layla Garms

Frances Wigfall celebrated her 100th birthday recently.

See Wigfall on A7



## Williams pegged as interim UL leader

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Don Williams has been named the interim president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League, the agency announced this week. His appointment is effective today. The 61-year-old organization, whose services reach residents who live as far away as the Triangle, has been in limbo since former President/CEO Keith Grandberry's exit last month.

Evelyn Acree, the chairwoman of the Urban League Board of Directors and senior VP/Piedmont Triad Regional executive for Mechanics & Farmers Bank, declined again on Monday to comment on the reasons behind Grandberry's abrupt departure, which has been the subject of much speculation.

"He served the Urban League for seven years and the board of the Urban League, we wish him well," she stated.

Williams, a retired Lowe's Home Improvement executive, will serve as the interim leader for a minimum of three months and a maximum of six months, Acree said. The board plans to launch a national search for a permanent president/CEO in the near future, she added. Williams is well versed in the process; he was the agency's board chair for three years, including in 2006, when Grandberry was hired.

"The whole purpose of this is to give them time to make a decision; that's my goal," he said of serving as interim leader. "It's not a process that you can do overnight and do it well."

The Urban League is planning to begin work on a new strategic plan in the months to come; in the meantime, it will be renewing its commitment to its core mission and setting its sights on a new vision for the future, Acree said.

"For the next up to six months, we want to continue our programs. We want to enhance the programs, stabilize the Urban League," she explained. "...What we want to get back to is doing the business of the Urban League."

Acree says support remains strong for the agency, despite the recent leadership change.

"The community has been supportive of



Williams

See Urban League on A8

WSSU photo by Garrett Garms

Dr. Steve Perry addresses a crowd of several hundred on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 20 at Winston-Salem State University.



## Innovative educator keynotes symposium

BY LAYLA GARMS  
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Steve Perry, a nationally-known educator and host of TV One's "Save My Son," told young men and women last Thursday that they are responsible for their own destinies.

"You're either 'bout to or you're 'bout it," said Perry, the founder and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, Conn., as he gave the keynote address for Winston-Salem State University's 11th annual



Wayne Farmer



John Kornegay

Black Male Symposium in the school's K.R. Williams Auditorium. "...When you're

'bout it, you're somebody that wants to be better. You're hungry. You're looking for

opportunities."

Perry became a household name when he and his school, which has sent 100 percent of its predominantly low-income, minority, first generation high-school graduates to four year colleges, were featured on CNN's "Black in America" series. High school and college students from schools throughout the Triad were on hand to hear from Perry. He implored them to fulfill their promise.

"You're here today because somebody believes

See Perry on A10

## Chief Justice exhorts lawyers to be upright

BY TODD LUCK  
THE CHRONICLE

N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Sarah Parker was among those advocating for integrity in the legal community last Friday at a daylong confab that tackled the subject.

Judges, lawyers and others gathered at downtown Embassy Suites for the event, which was held by the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and Forsyth County Bar Association-21st Judicial District Bar to help legal professionals



Parker

See Lawyers on A9



Photos by Todd Luck

Attorneys Dudley Humphrey (left) and George Cleland look on as H. Glenn Davis speaks.

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