

# 'He's still standing'

## Local church honors gospel singer Bill Pratt and the Gospel Crusaders

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem's own Bill Pratt and the Gospel Crusaders received a special honor on Sunday, Nov. 27. Longtime member Harold "Sarge" Chadwick also was honored by Life Changing Transformation Church Ministries.

Alice M. Mitchell, senior pastor of Life Changing Transformation Church, said she has seen many legends from the city of Winston-Salem who have done great work but never receive the recognition they properly deserve.

"Sometimes people just want to hear you say 'thank you' or 'I appreciate you' and the legend this man has carried throughout the city is so inspiring," said Mitchell. "It's not many gospel groups from the old days still here but he's still standing."

Mitchell went on to say she was very pleased for such a large turnout for this occasion. She said it's good to know that someone else out there is thinking about Mr. Pratt besides herself. Pratt and Mitchell have known one another for well over 20 years and felt this day was a long time coming.

The service included a brief history of Pratt and Chadwick followed by selections from individuals and the Phillips Chapel Baptist Church men's chorus. A love offering was taken up and presented to Mr. and Mrs. Pratt.

The night was concluded by Pratt and the Gospel Crusaders, who performed a few selections and brought the house down. Pratt was thankful for the service and says he is honored each and every time he has the chance to perform for people.

Pratt says he started his band while working at Parkland High school back in 1970 and it developed from there. He says the students took up a collection and helped him purchase a guitar and amplifier. He says he is the last living member of his original group and will perform as long as he is able.



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Bill Pratt, right, poses with Pastor Alice M. Mitchell following the celebration in his honor.



Submitted photo

St. Mark veterans from left to right are Deacon Ulysses Huffin, Leroy Easter, Trustee Tommie Easter and Trustee Robert Fisher.

## St. Mark Baptist Church honors veterans

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

St. Mark Baptist Church, 1100 Manley Street, honored some of the members for Veterans Day for the services they rendered to our country.

The members of St. Mark said they were very proud to honor these men. The Rev. Dr. James Fulwood is pastor and teacher.

For more information, contact First Lady Hattie Fulwood at 336-784-0502.

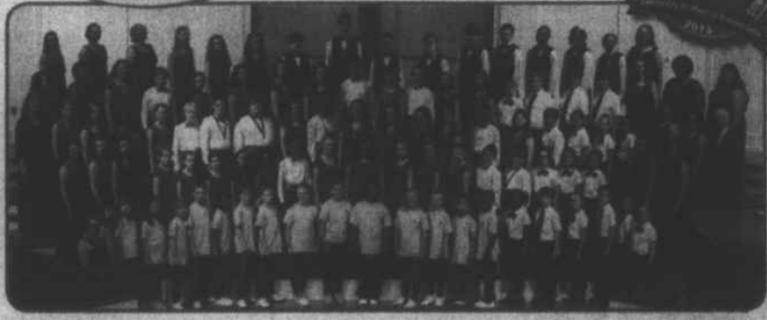


**WINSTON-SALEM Youth Chorus**

**Winter Celebration Concert**  
"Sing Me the Sounds of Winter"

**Saturday, December 3rd • 7PM**  
Hanes Auditorium at Salem Fine Arts Center

**AUDITIONS**  
Dec. 5th and 7th  
See website or call for details  
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**GOLD**

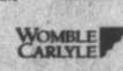





**SILVER**

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WINSTON-SALEM SYMPHONY ROBERT MOODY, MUSIC DIRECTOR

## HANDEL'S *Messiah*

Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Centenary United Methodist Church  
Robert Moody, Conductor

Margaret Carpenter Haigh, soprano • Daniel Moody, countertenor  
Jonathan Blalock, tenor • Theo Hoffman, baritone  
Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale—Dr. Christopher Gilliam, director

Celebrate the season with Handel's oratorio, widely regarded as music's most affecting message of faith. Join Maestro Moody, Winston-Salem Symphony musicians, the Winston-Salem Symphony Chorale, and a selection of renowned guest singers for a truly spiritual experience perfect for the holiday season.



HOLIDAY CONCERT

## New Year's Eve with RHIANNON GIDDENS

Saturday, December 31 at 8:00 p.m.

Reynolds Auditorium  
Robert Moody, Conductor

Greensboro native Rhiannon Giddens, best known as singer, violinist, and banjo player for the GRAMMY Award winning Carolina Chocolate Drops, comes home to the Piedmont to ring in the New Year for a special night of bluegrass, folk, and jazz standards!

Buy your tickets now! WSymphony.org or call 336-464-0145!

