

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

OCTOBER 9, 1997

SECTION C

More than 800 lift their voices to sing

"Hymns for Hope"



Annual choir celebration supports Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN
Special to THE CHRONICLE

Donnell Chambers has been incarcerated for 23 years. He is currently the director of the Cherry Street Ensemble Choir, and he has even served as a chaplain assistant. He remembers when the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry began in 1978, and he rejoices that McGee-Hedgley Chapel was built on the grounds of the prison in 1987. He has been in other facilities that did not have a chapel or a prison ministry, so he knows first hand the difference love makes.

"There is a lot of love there," Chambers said. "You can feel real love. That is what is offered there. Many guys who are incarcerated have never received authentic love, and if they did, they did not know how to receive it."

Five community choirs came together on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University to lift "Hymns for Hope," an annual event to raise funds for the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries. The theme for the evening was "Celebrating Christ's Love." More than 800 people attended the event. Wanda Starke, anchor for NewsChannel 12, served as mistress of ceremonies. She interviewed inmates Donnell Chambers and Charlie Maines on stage during the celebration. Participating choirs included the Mount Zion Baptist Church Inspirational Choir, Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir, Union Baptist Church Mass Choir, Friedberg Moravian Senior Choir, and the Wake Forest University Gospel Choir.

The purpose of "Hymns for Hope" is to celebrate the different groups that are making a difference in the community through the jail

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Doris Chunn, chairman of the board of the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry, met briefly with Marybeth Cornwell, chairman of the "Hymns for Hope" committee, and Chaplain Michael Lee before the evening of musical



Above, Wanda Starke, anchor for NewsChannel 12, interviewed inmates Donnell Chambers, director of the Cherry Street Ensemble Choir; and Charlie Maines, a member of the choir.



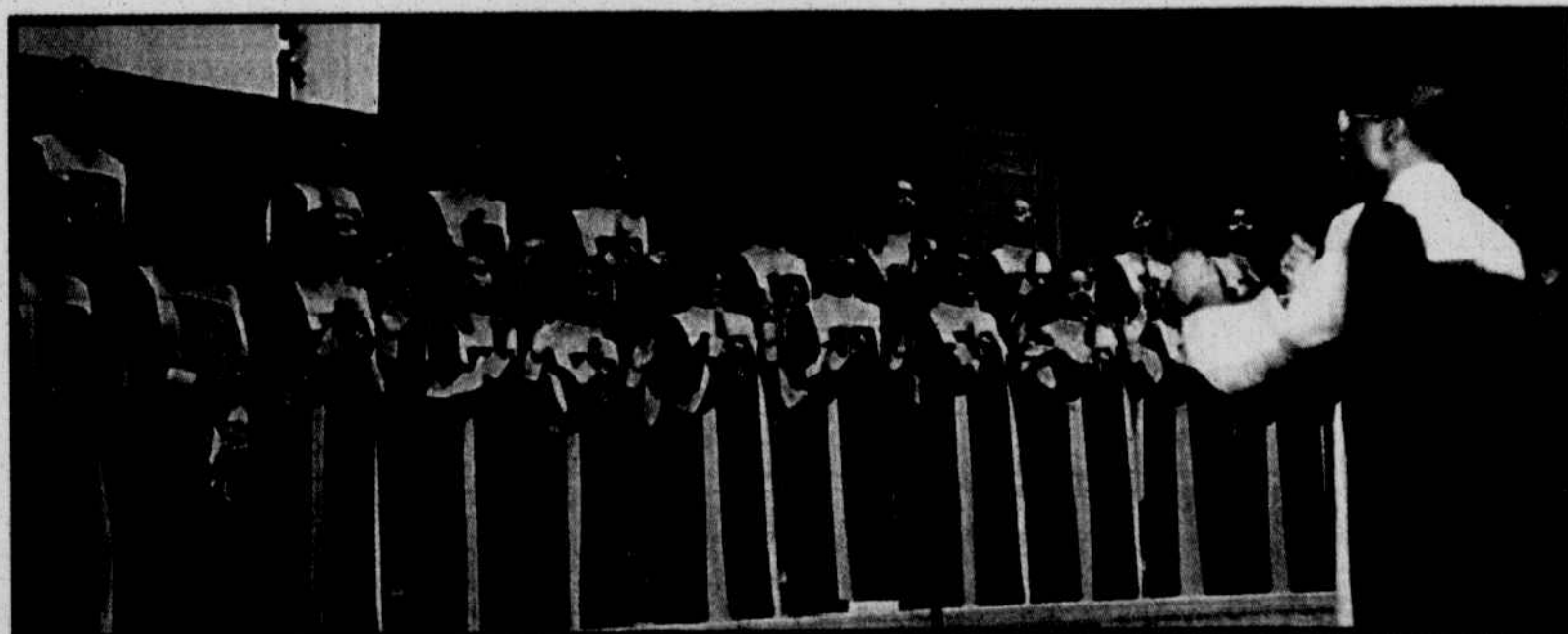
Above, The Union Baptist Church Mass Choir supports church member Doris Chunn, chairman of the board of Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry, who has served for 14 years.



Left, The Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of the Rev. Larry White, often volunteer for the jail and prison ministry.



Takeeta Gordon of the Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir led "In the Presence of Jehovah."



The Wake Forest Gospel Choir, under the direction of Steven Timmons and Marcus Ingram, was pleased to be a part of the celebration held in Wait Chapel.