

## Ex-teacher to lead national arts group

By Kristin Longley

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It was nearly 60 years ago that Frances Faithful first felt the stirrings of her passion for music and the arts.

While playing her clarinet in a woodwind quartet or singing in her high school choir, the young teenager couldn't ignore the powerful tug of good classical, jazz or pop music.

Now 74, Faithful will share her love of the fine arts as the new president of The Pierians, a national black women's organization.

The group, which was founded in 1958 and has 10 chapters nationwide, is devoted to encouraging the study and enjoyment of fine arts, including dance, music, theater



Faithful

and art. The Flint chapter in particular has worked to promote culture and the arts among underserved and minority children since it was formed in 1990.

The group's members elected Faithful, a longtime Flint teacher who is now retired, to lead the national organization based on her dedication to supporting the arts in the Flint area.

"I'm really very honored to represent Flint," she said. "I enjoy watching young people get interested in the arts and the symphony and a cultural environment."

Faithful taught various classes and subjects in the Flint School District for 34

years until she retired in 1990. As a teacher, she helped students become more aware of fine arts and has been a "source of motivation and inspiration" for young people locally, said LaNesha DeBardelaben, president of the Flint chapter.

"There is no other person better qualified to lead our organization in its mission of advancing the arts," DeBardelaben said. "She has a heart of gold and has the leadership qualities to inspire action."

The organization oversees the nonprofit Pierians Foundation.

Locally, the Flint chapter has provided art scholarships, sponsored art exhibits and is partnering with the Flint Institute of Arts to identify gifted students, especially those in urban communities, and help them take classes there.

Flint native Isaac Grier, an opera singer now living in New York, was one of the recipients of a scholarship from The Pierians. Other students have gone on to study graphic design and other fine arts.

Grier graduated from Flint Central High School in 1993.

"It really helped with his college expenses," said his mother, Robbie Grier. "Performing isn't something you plan on paying the bills with."

As president of The Pierians, Faithful said she hopes to spread awareness about Flint's art community. She is the organization's first president from the area.

"We really want people to know what Flint has and what Flint can offer," she said. "I hope I can represent it well."



The Flint Journal • John W. Adkisson

▲ Woodrow Stanley (center) applauds after his granddaughter Carmia Lowe (bottom), 8, read a Langston Hughes poem Sunday at Vernon Chapel AME Church in Flint during his swearing-in ceremony as the state representative for the 34th District.

## Stanley sworn in as a state representative

By David Harris

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FLINT — People first called him councilman. Then they called him Mr. Mayor. Then commissioner. Now it's Rep. Stanley.

Raising his right hand to swear the oath of office, Woodrow Stanley made another step forward in what has been an embattled political career in Flint.

Stanley, D-Flint, was elected in November to represent the 34th District, serving most of Flint, in the state House. In a celebratory ceremony attended by about 70 people, Stanley was sworn in by Chief Genesee Circuit Judge Archie L. Hayman Sunday at Vernon Chapel AME Church, 5802 Dupont St.

"On election night, you know you've won," Stanley said. "Now (after being sworn in) it really all comes under full focus that it's actually been achieved."

Stanley easily beat Republican challenger Adam Ford in November. Stanley, who was chairman of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, replaces term-limited Rep. Brenda Clack in the state House. She was elected to replace Stanley on the county commission.

### Woodrow Stanley

• Age: 58

• Education: Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan - Flint; associate's degree from Mott Community College.

• Political career: Flint city councilman, 1983-1991; Flint mayor, 1991-2002; Genesee County commissioner, 2004-2008, serving as chairman in 2008.

• Family: Married to Reta. They have two daughters.

Stanley's official first day will be Jan. 14, but he said he already has been hard at work in Lansing.

He said he has been to various meetings and already is contemplating some bills to introduce.

"Aside from the fact that I haven't cast a vote yet, I feel that I have already been working," he said.

Stanley's long political career includes serving on Flint's City Council and as Flint's mayor until he was recalled in a high-profile election in 2002. He jump-started his political career just two years later, winning a seat on the county commission.

He doesn't look back on the highs and

lows of his political career, he said.

"I'm pleased with where I am at," he said.

Stanley said he wants to push two new bills within the first few months of being in office — one to allow Michigan residents to vote early in elections and another to make it easier for people to be screened for prostate and breast cancers.

The details are still being worked out on both bills.

He also wants to deal with issues such as job creation, alternative energy, health care and education.

Stanley said being a representative is similar to his positions as city councilman and county commissioner in that he has to work together with a group of people.

"We have to move forward not as Democrats or as Republicans, but we have to move forward as citizens of Michigan," he said.

Flint District Court Judge Tracy Collier-Nix, a longtime friend and constituent in his district, said Stanley will stand up for what's right.

"We have elected one of the most experienced and capable politicians in the state of Michigan," she said. "He is one who will be the voice for those who do not have a voice."

### News Maker

## Pastor calls faithful to fitness

By Rose Mary Reiz

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Ten pounds and holding.

The Rev. Quintin Marshall, pastor of New Life Tabernacle Church in Flint, has lost his first 10 pounds with the help of Body & Soul, an American Cancer Society program that helps black churches get healthier.

"I've been eating smaller portions, and a lot of people in our church are eating healthier, too," said Marshall, whose 50-member church joined the program in June.

Marshall was featured in a Flint Journal story when he and his congregation wore workout clothes to church for the program's kickoff. The group followed Sunday services with a brisk walk

around the church's Selby Street neighborhood and a healthy pot-luck dinner.

"Since then, we've been eating less and exercising more," the pastor said.

"Several of our families have gotten (gym) memberships ... and I'm ready to renew my membership, too."

It doesn't hurt that since the story ran, "people monitor me whenever I go out to eat," Marshall added.

"They'll come up to me and say, 'We saw you in the paper, and we're going to watch what you order.'"

Body & Soul targets black churches because blacks are at high risk for conditions including high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and cancer, said Shuntai Beaugard, community development director for the local Cancer Society.

The free program encourages church members to care for their bodies as well as their spirits and can be customized to fit the needs of individual churches.

Marshall, a hefty man who admits he likes his fried chicken and pie, said that the hardest part of developing healthy habits has been fitting exercise in his busy schedule.

But he's determined to do better in 2009, he said.



Marshall

## Diligent student and athlete makes time to help out at Boys and Girls Club

By Ashley A. Smith

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FLINT — Josh Bass is just now settling into the position of role model for many of the young people he works with at the Boys and Girls Club of Flint.

"All the kids look up to me now because I've been there for so long," said Josh, 17, of Flint. "Some days I go up there and work on trigonometry, and while there, I'll help them during 'power hour' with homework

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assignments."

The Central High School senior said he's used to the supervisors at the Boys and Girls Club labeling him a role model for the young people there.

"I enjoy being put in that position," Josh said. "I guess it gives me more confidence. If the

kids want to do what I'm doing, it means I must be doing something right."

That — and his passion for basketball — motivates him to stay out of trouble and on the right track daily, he said.

Josh, the club's 2008 Youth of the Year, also participates in the Teen Leadership Keystone Club and competed in the Michigan Youth of the Year competition.

What amazes people who work with the teen is the way he has been able to organize his time and responsibilities.

Josh, who has a 3.5 grade-point average, plays varsity



The Flint Journal • Melissa Cousineau

▲ Flint Central High School senior Josh Bass (right) plays defense against teammate Harold Peterson during varsity basketball practice Saturday.