

Garland Gillard II



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By JASON MICHAEL

DETROIT - Garland Gillard II, 35, died Jan. 24 after a lengthy battle with AIDS.

A Detroit native, Gillard served in the United States Marine Corps. before attending Wayne State University for a time. A gifted pianist, vocalist, arranger and director, Gillard served as a minister of music at several Detroit-area churches, including Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church.

"I just thought Garland was brilliant, as far as his musical prowess," said Courtney Wilson, who sang with Gillard in Full Truth's choir. "Under his tutelage the Voices of Truth gained more exposure out in the community."

Shelly Parker, who also sang in the choir, remembers his gentle spirit and giving nature.

"If you were a member of his choir and you ever went to Garland with any kind of issue, whether it was musical or just something personal going on with your life, he loved his members enough that he would listen and show

you love and support," she said. "He always had a listening ear and a kind heart. And you felt a lot better afterward just knowing somebody believed in you."

A committed activist, Gillard gained attention in Detroit for taking on the Detroit Board of Health regarding fair and ethical treatment for HIV-positive and lgbt persons. He also started his own business, The PC Doctor, doing computer repair.

"He was an intellectual," said Wilson. "He believed in what he believed in and he stood firm. If you ever got into any kind of discussion with Garland, you had better know what you were talking about. You had better know your stuff, whether you were talking Biblically, politically or whatever."

Gillard was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia, and is survived by his father, Garland Gillard, Sr. Services for Gillard took place Jan. 30 at Full Truth.

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