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Monthly newsletter of the Voices of the South chorus

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eVoices

October 2015

Volume 1, No. 4

VoicesOfTheSouth.com



Friends and Family Night date changed

The date of our “**Friends and Family Night**” has been changed to **Monday, Oct. 19**. We will still begin at **7:30 p.m.** The event is still at **Saint Mark United Methodist Church**, 2901 Columbiana Road, Vestavia Hills.

Please come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship and singing as we present for your entertainment our “contest package.”

Ever want to be a critic? Here's your chance. After each presentation of our contest set we will be asking for your comments and any suggestions you might have to help us improve. You can help us and we appreciate it!

“The chorus is better prepared this year than we have ever been,” says **Karl Turner**, Voices of the South's president. “You need to hear us, and we need to hear what you have to say.”

Mark your calendar and then come to the Fellowship Hall on Monday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Following the rehearsal we'd like to have you join us for refreshments and socializing right there in the Fellowship Hall.

Larry's been singing bass since grammar school

Why do you sing?

“I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free. His eye is on the sparrow, but I know He's watching me.” If anyone would care to use these phrases, they would make for some great lyrics.

Seriously, though, I don't know why I sing. I just do. My father and mother were both great singers. I would love to be able to harmonize (woodshed) like they could. I guess singers get depressed just like non-singers do. But it sure is difficult for a singer to be depressed for very long. If I'm not singing, I will, at least, be whistling.



Why sing barbershop?



Barbershop singing means friendship. I can't think of a single guy in the **Voices** chorus I don't like to be around. When we start practicing on Mondays at 7 p.m. on the dot, all my outside worries go by the wayside. We end practice with a prayer that helps us through the rest of the week.

Who are you?

I'm **Larry Jones**. I was born on May 27, 1941, in Hueytown, Ala. I've been married to my wife **Mary** for 54 years. I worked with U.S. Pipe for about 40 years, but I've been retired for 12 years, although I still do some consulting engineering.

I have three children. My youngest, **Joey**, died in

February at the age of 50. We have seven grandchildren, who all are truly “grand.” I'm the oldest of nine children and Mary is one of 10. So we are really family people. At Christmas we usually have about 60 people who gather at my mother's for our family dinner. I went to **Louisiana Tech University** in Ruston, La. It took me two times to make it through, though. The last time we had three children and Mary got her PHT (Putting Hubby Through) degree.



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Got experience?

I started singing in St. Aloysius Grammar School in Bessemer. I remember when the Irish nuns and priest taught us to sing the Notre Dame Fight Song with words they had adapted to fit our school. I sang in ensembles and in choir at John Carroll High School in Birmingham. I even sang a little bit of “barbershop” there. I sang in the church choir on and off for years. I was re-introduced to barbershop by **Frank "Knarf" Buttler** about 10 years ago. I was Knarf's 30th Gold Note. (Every time a barbershop singer signs up another barbershop singer he gets a gold note.) He still calls me No. 30. I've always sung bass, except maybe at St. Aloysius — I can't remember that far back.

An anecdote ...

One of my more memorable experiences with **Voices** occurred this year. On the Saturday before Independence Day, we sang with the choir at **St. Aloysius Church** in the “**I Love America**” concert. Soldiers carrying the flag for each branch of service marched into the church while service members of that branch stood. At **Voices** practice on the following Monday, “**Knarf**” told me how much he enjoyed the concert. He said it was the first time he had ever been recognized for his service in the Navy during The Korean War — 65 years later! I guess it just goes to show it is never too late to thank our servicemen and women.

Let the competition begin

Voices of the South will compete this fall in Atlanta on **Saturday, Oct 24**.

The chorus competition begins around 10 a.m. We will be competing against about a dozen choruses in the Dixie District.

We are performing at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel Atlanta Perimeter At Ravinia**. The hotel is located at 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30346. The hotel's phone is 770-395-7700.

We will also perform two other shows around Christmas. The first is in Birmingham at **Spain Park High School** on **Saturday, Dec. 12**, and the second is in Oxford, Ala., at the **Oxford Performing Arts Center, Friday, Dec 18**.

Click the following URL to hear **Voices** performing part of one of our two contest songs, “It Rained Last Night.”

<https://www.facebook.com/voicesofthesouthchorus/videos/953206134723362/>

Enjoy!

Calendar

Monday, Oct. 12 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, Oct. 19 — Friends and Family Night, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Saint Mark United Methodist Church, Vestavia Hills

Oct. 23 and 24 — Dixie District Fall Convention and Competition, Atlanta

Monday, Oct. 26 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, Nov. 2 — Chorus Rehearsal *

* 7 to 9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Saint Mark United Methodist Church.

Upcoming

Dec. 12 — Voices of the South Annual Show, Spain Park High School, 7 p.m. - Hoover, AL

Dec. 18 - Performance at Oxford Performance Arts Center - Oxford, AL

Voices of the South
in Concert

Harmony Through The Year

Saturday, December 12, 2015
7 p.m.

Spain Park High School

Tickets
Adult (age 19 and over): **\$20 at door, \$15 in advance**
Child (through age 18)/**Student: \$5** (anytime)

To Order
www.voicesofthesouth.com
(205) 252-SING (7464)

*Door prizes include a 32-inch. flat-screen TV

Recent visitors

We love to see the people who drop in on our Monday night rehearsals.

The following people visited recently: **Micheal Giddens** from Alabaster, Ala.; and **Gaines Parker** from Wilsonville, Ala.

Thank you for visiting us. We hope to see you again!

Do you like to sing?



Please come by on any **Monday night** and check us out.

You don't have to be an accomplished singer. Most of our members don't even read music. Instead, we use “learning tracks” to become proficient in our parts.

We provide sheet music and recordings of our music that are part-predominate. That makes it easier to learn the music.

If you can sing “Happy Birthday” we can teach you the rest you need to know. We would really love to have you sing with **Voices of the South**. There's only one restriction — you do have to be a male. Sorry ladies.

We rehearse from 7 to 9:30 p.m. each Monday in the Fellowship Hall of Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 2901 Columbiana Road, Vestavia Hills 35216. You can also call us at 205-252-SING (7464).

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Our mailing address is:
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Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

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