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Monthly newsletter of the Voices of the South chorus

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## One point — who said a single point doesn't matter? Not 'Voices'

**Voices of the South** traveled east March 18th to Oxford, Ala., where they spent the weekend competing against 12 barbershop choruses at the region's spring convention and contest.

**Voices** not only competed for the **Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society** chorus championship, but the **Central Alabama** chapter was the host chapter for the convention that featured the chorus competition and the qualifying quartet contest.

The Dixie District crowned a new Chorus Champion on the 19th in the closest chorus contest ever. The **Crimson Pride Chorus** from Tuscaloosa, Ala., took first prize in a scoring battle that saw them win by one point over the next two choruses who tied for second place — **Voices of the South** and **RSVP** from Germantown, Tenn.

All contesting was done at the **Oxford Performing Arts Center**, a beautifully redone theatre complex in downtown Oxford. Twelve quartets performed on the 18th. Twelve choruses performed on the 19th. Ten finalist quartets also performed that night.

The **Crimson Pride Chorus**, who put 26 singers on stage, won the chorus contest with a score of 904 points.

**Voices**, who had 18 men performing, and **RSVP**, who featured 19 performers, tied for second with a score of 903.

**Kenny Hatton**, **Voices** director, said he was satisfied with the scoring. "To my knowledge this is the highest score we've achieved in the Dixie competitions. We had six chorus members who could not compete at this year's convention. With their strong voices, we probably could have made up the necessary two points. But I'm really proud of you guys. We competed the best we could."

Music Judge **Susan Wood** told the chorus at the evaluation that followed their performance, "This chorus just sang beautifully. You have such beautiful movement in your presentation. Everything is always moving."

The Central Alabama chapter under the leadership of Host Chapter Chairman **Tony Ivey** put out a "ton of effort" to make sure the convention went off without a hitch. Tony's crew manned the registration desks, made sure that contestants got their photographs shot, got to the buses on time, made it into ready-rooms, had risers to perform on, and got to the stage at the Performing Arts Center on time.

Thanks to Tony and to all who made it such a rewarding weekend.

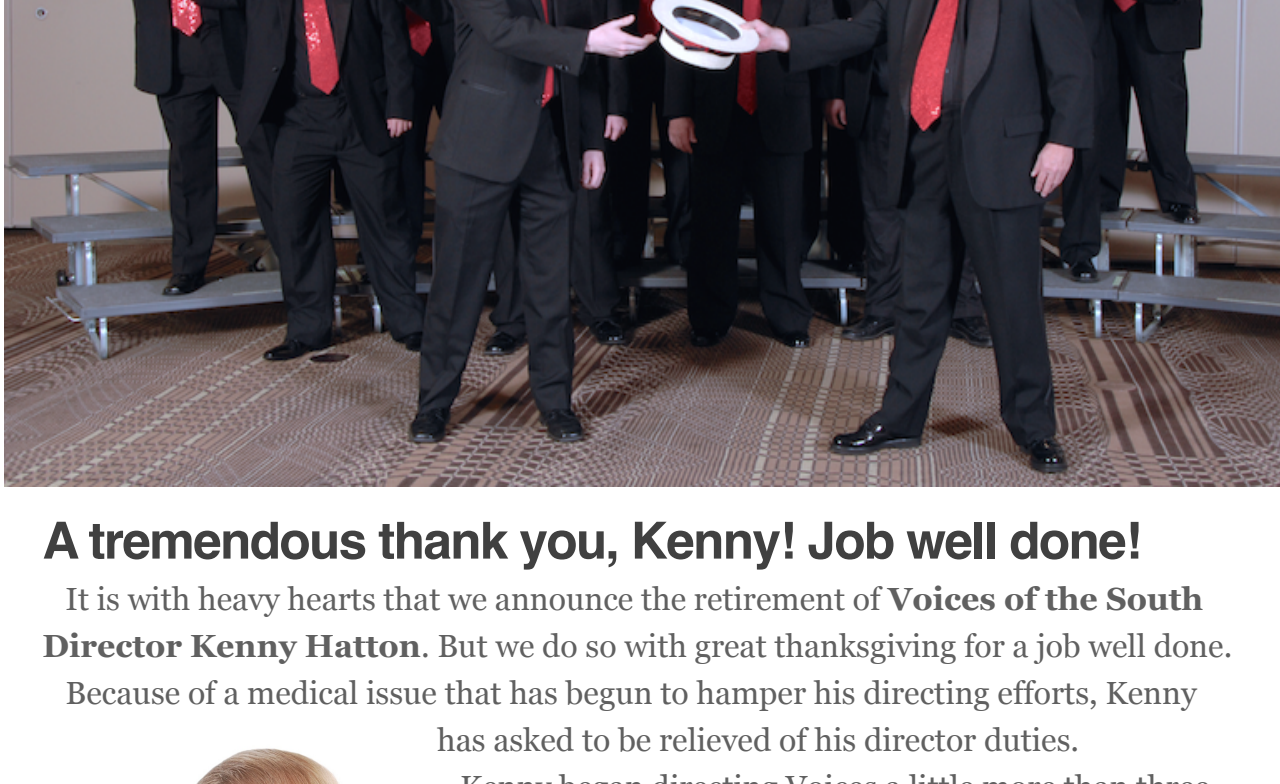
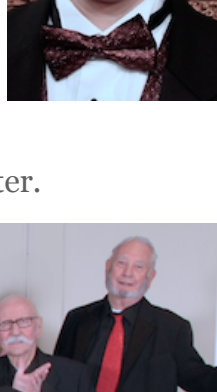
## Powell selected as Voices director

**Matt Powell** has been named the new director of **Voices of the South**. Effective April 1 Matt took over for **Kenny Hatton**, who resigned as director because of an ongoing health issue.

Matt, a native of the Dallas, Texas, area, is a graduate of Samford University where he was a vocal performance major. He has been a church choir director and is currently working in the private sector. Matt has been singing barbershop for a little over a year and is very active in the chorus and quartet activities.

We look forward to singing under Matt's leadership as he continues to grow in barbershop knowledge and experience.

To learn more about Matt, see the **Spotlight** section of this newsletter.



## A tremendous thank you, Kenny! Job well done!

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the retirement of **Voices of the South Director Kenny Hatton**. But we do so with great thanksgiving for a job well done.

Because of a medical issue that has begun to hamper his directing efforts, Kenny has asked to be relieved of his director duties.

Kenny began directing Voices a little more than three years ago. As an international champion quartet singer, an international champion chorus singer, and a top-five international chorus director, Kenny brought with him a wealth of knowledge about music — barbershop music in particular.

**Central Alabama Chapter President Ed Wharton** says, "Through the application of the singing craft and discipline that Kenny taught us, he has enabled Voices of the South to once again become one of the premiere choruses in the **Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society**. We will be forever grateful to Kenny for the impact he has had on our chapter while serving as our director."

We ask God's blessing for Kenny as he transitions into this next phase of his life.

**Love ya, Kenny — mean it!**

## Welcome to e-Voices

Welcome to the April edition of **e-Voices**, the monthly newsletter of the **Voices of the South**.

This newsletter is published by the **Central Alabama Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society**, to inform the public about what's going on with the chapter. We also want to provide information about upcoming performances of **Voices of the South**. We are a non-profit singing organization whose mission is to enrich lives through singing.

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## Looking for entertainment?

**Voices of the South** is ready.

Whether your event is a corporate dinner, a fundraiser, or singing the "Star Spangled Banner," we want to provide your entertainment.

We are about two-dozen men who sing A capella music in the barbershop style. We want to talk to you!

Please click hear and leave us a message. [VoicesOfTheSouth.com](#).

## Barbershop is Matt's new addiction

### Why sing?

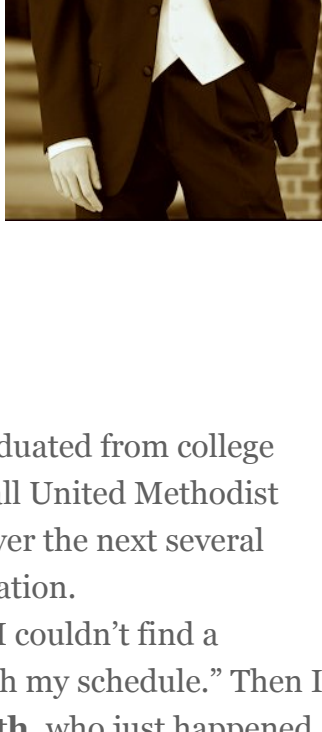
"I sing because God gave me a gift to spread to the world. I don't want it to go to waste." Matt says music has always been a part of life and singing has been the best way to express it.

"I crave the moments when I sing in a beautiful space and get goose bumps. When I touch people's hearts in ways I didn't think were possible, I know what it means to sing."

### Matt's Stats

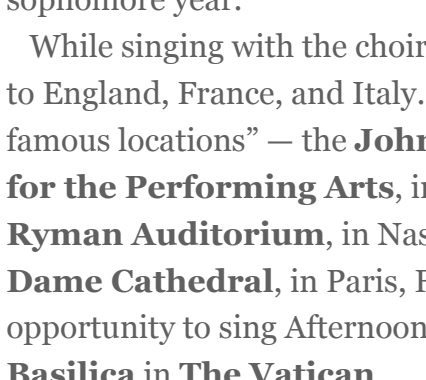
**Matthew Curtis Powell** grew up in Richardson, Texas, near Dallas. He is married to **Jennifer Leigh Powell**, who he met while attending Samford University. Both of them played in the marching band. She played a French Horn, he a trombone.

Matt graduated from Samford in December 2010. He works for an online educational proctoring service called **ProctorU** in Birmingham. The company offers online monitored testing for educational institutions. He's a floor manager.



### Barbershop Experience?

Barbershop music has been a "revitalizer for me. When I graduated from college with a music degree I took a job as a director of music at a small United Methodist Church in Bessemer, Ala." Matt worked there for two years. Over the next several years he took a more profitable career paths in retail and education.



"I was in a musical drought. I couldn't find a musical outlet that worked with my schedule." Then I found the **Voices of the South**, who just happened to rehearse on my off days. Barbershop has become his new musical addiction. "I just can't get enough of it."

### Singing Experience?

Matt's been singing since he was in elementary school, although he chose to do band, not chorus in middle school. He focused musically on band and the trombone until he got to college, although he participated in a church youth choir throughout high school.

When he attended college he decided to audition for the **Samford University A Capella Choir**. The rest is history. "I became a voice student during my sophomore year."

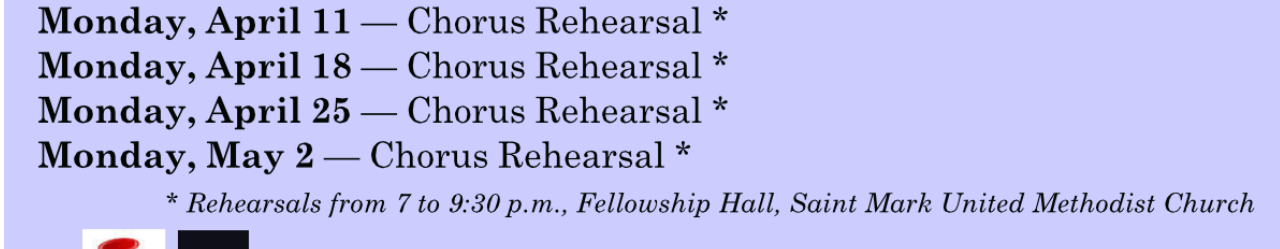
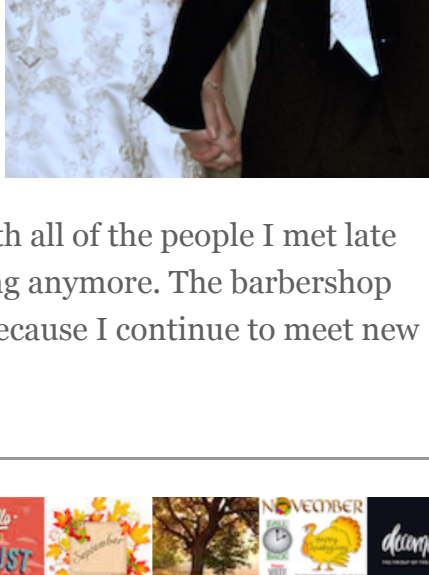
While singing with the choir, "I traveled throughout the United States and abroad to England, France, and Italy. I got to sing in many famous locations" — the **John F. Kennedy Center** for the Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C.; the **Ryman Auditorium**, in Nashville, Tenn.; **Notre-Dame Cathedral**, in Paris, France. Also I had the opportunity to sing Afternoon Mass at **St. Peter's Basilica in The Vatican**.

"I sing baritone in **Voices of the South**, although I have only been a barbershop singer for a year."

Matt became a **Barbershop Harmony Society** member in March 2015.

### An Anecdote ...

"My most memorable **Voices** experience was the first **Dixie District Convention and Competition** I got to go to. I was able to sing tags with all of the people I met late into the evening. We sang until we were too tired to sing anymore. The barbershop experience gets better each time I go to a convention because I continue to meet new barbershoppers and each time I go.



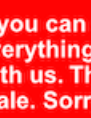
## 2016 — Calendar



### April

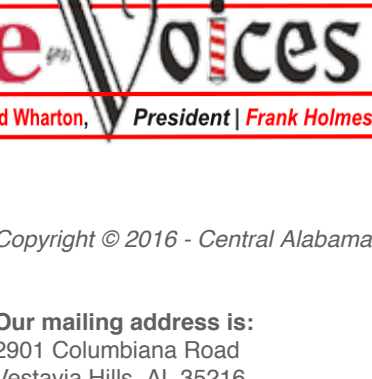
**Monday, April 4** — Chorus Rehearsal \*  
**Monday, April 11** — Chorus Rehearsal \*  
**Monday, April 18** — Chorus Rehearsal \*  
**Monday, April 25** — Chorus Rehearsal \*  
**Monday, May 2** — Chorus Rehearsal \*

\* Rehearsals from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Saint Mark United Methodist Church



### Upcoming

**Friday, July 1** — Perform National Anthem at Barons Baseball Game, Regions Field, Birmingham.  
**Friday, Dec. 16** — **Voices Christmas Show**, Performing Arts Center, Oxford, Ala.  
**Saturday, Dec. 17** — **Voices Christmas Show**, Lyric Theatre, Birmingham.



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The Central Alabama Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
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