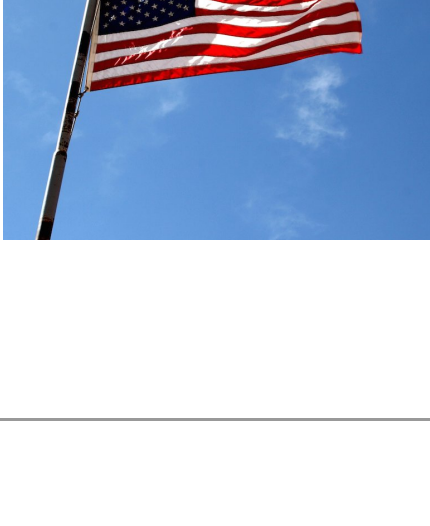


Voices to help celebrate America

Voices of the South has been invited to perform at the fourth-annual **I love America Celebration** at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bessemer June 24th at 7 p.m. This is a return engagement. Voices sung at last year's celebration.

The evening's events will feature performances by the **St. Aloysius Church Choir, Waylighter Gospel Quartet, and Voices of the South.** An audience sing along is also included. The purpose of the celebration is to honor God, our veterans and active duty military personnel.

Admission is free. We would love for you to join us for a fun evening of patriotic and religious music. St. Aloysius is located at 751 Academy Drive in Bessemer. Just take exit 108 off I-59. For more information visit their website at staloyusiuscc.org.



There's no better time to hear

Voices sing the National Anthem!

"Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light?"

Voices of the South will kick off the holiday weekend by singing a beautiful barbershop harmony version of "The Star Spangled Banner" at Regions Field in downtown Birmingham Friday night July 1st. The chorus will set the mood for the **Barons** as they play the **Biloxi Shuckers**. Batter up is at 7:05 p.m.

Also, please plan on coming to the park a little early because Voices will be singing an "impromptu" mini-concert outside the stadium before the game. "We will provide plenty of chill bumps as we belt out "God Bless the USA."

Come join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and — oh yeah — baseball.

God Bless America!

‘Silver Lining’ gearing up

for Dixie District contesting

Voices of the South has an official quartet that will represent the chapter for the first time at the Fall Convention and Contest in Atlanta in October.

Daniel Hipps, Alex Garrison, Matt Powell and **Ed Wharton** started singing together in August 2015. When they got "serious" about coming up with a name for the quartet in January, all four submitted ideas. Following a lot of discussion, Daniel's idea was chosen — **Silver Lining**.

Daniel, who is the lead, and Ed, the seasoned bass, had sung together in the **Steel City Four** quartet that disbanded in the summer of 2015. Daniel had also sung with Alex in college.

Alex adds the tenor to the group. "We all get along very well. We are very compatible," Alex says. "We have only sung in public once since we started practicing together. But, that went really well."

Matt, who sings baritone, is one of the newer members of **Voices**. He also became **Voices'** director in April.

"We work really well together," Matt says. "It's because all of us want to compete and we work really hard both at home to prepare for practice and at our weekly practices."

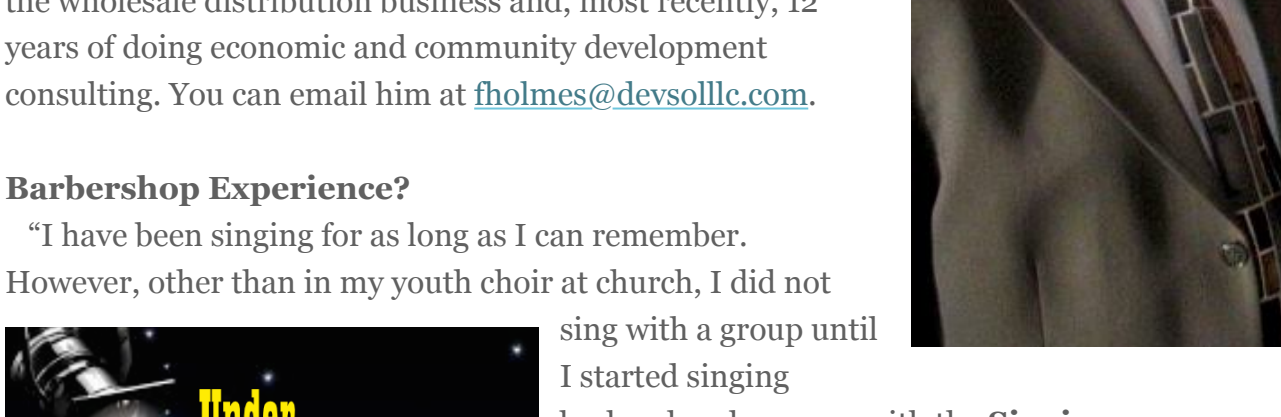
"When we got together in August 2015," Ed says, "we were amazed at how well our voices blended, especially the top three parts. That really makes the bass's job much easier."

When they first started, they learned a couple of songs and then began working on Christmas music for the **Voices** show. They are building up quite a repertoire that includes, "Bare Necessities," and "Recipe for Love." The group tries to get together once a week to practice.

"When we pick out the music we want to sing," Ed says, "we try to involve everyone in the choice. Ultimately, the lead has to buy into the song, though."

They are working at having each of the guys pick a song or two that features his part. The group is currently learning "This Is All I Ask," a 1958-number written by **Gordon Jenkins**, and made famous by **Frank Sinatra** in 1965 on his Grammy-award-winning album "September of My Years."

Every one of the guys say that "This Is All I Ask" is their favorite piece.



From left, Alex Garrison, Ed Wharton, Daniel Hipps and Matt Powell make up the quartet, Silver Lining.

Frank's been singing 'barbershop' for 48 years

Why do you sing?

It's because I breathe. I can't imagine not singing. It's a fantastic way to open oneself up to people and touch their lives. Plus science has shown it relieves stress and helps one live longer. You just can't beat that!"

Frank's Stats

Horace Franklin Holmes, Jr. was born in Birmingham on September 29, 1948. He has been married to his wife **Marti** for 35 years this month. They have three children **Katie, Becky and Jay** and two grandsons, **Mac and Beau**.

He is mostly retired from gainful employment after 25 years in the wholesale distribution business and, most recently, 12 years of doing economic and community development consulting. You can email him at fholmes@devsollc.com.

Barbershop Experience?

"I have been singing for as long as I can remember. However, other than in my youth choir at church, I did not



sing with a group until I started singing

barbershop harmony with the **Singing Gentlemen Chorus** when I was in college. The chorus was later renamed the **Alabama Jubilee Chorus**. After graduating from Samford

University in 1970, I moved to Monroe, La., where I became a charter member of the **Monroe, La., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society**. Later I sang with the **Shreveport, La., Chapter** after moving there. When I returned to

Birmingham in the fall of 1975 I began singing again with the **Singing Gentlemen**. At the tender

(but-not-so-wise) age of 28, I became the director of the chorus. I held the position for nearly eight years before retiring from directing to help my wife raise our family. I have sung in numerous quartets over the years, usually singing **baritone** or **bass**. I began singing with **Voices of the South** a couple of years after they were formed. I have been singing barbershop for 48 years.

An Anecdote ...

I have had many thrills over the years singing barbershop. One was when I co-directed **The Alabama Jubilee Chorus** in the fall contest in 1978 when we qualified to go to the **International Contest** in Minneapolis, Minn.

A second was when the **Alabama Jubilee** did a pops concert with the **Alabama Symphony Orchestra**. We got a standing ovation and a curtain call from the packed house.

With **Voices of the South** I would say it was the first time we performed "Hush" on our annual show. I was privileged to direct the song. The chorus performed so well it ended up being a show stopper.

Another highlight was traveling to Russia when **Voices** was selected to represent the Barbershop Harmony Society at the **Russia Barbershop Festival** in 2006.

As you might imagine, over the course of 48 years I have had many memorable experiences singing barbershop — way too many for this article.



Hey, come sing with us!



We meet for practice just about every Monday night. We hope you will come by and sing with us.

You don't have to be an accomplished singer to be in **Voices**. Most of us don't read music. We use part-predominant "learning tracks" to help us learn our music. And, we provide sheet music for those who are used to it.

If you can sing "Happy Birthday," we can teach you everything you need to know to hop on stage with us. There's one restriction, though. You have to be a male. Sorry ladies!

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

Recent visitors

We love to have guests drop in on our Monday night rehearsals.

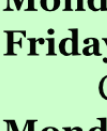
In May we had six people participate in our practices.

Jeff Cornelius from Hoover, Ala.; **Hayden Green** from Gardendale; **Rusty Green** from Gardendale, Ala.; **Joel Megginson** from Birmingham; **Robert Mills** from Birmingham; and **Dustin Springer** from McCalla, Ala.

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



2016 — Calendar



June

Monday, June 6 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, June 13 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, June 20 — Chorus Rehearsal *

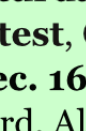
Friday, June 24 — Patriotic Program, Saint Aloysius Catholic Church in Bessemer, Ala., 7 p.m.

Monday, June 27 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Friday, July 1 — Sing National Anthem, Barons Baseball Game, Regions Field, Birmingham

Monday, July 4 — God Bless America!

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



Upcoming

Friday, July 1 — Sing National Anthem, Barons Baseball Game, Regions Field, Birmingham.

Sunday-Saturday, July 3-9 — Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention, Bridgestone Arena, Nashville

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 7-9 — Dixie District Fall Convention and Contest, Crown Plaza Atlanta at Perimeter, Atlanta.

Friday, Dec. 16 — Voices Holiday Show, Performing Arts Center, Oxford, Ala.



