

March – New Members

Alfa Insurance

Barbara Cantrell
28825 Highway 5
Woodstock, AL 35188
Phone: 205-475-5339, Fax: 205-938-9721
Email: bcantrell@alfains.com
Business Category: Insurance

Bessemer / West Jefferson Co. AARP Chp. 5418 Inc.

E. W. Phillips
638 Flint Hill Road
Bessemer, AL 35022
Phone: 205-541-5259
Email: phil1340@bellsouth.net
Business Category: Non Profit

Bessemer City Schools

LaBrenda Marshall
1801 Clarendon Avenue
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-424-1902
Business Category: Education

Brown Professional Home Inspections, LLC

Joseph W. Brown Jr.
1813 Lake Cyrus Club Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244
Phone: 205-249-7147, Fax: 205-425-1432
Email: jbrown@brownhomeinspections.com
Business Category: Home Inspection

CMS Flooring Floors to Go

Lisa Hester, Phyllis Stinson
1921 26th Avenue
Hueytown, AL 35023
Phone: 205-497-2100, Fax: 205-497-4455
Email: cmsflooring@aol.com
Business Category: Flooring - Retail / Commercial

Colonial Bank

Mariesha Morrow
200 18th Street North
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-445-2297, Fax: 205-424-7672
Email: mariesha_morrow@colonialbank.com
Business Category: Bank
Website: www.colonialbank.com

Corkren Insurance LLC

William (Bill) Corkren, John Corkren
1516 Ninth Avenue N.
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-565-0060, Fax: 205-565-0058
Email: bcorkren@live.com
Business Category: Insurance

Cradle to Crayons - Brighter Horizons Child Dev.

Gloria W. Beverly

5201 Sugar Ray Drive
Birmingham, AL 35228
Phone: 205-426-7882, Fax: 205-426-7884
Email: ann1978@bellsouth.net
Business Category: Daycare / School

David J. Hobdy, Attorney at Law

David Hobdy
501 19th Street North Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-426-8391, Fax: 205-425-0260
Email: attyhobdy@bellsouth.net
Business Category: Attorney

Gulf States Mortgage Corporation

Michael Ali, Pam Williams
2807 Greystone Commercial Blvd Ste 34
Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: 205-991-9077, Fax: 205-995-3064
Email: MichaelAli35@aol.com
Business Category: Mortgage Loan Officer
Website: www.gsmcteam.com/2080

INDIVIDUALS:

Greg Harris

912 Dauphin Street
Mobile, AL 36604

Dan C. King

615 Courthouse Annex
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-481-4175, Fax: 205-424-2006

Nick Lamons

6772 Eastern Valley Road
McCalla, AL 35111
Phone: 205-477-8138
Email: SRLNEL@aol.com

A. Scott Roebuck

1722 Second Avenue N.
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-424-4090, Fax: 205-424-4097
Email: ascottr@bellsouth.net

J. Renee's Styling Salon

Jacqueline Bell
211 17th Street North
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-426-6019
Business Category: Beauty Shop

James Foster Heating & Air Conditioning Services

James Foster
532 Westchester Drive
Bessemer, AL 35022
Phone: 205-428-0718
Business Category: Heating & Air

Jefferson County Courthouse

Deshelah Latham
2332 23rd Street West
Birmingham, AL 35208
Phone: 205-786-7861
Business Category: Individual

Kiwanis Club of Bessemer

Rex Parvin
PO Box 340
Bessemer, AL 35021
Phone: 205-602-8139
Email: rparvin21@bellsouth.net
Business Category: Club

Liberty National Life Insurance Co.

Gene Cochran, Eddie Milner
2001 Third Avenue S. Ste 401
Birmingham, AL 35233
Phone: 205-715-2385, Fax: 205-715-2387
Email: geneveda@bellsouth.net
Business Category: Insurance

McKesson Corporation

Tami Webb, Gary Smith
6775 Jefferson Metro Parkway
McCalla, AL 35111
Phone: 205-477-2620, Fax: 205-477-2660
Email: tami.webb@mckesson.com
Business Category: Wholesale Distribution
Website: www.mckesson.com

New Generation Charters

Samuel Bender, Faye Crenshaw
1027 18th Street
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-424-6928, Fax: 205-426-8673
Business Category: Charter Bus Service

Pediatrics 459

Lisa Singleton
6250 Park South Dr.
Bessemer, AL 35022
Phone: 205-425-5440, Fax: 205-425-5513
Business Category: Doctor - Pediatric
Website: www.pediatrics459.com

The Housing Authority of the City of Bessemer

Alphonso Patrick
101 Leaf Lake Blvd #1604
Birmingham, AL 35211
Phone: 205-481-4420, Fax: 205-481-4484
Email: apatrick@besha.org
Business Category: Housing Authority

The Western Star

Syble Lamons
1709 Third Avenue N.
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-424-7827
Email: editor@thewesternstarnews.com
Business Category: Newspaper

Thomas C. Pendleton, MD

985 Ninth Avenue SW Ste 406
Bessemer, AL 35022
Phone: 205-481-7470
Email: DRTCP@aol.com
Business Category: Doctor

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Gladys Knight Comes to Bessemer

On Saturday and Sunday night, March 21st and 22nd, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosted approximately 4,000 attendees at four firesides featuring Gladys Knight and her Grammy Award Winning Saints United Voices Choir. Located at 831 Briarwood Drive in Bessemer, the local Bishop and Stake President were thrilled with the response as there was standing room only for all four performances. Bishop Daryl Bush worked tirelessly to make sure all accommodations and facilities were ready. The Bessemer Alabama Stake President, Lanny Smartt said, "What a great way to share our testimony of Jesus Christ with the people in our various communities. We want to thank Gladys Knight, her family and her choir for the great music and testimonies of the divine nature of God, the great sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ, and for sharing their talents with us."

Gladys Knight was born to Merald Woodlow Knight and Sarah Elizabeth Woods. In 1952 at the age of 7, after months of competition, due to her powerful singing voice, Gladys won the finals on the very popular Ted Mack's Original Amateur Hour TV show contest. Gladys Knight & the Pips were an [R&B/soul](#) musical act from [Atlanta, Georgia](#), active from 1953 to 1989. The group was best known for their string of hit singles from 1967 to 1975, including "[I Heard It Through the Grapevine](#)" (1967) and "[Midnight Train to Georgia](#)" (1973). The longest-lived incarnation of the act featured [Gladys Knight](#) on lead vocals, with The Pips, who included her brother [Merald "Bubba" Knight](#) and their cousins [Edward Patten](#) and [William Guest](#), as backup singers. In 1996 Gladys Knight & the Pips were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Gladys is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and during the Bessemer appearance sang a memorable and heart touching song, "[I Am a Child of God](#)". With a diverse group of choir members of various ethnic backgrounds the choir rendered what can only be called a testimony of Christ in music. The SUV Choir was created and is directed by Gladys Knight. Its mission is to build faith while breaking down cultural barriers. All who attended the concert felt blessed and humble and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was thankful to make this event possible in the Bessemer area. President Smartt said, "We as Church members know that Jesus Christ is our Savior. This opportunity to share the talents of such an outstanding group representing the Church, is one way we can share our knowledge that God lives and He sent His Son to redeem us all."

Pastor Reginald Calvert was Presented Award from Samford University Divinity School

Samford University's Beeson Divinity School has honored Bessemer minister Reginald W. Calvert as its 2009 Master of Divinity Alumnus of the Year. Rev. Calvert received the award and plaque from Beeson Divinity School dean Dr. Timothy George. Rev. Calvert, pastor of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Bessemer, received his Masters of Divinity degree at Beeson in 2005. While a student, he was selected by the Beeson faculty as the school's 2005 outstanding student preacher. He has served the Bessemer Church for 10 years with his wife, Karla McPherson Calvert, who is an integral part of his ministry.

He is also an assistant dean and a certified instructor in the Mount Pilgrim District Congress of Christian Education, and an instructor in the Certificate of Progress program of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. He has taught and preached at conferences sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. He has served as a chaplain at Baptist Medical Center Princeton and has participated in various other mission efforts.



Pictured L to R: Wendy Calvert, Maggie Calvert, Rev. Reginald Calvert, Karla M. Calvert, Agnes McPherson, Dr. Johnathon McPherson



Bessemer's First African-Americans, l-r; LaTasha Cook, Grover Dunn, Dorothy Welch, Priscilla Dunn, Christine Myles, Cornelius Fancher, Millie Thomas.

The Concerned Citizens Recognize Chamber's LaTasha Cook

The Concerned Citizens of the Bessemer Cut-Off held its Twenty-fifth Annual African American Heritage Banquet on February 27th at the Bessemer Civic Center. The theme was "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

They acknowledged the contributions of African Americans in the history of this country and proudly recognized the contributions of local Bessemer citizens in the progress of the Bessemer Community. Those recognized as "Bessemer's Firsts" African Americans were: Quitman Mitchell-Mayor of Bessemer, City Councilman at-large and Barber Commissioner; Grover Dunn-Principal of Jess Lanier High School, Deputy Probate Judge, Tax Collector, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the Association of Alabama Tax Administrators; Bessie Pippens-Female City Councilor; Cornelius Fancher-Policeman; Christine Myles-Female Firefighter; Harold Wright-Male Firefighter; LaTasha Cook- Vice President, Bessemer Area Chamber of Commerce.

The "Shining Stars" honored were Commissioner Shelia Smoot- Best Talk Show Host and Serving the Community; Dorothy Welch-Community Service, Dedication and commitment; Dr. Lillie Thomas- Serving the Religious Community, Dedication and Commitment; Jess Lanier High School- Bronze Medal- America's Best High Schools U.S. News and World Report.

The Concerned Citizens Recognize Chamber's LaTasha Cook (Continued)

Dr. Lydia Alexander served as Toast Mistress; Lue Ruth Colvin rendered instrumental music on the organ. The Invocation and Benediction was administered by Pastor Victor L. Harkins, Sr. Charles Diggins and Company rendered the music selections for the Banquet. Commissioner Shelia Smoot, Judge Eugene Verin and LaTasha Cook brought greetings and Pastor Alfonza January did the grace. Representative Priscilla Dunn and Claire Mitchell presented the "Shining Stars" and "Bessemer's Firsts." Grover Dunn presented the scholarship recipients with \$500.00 scholarships. They were Demarcus J. Brown (#1 in his Class), Sean Hudson, Keeneshia Rancher, Angel Colvin and Victoria Williams, all from Jess Lanier High School. Councilor Jesse Matthews recognized the special guests and Quitman Mitchell (*former Mayor of Bessemer*) did the appreciations. Representative Dunn presented plaques to Simmie Roberson for the highest number of ad sales and Sarah Belcher for highest number of tickets sold. Committee members are Alfred Moorer, Lola Dial, Karen Burks, Celia Jackson, Mildred Cook, Rosie Harris, Dorothy Davidson, Loretta Walker, Lillie Patterson, Eric Burks, Wanda Thomas, Ernestine McNair, John Smith, Sr., Jhonnye Pl Lassister, Anita Bryant, Shirley Hudson, Valerie Watkins and Representative Priscilla Dunn, general chairperson and President. Spotted in the crowd were Judges Alan King, Clyde Jones, Joseph Boohaker, Robert Byron, Suzanne Childers, David Lichtenstein, Jack Lowther, Tommy Nail, Laura Petro, Caryl Privett, Teresa Pulliam, Virginia Vinson, Anetta Verin, Sheldon Watkins, Dan King, Ralph Coleman, Jill Ganus and Sherri Friday.

Also spotted were Ronnie Acker, Jennifer & Jim Champion, Earl Cochran, Arthur Green, Billy Tindle, Shelby Tindle, Bill Vietch, Darryl Dewberry, A.J. Pippens, Ethel Borden, Lois Merriweather, Moeshia Mayes, Phyllis Campbell, Willie Thomas, Reverend Robert Scott, Reverend Korey Crawford, Reverend C.D. Patterson, George Alexander, LaKindra Harkins and Reverend Ron Percy, Danielle Crawford, Aretha Percy and Virginia Blankenship.

Peyton Manning Addresses Boy Scout's American Values

The Boy Scouts of America hosted their annual American Values luncheon on March 3rd at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center with Super Bowl and NFL MVP Peyton Manning as the featured speaker. It was a great event with over 2,000 attending. Awards were also presented including one to our own Past Chairman of the Board, Jon Staggs of Alabama Power. Several board members were seen attending the event besides Jon and they included Sunny Lippert, David Darby and Pam Segars-Morris. All proceeds went to support the Boy Scouts with over \$1,000,000 raised. It was a very successful and worthy event.

Bessemer's FOP Hosts Annual CLUTCH Concert

"Clutch" was outstanding and the Bessemer FOP were excellent hosts as large crowds gathered both nights, March 6th and 7th, at the Bessemer Civic Center. If you enjoy 1950-70s music you missed a treat if you were not there. Every year the FOP of Bessemer uses this performance as their primary means of raising money for all of they're various charitable activities. The Chamber congratulates the FOP on another outstanding event.

30th Annual Alabama Technology Student Association State Conference

On March 24th and 25th the Bessemer Civic Center was the site for this year's Alabama Technology Student Association State Conference. Using the TSA Motto of "Learning to live in a technical world", the conference utilized competition which included simulated job interviews, technology problem solving, digital photography, cyberspace, promotional graphics, desktop publishing, graphic design, medical technology challenge, engineering designs, essays, structural challenges, architectural models, drag races, and flight/transportation challenges. The extemporaneous and prepared speeches were outstanding with the students participating excelling. Students came from all over the state under the leadership of their student president, Michael Benter and State TSA Advisor Ben Scheierman, Alabama State Department of Education. It was an enjoyable event and your Chamber participated by furnishing judges for the competitions.

**Check out our annual calendar at
www.bessemerchamber.com**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
TAMMY GUNNIN AT 426.4446

Bessemer Salvation Army Banquet

The local Salvation Army Bessemer Corps Community Center held its 2009 Annual Banquet at the Bessemer Civic Center on March 17th with noted Christian humorist and preacher Lee McBride as keynote speaker. Captains Brian and Shannon Tompkins welcomed a large crowd of board member, civic leaders, and supporters to a great meal and program. Judge Eric Fancher kicked the program off and installed three new board members in Pam Segars-Morris, Ronnie Acker and Micah Blunt.

Birmingham Chamber Image Survey

The Birmingham Chamber completed an Image Perception Survey of the area with some interesting results. Marketing Students from the Brock School of Business at Samford University took on the project as part of their Fall 2008 course of study. The project tried to understand the image perceptions of Birmingham by Birmingham area residents. 1,220 surveys were completed in the Birmingham area both online and in one-on-one interviews. Feeling like home was a strength for the City while Safe/Dangerous and Progressive/Behind the Times were boarder line toward negative. Some highlights that are positive for the region were: Medical District, Higher Education and Family Oriented fell in the High Performance/High Importance quartile with Religious Institutions and Arts/Culture/Entertainment both in the High Performance/Low Importance quartile. Our region has its pluses and our perception of ourselves is good but needs to be a lot better. The Birmingham region is important to all the municipalities making their home here and we grow together.

March – New Members (Continued)

Torme Foods

Marvin Torme

527 N. 20th Street

Bessemer, AL 35020

Phone: 205-428-7110

Fax: 205-428-7113

Email: marv527@bellsouth.net

Business Category: Grocery Store

Training Associates, Inc.

Ed & Karen Rohrbach

7630 Sherry Lane

McCalla, AL 35111

Phone: 205-477-0810

Fax: 205-477-7627

Email: office@T-A-I.com

Business Category: Safety Training

Website: www.T-A-I.com

Utility Auditing Inc.

Leigh DeWitt

3171 Green Valley Road, #222

Birmingham, AL 35243

Phone: 205-616-1890

Fax: 205-262-1313

Email: ldewitt@utilityauditing.us

Business Category: Auditor

Website: www.utilityauditing.us

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Please contact Brent Griffith at 936-0252.

Dates to Remember...

April 10 – Good Friday

April 12 – Easter Sunday

May 10 – Mother's Day

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Dr. Deborah Horn, DH Consulting

Past Chairman

Jon Staggs, Alabama Power

Chairman Elect

David Darby, Bank Trust

Treasurer / Finance Chairman

Keith Pennington, Medical West

Dr. Cynthia Anthony, Lawson State

Kobe Bone, Premiere Cinema

Dr. Jeremy Burns, Eagle Vision

Jim Byram, Development Solutions

Doug Caddell, Canaan Baptist Church

Randy Donaldson, Alabama Gas Co.

CeCe Doss, Wilson Pallet & Packaging

Don Holmes, Holmes Oil

Howard Johnson Jr., Johnson Funeral Home

Lynn Joyce, First Financial Bank

Sunny Lippert, Attorney

Tom Nicholson, US Pipe & Foundry Co.

Erik Raymond, Rural Metro Ambulance

Allen Rice, ITT Technical Institute

Pam Segars-Morris, Sebro Realty

Steve Self, Buffalo Rock Company

Van Sykes, Bob Sykes BBQ

Nelda Weaver, Weaver Land & Realty, Inc.