Welcome, Sam Cox, Minister of Music
Staff Parish Relations Committee
Dean Stone, Chairman

Sam Cox was born in Baltimore, MD and became interested in church music from a very early age. He graduated from Furman University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Music degree in theory and composition. An aspiring composer, he received a number of performances and won several competitions, one of which -- sponsored by Unicorn Music Co. and the American Guild of Organists -- resulted in the publication of his anthem Psalm 121. Although intending to be a minister of music directly after college, the opportunity did not present itself for several years, after which Sam served a Southern Baptist congregation and a Church of the Brethren on a bi-vocational basis. Hoping to expand his musical horizons, Sam earned a Master of Music in choral conducting from Yale School of Music through the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, from which he also received a certificate. At the doctoral level, he was lured by the call of historical musicology, earning a Ph.D. from Indiana University in 2007. He taught music history, literature, and appreciation as an adjunct at various universities in Wisconsin, Tennessee, and North Carolina, where budget cuts resulted in the elimination of his position. After a full year of unemployment, he accepted the call to State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, VA, where he served for over five years. In addition to his musical duties, he managed print communications, facilities scheduling, and as a certified lay speaker in the Holston Conference often preached at the church's chapel service in the absence of one of the pastors.

Besides music, Sam's other passion is history, especially transportation history, including trains, streetcars, and ocean liners. He might often be found at a railroad museum, riding on a rail excursion behind a steam locomotive, or hiking along some stretch of abandoned right of way.
January 3, 2016

**Isaiah 60: 1-6:** Commonly believed to be coming from the prophet identified as Third Isaiah, this promise reassures the people of Israel of their deliverance and restoration. The tone is triumphant and joyful. God comes to bring light to God’s people and to draw all nations to the glory of Jerusalem.

**Psalm 72**

**Ephesians 3:1-12:** Just as Epiphany is the season during which we recall the “manifestation” of Jesus to the Gentiles, the ongoing task of the church is to make Christ known as the one in whom all peoples find unity, peace, and salvation.

**Matthew 2:1-12:** Matthew gives us a story that shows how the significance of the birth of Jesus reaches far beyond a manger in Bethlehem. Jesus’ birth threatens a king in the capital city, even as kings from some distance come to worship the Christ child.

January 10, 2016

**Isaiah 43:1-7:** The prophet Isaiah relays a message of hope. The people who have been scattered will be brought together in response to God’s word of blessing. The Creator God is present with us.

**Psalm 29**

**Acts 8:14-17:** The Holy Spirit, so visibly present in Luke’s description of the baptism of Jesus, is also seen as present and active in the ministry of the church. God’s blessing extends to, and through, Christ’s disciples.

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22:** In the culture of Jesus’ time, people behaved according to their status at birth. God’s call and blessing gives the child of a carpenter very clear and very different recognition of authority.

January 17, 2016

**Isaiah 62:1-5:** Hear these words from Third Isaiah, and as you hear/read them feel the affirmation of being someone in whom the God of the Universe takes great delight.

**Psalm 36**

**I Corinthians 12:1-11:** The gifts any of us possess come from God, and we are dependent on each other and each other’s gifts for the full and healthy functioning of the family of faith.

**John 2:1-11:** The old wine has been used up. It’s all gone. Jesus has come into the world, and there is new wine now—more than enough for all of us—and its newness will both stun us and excite us.

January 24, 2016

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10:** Unless we take the time and make the effort to understand what we read in scripture and what is read to us, we have not spent our time wisely. Nehemiah’s message to us is clear and understandable.

**Psalm 19**

**I Corinthians 12:12-31a:** One of my Evangelism Professors in seminary told us regularly, “I am just one blind person leading other blind people to the bread.” If you can understand that statement then you can understand what Paul meant to say to faith communities about how we work together to accomplish God’s purpose.

**Luke 4:14-21:** Listen as Jesus describes his mandate for ministry. It’s mine…and yours too.

January 31, 2016

**Jeremiah 1:4-10:** Have you ever felt drawn to a ministry—an act that would glorify the Kingdom—for which you felt unprepared or unqualified? Listen up!

**Psalm 71**
I Corinthians 13:1-13: Listen to/Read these words of grace and love, and keep in mind that Paul wrote them to the most contentious and un-loving group with which he had ever had to deal.

Luke 4:21-30: Challenging the status quo can be difficult. It can be the catalyst that will turn others against you. Sometimes it seems that the status quo is more important than anything else.

**Orchard Sermon Series**

*Chris Martin, Associate Pastor*

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**Simplify.**

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January 3, 2016 8:30 / Orchard / 11:00 “Scattered & Smothered”
Ephesians 5:15-17 / Philippians 4:6-7 / Psalm 46:10 / Romans 12:2 / Mark 6:31

January 10, 2016 Orchard “Less is More”

January 17, 2016 Orchard “Building Bridges”
Romans 12:14-21 / Ephesians 4:29-32 / Philippians 2:1-4

January 24, 2016 Orchard “What Matters in the End”
Mark 12:29-31 / John 15:12-13 / 1 Corinthians 13
In Reach Ministries
Faye Cook, In Reach Coordinator

Grief Seminars Give Comfort to Many
Each year, the In Reach Ministry provides several seasonal activities. The “Grief During the Holidays” Series is led by Rev. Carl Malm over four Monday nights. Set up, snacks, etc. are coordinated by the In Reach Program. This year, Carl provided comfort to 60 participants in total (some came to all sessions; sure joined us later in the series). As usual, the feedback was full of gratitude and fellowship. All agreed that this is a most appreciated ministry.

Poinsettia for Our Home-Bound
The homebound visiting team delivered live poinsettias to members of Latham’s congregation who are home-bound. Approximately 30 plants were delivered as a concrete sign of Latham’s caring and the spirit of the season.

UMW 2015 Accomplishments
Judy Gillespie, President

Pledged $5,680.00 to district UMW
Donated 31 boxes to Honduras
Donated 50 birthing kits to UMCOR
World Thank Offering $387.53
Prayer & Self Denial $559.35
Unity Festival – 16 doz. Cookies
Lunches to Acquaris Club
Collected toys for Manna House
Eye Glasses for mission trips
Serves at Manna House
69 gifts to Operation Santa Clause
Hosted Mother/Daughter Banquet
Gift cards to college students
Meals provided to sick members
1,300 soup labels to Red Bird Mission
$315.00 Henderson Settlement
Coordinated & furnished cakes for Cake Walk – Fall Festival
450 lbs. Christian literature Edwin Hodges Ministries
Prescription bottles for Huntsville Free Clinic
17 Cuddle Bear sets to Huntsville Hospital
Collected plastic bags to make mats for homeless
1,000 soup labels to Henderson Settlement
(painted & replaced flooring at schools)
150 fronts of greeting cards for St. Jude Ranch for Children
$244.00 collected for district Bouquet of Blessings
Aluminum can pop tops to Ronald McDonald House
Hosted reception for new Sr. minister
Collected plastic twist off bottle caps
Sent cards to world wide UMW supporters
Hosted Bishop Debra Wallace Padgett for UMW Sunday
Blessings and Happy New Year to all!

Turn in your 2016 Pledge Cards!
They are used to assist in preparing the operating budget.
Mission Mondays went to Christmas Charities over Thanksgiving break to work.

**Children’s Ministry**
*Susan Terry, Minister of Connect and Children’s Ministry*

From Monday, November 16th to the 23rd, 104 shoeboxes were taken to the collection site located at First Baptist Church. During this same week some were taken by Latham members to Epworth UMC. In December, six were transported to the processing facility in Atlanta by a helpful person. This means over 110 boxes going to children in need! 2016 is now here so be collecting your items each month so that you can join the fun!
Happy New Year from LUMCDC! We wrapped up 2015 with lots of holiday cheer! Thanks to generous hearts from LUMCDC families and LUMC members we were able to deliver 46 pairs of pajamas and 1,280 diapers to the Manna House to benefit families in our community. What a blessing to share warmth and love with others- THANK YOU! Also, thanks to fundraising efforts and a monetary donation we were able to purchase an additional iPad for our 4 year old classroom. Scholastic Book and PBS apps have wonderful educational videos to enhance learning in the classroom. We are ready to ring in 2016 with continued fun and learning at LUMCDC!

**Buchanan Scholarship Fund Donations for 2015**

*From…*

- Anna Zelinsky in memory of Cathy Green and in honor of Chris & Liz Hauer
- Ralph & Ginny Green in memory of Bob Wyne, Jack Hagler, Minnie & Claude N. Buchanan, Sr., John Daniel
- Ralph & Ginny Green in honor of Jack Matheney and Hughey Reynolds
- Mr. & Mrs. Gene Crane in memory of Mary Jen Crane
- Liz & Chris Hauer in honor of Ginny Green
- Mr. & Mrs. Gene Crane in honor of Ginny Green
- Anonymous Gifts
Memorial Contributions
Finance Committee

Gifts were given in memory of…

Paul Bowers to the Elderberries from Al & Eunice Bellingrath; Don & Ramona Bowden; Dot Coombe
Harrison Brown from Bill & Amma Barnes; Al & Eunice Bellingrath; Cal Blevins; Robin Bolduc; Don & Ramona Bowden; Tristin Casteel; David & Clara Conley; Victor & Mary Neiland; Donna Owens; Philip & Rhonda Ryan; Olive Samuel; Richard & Frances Westrich; Jim & Mary Jane Williams; Susan Wingard
David Chapman from David & Clara Conley
Pat Cheek from Michael Bailey; Al & Eunice Bellingrath; Don & Ramona Bowden, Kay & Robert Brotherton; Elizabeth & Waymer Brown; Glenn & Carolyn Burkhalter; James Cheek; Darrell & Marilyn Mott; North Alabama Unit 232 ACBL; Pediatric Cardiology of UAB; Karen Sitzler; M. & K. Vaughn; Jim and Mary Jane Williams; Jane Wilson; Ovelle Wood; John & Carolyn Glaese to the Hands of Christ Fund
John Daniel from David & Clara Conley; Courtney and Mitt Sadler; Harry Willing
Sandy Ekstrom’s mother from Philip & Rhonda Ryan to the Hands of Christ Fund
Bill Hovik from Don & Ramona Bowden; Bill & Joey Evans; John & Carolyn Glaese, James & Misty Glover, Jeff & Jackie Langhout, Doris O’Donel; Paul & Paula Stutts; Ernest & June Young, to the Music Department
Lois Luttrell from Mildred Stephenson to the Discretionary Fund
Frank Savage from Al & Eunice Bellingrath; Kay & Robert Brotherton; Betty Deck; Delores Hall; Bill & Diana Savage; Susan & Steven Smullen
Arthur Schlumpf from Elfriede Schlumpf to the Hands of Christ Fund
Tom Stanford, from Fellowship Sunday School Class; Elaine McClure
Bill & Frankie Tally from Stephen & Susan Ellzey
Elaine Wilson from Cal Blevins; Don & Ramona Bowden; Elaine McClure; Herschel & Judy Moore to the InReach Ministries
To the Lillie Latham Fund, in memory of Jack Hagler, Edith Nevels, David Chapman, John Daniel, Gerald Livingston, and Pat Cheek from Carol Freyder
To the Music Fund and Beautification Fund in memory of Bonnie Tricoli, Gerald Livingston, Frank Savage, Pat Sinepole’s Dad, Art Schlumpf, Tom Stanford, and Pat Cheet from Carolyn Peters
To the Lillie Latham Scholarship Fund in memory of our parents and siblings from Ernest & June Young

Gifts were given in honor of…

Ann Askew from Susan Askew
Ira & Bernice Sutton from Stephen & Susan Ellzer
Latham United Methodist Church

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Cherry Keeton, Organist
Joey Evans, Pianist

Building Ministry Together

Our Mission

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Connecting generations to grow relationships with God, others, and creation.

Our Goals

1. Communicate our vision so the entire church and community will know it.
2. Organize intergenerational gatherings in the church and community that form mentoring relationships between all participants.
3. Simplify and align leadership structure to reflect and advance our vision.
4. Train and hire staff to become coaches in leadership development, intergenerational dialogue, mentoring, faith sharing, and creation stewardship.
5. Implement leadership training to equip laity to plan ministries that fulfill the church’s vision and goals.

Our Core Values

1. **Mission Focus:** Latham performs service in the world to promote individual, community, and environmental wholeness.
2. **Prayer:** Latham values prayer to direct and energize our work in accomplishing God’s vision.
3. **Gifts & Strengths:** Latham utilizes spiritual gifts and abilities of our members.
4. **Credibility:** Latham practices honesty, integrity, passion, and accountability to God and each other.