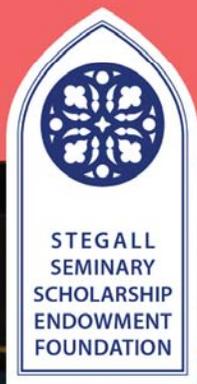


Summer 2018



# SHARING OUR MESSAGE

REGIONAL BANQUETS INTRODUCE THE  
STEGALL FOUNDATION TO NEW SUPPORTERS

# SHARING OUR MESSAGE

*Webster's* Dictionary defines the word "movement" as "a series of organized activities working toward an objective." In this spirit, the movement known as the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation is sharing its message across the Alabama - West Florida Conference by inviting others to join our efforts to support seminary students.

The foundation's board of directors recently began holding regional banquets in addition to the annual *Dinner of Celebration*, held each August in Montgomery. Three banquets have been held in 2018: Opelika, Ala. (March 1); Panama City, Fla. (April 26); and Pensacola, Fla. (May 14). Banquets are scheduled for Dothan, Ala. and Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Each banquet is organized by a group of clergy and lay supporters, and has a distinctive regional feel.

The first regional banquet, held in Opelika, featured Mr. David Housel, a strong supporter of the foundation. With an emphasis on eternal gifts, he said, "You know, the older I get, the more I realize that all of us want to make a difference. All of us want to make the world better. All of us want to leave a legacy. Yet, all things human will pass away," he said. "The only thing we can do that will truly last is what we do for other human beings. The Stegall Foundation gives us the opportunity to greatly influence tomorrow."

Rev. Robin Wilson, a foundation alumna and current member of the board of directors, also spoke of legacy. "As a student, as an alumna, and now as a pastor, it is my privilege to be able to continue to support others. We are a part of the legacy that has been handed down from generation to generation."

In Pensacola, Chris Varnson, who will attend Duke Divinity School, and Melanie Faust, who will attend Candler School of Theology, shared their excitement about enrolling in

seminary this fall. "The addition of Chris and Melanie as new seminary students gives us a total of nine students from the Pensacola District," said Dr. Karl K. Stegall.

The Marianna/Panama City District, led by Dr. Doug Pennington as District Superintendent, hosted an event at First United Methodist Church of Panama City, where Rev.



*Daniel and Tay Randall, standing, and Sonny & Gail Keigley and Joan Schuck, seated, enjoying the regional banquet held in Panama City on April 26 at First United Methodist Church of Panama City, Fla.*



*Jerry and May Garden (former Mayor of Pensacola and present members of FUMC of Pensacola) enjoy the banquet in Pensacola.*



Steve Rascoe serves as the pastor. "Although the importance of financial assistance cannot be overstated, another significant contribution of the Stegall Foundation is the emotional and spiritual support it provides," said Pennington. "Feeling cared-about is difficult to quantify, but it has immeasurable value to our seminary students during what can be a very demanding time in their lives.

Rev. Brad Goode, a foundation alumnus and graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary, shared a personal testimony of the significant difference the scholarship made in the life of his family of five while attending seminary. Goode now serves as the pastor of Good News UMC in Santa Rosa Beach. "As we were eating our dinner during the banquet, my daughter, Caroline, leaned over to me and said, 'It sure takes a lot of people to send somebody to seminary!' It sure does, but sadly many people do not have the support of a movement such as the Stegall Foundation behind them as I did."

"The regional banquet served as yet another reminder that seminary is a team sport," he said. "These events have been a great way to celebrate the work of the Foundation and invite others into this ministry as it continues to grow and develop leaders for the Kingdom of God!"

Mr. Stephen Smith and his wife, Cami, are members of Panama City FUMC, and are generous supporters of both their local church and the Stegall Foundation. Smith shared that his family stepped out in faith to support seminary students when they realized that many have loans that total over \$50,000 which must be repaid on average starting salaries of approximately \$35,000 per year.

As the event in Panama City drew to a close, a mother walked to the front and said with tears in her eyes, "I just want to thank the Stegall Foundation for supporting the students we have seen tonight, and others like Rhett Butler." Butler, a Stegall Foundation alumnus, was featured in a video shown at the beginning of the program.

"My daughter is a student at Huntingdon College where Rhett, only one year out of seminary, serves as the new Chaplain," she said. "He has already made a huge difference in the life of my daughter!"

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**The Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit foundation, and all gifts are tax deductible. Gifts for our Seminary students should be mailed to Dr. Karl K. Stegall, Seminary Scholarship Foundation, P. O. Box 241661, Montgomery, Alabama 36124-1661.**

# Regional Banquets

2018



Additional photos at [stegallscholarship.com](http://stegallscholarship.com)



Pictured on the front cover (left to right): Patrick Jones, Lee and Craig Carter, Nathan Attwood, Marjorie Ann and Walter Ellisor, Caroline and John Blount gather at the regional banquet in Panama City.



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## THE GREATEST GENERATION

Tom Brokaw wrote an interesting book several years ago that he entitled, *The Greatest Generation*. He described his visit to Normandy where he walked on Omaha Beach alongside American soldiers who were a part of D-Day on June 6, 1944. As he listened to their stories, Brokaw became convinced that those courageous soldiers were a part of "The Greatest Generation." He wrote, "Many farm kids who had never seen the ocean signed up for the Navy. When they answered their call, they were forced to make their way across North Africa, the deadly beaches of France and Italy, the freezing winters of Europe, and the searing heat of the little known islands of the South Pacific. Young wives and children did not see their husbands or fathers for months at a time, if ever again."

When I read Tom Brokaw's inspiring book, I was reminded that the United Methodist Church, in a different realm, has its own list of those who were a part of "The Greatest Generation." There was a time in our nation's history, long before I was born, when Methodism was, by far, the most influential denomination in America. Our mothers and fathers in the faith passionately shared the good news of Jesus Christ. They built churches, hospitals, orphanages, children's home, and homes for the aged all across the world. They founded colleges and universities like Auburn, Birmingham Southern, Duke, Emory, Huntingdon, Syracuse, Southern California, and Vanderbilt. Even during a time of extreme poverty in Alabama and northwest Florida, young adults answered the call of God upon their lives to become ordained ministers and somehow found a way to attend Asbury, Duke, Emory, SMU, and Vanderbilt in an effort to become more equipped as servants of Jesus Christ. They were willing to go where they were sent. I have heard and read stories of Methodist ministers in by-gone years who attend-

ed Annual Conference, having no idea where they were going, until their names were read aloud by the Bishop at the close of Conference. Oftentimes, there were great cheers, and on a few occasions, there were a few tears. Yet, all of them went back home, uprooted their spouses and children on a moment's notice, loaded up their meager possessions in a borrowed truck, and joyfully moved to their new appointment. Looking back across the years, our church owes a great debt of gratitude, not only to those clergy members long ago, but also to their spouses and children that paid such a great sacrifice.

Is it little wonder today that many of our most loyal and faithful supporters of our seminary students are widows, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of former Methodist ministers? You see, they know firsthand the sacrifices that were made along the way. The largest gift that this Foundation ever received came from Irene Miller, the widow of Dr. Carlisle Miller, who served both his nation and his church as a part of "The Greatest Generation." We have received numerous gifts, small and large, from clergy descendants in places like Citronelle, Demopolis, Eclectic, Fairhope, Goshen, Graceville, Headland, Indian Springs, Jay, and even Knoxville, Tennessee. One such gift came in the mail this week from a descendant of a Methodist minister with an attached note, "I know that this is the time of the year when Methodists will be gathering for the Alabama-West Florida Conference and some will be moving to new appointments. I have been thinking so much lately about my dear father and mother. I vividly remember all the moves that I made with them as a child. I just wanted to send this gift for our seminary students in loving memory of their sacrificial service. God has always been faithful!"

*Karl K. Stegall*



**BRENDA AND KARL STEGALL**