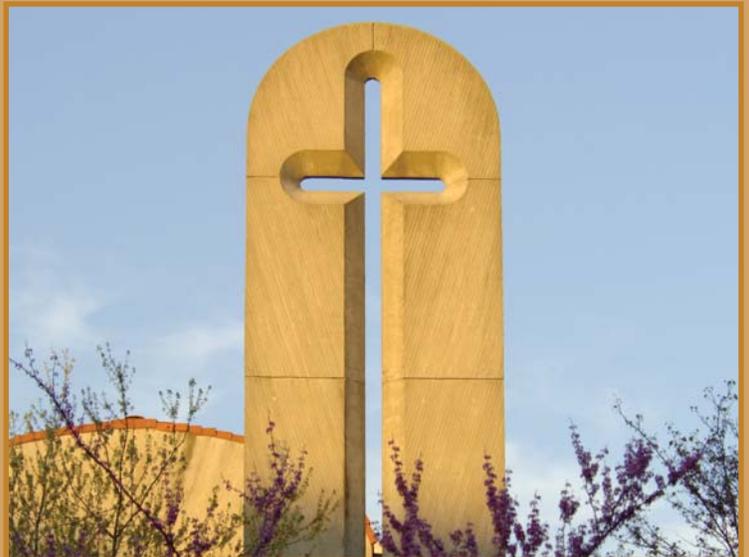




Duke Divinity School



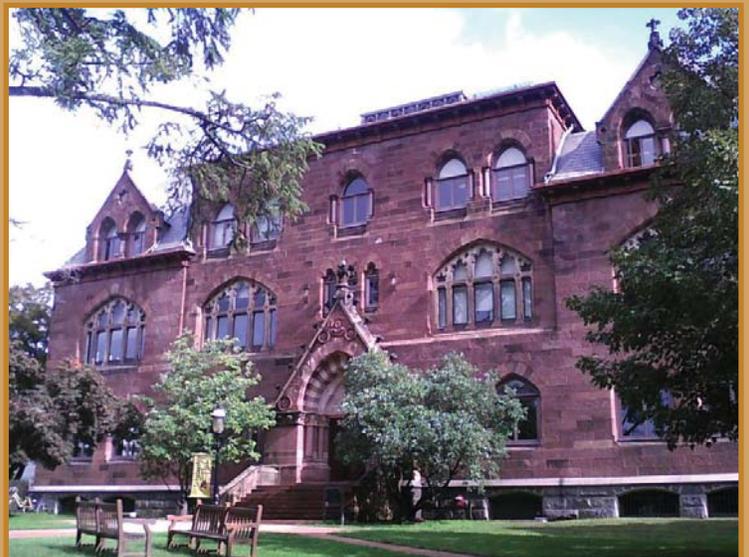
Asbury Theological Seminary



Candler School of Theology, Emory



Vanderbilt Divinity School



Princeton Theological Seminary

**Foundation Dream Realized:
Full-Time Students to Receive Minimum Scholarship of \$10,000**

See article page 3

AMAZING GRACE

If someone had asked me seven years ago, "How do you create a sustaining, thriving, authentic culture within the church?" I would have replied, "Be good. Be strong. Be smart. Be creative. Be nice. Everything else will fall into place." However, these are the "Killer B's" because they are grounded in personal ability, not God.

In 2009, grace met me at a critical turning point in my life. I was led to Dr. Karl Stegall, who helped me discern how God's grace was working in my life. God had been telling me to be still, be quiet, believe; and in that moment I felt my calling affirmed to serve in the United Methodist Church. After talking with Dr. Stegall, I also felt the assurance that my calling could be fulfilled due to the assistance offered me by the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation.

To *speak* about grace is interesting. To *talk* about grace is transforming. To *live* by grace is freeing. I understood that grace at work after I entered Asbury Theological Seminary in the Fall of 2010. Like so many other seminary students who are married with children, I faced great financial needs. However, in my moment of greatest need, I learned of generous donors like you, who, through your obedience to Christ, were led to make gifts to the Stegall Foundation.

These unearned gifts were made available for seminary students just like me and enabled me to build a spiritual foundation from which I could serve others. Through Foundation gifts, I have learned how to return to others the gifts that you have graciously offered me.

We are living in an era in which the rising cost of a seminary education is disabling for many students who



Michael Cobb, third-year student at Asbury Theological Seminary, pictured with his wife, Amanda, daughter, Kaitlyn, and son, Rowland

strongly desire to be obedient to their calling to fulfill The Great Commission. Yet because of your obedience to God's call, students like me have been able to respond and prepare ourselves as leaders of the church.

I am honored to have been a recipient of your grace and financial support. We share the same esteem in Christ, whose beautiful sacrifice made grace possible for all. But more importantly, because of what Christ has, is, and will be doing through your faithful gifts, those who believed that the financial hurdle was too great, now have an opportunity. Thus, I offer this blessing from Paul's words: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." (II Corinthians 13:14). You are loved!

Michael A. Cobb

GIVING TO THE FOUNDATION SIMPLIFIES YEAR-END GIFTS

As Christmas and the end of 2013 draw near, we humbly ask that you please remember the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation in your giving plans. As we thank God for his abundant love and care, we continue to give thanks for each of our donors who faithfully support seminary students throughout the year.

We've simplified the donation process by making it possible for you to give your year-end gift online via our website (www.stegallscholarship.com). Simply click on the "Donate" button and make your donation in honor of, or in memory of someone special. An acknowledgement card is always sent in a timely manner.

Your most important gift, however, is that of your prayers for these students who seek to follow God's call upon their lives. Thank you for being an instrument of God's care and steadfast love.

Merry Christmas, and may God's abundant blessings pour upon you and yours in 2014.

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.

FOUNDATION DREAM REALIZED:

FULL-TIME STUDENTS TO RECEIVE MINIMUM SCHOLARSHIP OF \$10,000

In September 2013, Dr. Karl Stegall dared to write of a bold vision. He said in the Foundation's quarterly newsletter, "With your great encouragement and generosity, I am now dreaming of the day, in the not too distant future, when we might be able to provide a minimum of \$10,000 as a cash scholarship for each full-time student, sharply decreasing what they have to borrow." As donors read those words, God was already making a way for that spoken dream to become a reality.

The Board of Directors of the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation is pleased to announce that his dream has been realized. Effective January 1, 2014, all full-time seminary students living on campus (or commuting on a weekly basis) will now receive a minimum of \$10,000 per year from the Foundation. Full-time students currently receive a minimum of \$6,000 annually.

"This marks a milestone in the progress of the Foundation," said Stegall. In its earliest years, the Foundation awarded \$100 per month or \$1,200 per year to students. The announcement of reaching the \$10,000 annual level is a watershed moment in the history of the Foundation.

One such student who wishes to thank Foundation donors is Duke Divinity School student Ashley Douglas. "Three years ago, when I was accepted into Duke Divinity School, I had no idea how I would financially support my educational needs to follow God's call," she said. "I followed

in faith and prayed without ceasing and God has answered those prayers through the Stegall Foundation. Thank you for supporting students just like me."

"Seminary is a challenging time in many ways," said Dr. Nathan Attwood, a Foundation scholarship alumnus now serving in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. "Young families and young marriages are stretched by tremendous demands and financial constraints. The idealism of new ministers encounters the reality of the joys and stresses of congregational leadership. The Stegall Foundation does more than make the financial pressures manageable, as incredibly important as that is. The scholarship allows new clergy families to know that they are not alone and that a community cares and will carry them through."

"What a leap of faith the donors have taken," said Stegall. "These gifts enable us to do more for the kingdom of God than has been possible up to this point. Past, present, and future seminary students, and their families, from across the bounds of our Alabama-West Florida Conference join me in expressing our deepest thanks to the countless souls who have prayerfully prepared us to reach this milestone."

Please join us in our mission of preparing the future of the Church. This is an exciting time for the Stegall Foundation and we want you to be a part of it. Tax-deductible donations can be made online (www.stegallscholarship.com) or by mail. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

SEVEN HUNTINGDON STUDENTS CONSIDER SEMINARY DURING VISIT WITH DUKE DIVINITY DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

When Dr. McKennon Shea, Director of Admissions for Duke Divinity School, visited Huntingdon College recently, there were seven Huntingdon students that chose to visit with him as part of their process of choosing which seminary they might attend.

As of November, there are 28 Huntingdon students that have declared majors in Religion, Christian Education, or Youth Ministry. In addition to Duke, there are an equal number of Huntingdon students considering Emory, Asbury, and other seminaries. There are at least 13 Huntingdon graduates currently enrolled in seminary programs, representing a sharp increase from recent years.



Pictured left to right are Wesley Smithart, Union Springs; Macon Armistead, Pike Road; Dr. Stephen Sours, Professor of Religion; Heather Jones, Dothan; Taylor Bean, Hartselle; President Cam West; Sarah Jones, Enterprise; Dr. Sid Stubbs, Provost; Harden Spencer, Montgomery; Dr. Chad Eggleston, Professor of Religion; Dr. McKennon Shea; and Mary Kathryn Allen, Fort Walton Beach.



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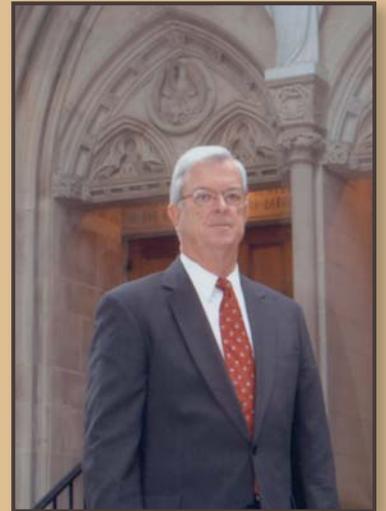
“THANKS FOR YOUR ‘PARTNERSHIP’ IN THE GOSPEL”

Paul’s letter to the Philippians has always been a great source of inspiration to me. This letter has often been called an “epistle” of joy because the words “joy” and “rejoice” frequently occur. Even from a prison cell in Rome, Paul could express his joy because his life was centered in Jesus Christ. As he writes this letter of “thanks” for a gift that he has received from the Philippians by the hand of Epaphroditus, Paul includes within the opening lines of his letter, “I thank my God every time I remember you...because of your ‘partnership’ in the gospel.”

Those words of the Apostle Paul have taken on new meaning for me in recent years as you have faithfully supported our efforts to provide greater cash scholarships for our seminary students. We have no monies except the monies of faithful partners like you who believe in our cause. You are truly our “partners in ministry.”

Our Board of Directors in recent days has taken a giant “leap of faith” by making a bold decision to give \$10,000 annually to each full-time seminary student living on campus or commuting to and from campus. This has been a dream of ours that we have expressed for a long time. In light of this, I was inspired the other day when Brenda and I were seated in a restaurant with our grandchildren, and a man who knew of our dream said, “Karl, I want to partner with you and give \$10,000 to support one student.” Wouldn’t it be great if we could find 39 others able and willing to do the same?

However, the secret of this new milestone for us as a Foundation has been the faithful generosity of all of you who have given faithfully as God has blessed you. Whether you have given our seminary students \$5 or \$500,000, let me sincerely say, on behalf of all of our seminary students at the close of this year, “I want to thank you...because of your ‘partnership’ in the gospel.”



Karl K. Stegall