



STEGALL
SEMINARY
SCHOLARSHIP
ENDOWMENT
FOUNDATION

Leading By Example



Spring 2015

Leading by Example: Dauphin Way UMC donates \$15,000 to Foundation

Dauphin Way United Methodist Church presented the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation with a \$15,000 donation in December 2014. On behalf of the congregation, co-senior pastors Rev. Robin Wilson and Dr. Jeff Wilson invited Dr. Karl Stegall to preach at the church on Thanksgiving Sunday, where an annual offering for missions is taken. Following that Sunday's service, Dauphin Way UMC collected donations from church members who were moved by the financial struggle of seminary students in the Alabama – West Florida Annual Conference.

“Since our first days on his staff (at First United Methodist Church of Montgomery, Ala.), Karl has been a friend, mentor, coach, supporter, and role model for us,” said Dr. Jeff Wilson. “Since Dauphin Way UMC has a long tradition of receiving a special Thanksgiving Offering for Missions, we thought this would be the perfect way to share the work of the Stegall Foundation with our church family.”

The church found many ways to publicize the ministry of the Stegall Foundation prior to the Thanksgiving Sunday service. They publicized the upcoming offering in their weekly church newsletter, as well as in their bulletin. “They went the second mile to ask me to pass out Foundation brochures and say a word about our work for seminary students at each of the morning worship services,” said Dr. Stegall. “Robin even gave a testimony in support of the efforts of the Foundation. That personal connection is fundamental to our work.”

Another way the church connected with the Stegall Foundation is through one of their own associate pastors, Rev. Brad Goode, who is a current scholarship recipient. Goode, a second-year student at Asbury Theological Seminary, identifies seminary as a ‘team sport.’

“During my classes at Asbury, I meet students who are struggling because they are without a support system,” said Goode. “Last summer, I met a young man who was actually sleeping in a tent during our grueling week-long intensive course because hotel costs were too expensive. I can only imagine how hard it must be, after several nights of sleeping outdoors, to concentrate on complex lectures.

“In contrast, I have the luxury of prioritizing learning, because I am backed by the generous support of the Stegall Foundation,” said Goode. “Your donations not only benefit me; they allow me to invite those who are sleeping in tents into my hotel room and share about each of you who believe in our seminary education.”

A product of the Alabama – West Florida Conference, Rev. Robin Wilson knows too well the struggle students face to stay connected to home while in seminary. “To our students who are struggling with family issues, finances, student appointments and more, these scholarships remind them that while they may be away from home, they are not alone,” she said. “We are the cheering section, support team, and prayer partners to these students.”

Robin also has a very special connection to donations made to the Stegall Foundation. Upon her father's death in September of this year, her mother made the choice to request memorial gifts be given to the Stegall Foundation. “I was moved,” said Rev. Wilson. “My mother told me, ‘What better way to share his faith, than to continue to support those who are called to share it? It is what he would have chosen.’”

“Good education leads to good pastors, good pastors lead to healthy churches and healthy churches lead to more people experiencing the love of Jesus Christ,” said Goode. “Being a husband, father of three children, full time pastor and full time student is a lot for one person. However, your support to my family during this busy season means more to us than you will ever know.”

Dr. Stegall welcomes invitations to speak at churches across the Alabama – West Florida Annual Conference. Please email stegallscholarship@gmail.com to find out about scheduling a time for your congregation to hear firsthand about the work being done to support the future ministers of our conference.

- Meredyth Earnest

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.

College Seniors Preparing for Seminary



Haley Andreades
Vanderbilt University
Montgomery, AL



Jagger Eastman
Huntingdon College
Sulligent, AL



Sarah Jones
Huntingdon College
Enterprise, AL



Matthew Montgomery
Auburn University
Montgomery, AL



Jayde Rasband
Huntingdon College
Montgomery, AL



Harden Spencer
Huntingdon College
Gulf Breeze, FL



Micah Wright
Huntingdon College
Madison, AL

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

- Isaiah 52:7 NIV

Discerning God’s Call In The Spring

During the spring of this year, many of our college seniors, feeling God’s call upon their lives to enter church-related vocations, will go through the process of discernment in selecting the seminaries that they will attend. There is no United Methodist seminary located within the state of Alabama or Northwest Florida.

The first seven students, pictured above, to announce their decision to attend seminary will be headed to Duke, Emory, or Asbury, all of which are hours away. The approximate cost for each of these students who will live on campus will be \$40,000 a year. Each will receive approximately \$4,000 annually from the Ministerial Education Fund that is an apportioned item within every United Methodist Church budget. However, over the course of three years, there will be a great “gap” in what they will receive from the Ministerial Education Fund and what they will have to pay out of their own pockets. Through your gifts to the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation, you will “stand in the gap” (Ezekiel 22:30) with them as you will be providing both financial and emotional support.

Pictured on Cover: Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, Mobile Alabama *Championing the cause of the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation at Dauphin Way UMC are co-senior pastors (left to right) Dr. Jeff Wilson and Rev. Robin Wilson, with Associate Pastor and current scholarship recipient Rev. Brad Goode.*





STEGALL SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
P. O. BOX 241661
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36124

STEGALLSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM

WWW.STEGALLSCHOLARSHIP.COM

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“THE MIRACLE OF MULTIPLICATION”

The only miracle of Jesus that is found in all of the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John is the miracle of His feeding the 5,000. The little boy that offered up his five loaves and two fish to Jesus is not even given a name. We do not know where he lived. We do not know what happened to him after this story. He was not even included among the number 5,000, for that number included only men, not women and children. Yet, when this little boy freely offered up his simple gifts of five loaves and two fish, Jesus took those fragments and multiplied them to meet the needs of thousands. That simple story always speaks to me in two separate ways as I reflect upon our Seminary Scholarship Foundation.



1. Like the little boy in this story, our seminary students step out in faith, offering up their simple gifts in service to their Master. They freely give up their comfort zones of being surrounded by family members and friends as they move away from home to go to seminary. Yet, as a result of their faithfulness, God takes their simple gifts, multiplies them in deeds of loving service, and when they return back home to serve in our local churches, miraculous things begin to happen in the way of transformed lives.

2. Like the little boy in this story, our generous donors also see an overwhelming need by the financial struggles of our seminary students. Their hearts are touched, and they want to offer up their monetary gifts in various and sundry amounts. They long to make a difference in the lives of our seminary students. When their simple gifts are offered up to the Master and combined with similar gifts from other donors, miracles begin to happen and the financial burdens of our seminary students are lifted.

When our Scholarship Foundation was started 7 ½ years ago, it was a stretch for us to give each seminary student \$1,000 a year. Through the miracle of multiplication expressed by all of you, we are now giving each full-time student \$10,000 a year. Our goal is to one day pay in full all of the expenses of our seminary students, so that each of them can return home debt-free to serve our churches within the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Thanks for being such a vital part of this “miracle of multiplication.” You are making a huge difference!

Karl K. Stegall