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DONORS HELP STUDENTS

POINT TOWARD HOPE



SPRING 2019

POINTING TOWARD HOPE

One of the more unique aspects of the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation is the communication that donors and students share via regular, handwritten correspondence. Students, in a display of their deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by donors, send notes containing updates about seminary life, course work and professors, and prayer requests when times are challenging.

One student sharing her seminary journey through letters is Anna Grace Glaize, a first-year student at Yale Divinity School. Glaize is the daughter of two United Methodist clergy, Rev. Ed Glaize and Rev. Alecia Glaize. "That means I was definitely raised by the Alabama-West Florida (AWF) Conference," she says.

Glaize's call to ministry began after a few pivotal life experiences. "As a PK (preacher's kid), I knew a decision to follow a call into ministry wasn't one I could take lightly, so I started talking to ministers I respected about their own discernment process," she says. "I never had a Moses-style 'burning bush' moment, but neither did most of the people with whom I talked. All I knew was that the times in my week I was happiest were the times I was talking with others about faith, and everyone I met with said that was a good enough sign." Glaize is now a certified candidate for ministry in the AWF Conference and will seek ordination as a deacon.

As with most prospective students, Glaize had her reservations about the cost of a seminary education. "Almost every pastor I met with mentioned the Stegall Scholarship and reassured me that seminary was a viable option," she says. "Yale's academic reputation was really appealing, and I knew going to school outside of the south would be a good learning experience. Yale was fortunately very generous with their financial aid, and thanks to that and the Stegall Scholarship I was able to go with my top choice of seminary."

Once she began seminary, Glaize wanted to reach out to her supporters via thank you notes and regular correspondence. The connection between donor and student can often be made more real when students learn that donors' support is not merely financial, but a prayerful partnership in his or her life and ministry.

First semesters are always tough, but when her brother tragically died in an accident during her first weeks of seminary, the support Glaize received from Stegall Foundation donors was sustaining. "I had to fly home unexpectedly in my third week of school, and I wasn't sure I'd be able to finish the semester," said Glaize.

During this time of unimaginable loss, the Seekers Sun-



Anna Grace Glaize
Photo courtesy of Paul Robertson
Photography

day School class at Montgomery FUMC was praying for the conference's seminary students. "Each year at Christmas, we ask Dr. Stegall to give us information about the students we are supporting so we are able to learn more about them," says Sidney Murray, a member of the Seekers Class.

Glaize wrote to the class: "Dealing with school and grief was and is difficult; that's partly why I'm so grateful to the Stegall Foundation—during an incredibly stressful time, I didn't have to stress about finances."

Glaize went on to write: "Though it's been difficult, I can't think of a more personally beneficial time to study the many different ways people have understood God and His relationship to the world. "

Near the end of her first semester Glaize reflected on the love and care shown to her family, despite her distance from home. She wrote, "I love school, and always have, but it's difficult to be so very far away from my parents right now...In this,



The Yale Divinity Quadrangle covered in snow.
Photo courtesy of Anna Grace Glaize.

the worst season of our lives, my family has been carried by the many members of our family in Christ. Thank you so much for helping point me toward hope."

The Stegall Foundation seeks to create lasting relationships between donors and students, relationships sustained throughout a lifetime of ministry. Your gifts to the Stegall Foundation continue to do amazing works in the name of Christ each and every year. Thank you for your faithfulness to students like Anna Grace, and all others who are preparing for a lifetime of Christian service.

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.

JULE WILSON WILLIS PERRY SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



Jule Perry

Jule Perry spent the vast part of her 100 years upon this earth as a faithful member of Court Street Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of Montgomery. She was a graduate of Sidney Lanier High School, George Washington University, and Sophie Newcomb College. From the inception of our Scholarship Foundation in 2007, Jule was a very generous supporter of our seminary students on a regular basis. As she came near the end of her life, Jule included our seminary students within her financial plans. She fulfilled her desire to leave a tithe of her estate to our Seminary Scholarship Foundation and First United Methodist Church. Her daughter, Carol Ballard, presented our Scholarship Foundation a generous gift on behalf of her mother on February 14, 2019. The monies have been deposited to establish the Jule Perry Scholarship for seminary students, and the earnings each year will be given to one of our worthy seminary students in loving memory of this faithful servant.

We need each other!

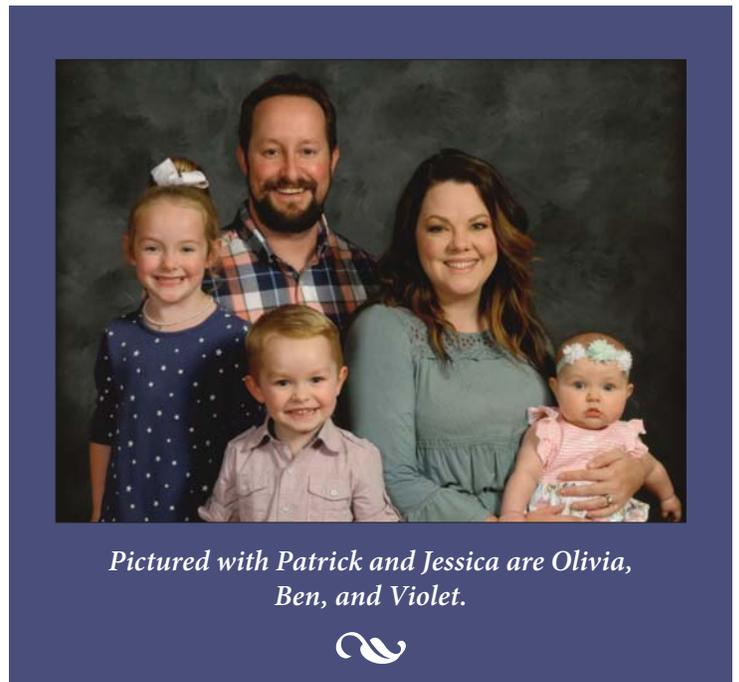
By Patrick McBride

In 2016 I decided I wanted to attend seminary and respond to God's call to be an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, but I had no idea how I would do it. As a husband and father working as a certified lay minister at Myrtle Grove UMC in Pensacola, I could not see how I would have any extra financial resources to devote to this calling.

However, after much prayer, I applied to Asbury Theological Seminary and doors began to burst wide open. God, through the faithful Stegall Foundation donors, was providing a way for our family to have the financial resources needed to take this step in faith.

With each passing semester, my family's need has been met and I have been able to respond to God's call without anxiety or increasing our debt. This is a gift from God through this wonderful foundation! It is a gift for my children: Olivia (6), Ben (4), and Violet (1); my wife, Jessica; and indeed the churches I will serve in the future. This gift allows me to focus on that to which God has called me—ministry—and not be weighed down by overwhelming financial stress.

I recognize that not every seminary student has such a gift, but the faithful obedience of the donors of the Stegall Foundation has been used mightily by God to richly bless my family and many other seminary students throughout the Alabama-West Florida Conference. It is indeed a testimony that as the Body of Christ we need each other. The moment that God called me into ministry, I realized that He had already called a group of faithful believers into their own ministry of support. We serve an awesome God!



Pictured with Patrick and Jessica are Olivia, Ben, and Violet.



This May I will graduate from Asbury Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity and will then be commissioned as a Provisional Elder in June. In this last semester of classes, I have also accepted a mid-year appointment as the new pastor at Heritage United Methodist Church in Enterprise, Ala., whose members have so graciously agreed to allow me to be their pastor while finishing seminary.

God has used the Stegall Foundation in such a profound way in my life and in the life of my family. I thank God every day for this calling, and for His faithfulness in providing for my family through you. He called you, you responded, and I will be forever grateful!



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A TIMELESS GOSPEL



BRENDA AND KARL STEGALL

One of the advantages of growing older is that you look back across the years and reminisce about the good old days! In light of this, I often reflect upon the wonderful small country church of approximately 30 members in which I was reared in Emelle, Alabama. We sang lustily each Sunday those great old hymns of the church like "Living for Jesus," "Love Lifted Me," "The Church in the Wildwood," "Dwelling In Beulah Land," "The Unclouded Day," and "When We All Get to Heaven." Uncle Fred led the singing; Miss Bessie played the piano. My dear mother taught the Adult Sunday School Class.

Even though none of the ministers of my childhood had seminary educations, each of them had the two basic requirements for an effective minister---a deep love for Jesus Christ and a deep love for others. When my brother, Dan, lost his life in a tragic accident, there were no trained pastoral counselors available to us within that small community to help us through that aw-

ful experience, but we had something even greater. We had each other. Members of that little church loved us and stood with us throughout that terrible ordeal. On Sunday mornings, we would often sing, "We share each other's woes. Our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear." When someone within our community was in need, it was a common ritual to "pass the hat" among our members and receive a generous love offering to help those who were hurting get back on their feet again.

We are living today in a world of rapid change. Churches are changing, institutions are changing, priorities are changing, but the exciting good news for all of us is that Jesus Christ is not changing. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever! There has never been a greater need for effective ministers within our churches who can communicate clearly the timeless truth that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. The prophet Isaiah reminded us, "The grass withers; the flower fades; but the Word of our God will stand forever!"

Our Seminary Scholarship Foundation has a desire to support our seminary students wherever they might find themselves. During these changing times, will you continue to support these young men and women who are preparing for a lifetime of service to Jesus Christ and the church?

Karl K. Stegall