

YEAR 12

FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 12TH
YEAR IN MINISTRY DURING
ANNUAL DINNER OF CELEBRATION



FALL 2019

12TH ANNUAL DINNER OF CELEBRATION HONORS DONORS, STUDENTS

On Thursday, August 8, 2019, the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation celebrated its 12th year in ministry at the annual Dinner of Celebration. The banquet, held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery, welcomed approximately 400 students, alumni and supporters. Including those in attendance were some of the seminary students and course of study students being supported by the Foundation during the 2019-2020 school year.

Each year, two extravagantly generous donors underwrite the entire cost of the banquet, ensuring that donations made to the foundation are allocated for scholarships. Rev. Robin Wilson senior pastor of Opelika (Ala.) First United Methodist Church, served as the evening's host. The invocation was given by Rev. Jay Cooper, senior pastor of Montgomery First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Mabs and Mr. James Seay performed duets of "The Prayer" and "You Raise Me Up."

A highlight of the annual banquet is witnesses from scholarship recipients. This year, three 2019 graduates shared words of thankfulness to donors. Those sharing words of gratitude were:

- Rev. Kristen Wright, a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She currently serves as Associate Pastor at Ashland Place UMC in Mobile, Ala.
- Rev. Stephan Margeson, a graduate of Duke Divinity School. He currently serves as Associate Pastor at FUMC, Ozark, Ala.
- Rev. Jagger Eastman, a graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary. He currently serves as Pastor of Grace UMC in Auburn, Ala.

Mr. Philip Young, a founding member of the Stegall Foundation Board of Directors, presented the 10th annual "Spirit of the Foundation" Award to Mr. George Sabin Gibbs, III.



Students and supporters gathered on the evening of August 8 to celebrate another year of fruitful ministry.

This award is presented annually to honor a donor who has shown faithful commitment to the mission of the foundation. In presenting the award, Young testified to Gibbs' charity and humbleness as he has established a legacy of giving throughout his life.



Rev. Jagger Eastman addresses the crowd.

Pictured on the cover: Gathered for the Dinner of Celebration are a few of the foundation's 2019-2020 students, along with Mrs. Brenda and Dr. Karl Stegall. All photos in this issue by Luke Lucas.

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.

In response to his receiving the award, Gibbs detailed how his involvement with Christian counseling drew him to want to be part of the mission of the foundation in supporting students. "I don't think we can do anything stronger than help students in this world," he said.

Previous recipients of the Spirit of the Foundation Award were: Mr. Boyd Goddard; Bishop Paul A. Duffey; Mr. John Bullard; Mr. Temple Millsap; Mr. Wayne Russell; Mr. Dan Lindsey, Sr.; Dr. Paulette Thompson; Rev. Arthur Carlton (posthumously); and Mr. George Goodwyn.

On behalf of the foundation's board of directors, Rev. Tony McCullough, senior pastor of Prattville (Ala.) First United Methodist Church, then presented the third annual Church Appreciation Award to Lynn Haven United Methodist Church in Panama City, Fla. The award recognizes a congregation who faithfully supports the mission of the foundation.

Hurricane Michael destroyed much of the church and affected each member of the church in the fall of 2018. However, Lynn Haven UMC remained extravagantly generous in response to missional needs. "It was unbelievable that just a few short weeks after their sanctuary was destroyed, the Lynn Haven UMC sent their first check of \$1,000 for our seminary students through the foundation," said McCullough. "Similar checks for our seminary students have been received from the church periodically since October 10."

Present to receive the award on behalf of the church was their pastor, Rev. Craig Carter, along with his wife, Lee; Mr. Tom Fanning, Church Council Chair, and his wife, Katie; and District Superintendent, Dr. Doug Pennington, and his wife, Sandy. In response Carter said: "When our church was destroyed, Christians all around us spontaneously reached out to us in our time of greatest need. We want to be that

Rev. Robin Wilson, who received support from an earlier form of the foundation, served as the evening's emcee.



kind of church for others."

Previous recipients of the Church Appreciation Award are: Fort Davis (Ala.) UMC and Lillian (Ala.) UMC.

Dr. Stegall personally offered a word of appreciation to donors at the conclusion of the banquet. "Friends, things have changed in our world," he said. "We are living tonight in a world where evil at times seems to overwhelm us. In this world, I do not know of any greater need we have than that of producing more and more effective young women and men to share the good news of Jesus Christ. This is what YOU are doing and, for this, we will be forever grateful."

Dr. Stegall then invited all seminary and course of study students present to come forward as both retired and active ministers offered a blessing over the students. Rev. Jim Dannelly (retired) offered a benediction as the banquet came to a conclusion.

Additional photos and information about the annual banquet are available on our website: stegallscholarship.com.



Congratulations to our

2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Spirit of the Foundation: Mr. George Sabin Gibbs, III. *(left).*

Church Appreciation: Lynn Haven United Methodist Church in Panama City, Fla., Rev. Craig Carter *(above).*



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Our website accepts online donations.



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

STEGALLSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM

WWW.STEGALLSCHOLARSHIP.COM

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MAKE ME A BLESSING

One of my favorite hymns down through the years has been “Make Me A Blessing” that contains these lyrics,

“Out in the highways and byways of life, many are weary and sad. Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, making the sorrowing glad.

Make me a blessing, make me a blessing, out of my life, may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone today.”

Among the greatest joys that I have experienced serving as the volunteer president of our Scholarship Foundation has been the joy of hearing an increased number of donors say to me, “I feel so blessed, and I want to be a blessing to others.”

As a direct result of so many of you singing or saying, “Make Me A Blessing,” we are now able to enlarge our scholarship recipients to include, not only our Seminary Students, but also, our Course of Study students presently serving as local pastors all across our Alabama-West Florida Conference. These Course of Study students are dedicated men and women, who for various and sundry reasons, were unable to graduate from a seminary. However, each of them has an opportunity to serve as a local pastor while taking a prescribed outline of 20 courses.

Oftentimes, the costs associated with these courses can become expensive. Your gifts not only provide

financial support for their tuition, but your gifts also provide emotional support in their knowledge that you are standing “in the gap” with them every step of the way. The reality is that I do not know what our Conference would do for pastoral leadership if we did not have all of these dedicated Course of Study students serving as local pastors.

Because more and more of you have been saying and singing, “Make Me A Blessing,” we were able this past summer to support all of our local pastors attending the Advanced Course of Study programs at Emory, Duke, and SMU. The majority of them represented small membership churches like Bethel/Ebenezer in Washington County, Mt. Zion/Ivy Creek in Autauga County, Tabernacle in Houston County, and the San Juan Mission in Clanton.

Thanks to all of you for recognizing that you have been blessed so that you can be a blessing to others!

Karl K. Stegall



BRENDA AND KARL STEGALL