

LEGACY

TURNING YOUR GIFTS INTO LEGACIES



Leaving a Legacy

What does it mean to leave a legacy? It means putting an imprint on the future; a contribution toward future generations. Legacies establish the lasting impact your life will have on the future.

The Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation's mission of equipping future ministers to share the Word of God and Jesus Christ reminds me of the spiritual legacy we are to leave for future generations. The Foundation's work not only allows women and men the opportunity to follow their spiritual calling, but also grants them the opportunity to become leaders within our churches. These leaders leave legacies for the generations who daily study, pray and worship with them.

Over the years, many of the Foundation's supporters have eloquently put into words this feeling of legacy. David Housel said that when we give to the Stegall Foundation, the impact those gifts have "are like ripples in a lake that are never ending." The late Bishop Paul Duffey reminded us that when we give a gift as small as \$1, that dollar will grow and multiply

many times over for years to come.

The year 2020 has affected each of us in a multitude of ways. I think the effects of the pandemic have certainly made us recognize the importance of community and the role we play in caring for one another. It has also been an appreciable reminder that our faith and hope in Jesus Christ is the cornerstone during all times, but especially those that are challenging. The role of our Foundation in supporting future ministers of the Gospel is needed now more than ever as we reach out to a hurting world.

Annual contributors to the Foundation are leaving a lasting spiritual legacy. One of the easiest ways to give to the Foundation is through planned giving. Planned giving can be made through a donation in remembrance of a special family member or friend, or a gift in honor of someone who has been influential in your life. You can also donate to the Foundation by gifting through your will. This assures your desire to help spread the Word of God and tell the story of Jesus Christ to future generations. That is the type



Mr. Terry Mitchell

Photo courtesy of Paul Robertson.

of legacy that truly impacts the world both today and in future generations.

For all gifts - large or small - we are so very grateful. Thank you for remembering the Stegall Foundation this season in your gift giving.

-Terry Mitchell, Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

Our board of directors is able to assist you with legal and/or tax information should you wish to make a planned gift. Please contact us at stegallscholarship@gmail.com.

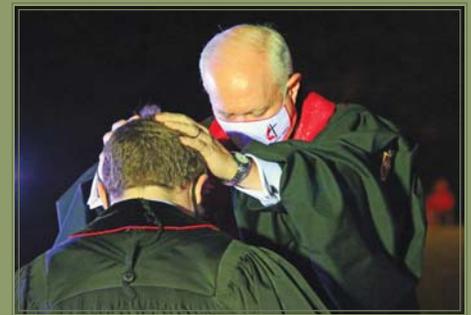
A Special Ordination Service

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the Alabama-West Florida Conference opted to hold individual services of ordination this year in the clergy person's current ministry setting. On October 13, Rev. Rhett Butler, a foundation scholarship alumnus, was ordained an elder in the intimate and meaningful outdoor setting of the green of Huntingdon College, where he currently serves as Chaplain.

In addition to Butler, 2020 saw the individual ordinations of James Bradford as a deacon, and Bradley Chamblee and Tara Chamblee as elders.

Congratulations to all of these newly-ordained ministers!

Photos courtesy of Su Ofe, Huntingdon College



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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.

Get to Know a Seminary Student: Tripp Gulledge

Tripp Gulledge is a first-year recipient of a Stegall Seminary scholarship. This fall, he began the Master of Divinity program in the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University (SMU).

I am the son of Angie and Rev. Rob Gulledge and the eldest of their three children. My father has served as a pastor in the Alabama-West Florida Conference for the last 30 years, and my mother's background is in early childhood education. As is true with most preachers' kids, we moved around as children, but I consider Mobile, Ala. to be my home. My sister, Lily, is a rising senior studying history and science at Harvard University; she aspires to be a physician and global health professional. My brother, Charlie, is a rising senior at Elmore County High School in Eclectic, Ala.; he is currently considering a number of options for post-secondary education. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, playing card games, performing music, and watching sports.

I consider my childhood in a parsonage family to be one of the most formative aspects of my youth; God's constant, prevenient grace was certainly covering me as I grew up attending church every Sunday, even going to work with my dad on occasion. In reflecting on my hopes for future ministry, I have recognized the importance of intentionally-designed worship that welcomes every generation. While I always enjoyed children's Sunday school, youth group, and - most recently - campus ministry, there was a special beauty I found in the intergenerational experience shared by all ages in the weekly services of the local church. I owe the credit to my father, who specifically pioneered a worship service at Fairhope (Ala.) UMC geared toward worship for the whole family. It is my hope to offer this kind of experience to the churches I will one day serve.

I received concurrent bachelor's degrees in music performance and music education as well as a Spanish minor from Auburn University. It was after my first year of college that I first felt God calling me into the ordained ministry. That year at the Annual Conference session, I watched that year's

newly ordained pastors answer Wesley's historic question. I felt moved by the depth of their sacrifice in committing their whole lives and vocations to God's service. It was mysteriously communicated to me by the Holy Spirit in that very moment that this was my calling, too.

Following my call, I designed my undergraduate experience accordingly: I added a Spanish minor to broaden my capacity to witness to diverse populations, I focused on education courses that helped me develop my teaching prowess, and I became heavily involved in the leadership of the Auburn Wesley Foundation. I hoped that these practical experiences would translate into wisdom for a career in ministry.

I am currently a certified candidate for ministry on the Elder track. Shortly after my Holy Spirit encounter in 2016, I learned about what it meant to be called to order and sacrament. I have a strong desire to preach, shepherd, and preside over the sacraments. I also hope to one day pursue doctoral work in Biblical studies or historical theology.

I want the foundation and its faithful, generous donors to know that I consider the

Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation to be a spiritual investment in the future of our church and annual conference. I consider it my responsibility to give back to this conference with my service in ministry, and that is something I joyfully anticipate. This annual conference has abundantly nurtured and supported me thus far, and I hope my service to the church will express my gratitude. I want to express my most sincere thanks to each donor for investing in the future of our church. I wish God's blessings and protection on you and your loved ones and I look forward to writing to you in the future. May God bless you and keep you until then.

-Tripp Gulledge



Tripp Gulledge and his guide dog, Dakota, in front of the Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University.

Photo courtesy of Tripp Gulledge



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

STEGALLSCHOLARSHIP@GMAIL.COM

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Longing for The Prince of Peace

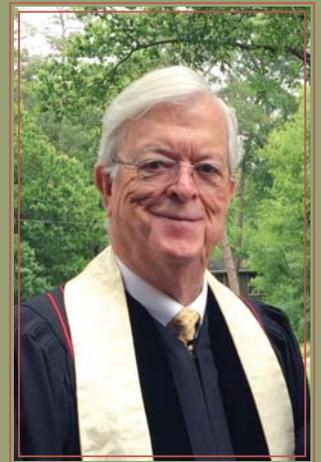
I am longing for the “Prince of Peace” this Christmas season. I am longing to hear once again those words of Isaiah, “The people that walk in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”(9:2-6)

I am also longing this Christmas season for God to raise up more and more young men and women as ordained ministers who boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. In light of this, I am reflecting this Christmas on additional words of Isaiah, “How beautiful upon 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!’” (52:7) Perhaps, it is a sign of growing older, but I have come to a strong conviction that the only true and lasting peace that any of us will ever experience as individuals, families, communities, state, or as a nation is the peace that comes when our hearts are transformed by Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, there appeared an editorial in McCall’s magazine at Christmastime that I have never forgotten, “This Christmas, mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands upon others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind. Be gentle. Take up arms against malice. Express gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it once again.”

Brenda joins me in wishing for each of you a very Merry Christmas!

Karl K. Stegall



KARL STEGALL