

# SPRING 2022

SEMINARY STUDENT  
VISITS

CONCERT DATES  
ANNOUNCED

THE GREATEST VOCATION  
IN THE WORLD



## 'BIG THINGS CAN HAPPEN'

*by Rev. Brad Goode*

Rev. Brad Goode shares how his experiences as both a former Stegall Seminary Foundation scholarship recipient and current member of the board of directors remind him that: "When we all play our small part, big things can happen."

# Big Things Can Happen!

-By Rev. Brad Goode, Senior Pastor of Good News UMC in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.  
and member of the Stegall Foundation Board of Directors

“No, you really won’t have to pay it back!” Those were the words Rev. Jeff Wilson spoke to me at Dauphin Way UMC (Mobile, Ala.) almost ten years ago when I began my seminary journey. It was mind boggling to me that a pastor and group of people who barely knew me would make this kind of investment into my future. I kept asking what strings were attached to this generosity. But Rev. Wilson was assuring me that the Stegall Seminary Scholarship Endowment Foundation was not a scam and that their generosity was genuine.

Over the past few years one of my favorite Scriptures has been 2 Corinthians 9:6. It reads, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” The generosity with which the Stegall Foundation sows is incredible. As I have transitioned from a student recipient to now serving as a member of the board, I have been humbled by the generosity and bold leadership of every single person involved.

The foundation not only has donors, like yourself, who are actively sowing generously into the next generation of church leadership, but we have a board of directors that does the same. You may not know this, but the foundation’s board is made up of some of the most humble and forward-thinking individuals in our conference. The vision, wisdom, and integrity that Dr. Stegall brings to the team as Volunteer President is unmatched. His selflessness and commitment to making investments that will last for generations is something that has truly changed the way in which I lead in the local church.

Jesus tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. When I was on the receiving end of the generosity of this scholarship foundation, it may have been a hard sell to get me to believe that! Each and every gift was such a blessing, a blessing that relieved the burdens of tuition and travel. Hearing others say that being a part of GIVING to the foundation and as a part of the leadership team would be better than RECEIVING...I just could not have imagined it to be true; but it absolutely is!

Here at Good News United Methodist Church where I currently serve, we have two students currently attending Asbury Theological Seminary in preparation to enter a lifetime of service to the church. To be able to walk along this journey with them has been an unexpected and deeply meaningful grace in my life.

Christian Dixon is currently serving as our director of Missions and Connections. When we were in the process of hiring Christian to join our team from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Stegall Foundation was a huge part of Christian making the move south. We didn’t just want him to come serve on our team; we wanted to make an investment into him and support him on his journey through seminary. It was such a gift as we were going through the hiring process with him to tell him about all the people like you who selflessly make incredible investments into the kingdom of God. Christian is not only going to school and working full-time, he and his wife Taylor are raising their two beautiful girls Eden (3) and Annie (6 months). Christian is a shining star on our staff and I am confident that God

will use him to make a lasting impact in and through the local church for years to come.

Brooke Talley is also a member of Good News and pursuing her degree through Asbury Theological Seminary. Brooke was unexpectedly widowed at age 34 with a one year old son, Hayes. She graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Social Work, went on to get a Masters in Special Education of UAB and is currently working as a Behavior Therapist at the Emerald Coast Autism Center. Shortly after her husband's passing she was invited to a retreat for young widows. God did a powerful work through her at that time and she has been serving other young widows through a ministry she founded called *Songs in the Night*. *Songs in the Night* exists to see and support young widows while strengthening a faithful community where the depths of grief can propel us into even deeper relationships with God. Brooke also teaches a course



(Left to Right): Brooke Talley, Brad Goode and Christian Dixon.

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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.**

# Spring Benefit Concerts Coming to Auburn, Panama City, and Mobile



Randall Atcheson

The Stegall Foundation is excited to welcome back Mr. Randall (Randy) Atcheson for a series of highly-anticipated benefit piano concerts. Randy has selected a variety of music that he will play for these concerts.

At the foundation's invitation, Atcheson performed in Prattville in 2021 and is again returning to share his talents in other areas of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

April 24 at Auburn United Methodist Church

April 25 at Panama City First United Methodist Church

April 26 at Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile, Ala

Each concert is free and open to the public. Please plan to join us for outstanding evenings of music and fellowship. Additional information about the concerts is available on our website: [stegallscholarship.com](http://stegallscholarship.com).

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each semester at Good News UMC called *Pain to Purpose*. In this class she invites others walking through a variety of difficult life circumstances to find a pathway and purpose as they walk through the valley.

Our local church has also been able to support students through *Rev. Dr. Cris Perry Scholarship Fund*. Dr. Perry was the previous pastor at Good News UMC and an adjunct professor at Asbury Theological Seminary. Dr. Perry attended Asbury himself and throughout his life invested into the lives of many seminary students as both an official and unofficial mentor. As our church leadership was pursuing ways to honor Dr. Perry's ministry, the idea arose of taking an annual seminary offering in his honor. So each year on the first Sunday of March we invite a seminary student to preach in our services and take an offering for seminary students. We annually direct a portion of the money received to the Stegall Foundation.

A phrase we use often around Good News is this: "When we all play our small part, big things can happen." As each of you plays your part in the Stegall Seminary Foundation, I hope you can see that big things are happening. Not only are we supporting many incredible students, but we are together laying a foundation that will be instrumental in equipping leaders of the local church for generations to come!

Thank you for continuing to sow generously as we together play our parts to invest in the leaders of the next generation! If you find yourself visiting the beautiful beaches of 30A this summer, you can find our service times and address at [www.goodnewschurch.life](http://www.goodnewschurch.life)



*Dr. Stegall recently visited the campus of Candler School of Theology at Emory University where he spent time with seminary students. He is pictured here with scholarship recipients (left to right): Molly Coss, Lauren Cowan and Liz Varnum.*





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## The Greatest Vocation in the World!

I love those words that the Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones shared with the congregation at Westminster Abbey, "I gave up nothing. I received everything. I count it the highest honor that God can bestow upon any person is to call that person to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ." When the University of Chicago made a study of all of the major occupations in America, their findings indicated that ordained ministers experienced the greatest joy and fulfillment in their vocations than all of the other professions within the United States. One of the reasons can be attributed to the truth contained in the wording of signs placed in churches all across France, encouraging young adults to enter the ordained ministry, "There are 4 great days in the life of nearly everyone's life—birth, confirmation, marriage, and death.

How would you like to be needed on all four of these very special days?"

While I still believe that it is God who "calls" people into the ministry, I also believe that God calls individuals through "nurturing" and "encouraging" members of local churches. Are we encouraging young men and women to

answer God's call upon their lives to become ordained ministers like we did in years past? One of the greatest crises facing our church today is that we have fewer and fewer effective young men and women who are even considering entering the ordained ministry. If this trend continues, you will soon see more and more churches in the Alabama-West Florida Conference closed or merged with other churches, or you will see more empty pulpits where no one will be available to serve.

While attending a church meeting in Atlanta, I was invited to join a small group of bishops for lunch. One of the bishops from the South Central Jurisdiction shared the story of a telephone call that he had received from an angry Chairman of a Pastor-Parish Relations Committee of a large church in his area, demanding that the bishop meet with the committee. The bishop shared that when he walked into the room where the committee was meeting, the angry Chair of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee handed him the keys to the church and screamed, "Where are all of those gifted young adults that you once appointed to



**KARL & BRENDA STEGALL**

our church?" The bishop said that he paused for a moment and then he replied, "I tell you where they are! They are doctors and lawyers, architects and engineers, bankers and airline pilots. Churches like yours are no longer encouraging young adults to enter the ordained ministry!"

Bishops cannot clone Christian ministers. They must be "sent" from our churches. We desperately need more and more effective young adults to become a part of this most rewarding and fulfilling vocation in the world!

- Karl K. Stegall