Welcome to Scholarship Sunday at First Church

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29:11

First Church of Crystal Lake
Scholarship Ministry
What is the First Church Scholarship Ministry?

The First Church Scholarship Ministry assists congregation members in their preparation and commitment to being Godly servant-leaders in the world, awarding scholarships based on their preparation, spiritual commitment, and economic need. The ministry is responsible for administering various scholarships available to church members who are seeking to continue their educations in a post-secondary, certification, or licensure program at a recognized institution of higher learning. Recipients are selected based upon academic excellence, active participation in church ministry, and ministry and mission statements included in written applications.

Funds to award scholarships to First Church members are provided through the generosity of benefactors who are led by the Holy Spirit to give a portion of the bounty that God has provided them so that scholarship recipients are able to follow their calls to serve His Kingdom.
The First Church Scholarship Benefactors

The Stinespring Foundation Scholarship

Both my wife, Jan, and I share a strong commitment to providing educational opportunities to youth in our Church through the Scholarship Ministry. We hope to benefit those who have both a love for learning and a love for Jesus Christ. We have also made provisions in our estate plan to gift sufficient funds to the United Methodist Foundation so that these scholarship amounts will be perpetual at our death. Initially, these gifts were anonymous, but Pastor Doyle Blanton asked us to share this idea in the hope that others would be encouraged to do the same. We hope this may stimulate others to give to the Church either now or in their estate plans at their death.

~Harry and Jan Stinespring, benefactors
The TW Nelson Memorial Scholarship

My father, Theodore W. Nelson, or "TW" as he preferred to be called, was born in Missoula, Montana in 1914. Raised by his aunt and uncle after his mother died, he was blessed with great intelligence and drive. His family was poor but knew hard work would pay off. He graduated from high school at 15, valedictorian of his class, and from the Colorado School of Mines at age 19, with a degree in Petroleum Engineering (again valedictorian of his class). Years later he established a scholarship in his name through the Colorado School of Mines for an engineering student with academic excellence and drive. Graduating in 1933, during the midst of the Depression, he was one of two men in his class to get a job. The job was with White Star Oil out of Kansas which later became Mobil Oil. Forty-three years later, he retired as an Executive Vice President of Mobil Oil.

My brothers and sister and I were all raised with a strong emphasis on education and getting good grades. College degrees were a "must", as my father believed that education and using your intelligence were the keys to success. This ideology carried right down to his grandchildren as well, and he found great joy in helping finance all of our college tuitions. He died in 2011 at age 96, and I know he would be proud to know that his inheritance was still helping with others' education.

~ Sue Elliot, benefactor and daughter of TW Nelson
The Edward and Vivian Coonrad Memorial Scholarship

The Coonrad Scholarship Fund, created in memory of Edward and Vivian Coonrad, reflects two of their greatest passions in life: higher education and their church. The idea of a scholarship was appealing because both of my parents wanted to attend college. However, at the time they graduated from high school, the Great Depression was beginning and their families had no money for such a luxury. Throughout their lives, they continued to learn and they made certain that all three of their children were able to attend college. They began saving for our education as soon as we were born, but they were not able to pay the total cost. All three of us benefited from scholarships, loans and/or work-study programs. Thus a scholarship in my parents’ memory not only honors them but “pays forward” the support the three of us received from our parents and others. And First United Methodist Church is the ideal organization in which to position the fund because the congregation gave so much to our family and was there for us through many trials and tribulations. Briefly, this is what the church has meant to our family.

When my parents moved to Crystal Lake in 1937, they were both returning to the state of their birth. They had been farming in Nebraska since their marriage in 1934, but the drought made growing crops and raising livestock very difficult. Although both had been raised in the church (Edward in the Marengo Baptist Church and Vivian in the Methodist Church), they did not seek a church home immediately. When my father’s mother was killed in an automobile accident in February 1938, the pastor and one or two members of First Methodist Church called on my parents to extend sympathy. As nonmembers, this visit made a deep impression on my parents who began attending the church regularly. They joined the church on Easter Sunday 1939.

Little did my parents know the impact that the church would have on them and their family. The church became the focal point of our family’s life. First, our family made meaningful friendships many of which lasted my parents’ entire lifetime. These same friendships are now extended to their children. Second, the church became the social milieu for our family. Here the children were baptized, confirmed, attended Sunday School, youth group, church camp, and sang in the children’s choir. Edward enjoyed athletic-related activities of the church including the church volleyball team and golf league while Vivian was active in Women’s Society, the rummage sales, and taught Sunday School. Together they enjoyed social activities such as couples’ club and bridge groups. And last, but far from least, GROW
groups, Sunday School and Disciples Bible Study provided spiritual nurture and further learning opportunities.

With age, my parents began to experience more health problems and hospitalizations. These illnesses did not go unnoticed by the members of First United Methodist. Both of my parents were remembered with cards, phone calls, flowers, casseroles, and offers of help. These kindnesses were extended numerous times especially in the final years of their lives.

In gratitude for all the kindnesses our family has received, it is a joy to offer the Coonrad Scholarship to the glory of God, in memory of my parents and in honor of the congregation of First United Methodist Church.

~ Sue Coonrad Bryant, benefactor and daughter of Edward and Vivian Coonrad

The John N. Garis Memorial Scholarship

In his career, John was a teacher and leader. At home, John was surrounded by a family of teachers, in the nursing field, elementary education, and high school education. Teaching and leadership were integral to John’s life in other areas as well: as a leader in Indian Guides, Boy Scouts, a chaperone of mission trips to Appalachia and also as a coordinator of a small group and United Methodist Men events. We faithfully return God’s gifts to John and his family to others, such that his passion for teaching and leadership may reflect God’s light in this world.

~ Kathie Garis, benefactor and wife of John Garis
The James W. Nelson Memorial Scholarship

Jim was born on January 9, 1968 at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona, and after several moves, moved to Crystal Lake in December 1974. He was a 1986 graduate of Crystal Lake Central High School and a 1991 graduate of Oregon State University. He was a member of Boy Scouts of America, Crystal Lake Troop 158, and earned the Eagle Scout rank in 1984. He was tapped out for the honorary Order of the Arrow in 1982 and became a brotherhood member in the fall of 1983. In 1982, he traveled to Switzerland, France, Wales, and Ireland with Troop 13 of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. In 1983, he hiked at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. He was very active in the high school church youth fellowship, sang in the high school church choir and went on youth mission trips to Appalachia. He was active in the college-age youth fellowship in Corvallis, Oregon and after college, started a young adult fellowship. Jim enjoyed computers and owned the “happyastronaut.com” domain before he owned a computer. He designed his own web page. He loved science fiction and fantasy. He was an active outdoorsman. His cats were Magellyn (14 pounds) and Hannibal (22 pounds).

Jim was living in Mukilteo, Washington and attending Everett United Methodist Church when he died in a kayaking accident on May 30, 2003. He was employed as an engineering technician at Applied Technical Services Corp in Bothell, Washington. He had a wonderful sense of humor, loved his family and friends, and loved his Crystal Lake “home” church. He loved his God, his Jesus, (and we suppose), the Holy Ghost.

The church scholarship in Jim’s memory is a classic case of casting your bread upon the waters. We think that Jim was the first recipient of the church scholarships. He received four scholarships and his brother Dick also received four scholarships. These awards allowed both of them to complete university. We felt a scholarship in Jim’s memory was a good way to give back and to give thanks for Jim. Since Jim was active in church, in mission, in community service, and was an Eagle Scout, we asked that preference be given to youths who were active in church, mission, and Scouting (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc. with a slight edge for his own Troop 158.)

~Jim and Ardie Nelson, benefactors and parents of James W. Nelson
The United Methodist Men/Jerry Fielding Memorial Scholarship

Jerry was a Christian and a Methodist all of his 73 years. His “Walk to Emmaus” was important in his growth as a Christian. He loved God, his family, flying, and golf. (We must admit that occasionally the order was reversed!) Jerry served God and His Church in many ways, but the service that meant the most to him was the mentoring program for the confirmands. He talked often about how impressed he was that his confirmands were so familiar with the Bible and how their values and behavior reflected their Christian life. Jerry’s family is blessed that these young people are being gifted with a scholarship to honor his memory. Our prayer is that they know God and God’s Church are always there for them.

~Joan Fielding, benefactor and wife of Jerry Fielding

The Connie Landvick Memorial Scholarship

~Mark Lanvick, benefactor

The Lindley Foundation Scholarship

~Jerry and Annette Lindley, benefactors
The Dave and Marianne Hill Scholarship

First Church has been an important part of our faith journey for many years. First Church is our faith family. We have felt a call to give back to this family and to provide assistance to those in our congregation who are furthering their education. God placed this call on our hearts, and we are humbled to have the opportunity to assist those in the First Church family who are continuing their education.

Music and the arts are important aspects of our life. They have always been a part of our worship and Christian growth. Our primary desire is that our scholarship will be used to support those who are studying music, the arts and other related fields. However, we do not want to limit the use of the scholarship.

We are thankful that we can be a part of the scholarship ministry at First Church, and we pray that the program will benefit the lives of those in our congregation who love Jesus and have a passion for learning and seeking God’s Kingdom.

Our goal for the scholarship is to continue to support the mission statement of First Church – “Devoted to Christ, Connected to Others & Sent to Serve”.

~Dave and Marianne Hill, benefactors

The First Church Scholarship

~Lyle and Virginia Anderson, benefactors
The 2020 First Church Scholarship Recipients

**Grace Adcock**
Freshman
Ball State University, Muncie, IN
Major: Photojournalism

Receiving
The Dave and Marianne Hill Scholarship
The James W. Nelson Memorial Scholarship
The United Methodist Men/Jerry Fielding Memorial Scholarship
The Stinespring Foundation Scholarship

**Becca Elston**
Sophomore
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
Major: Criminal Justice

Receiving
The First Church Scholarship
The Connie Landvick Memorial Scholarship
The Stinespring Foundation Scholarship
Paula Hernandez  
Senior  
Judson University, Elgin, IL  
Major: Christian Ministries  

Receiving  
The Edward and Vivian Coonrad Memorial Scholarship  
The Lindley Foundation Scholarship  
The Stinespring Foundation Scholarship  

Rebecca Horvath  
Sophomore  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
Major: Nutrition (Dietetics)  

Receiving  
The First Church Scholarship  
The Dave and Marianne Hill Scholarship
Jonna Kilger
Sophomore
McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL
Major: Associate of Arts

Receiving
The John N. Garis Memorial Scholarship
The Lindley Foundation Scholarship
The Stinespring Foundation Scholarship

Tyler Nasternak
Sophomore
Carroll University, Waukesha, WI
Major: Computer Science

Receiving
The John N. Garis Memorial Scholarship
Katrina Troy
Junior
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
Major: Journalism

Receiving
The TW Nelson Memorial Scholarship
The Lindley Foundation Scholarship
The Stinespring Foundation Scholarship


**How can I assist the students of First Church?**

- **Pray** for all First Church students (preschool through post-graduate) as they follow their individual calls to ministry using the gifts given to them by our Heavenly Father.
- **Pray** for the teachers of First Church students so that they may be moved by the Holy Spirit to provide the instruction and education our students need to become difference-makers for the Kingdom.
- **Pray** for the specific prayer requests and individual missions of First Church scholarship recipients.
- **Pray** for guidance in your own service to God’s Kingdom to see if He is calling you to serve Him through the First Church Scholarship Ministry
  - **Am I being called to serve on the ministry team?**
    Servants with a passion for the college students of First Church are always welcome and encouraged to join the team. Contact the Scholarship Ministry chair, Brian Adcock, at gtrgolfer93@gmail.com for information.
  - Scholarships for First Church students cannot be awarded without the generosity of those who have been moved by the Holy Spirit to start new scholarships or to give to existing funds within the ministry.

**Am I being called to participate financially in the Scholarship Ministry? There are two ways to do this.**

- Funding a named or anonymous scholarship. This can be accomplished through direct contribution to a pre-existing scholarship fund or through the establishment of a new scholarship foundation. This type of contribution is traditionally a recurring gift. Contact Jan Vera in the church office at jvera@firstchurchcl.org for more information.
- Contributing financial resources to the First Church Scholarship Ministry to be pooled with other funds for the purpose of supporting students in their educational endeavors. This type of contribution may be a one-time or recurring gift.