

EST.  2020

# POLLY McREYNOLDS STONE

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### THE SCHOLARSHIP

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Each recipient of the Polly McReynolds Stone Scholarship will receive an award of at least 50% of their RTS tuition. Recipients must be pursuing a Master of Divinity or other master's degree full-time at RTS Charlotte.

RTS Charlotte President Michael J. Kruger recently wrote:

*I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of Polly Stone than an RTS scholarship in her honor. Polly loved RTS and believed wholeheartedly in its mission: to equip the next generation of leaders to faithfully teach and preach God's Word. My prayer is that this scholarship will be a great blessing to the church for years to come.*

Incoming and current students may apply for the scholarship. For more information on eligibility or the application process, please contact Jack Roylston at [jroylston@rts.edu](mailto:jroylston@rts.edu).

### REMEMBERING POLLY STONE

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Mrs. Pauline (Polly) McReynolds Stone loved and was loved. On August 31, 2020, at the age of 51, Polly Stone was welcomed into the eternal rest of her Heavenly Father after an almost four-year battle with cancer. Left to mourn until that glorious reunion in heaven are her husband Bob, her children Amanda and Robert, her brother Sage, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws, beloved friends and all of us here in the RTS family.

Polly Stone loved the Lord. She served Him well. She loved her native state of Mississippi and her alma mater Mississippi State. She loved her family. And, did she ever love her family: Bob, Amanda, Robert, Sage, her late mother Frances and father Sammy, and all the extended McReynolds and Coburn family in Mississippi whose lives Polly intimately knew even after she had lived for 25 years in Charlotte.

And Polly was loved. In the three weeks prior to Polly's passing, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, the Stone home was filled with friends, family, co-workers, acquaintances, coaches, teammates and their families, friends and the many spiritual sisters whom Polly had led to the Lord, disciplined, shepherded, counseled, mentored or simply been kind to. The combination of tears, laughter, hospitality, storytelling, Scripture reading, prayer and song during Polly's last days was truly a picture of the body of Christ that comes about only by God's gracious and merciful hand and presence.

Polly loved Reformed Theological Seminary. Polly earned an MA in Theological Studies from RTS Charlotte in 2001. She also worked at RTS, starting in 1994 "running the book table" for the new Charlotte campus on Monroe Road and ending up as Chief Institutional Assessment Officer of the seminary, one of the four chief officers of RTS, with significant responsibilities related to accreditation, academic administration, and assessment. Polly loved the word of God. She knew the importance of it to the Church and to a good seminary education. Polly was a well-known leader in theological education and eventually became a member of the board of the Association of Theological Schools, the leading accreditor of seminaries in the United States.

For many, Polly was the face of RTS. For many, Polly was simply a dear friend and their lives were profoundly changed or influenced by having known her. One such friend, Melissa Kruger, recently wrote:

*A few weeks ago we got the call. Polly's cancer treatments had stopped working. Friend after friend came and sat with her on her back porch. Some flew in from Texas, others drove from Mississippi... Her husband, Bob, was at her side every minute. Her children listened and laughed at stories they told together. They read the Bible. They prayed. Soon after, she went to be with Jesus... As I watched the people of her life gather, all I could think is: How beautiful and extraordinary is my friend. She loved the Lord. She fulfilled her calling. She hoped for eternity. What an amazing life.*

Polly Stone, an amazing life indeed!

## HONORING HER LIFE WITH THE POLLY McREYNOLDS STONE SCHOLARSHIP FUND —

Bob Stone spoke recently of Polly and the scholarship:

*Much of Polly's professional life was dedicated to RTS. Other than the Church itself, RTS is the institution that most closely represented her beliefs about the Church and the world. Polly loved the people of RTS: the students, the staff, and the faculty and their commitment to the RTS mission of preparing men and women for Gospel ministry in the local Church. Amanda, Robert and I are excited about this opportunity to continue her legacy at RTS, a place she loved so much. Our hope is that this scholarship will be used in the lives of future students to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as they pursue Reformed theological education and bless others for the kingdom for years to come.*



Through memorial gifts from generous friends and family, initial funding for the scholarship was sufficient for RTS Charlotte to offer the scholarship to a student beginning in the Fall of 2021. Additional funding will allow RTS Charlotte to offer the scholarship to students in the future and possibly create an endowment to sustain the scholarship for years to come. Our prayer is that the Lord will provide a total of \$300,000 in funding.

To make a gift toward the scholarship, you can give online at [rts.edu/give](https://rts.edu/give) -- specifying a gift in memory of Polly Stone -- or mail a check to RTS Charlotte at 2101 Carmel Road, Charlotte NC 28226 w/Polly Stone Fund on the memo line. For questions or additional information, please contact Ed Barnes, Vice President of Development, at 704-451-1637 or [ebarnes@rts.edu](mailto:ebarnes@rts.edu).