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Book program honors pastor

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

BELLEVUE - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Bellevue has found a way to honor a former pastor, who died Feb. 12 at 58.

On Nov. 1, All Saints Day, the church created a book scholarship fund for seminary students. The fund is named for Tim Hungler, who was pastor to both Prince of Peace and Hopeful Lutheran Church in Florence.

The scholarship's statement of purpose reads, "to honor Pastor Tim Hungler's devotion to learning for Christ, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will honor his memory and keep his ministry alive by founding a scholarship in his name."

The congregation decided on a scholarship to help seminarians buy books because of Hungler's love of the written word.

"He loved his books," said Diane Hungler, his wife of five years.

She remembers when they packed up his apartment after their wedding to move him in with her. "His apartment was wall-to-wall books ... every single room of it."

At Hungler's funeral, Pastor Jim Huffman told a story of Hungler flying to a week-long conference in Florida. He arrived with two heavy suitcases filled with books.

A graduate of Pacific Lutheran College, Hungler dedicated himself to learning every day.

At the All Saints Day service, current Prince of Peace Pastor Jerry Cantrell read anonymously submitted remembrances of his predecessor.

"He used the insight his books gave him to go out into the world to spread the message of Christ," wrote one parishioner.

"Many times he said, 'I may know more than you, but I am no better than you and I don't know everything and I am the first to admit it,'" said another church member.

A self-described "fuzzy-headed liberal" in a conservative church in a conservative area, Hungler challenged his church members.

"We're hoping that by helping a seminary student get through school, we'll maybe help them become a little bit more like Tim," said Jim O'Neill, a congregation member and Hungler's barber for 26 years.

Donations can be made to the Prince of Peace - Rev. Tim Hungler Book Scholarship Fund and mailed to Prince of Peace Church at 306 Center St., Bellevue, KY 41073.

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