



## Spiritual Journey Through Giving

**Phil Daniels**

My name is Phil Daniels and I've belonged to St. Bartholomew's since 1994, and I love calling St. Bart's home! I was welcomed from day one and have been involved with pledging ever since then because I know how important it is in order for the church to do what it does in everyone's lives. There are so many programs and ministries that St. Bartholomew's is involved with and it takes pledging for these initiatives to carry on. Personally, to pledge is a way of life for me because God has been so good to me, and I couldn't lead my life without God leading me through each and every day. I feel that since God loves all of us as his children we should do our respective part in contributing to our church family as though it were our personal family.

When I first began pledging I gave what I could comfortably and tried each year to increase that as much as possible. Spiritually here at St. Bartholomew's, pledging has made me feel closer to what we have here and knowing I'm doing what I can to continue to make us grow into a closer family. When I started with my pledging, sometimes I wondered if my small part was making an impact. For those of you who are considering a pledge this year, you may be feeling the same way, but just consider that there are many cogs to the big wheel and if everyone gives what they can, then that wheel will keep turning!

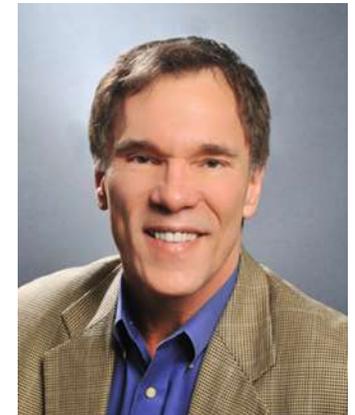


## Spiritual Journey Through Giving

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## Spiritual Journey Through Action – Neva Corbin

I have a friend, who when he sees me, asks, “How is your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?” Uh . . . Er . . . .

Only later does it occur to me that I might have asked, “And how is your relationship with Christ’s sheep?”

In our work against the death penalty, we are trying to minister to some of Christ’s sheep. Some in our group attend the vigils on the night of the executions. Some lobby our legislators. Some attend workshops. Some send emails to about 60 people at St. Bart’s about upcoming executions and ways to help. St Bart’s saints sign Christmas cards to the men on Death Row. Some write to inmates on Death Row. Some send letters to the newspaper. Some pray in groups and individually. Our interim rector celebrates the Eucharist on Death Row.

I’ve attended St. Bart’s for 14 years, and maybe we are like a spiritual petri dish. Our particular group gets energy from the nurturing medium that is St. Bart’s, and we in turn enrich the life of our parish. How is my relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? My answer comes from Christ’s answer to Peter.

The third time he [Jesus] said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” . . . . He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17)



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- Have you been moved by tragedy and suffering to give with greater generosity?
- Has your conscious awareness of suffering created in you a bolder spirit when you think of giving?
- Have you associated the day to day needs that must be met in the life of the parish with the more dramatic needs of the victims of tragedy?



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