



Spiritual Journey of Giving – John Ford

I have been attending St. Bart's since 2001, soon after Hilary and I moved to Atlanta from Ithaca, New York. Since then I have participated in various food ministries and served on the Vestry. My work on the Rector Nominating Committee, on the Diocesan Council, on our Vocational Discernment Committee, and on our Diocesan Commission for Dismantling Racism has strengthened my faith and appreciation for the leadership of St. Bart's. Through several years of participation in Sunday worship services, foyers groups, hunger walks, and pride parades, I enjoy a close connection with my sisters and brothers in St. Bart's community. Soon I will begin my three-year term as a member of St. Bart's Endowment Board and I will start my fourth year in Education for Ministry (EfM) where I am learning practical theology based in a set of five core practices that form and

support me in the ministries to which I am called. This year the curriculum is designed to facilitate conversation across cultural differences. EfM is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice. Since its' founding in 1975, this international program has assisted more than 80,000 participants in discovering and nurturing their call to Christian service. EfM is administered by the Beeken Center at the University of the South where I am a member of the Beeken Center Advisory Board.

I would be happy to talk with anyone who is interested in getting involved in the ministries in which I have served.