



Spiritual Journey of Giving: Tim Bacon and Bo Waddell

Our journey with the Episcopal Church began over 26 years ago visiting All Saints' in Atlanta, and a couple of years later being confirmed there. We attended All Saints' for many years, but somehow became sidetracked with life and attended less and less frequently. After some time of not attending church at all, "fate" or perhaps "God's Love" landed us in two separate conversations where different people told us about a small Episcopal parish in south Atlanta, and their fondness for the parish. We wondered if we were being "guided" to visit this parish. It was a small parish with an aging membership, and it was struggling financially. After a couple of months of visiting, we felt called to transfer our membership. We moved our membership letter and then had to make a big decision on how much to pledge. We took a very intentional leap and pledged more than we thought possible. We also became intensely involved in the parish; Tim joining the vestry and later becoming senior warden. The two of us took over the responsibility of planting and maintaining the flower gardens. We were members for over seven years. During these seven years, Tim was promoted at Delta three times, and Bo's design firm rebounded from the economic downturn that the entire country had experienced. We never wondered if all this was a coincidence; we knew that we had been blessed and guided by faith by not serving our fears.

After seven years in this parish there became a time when it seemed right for us to look for a new home parish. Our search began at St.

Bartholomew's in February of 2016 and never ventured anywhere else. The welcome we received on our very first Sunday visit had us hooked. After several months of visiting we asked that our membership letter be transferred to St. Bart's, and we made our first pledge. We have been blessed to increase our pledge each year, and God willing we are on track to increase our pledge for 2019.

We think that pledging is the best way of giving to the work of the church. It provides the vestry with a much needed path to plan and manage a budget. Our pledge is an electronic transfer that is fulfilled whether or not we are able to attend services. Thanks be to God!



Spiritual Journey of Giving : Kerry Lockerman

I arrived at St Bart's when I was 30 years old; I am now 73, so, it's been a while. That first Sunday, in the Spring of 1975, was the beginning of so much that would transform my life. Like many here, I grew up in a different (protestant), tradition. The liturgy and the music were a new experience, as was the eucharist as the central act of worship, rather than the sermon. When I arrived, a stranger, that first Sunday, I didn't know what these people had, but I knew that I wanted it.

I came to the place, for me, of belonging to this parish by volunteering in groups and on committees. Taking responsibility for my place here by engaging in worship, taking advantage of the offerings of classes in Adult Christian Ed, and participation in small groups, I learned what this parish was all about.

Through the years, there have been abundant opportunities to serve here and celebrate my place at St Bart's. Parish life, the Vestry, EFM, Amerson House, women's groups, book study groups, and serving as Verger have all informed my life and my spirit.

As my life has changed, my personal formation has been shaped by living into the mystery of faith, as I have found it here. Those small groups where we have told our stories, shared our lives, and been bound to each other, one spiritual journey to another, have enriched my experience of this place and blessed me.

Ken and I were confirmed as Episcopalians the first year we were here. We became pledging members of St Bart's, and we have been ever since.