



## Spiritual Journey Through Giving Eleanor Pritchett

I am Eleanor A. Pritchett, member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church for nearly thirty years. I worked for an Atlanta corporation until early retirement, then had some years to work in church related organizations. When I found St. Bart's and transferred my membership, I began to pledge immediately.

As I look back on my church life, I realize that I've always equated pledging as an automatic part of membership. But, I thank my parents for that. I saw them as active, giving church members. And as a child, I had the little homemade allowance box with places for spending, saving and Sunday School contributions that people so often mention.

My main motive for making an adult pledge is that I want to be included in all it takes to operate a church. I like knowing that my pledge to St. Bart's helps with local needs, keeping the lights turned on, but also extends to the Diocese and further. In return, St. Bartholomew's has given me a faithful church family over the years. It has opened doors for theological studies through EFM (Education for Ministry) and has helped to form my beliefs and practices as a Christian. I enjoyed being a part of the Organ Campaign some years back and found that a way of contributing to one of my favorite programs - the music program.

Just recently I had my 80th birthday and so I've been retired almost ten years. As my income has lessened, so has my pledge. But I intend to keep up my practice of pledging as long as there is income to pledge! I live simply, but happily. My special relationship to this church contributes greatly to my level of happiness. It is good to know that a pledge of any amount is appreciated. I especially like the convenience of on-line giving.



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## Spiritual Journey Through Action - Kristina Griffin

One of the first things that drew me to St. Bart's three years ago was the church's involvement in the community. When I learned that St. Bart's would be sponsoring a refugee family, I wanted to be a part of the team that would be working with them. There has been so much to do in the year since the Alshehabi family arrived that it really does take a whole team to accomplish it all. The journey ahead of the Alshehabi family to establish their life here is still a difficult one, but they have advanced quickly with the support of St. Bart's.

Each week, I spend several hours visiting their home to tutor Mrs. Alshehabi in English. Meanwhile, my husband keeps the two kids busy by tutoring them in math and helping them with their homework. Inevitably the family asks us for assistance doing other things too, such as sorting mail and reviewing permission slips. Regardless of the task for the day, it is an honor and a pleasure to work with such a loving family and see how grateful they are for the life God has provided to them. It is amazing to see the kids cuddle with their dad, to see them start to enjoy school, and to see parents that just want their children to find success. For me, being there to give assistance to them in whatever way I can each week is a way to thank God for the gifts I have in my life.



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- Have you been the beneficiary of someone's generosity at a particular time in your life when it made a great deal of difference to you?
- Are there needs you can see now in the world around you?
- How can you give of yourself that you might respond to those needs?



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