

DISCERNING *God's Call* RENEWING *Our Mission*



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Question for Reflection

How do I
understand God
to be calling me
to serve and
share with
Ascension this
year?

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL - RENEWING OUR MISSION

by Jane Burruss

I am a numbers girl – I advise folks about their resources and choices, and for years, I have also worked with the National Church on Stewardship Formation. I discovered some time ago that I was created with a servant heart. I've discerned that my personal call is to tithe my economic resources. Over time, I've found that about a third of what I earn goes to Save, another third to Share, and the rest to Spend. Sometimes, giving of my time is harder for me, but at a Stewardship conference, I heard the distinct call of God that I must remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Thus, I know that I am called to dedicate one day in seven of my time and talent to the service of God. In the end, I understand that All I have is from God, thus all that I do with all that I am and all that I have is my prayer back to God.

When I am asked to do anything, I try to discern whether I am hearing God's call or not. And if it is God, I reflect on whether it is a call for me specifically or if it is a general ask. There are so many good things that need to be done, but not all of them are what God calls me to do. If I decided it was God's call and my call, I used to ask where I was being called to do the work. For many years, my professional work took me all over the USA, and I knew my call was for national & overseas work.

As my professional situation changed and my work became much more localized, my call also became to serve locally, and my primary focus became Ascension, where I have belonged and served for 24 years.

A favorite guide for me is: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7 I think that if we let our gifts flow from joy, from being loved by God, then each gift [no matter its size] of time, talent, or treasure is valued because it is going toward our shared Ascension ministries. Any hour or dollar I give joins with other hours & dollars to become the living Ascension missions as we define them to be.

As our gifts merge, they increase the resources of Ascension, thus giving Ascension more choices for sharing God's love with its neighbors. I support other excellent organizations, with Charity Water being my favorite. I also care deeply about caring for animals, supporting hunger relief and orphans, and working with Doctors Without Borders. In my heart, Ascension as The Church has a special charter to be the hands & feet, the voice, of God in our world. The voices asking for money or time continue, and each year I consider what to give where. Because of the work Ascension does with our neighbors and our parish, I now share more money with Ascension than elsewhere, and I serve as called by Ascension / God to work that feeds hearts, souls and more than a few stomachs.



Jane Burruss grew up an Episcopalian in Amarillo, went to The University in Austin, and became a bit of a gypsy, moving over 30 times since high school. Janey has lived on both coasts and in various midwestern states before finding her home in Dallas in 1997. She loves to travel, visiting all 50 states, all 7 continents, and over 100 countries. Having a varied career for 35 years, she now works for herself as a financial and legal advisor, lives alone with her 2 dogs, but also has 3 living siblings, lots of nieces, nephews, and an awesome village. She is grateful to have found Church of the Ascension in the summer of 2001 after a trek through a few other Dallas churches.