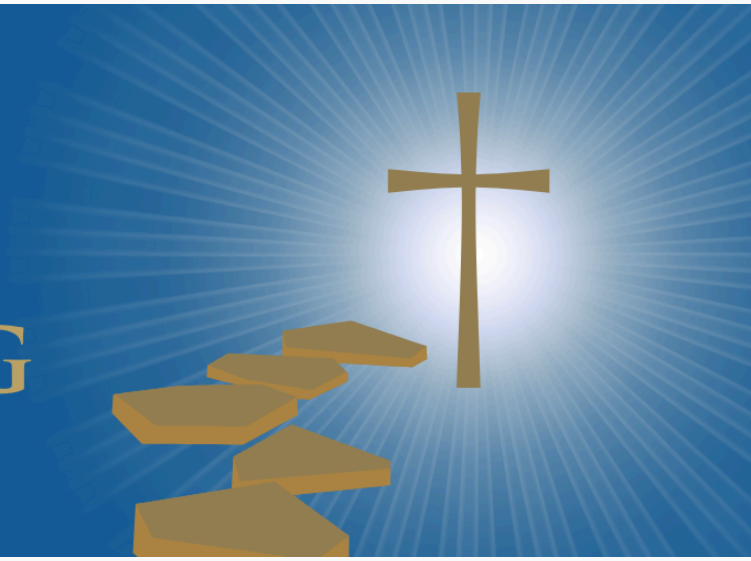
DISCERNING *God's Call* RENEWING *Our Mission*



September 25, 2025

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL - RENEWING OUR MISSION

by Shade Badejo

The theme for the 2025 Stewardship Campaign, "Discerning God's Call: Renewing Our Mission," invites us to reflect deeply on who we are as a church and how we live out our calling in today's world. Rooted in Ascension's mission statement—to restore all people to unity with God and each other—this campaign calls us not only to listen for God's voice but also to act in ways that embody reconciliation, healing, and love. Stewardship becomes more than just a commitment of resources; it is a spiritual practice of aligning our lives with God's purpose and renewing our dedication to the mission entrusted to us.

At Ascension, we take pride in being a community where everyone is welcomed and valued. Our inclusiveness is a reflection of Christ's own radical hospitality, reminding us that God's love knows no boundaries. This spirit of welcome allows us to create a space where people from all walks of life can come together in worship, fellowship, and service. By nurturing these bonds of belonging, we fulfill our mission to restore unity and extend God's grace, both within our congregation and beyond.

This reminds me of how my family became a part of Ascension; I was born and raised a Muslim, I got married to the love of my life, got baptized, and confirmed in an Anglican Church in Nigeria.

Question for Reflection

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

We relocated to the USA from Swaziland, SA, in December 2004. While surfing the internet to search for a place of worship, I stumbled on Ascension, a two-minute drive from the apartment on Markville Drive. Ascension community was warm, welcoming, and very supportive, and we are glad we found a church home. Bishop Kai Ryan was instrumental in our smooth transition to a new country. Our children served God as acolytes and readers before they left for college. I dedicated my time as a Sunday school teacher for some years, and I still serve in the Altar guild.

We are at our best when we are fully engaged in being the hands and feet of Christ. Whether gathering for worship, enjoying fellowship, serving neighbors in need, or working alongside one another, our collective efforts breathe life into our mission. In my career as a school administrator, my work aligns with the mission of God's kingdom: restoring unity, fostering growth, and guiding students toward lives of purpose and service.

Just as Christ led with humility and love, I try to serve with a God-centered vision, where every relationship I form reflects God's love.

This stewardship campaign is a chance to renew our commitment to the mission of Ascension, especially during this period of transition, and to discern how God is calling us forward into the bright future of our church. Together, through prayer, generosity, and action, we will continue to grow as a vibrant, faithful community answering God's call with joy and purpose.

Shade Badejo is married to Kayode Badejo. She and her family joined Ascension in January 2005 with their adult children: Funmi, a third-year Obgyn resident doctor in Northwestern Hospital in Chicago, and Latunde, a fourth-year orthopedic surgery resident at Hospital for Special Surgery, New York. Shade is a high school Assistant Principal at the Dallas Independent School District. She has served in various capacities at Ascension, a Sunday school teacher, discernment committees, a vestry member, and Altar guild. She feels blessed to worship at Episcopal Church of Ascension.