

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 Janice Truitt

I find it interesting that God calls us to use our gifts in various ways as we grow over time. My chosen profession was an art educator, which led to a leadership role as an administrator. In those roles, I was able to utilize creativity, organization, technology, and a passion for working with groups while helping others succeed.

As my parents' health concerns increased, I felt the call to take time to focus on my parents. I am grateful I was able to help them in their time of need. This was also a time of personal spiritual reflection, as I helped my mother reconnect spiritually, and it eventually led Brent and me to join an Episcopal mission in Plano. Due to the impact of COVID, our mission was temporarily closed. Fortunately, we heard of Ascension with their dedication to faith, outreach, and inclusion. When Brent and I first joined Ascension four years ago, we were at a time of great grief in our lives. Our son Luke recently passed away from a cardiac event. Through the love and support we found at Ascension, we gradually gained new insights into how to serve God. This journey began with using our financial gifts and eventually led to serving on the Outbound Committee.

Ascension is a wonderful place to grow spiritually through Sunday Services, study groups, committees, and opportunities to help others. I think of the companionship and lessons learned from the Disciples



study group, of showing God's love by serving others. Ascension is the place where I felt God's call to tithe, with a pledge to support the church and its outreach programs. At Ascension, I discovered a profound personal connection with prayer, scripture, Communion, and music. We all need purpose. The teachings of Jesus Christ help us find a meaningful purpose.

My passion for Ascension grew greater the more I became involved with the Food Pantry. I love that our church family, through generous donations and the gift of time, helps so many families in need. We serve over 200 families each month. As the Food Pantry Lead, I see up close how volunteers make the pantry possible. We pass out over 2 tons of food each month. It takes volunteers to pick up, unload, shelve, organize, bag, and distribute the food. Leveraging my gifts of creativity, organization, technology, and a passion for collaboration has proven to be highly beneficial.

Strangely enough, I love working with spreadsheets. Guess what, due to the size of the pantry, a spreadsheet comes in handy. I track a lot of data to ensure we have enough food. I also see the eyes of the people we serve. Clients show tremendous gratitude. They are provided with the basic need of food. Children show delight. All with needs are welcome. I feel joy knowing that our church, Ascension, serves God.



Janice Truitt grew up as an Episcopalian. Since her father was in the Air Force she lived in many different states and Japan. She attended 12 different schools by the 9th grade. Eventually, her family settled in Dallas, where she graduated from Greenhill School. She received a BFA from Southwestern University, a teacher certification from the University of Houston, and an MA from Texas Woman's University. She worked as an art educator for 34 years. She is married to Barton Brent Truitt. Together, they had two sons. They also have two daughters-in-law and four grandchildren. When not in the Dallas area, she enjoys traveling, visiting family members, and spending time at their family's ranch. She is grateful to have found the Episcopal Church of Ascension in 2021.