

A SUMMARY OF THE BISHOP’S ADDRESS

Bishop Mark said that

- How we live our lives is a reflection of our relationship with God.
- God never chooses not to be in relationship with us, but we can choose not to live in relationship with God.
- The possibility of our choosing not to be in relationship with God is very troubling to the Bishop.

So what are we called to do as disciples of Christ? How do we build and strengthen our relationships with God and with one another?

Bishop Mark challenged us to

1. Pray - individually and together, faithfully, as a way of building relationships with God and with one another
2. Study - individually and together, remembering that scripture is alive and its meaning is never fixed
3. Serve - serve God and serve others as Jesus served us
4. Give - our relationship with money reflects our relationship with God, God is generous and being in relationship with God means being generous also, and don’t forget to give thanks as a way of honoring God’s generosity and strengthening our relationship with God
5. Share - share our relationship with God and our relationships with each other, if we’re not sharing our opinions about God and our community of faith -- whose opinions ARE being shared?

The Bishop’s Address Committee asked for thoughts and experiences and ideas inspired by each of these five challenges. Here’s what we gathered at the Convention.

PRAY	STUDY	SERVE	GIVE	SHARE
weekly meetings of the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna	study with others of different faiths adds new insights	serve - services, recovery efforts, elders, children, music, homeless, hungry	give without measure, without return	interfaith youth missions
scripture walks in the park	study lessons for coming Sunday, Bible study	meals for the hungry	share with others	share when our food pantry has more fresh veggies, we give to a rescue mission
pray on your knees morning, noon and night - a new practice for me, very centering	healing service	serve those who ask for prayers	all coins go in a UTO box	trained greeter at services
World Labyrinth Day - host an interfaith liturgy and lunch and labyrinth walk	read a chapter/day of the Bible	The Galley - a free weekly community meal	support / collaborate with local non-profits	from churchgrowth.org: How do people start attending church?
Advent Compline services with labyrinth walk	read and share inspirational authors re our walk	prison ministry	give with all of your heart	friend invited me - 86%
	participate in weekly book study	serve with your heart	loose change in a big jar = 100’s of dollars	organized visitation - 6%
				invited by pastor - 6%
				advertising - 2%

<p>Celtic Evening Prayer</p> <p>have people write their own prayers and use them in worship</p> <p>labyrinth walk for prayer - both outside and inside St. Augustine's</p> <p>pray for a church member each week</p> <p>pray every day, pray for others on our prayer list</p> <p>lenten soup suppers - a weekly simple dinner with chances for people to try out prayer techniques (lectio, use of the BCP in devotions, etc.)</p> <p>pray while driving - eyes open!</p> <p>monthly taize style evening prayer services</p> <p>Pray without ceasing! when waking, driving, walking, waiting</p>	<p>ecumenical book groups</p> <p>Sunday morning book study</p> <p>study about a saint a day</p> <p>I read my devotional <u>stack</u> (including the Bible readings) every morning for an hour. I memorize scriptures & prayers & quote them in my mind when driving & walking & waiting.</p> <p>online study groups / continuing ed</p> <p>art & scripture - Bible study that includes 20 min of art creating in relation to a scripture passage</p> <p>EFM</p>	<p>support first responders with a coffee hour</p> <p>garden bed produce, vegetables, for the food bank in Homer</p> <p>Find a way to do something for others! I volunteer Monday evenings at a nursing home. But find what rocks your boat and do it! I also help out wherever needed at church.</p> <p>listen to someone's story</p>	<p>prepare dinner once a month for the Brother Frances Shelter in Kodiak</p> <p>We support the Methodist food bank with vegetables and cash donations in Homer.</p> <p>Wrangell's food mailbox</p> <p>I set up my church donation on PayPal & don't have to think about it. I also give to Episcopal Relief & Development & some local social causes.</p> <p>Give - Yes we do!</p> <p>ask local non-profits what they need (rather than assumng we know what they need)</p> <p>we bought 20 prayer books for the Roots & Wings Women's Retreat</p>	<p>sharing with my granddaughter - she misses attending church, so I encourage her to return to church - she has 3 children & 1 more on the way</p> <p>Invite a friend to coffee/dinner and ask them about their faith, share your own!</p> <p>share stories of hope and promise - invitations to visualize God's beloved community</p> <p>food pantry</p> <p>I collect used/new <u>paperback</u> books for our prison library!</p> <p>share everywhere, every day in love and diversity</p> <p>I look for ways to reach out with kindness and smiles. I send cards to people, bake for church coffee hour, seek ways to be helpful. I help my friend with street outreach to the homeless & get more blessings that I receive. I invite people to church.</p> <p>Share our faith jounries from childhood to now!</p>
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