

Paige Lindley

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Church

This is Paige Lindley from St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, for Voices.

Twenty years ago I attended bible study with our former priest Father Bill, and Deacon, Madeline. I remember Madeline asking, "How do we know what our calling is?" We must have been studying 1st Corinthians, gifts of the spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, teaching, and speaking in tongues.

That day I was trying to figure out what to do next. Our youngest daughter, Jennifer, was entering first grade. She'd be in school all day. Suddenly, I was being asked, "What are YOU going to DO NOW?" Usually silent during bible studies, I waited for my turn as Madeline and Father Bill listened to answers. I didn't have one. Then Madeline said, "This is how you know: Ask yourself, what am I already doing that comes naturally, that I love and want to do more of?"

She explained, "It's THAT THING that comes easy to you, comes natural, or that you may have even received training for, maybe training you didn't want. But when you do it, you think, well, I can do THAT! But what is my true calling?" Pausing, Madeline quietly said, "It's THAT THING."

Your calling will be unique. But for you, absolutely the right choice. Whether returning to school, entering ministry, volunteering, teaching, working in an office, caring for others, healing others, or being a stay-at-home-empty-nest-mom, if it's right for you, it's the right thing.

This week, that same daughter, Jennifer began working and living away from home for the first summer since entering college. I've been asking myself, "What are you going to DO NOW?" My answer? The same thing: serve my church along with my husband, volunteer in my community, and be a mom and a wife, because THAT's my calling. It's the thing that comes natural. It's the right choice for me.

What is your calling? Maybe it's THAT THING you are already doing.