

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



October 5, 2025

## DISCERNING GOD'S CALL - RENEWING OUR MISSION

by Doug Taber

The opportunity to share my thoughts on how I discern God's calling in this season of stewardship is one of many opportunities granted to me by Ascension over the past 40 years. I receive far more growth and spiritual gain than the effort I put into it!

In this case, after reading scripture, engaging in Godly prayer, and discussing our time and treasure with family, it led me on a path to discern between wealth, life, and death. Let me explain this spiritual discovery.

When my wife, Jane, and I, for the first time in a long time, discussed a fresh approach to giving to Ascension this year, it sparked a broader conversation about dedicating our time and treasure for the years ahead. Wow. This prioritization discussion was needed, as years ahead of us are far fewer than the years behind us. We created a space for the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 4:16, tells us not to be anxious about earthly things; "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." Thank goodness!

Jesus further explains: "For where your treasure is, there will be where your heart is also". Matt 6:21. Through Ascension's community ministries, evangelism, and formation, we edify our parish heart.



### Question for Reflection

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



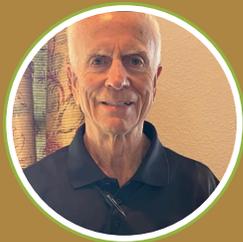
In this discernment, I reflected on how I spend my time and treasure. Was I being selfish? Why did I feel guilty after that recent lovely, but indulgent and expensive dinner? Was I more concerned about immediate satisfaction than responsibly sharing with the less fortunate?

There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Bible verses written about where we should spend our lives' time and treasure. Upon reading some of these verses, it became clear that I'm to seek where I will be after death, pursuing God's eternal reward of gratification. This realization is starting to change my priorities in life: by God's grace, I'm to live now, in light of eternity then.

In Luke's parable of the rich man and the beggar, Jesus opposes the rich man's preoccupation with possessions while the beggar, Lazarus, is outside his gate, covered with sores that dogs lick to heal. The parable is a warning about the choices made in life and their eternal consequences, particularly emphasizing the importance of compassion and sharing our gifts with those in need.

Through this decision-making process, I have gained a clearer understanding of how God is calling me to live, serve, and share resources more fully each and every day.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension has given more of God's blessings to our family than we can count. It formed us into the people we are today. We'd like others to be impacted with God's love and want to responsibly and generously support Ascension's continued spiritual renewal. The heart of Ascension's parish community, each individual and each gift of time, talent, and financial gifts, is what energizes and moves our mission of inclusiveness, caring, and compassion forward. We have an exciting future ahead of us! By prayerfully discerning God's call, we will expand our mission to greater heights, trusting in His continued blessings and guidance at Ascension.



Doug has been a member of Ascension for 40 years and has actively participated in all aspects of parish life. Born and raised in Rhode Island, he attended St. John's Episcopal Church there. After college, he moved to Texas and then to Louisiana, where he met his wife, Jane; they have been together for 40 years. In 1985, they relocated to Dallas.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father, and brothers, all of whom worked in sales, Doug has pursued a career in sales throughout his adult life. He plans to retire at the end of this year and intends to give back to the community in appreciation for the blessings he has received.

Doug holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from Alfred University in New York and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Dallas. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, exercising, reading, and spending time with his friends, family, and three grown children.

