

Stewardship Ministry

Members: Rev. Mike Angell, Jane McGuire, Patrick Reilly, Cathy Bailey, Sharon Deland, Bill Kirtley, Margo McCormick, and Sherry Kircher

In 2024, the Stewardship Ministry Team, in collaboration with the parish, embarked on an in-depth study of Miguel Escobar's book "The Unjust Steward," which is rooted in the Parable of the Unjust Steward (Luke 16:13). These discussions have been profoundly affecting and illuminating. The book asks how we make generosity a spiritual practice rooted in our values. In October, we brought Miguel to St. Michael to discuss the practice of radical generosity. At about the same time, our Vestry began a process of deep reflection. They used the information gathered during our search for a new rector and conversations over the last year to identify core values uniquely St. Michaels. Three overarching values emerged through this process: **welcome**, **action**, and **spiritual grounding**. The vestry will continue this work in 20226 by asking our faith community to set goals aligned with these values. Your role in this process is crucial, and our ministry will be integral in raising money to fund these goals.

Currently, \$670k has been pledged, comprising 205 pledges. This amount is down from last year's, but the parish has lost significant donors due to moves. There are 29 first-time pledgers, and our attendance is growing, according to the parish register. So, we are in a healthy place and poised to embrace our next steps as a parish. To help the parish achieve our goals, Stewardship has identified four areas for future planning:

- A. Annual giving.
- B. Capital giving
- C. Designated outreach and partnerships
- D. Estate (Legacy) giving

Committee members are discerning which category their talents might best be utilized. Also, our ministry's members will train through the Bishop's School's Project Resource. This educational seminar looks at how development works in the broader church. Our end goal for our ministry will be to have a well-defined plan for our year-round development work. I will be held on Sundays from March 9-April 6, from 3-5 pm. St. Michaels plans to partner with Jill Cline of Raton for the training.