

## Stewardship Message

### Taking the Long View

*“And remember, I am with you always”*      *Matthew 28:20*

These last words of Matthew’s gospel have encouraged and comforted millions of Christians over two millennia. In times of challenge and pain, of doubt and despair, we are called to *remember*, and we remember that Jesus promised to be with us. We celebrate that presence in Holy Communion and whenever two or three are gathered in Christ’s name. The church is the living reminder to us of Jesus’ words; the community holds the memory when we struggle; the community holds us when we need holding, vicariously being Jesus for each other.

While loving one another and embodying Jesus’ love for one another often involves very specific times and people, we also need to take the long view. If we hope that our role in helping Jesus keep his promise will continue long after we die, then we need to think about how we can help our local church sustain itself for the long haul. There are many ways to do this: endow your pledge, include your church in your will, contribute to your church’s endowment or help start one. Our congregation is able to do more than we might have imagined because several far sighted women and men started a small endowment back in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. That endowment has grown and helps us reach out as Jesus’ presence both inside and outside our walls. Jesus will be with us always; will your church continue to be Jesus’ hands, feet and voice in your community in the long term?

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God is still speaking,



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