



October 7, 2019

During this year's stewardship campaign you'll hear me, Pastor Liz, and several other folks discuss two themes that influence stewardship in general and financial giving in particular. As the campaign leader, I have thoughts on them both.

One theme this year is growth. I see evidence of Fairmont growing steadily in several ways, yet handling the challenges growth can bring. Several new members and families have joined us in the last twelve months. It seems to me we're doing a good job nurturing the newcomers and integrating them into our church community, making them feel welcome and valued. I'll throw some financial data your way around 11:10 the next couple of Sunday mornings, and you'll see plenty of other examples of steady, controlled growth in the sanctuary in October.

Fear seems a peculiar choice for the other theme. Every human being fears when lives are in danger, the fear jolting us into immediate action. Although it sounds strange to say it, those innate fears are a gift from God. But what about other fears? As Christians, how are we to handle those fears?

Maybe it's just nostalgia talking, but I notice a lot more fear in society now than in the past. Many of the fears I'm noticing are those fueled by our culture--like government corruption, climate change, inequality and pollution. Living with those fears seems easy to me somehow, because I'm pretty good at asking the Lord to work out big-picture things like that, pretty good at not worrying about things I cannot change by myself.

So I dwell on those more personal fears that trouble me, like fear of loss or pain, fear of a more primitive lifestyle, fear of people "not like me" in some way or another. (I am very happy to be in a church community that explicitly battles that last one.) I know that God is the answer. Financially I have embraced this, but in many other areas of life I have not. I don't have that much faith in the Lord yet, not that much trust yet.... but I hope to steadily grow in faith and trust.

And we're back to growth again. Certainly your personal experiences of growth and fear are different than mine, but perhaps you'll find this perspective worthwhile. Thanks also for acting as my therapist!

I hope you can join us in our explorations of growth and fear the next few weeks at the 11:00 service. Please consider what your estimate of giving in 2020 will be while reserving your place at the Celebration Lunch on Consecration Sunday, October 20 either by reservation card at church or by calling the church office.

With love and hope and some fear,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Scott Krutsch".

Scott Krutsch

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