

McCabe United Methodist Church

Lord, Disturb us!

I Corinthians 9:19-23 * Matthew 28:16-20: September 7 & 8, 2013

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One night little Jimmy had a dream. The night started out like any other night. Jimmy and his mom and dad were busy talking and reading and watching TV when his mom noticed the time. **“Jimmy”**, she said. **“It’s time to go bed. Run up to your room and get ready. I’ll be up in a bit.”**

And so little Jimmy did. About an hour later, Jimmy’s mom poked her head in his room and noticed that Jimmy was laying in his bed and staring out his window. **“What are you doing, Jimmy,”** she asked? **“You should be sleeping.”**

Jimmy answered, **“I’m looking at the moon, mom. One day,”** he said, **“one day I’m going to walk on the moon.”**

What a dreamer. And yet, 32 years later little Jimmy or Astronaut James Irwin walked on the moon becoming just one of twelve persons ever to do so. Dreams do come true.

Do we have any dreamers here? Every year, about this time, football fans dream of their favorite teams going the distance or winning the big trophy. Which reminds me, give me a V-I-K-E-S! Go Vikings!

It doesn’t hurt to dream, does it? Dreams are good for us. Without dreams we stay where we are. We accept whatever it is that comes along and we think it’s good enough.

But for those who dream, like Astronaut James Irwin, the sky is the limit. Dreams are behind almost every new invention, every new product, every new business, every new thought or idea.

This quote is in today’s bulletin: *“Dreams are like stars . . . you may never touch them, but if you follow them they will lead you to your destiny.”* Dreams do come true.

In the spring of 1883, two young men, Ben and Will, graduated from medical school together. The two new doctors were different from each other in almost every way, but they were close friends. Ben dreamed of practicing medicine in New York City while Will dreamed of opening a clinic somewhere in the Midwest. Ben wanted Will to come to New York, but Will stuck to his dreams. Years later, Ben was sick. He needed specialized medical help. He went to the best clinic in the world at that time. It was the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. It was started by his old friend Will Mayo. Dreams come true.

Or, maybe you remember Deion Sanders? He grew up on the mean streets of Fort Myers, Florida. When he was young he had a dream. He had watched many of his friends make wrong choices and bad decisions end up in trouble. *Neon Deion*, as he was called later in life, had a big

dream. In his dream, he would practice a little harder and work a little harder. He would use his speed and his athletic abilities to leave the streets of Fort Myers and make a name for himself. He did. In 1989, he became the first professional ever to score a touchdown and hit a home run . . . all in the same week. He was also the first professional ever play in both football's Super Bowl and Baseball's World Series. Dreams do come true.

Dreams come in all different shapes and sizes. A little boy dreams of becoming an astronaut. A little girl wants to be an actress or a politician. A young man has dreams of owning his own business. A young woman dreams of putting her idea on the internet or becoming a pastor.

Dreams are starting places. Without dreams, we stay stuck in our old ways and in our old habits. Worst of all, without dreams, we fail to use all the gifts and talents that God has given to all of us.

Churches also need dreamers or else we get stagnant. Without dreams, we get stuck in the old ways of doing things. Without dreams, we get stuck in old programs and ministries that have stopped working. Without dreams, we get stuck in outdated groups and structures and traditions and structures that keep churches from growing strong and healthy.

Churches need dreamers to dream. But before we can dream, we need to answer this very basic question: "*Why do we exist? What is McCabe Church doing here?*"

We can answer this question in one of two ways. First, we can say we exist to take care of the people who are already here. You. We can devote all of our efforts and energies inward to make sure your needs are being met, your wishes are being fulfilled, and your traditions and habits are being maintained.

Or, second, we can take the *Great Commission* seriously. **"And Jesus came and said to them, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**
-Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSV)

Paul, in our lesson from 1 Corinthians, had this dream: **"For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings."**
-1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NRSV)

If our focus isn't on making disciples or servants for Jesus Christ, I believe that we have the wrong focus. Focusing our missions and ministries, our resources and talents on those who aren't here yet is a God-sized dream and one that we need to embrace if we hope to be alive and well in the future.

This past week, I kept thinking about the addition to this church that many of you helped to make possible. It was your support and your finances that went into building a wonderful youth area for our young people, a music wing to compliment our excellent music ministry, and a Great Hall which fit our needs perfectly. I don't think many of you regret building this addition, do you?

But, why did you build it? Did you build it for yourself? Or, did you build it for the people who aren't here yet? I'm hoping you built it for those who are yet to come. I'm hoping that your dream was outward focused rather than inward. I'm hoping that you had a dream for this church where we step out and take risks to reach out to those people around us who need what we have to offer.

Don't take this wrong. It's important that we take care of those of you who call McCabe your church home and we will. But our focus, our primary dreams needs to go beyond us to those on the outside. It's a dream we can't afford to neglect.

Making disciples or servants needs to be our primary focus and you need to be our primary ministers. For many years, there's been a note on the back of every bulletin that reads: *Ministers? All of us!* And that means '*all of us*'. Hopefully, gone are the days when just a few did the majority of the work at McCabe. Hopefully, you will step up and be the ministers you are meant to be.

Soon, exciting new programs and missions will be introduced at McCabe to help us make disciples or servants for Jesus Christ.

Soon, we will be encouraging you to participate in our '*Family Link*' program again. This is where you spend a minimum of fifteen minutes with your family sharing, reading the Bible, discussing the Bible, praying and blessing each other. We're going to add a valuable component to this program by asking everyone who participates to come together once a quarter for a mission or service project.

Soon, you'll be seeing something we're calling a '*Servant Catalog*'. In this catalog you will find many opportunities or missions to serve Jesus Christ. They will range from helping build Haiti Solar Ovens to making coffee on a Sunday morning and everything in-between.

Soon, we'll be starting new small groups at McCabe such as a new Bible study called *ALPHA* and a new support group for young moms called '*Where Moms Connect*'.

I could go on, but the point is this: "*Dreams are like stars . . . you may never touch them, but if you follow them they will lead you to your destiny.*"

I don't mean this in a bad way, but I hope that we can disturb and rile you up this year. I hope we can disturb you enough that you find ways to serve Jesus Christ through this church.

There's an old prayer by Sir Frances Drake that goes like this:

"Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore. Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love."

May the Good Lord disturb all of us today. Amen.