

**Acts 2:14-18**  
**Dream Great Things for God**  
**Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

In Nashville TN. on the top of the doorway going into the old Scarritt College dining hall it says, "Expect Great Things from God". On leaving on the top of the opposite doorway it says as I remember, "Dream Great Things for God." Both were and are great challenges for all who enter and leave that building. Today we are taking those statements as not only the titles of this and next week's sermons, but also as guidance for us in our lives together at Vista Church.

I trust in the past two weeks, since you got the letter from the church describing today's events, you will have been in thought and prayer over the direction of our church for the next 5 years. I know some have been deep thinkers on this with their thoughts and prayers going back 26 years to the founding of this church, but for others this is a new experience. Some think better when alone (Our introverts and prophets) and others think better in groups. Some have indeed listened to their dreams and their dreams are of God and they come now to share them.

As the scripture says, "Your old men (and women too) will dream dreams." "And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions,"

Today, be you an introvert, extrovert, prophet, evangelist, or apostle you will have a chance to have your voice heard.

Some may have brought long lists of things they would like to see and others will respond to what they hear and write new things down in the spur of the moment. The theory and theology of doing this together with the whole church is seen in the first two chapters of Acts.

As Acts begins Jesus ascends into heaven and the disciples retire to the Upper Room for worship & prayer. It is into that gathered body of believers that the Holy Spirit falls. The Spirit is indeed given to the whole body and seems to show up best when we are gathered together

in worship & prayer as the early disciples were. So today we are gathered in worship and prayer. If we are to listen to God's direction for our church how better to do it than during a worship service.

Acts 2:1-2 says, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting."

Today is Dream Sunday. We are going to share with one another the dreams we have that we trust are from God. Our job for the next 30 minutes is not to judge or evaluate a person's dreams that they bring to this place, but to simply record them and maybe add to them, or enhance them. If you agree with what someone says write it down on your sheet.

If don't agree with an idea simply let it go for you. Part of how we are evaluating and collating the ideas is how often an idea shows up on the sheets you are filling out. Our own Mary Louise Robberson has volunteered to collate all these ideas. If you think an idea should be a priority for the church mark that down. We will then give the ideas back to the areas that would work with an idea and then those ideas will come back to the Church Council and eventually a Church Conference to adopt our direction.

All ideas are welcome and appreciated. Sometimes God speaks through the many and sometimes through one. And as you read the NT you will see that God's direction to his people flowed up and down through the church.



Sometimes the many directed and sent the one into mission. Sometimes the one changed the whole course of the church as Peter's vision when transferred to the church ended all the prohibitions against

eating “Unclean” animals. The Jewish dietary restrictions were lifted for Christians because of a dream that came to one person.



At First Mesa I had a dream of a Family Life Center that included volleyball and basketball courts, locker rooms, a kitchen and dining area, a children’s and youth choir room, multi-purpose rooms and 4000 square feet of storage for rummage items. One guy had a dream, me, and the church took that on as a vision, and 14 years later that building was completed and dedicated.

Years ago a man got lost and wound up in the El Pacadora Colonia in Agua Prieta Mexico. He passed out blankets to the freezing people and a ministry was born that has transformed that area physically, economically and most importantly spiritually.

What dream do you come with? If it comes from God it is the most important idea here. If you don’t know where it comes from, or if it truly is from God, the process of discernment that we go through as a church will determine that.

So, here’s the process. This is brainstorming. All ideas are appreciated and welcomed. If you like an idea write it down, if not just let it go. To encourage an environment and atmosphere of wide open sharing we ask that all ideas are to be accepted without negative comment or sign. Simple write or don’t write an idea down. No ideas are stupid or unworkable or too expensive. Think what people said and thought when I first proposed a Family Life Center in downtown Mesa, which was overrun at the time by crack houses and drug addicts.

On the last page of your bulletin you will see six large areas to consider. We will work through these one at a time. Some will generate much interest. Some might be met with blank stares at your table.

Just talk and share on. Every 3 minutes a new picture will appear on the screens and I will simply say, “Next item.” This will help you

touch on all. If you go through all before the end of the time you can go back or the category “other” can be used. If you run out of things to say, please gather as a table and pray either out loud or in silence for the future of our church.

When the time is over I will call you to attention and then I will ask you to put all of the idea sheets in the baskets along with your pencils or pens. Put your offering in there too. Put your luncheon reservation in also. We will then have the ushers collect them and place them on the altar and dedicate your ideas and offerings to God.

For once again the reason we are doing this during worship is that I believe the absolute best time to seek God’s guidance is during worship for the Bible teaches, **“Unless the Lord builds the house those who labor, labor in vain.”**

Each table has a table facilitator. Please begin by introducing yourselves. Make sure you have a name tag. If you are a visitor bring your ideas from the wider world and share with us. I believe you are here because God sent you here. Let us pray.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Item: Thriving Children and Youth Program**



Next Item: **Multi-purpose Building (classroom, offices, choir rooms, storage, etc.)**



Next Item: **New Learning Experiences**



Next Item: Sport Court (Basketball/volleyball etc.)



Next Item: School of Music and Arts



Community Outreach Activities



Additional worship experiences



Other?

