

God Has Plans for You

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.

The verse number is written in permanent ink on a river rock which sits on a shelf next to my bed. It is worn smooth from when I held it in my hands and ran my fingers over the numbers, a near constant activity in early 2016.

Many of you know that I went through a terrible divorce that year. An event that turned my world upside down and shook me to the very core of my being. My brain seems to have blocked out much of that dark time, a phenomenon I attribute to some sort of defense mechanism that my body used to keep me going. However, I can still vividly remember lying in my bed at night, one kid on each side, asking God to take the pain away, even for an hour, so I could have a break.

But I am a walking and talking testament to the fact that God has a plan for us. Look at me now! I am the happiest I have ever been in my life. I love my job and I’ve found success in this community. My children are thriving here. And I found John.

I now understand that God knew exactly what I needed the whole time. He knew the situation I was in wasn’t healthy.

Cont. on the back...

HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS



February 17, 2019

UNDIE SUNDAY – Missions is collecting new socks and undies for “Undie Sunday” during February. To date Hope has brought 39 pairs of boys’ undies, 79 pairs of girls’ undies and 89 pairs of socks! Good work, Hope. Two weeks to go! Also: Remember to save grocery bags for pack-a-snack and bring gently used children’s clothes for Clothes-to-Kids.

GETTING ACQUAINTED – Next week after worship (February 24), all are invited to Hambley Hall for a get-acquainted reception when we get to meet newer church folks and sun-catchers. They get to share something about who they are and what they like at Hope church. Cookies, fruit and coffee will be served. Please come, everyone!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – It is not too late to join the Growing Together Adult Sunday School Class. Even though they are in the middle of their 8-week study called Jesus: Face to Face, you would be most welcome. Through videos, handouts, drama, art, and other media, the class will study stories from the Bible of people who encountered Jesus in person and will also look for evidence of Jesus encounters in their own lives. So, come

“Earth’s crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”

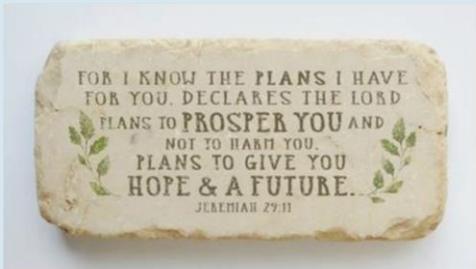
– Elizabeth Barrett Browning

He heard my pleas and answered them in exactly the right way. And even though I had to suffer to get there, God never left me.

God even sent guardian angels (disguised as my parents, my siblings, my friends, all of you!) to walk with me and sometimes carry me when I thought I couldn't go on.

So, in your darkest of moments, I hope you will let me be your river rock. I pray you will look at me and remember God's words in Jeremiah. You are never alone. God loves you! And so do I.

Jennifer Reed



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along, have some coffee and refreshments and a wonderfully engaging and thought-provoking Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in room 7.

YOUNG AT HEART – will meet on Thursday 28th at 12:00 p.m. They chat while having a great lunch, and then get down to the serious business of playing whatever game is on the menu. It could be bingo or cards or on special occasions it could be a talk. Do feel free to join them and have some fun, whatever age you are.

THANKS -- to all who participated in the Flea Market out on the lawn with our neighbors, and who came to the Valentine's Dinner. Fellowship and Welcome is a big part of who we are.

DRAMA MINISTRY – Join us on Friday Feb 22nd evenings for Drama Ministry at 6:30. These sessions will focus on rehearsing scripture presentations for Sunday services. See Angie Cozens for more info.

HOPE DRAMA CLUB – In Hope Drama Club on Fridays 7:30-9:00 p.m., we will have fun with playscripts, music and movement. Who knows? You may be the star of our next production! See Angie Cozens for more info.

JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL – Temple B'nai across the road from us is holding a food festival on Sunday Feb. 24th at 9:30 am to 2:30 p.m. They extend an invitation to Hope to come and have a good time exploring Jewish food.

CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

Sunday	02/17 11:30 a.m.	Deacons meeting R5
Wed.	02/20 05:45 p.m.	WNA prepared meal
	07:00 p.m.	Bells practice
	07:30 p.m.	Choir practice
Friday	02/22 06:30 p.m.	Drama Ministry
	07:30 p.m.	Hope drama Club
Sunday	02/24 11:30 a.m.	Session meeting R5

Get acquainted with our suncatchers while having coffee in the hall, after the service