

*Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.*

*Matthew 4:23-24*

### **LIFE VERSES: GOD'S PLANS**

Years ago, I belonged to a Presbyterian Women's circle: young women who enjoyed studying scripture together. During those years many babies were born, mothers brought them to our meetings. We took turns holding them. Soon toddlers were running around providing laughter as we studied. Older women shook their heads, wondering how we could study with noisy children, but we did. One night we read Matthew 4:23-24 (above). Only later I would understand its importance on my life.

In my forties I felt a need to go back to school because my work for an international company wasn't fulfilling. People told me I was too old to go back to college, but I did it anyway. After receiving a 4-year degree, I began seminary, continuing to work full time. It was a challenge, along with the hour and fifteen-minute commute, but I did it. After thirteen years of study, two masters' degrees, more seminary study, and a year of hospital chaplain training, finally, I was ordained and became pastor for an intercity church.

*Cont. on the back ...*

# HOPE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY NEWS



March 24, 2019

**YOUTH MISSIONS LOCK-IN** – This Saturday. Drop students off for hot dogs, lessons and games. For information, call or text Directors: Amy Belden, at 727.510.4843 or Beth Walley, at 228.493.0160.

**COMMUNION TRAINING** – Home Communion Training for Elders and Deacons this Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March at the church at 10 a.m. Sheryl Swan will be leading.

**EASTER CARNIVAL** Our Carnival (Outreach Event) will be Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to noon. **NEEDS:** 13-17 adults to help with snacks, the information table, hiding eggs, etc. **WE ALSO NEED** lots of candy donations. *Please drop off wrapped, non-chocolate candy in the church office.* Sign up in the Narthex or see Beth Walley, Amy Belden, or Vicky Reed.

**DAY CAMP** – Cedarkirk will be sending 5 counselors to staff our Day Camp June 3-7. We need to provide them with places to sleep and shower. If you would like to host a college-age staffer (or two) in your home for those 5 days, please call or text Amy Belden at 727.510.4843.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE:** April 18, 6:30 p.m.

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"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

*1 Timothy 6:12*

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Through it all I remembered  
Matthew 4:23-24.

I came to see this scripture as my life verse. I was doing what God had planned for me, teaching and preaching the good news, with chaplaincy as my healing ministry. When I stand in the pulpit to proclaim the good news of the kingdom, my prayer is that the Holy Spirit will use my voice to share God's word to those present. In the hospital most of my time was spent in the emergency room or the intensive care unit. God helped me to sit with patients having wounds sutured, and to comfort families at the bedsides of loved ones that passed.

So, Matthew 4:23-24 (above) is my life verse. It is the path God had planned for me long before I understood it. What is your life verse? What is the scripture verse that shares the plan God has for you? It may change over time, but you are never too young or too old for God to have a plan for your life.

Blessings,

Rev Sheryl Swan

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:** April 21, at 6:30 a.m. on the lawn. Brunch to follow in Hambley Hall

**GROWING TOGETHER** – an adult Sunday school class. Are you looking for a fresh perspective, new tools, renewed inspiration for your conversations with God? Come and join in as we delve into new ways and reasons to “pray continually.” Starting Sunday, April 7th, any and all are encouraged to join this 6-week study, at 9:00 AM in Room 7 every Sunday. Coffee and small snacks provided!

**BARBERSHOP SHOW**—Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. at Largo Community Center. Tickets can be obtained from Barb or Jim Greiner \$16 each, by today.

**OUR GUEST PREACHER** today is Rev. Sheryl Swan, one of our Suncatchers who loves the beach. She and husband Walt Burgdorf are in Ohio in the summers. Ginny Ellis is with her son's family in Decatur GA.

**PARDON OUR DUST!** as we move toward re-painting the church exterior and renovations of the sanctuary

### CHURCH EVENTS COMING UP

Wed.	03/27	05:45 p.m.	WNA
		06:35 p.m.	Adult, children, youth studies
		07:00 p.m.	Bells practice
		07:30 p.m.	Choir practice
Thurs.	03/28	12:00 p.m.	Young at Heart lunch at Finlay's Irish Pub
Sat.	03/30	10.00 a.m.	Home Communion training
		06:30 p.m.	Kids and youth lock-in

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## CONTACT US

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