



**THE PLAIN FACTS**  
*a monthly newsletter of*

**FIRST YARMOUTH  
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Plains family

# JANUARY 2019



Photo by Betty Rewbotham

Cast and crew of the Sunday School play "The Toy Maker Meets the Joy Maker" presented on Sunday, December 16.



## PRAYER CONCERNS

*To protect the privacy concerns of our families, friends, neighbours and church family, it is requested that before names are submitted to the Pastor for prayer, or are put on the Plain Facts prayer list, permission be sought and granted from the individuals to be named, or from family members who have been given express permission to speak on their behalf.*

Sylvia Lusted	Cathy Tredenick	Marilyn Cartwright	Jackie & Kayla
Eleanor House	Janet Stewart	Jim Duffy	Marilyn Smith
Joslyn Wilcox	Family of Jim Maynard	Cannady family	Floyd & Sharon Axford
Randy Paul	Mary Ellen Smith	Betty Jones	Ashleigh & family
John Johnson	Jason Carnegie	Sally Paul	George & Claudia Eastbury
Jill Coull	Mary Underhill	Janet & Dennis	Family of Gary Dunn
Alan Armstrong	Piet & Alice denBoer	Cecil & Mabel Somerville	Aaron Everatt
Pat Martyn	Vince Melvin	George Lidster	Vader family
Bell & Olson families	Family of Ruth Watson	Family of Henry Devries	

### Sunday Scripture Readings

#### January 06 - Epiphany

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6

#### January 13-Baptism of Jesus Sunday

Luck3: 15-17, 21-22

Acts 8: 14-17

#### January 20

John 2: 1 - 11

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

#### January 27-It's Your Choice Sunday

1 Corinthians 12-31a

#### February 03

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Luke 4:21-30

### In Sympathy

The Plains family extend sincere sympathy to Marion Maynard and the family of Jim Maynard who passed away on December 8 at the age of 81. Jim was a dear brother to Mabel Somerville (Cecil). He was the fourth generation of James Maynards to farm the family homestead. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and church family.

Sincere sympathy of the Plains family is extended to Pauline Duffy and the family of James Duffy who passed away on December 15 at 90 years. He was loved father of James Duffy, Catherine, Debbie (Danny) and June. Jim was 90 years of age. He will be dearly missed by his loving family and neighbors.

The Plains family extend their sympathy to the family of Gary Dunn who passed away on December 16 at the age of 69. Gary was father of Shawn Dunn (Fanja), Ryan Dunn, and Melanie Dunn, and grandfather of Daryan Dunn and brother to Wayne. He will be dearly missed by all his family and good friends.

The Plains family extend sincere sympathy to the family of Henry Devries who passed away suddenly on December 26, at the age of 77 years. Beloved husband of Coby, and a lifetime neighbour of Plains Church, Henry and Coby were dedicated supporters of our famous "Plains suppers". Henry was a retired farmer, who will be greatly missed by his blended family, friends and neighbours.

**EVENTS FOR JANUARY****Jan 06 Sun 10:00 A.M.****Sunday Service - Communion Sunday****Jan 09 Wed 8:30 A.M.****After 8's Breakfast - Sunset Café****Jan 13 Sun 10:00 A.M.****Sunday Service****Jan 14 Mon 9:00 - 3:30****Plains "Knotty Quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome-bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.**Jan 20 Sun 10:00 A.M.****Sunday Service -****Jan 21 Mon 9:00 - 3:30****Plains "Knotty Quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome-bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.**Jan 24 Thur 10:30 A.M.****DVD Bible Study - CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY****Jan 27 Sun 10:00 A.M.****Sunday Service - Caring Cupboard Sunday - It's Your Choice!** Sunday "To whom do I belong?" questions a life-long Catholic who is now a Baptist.**Jan 28 Mon 9:00 - 3:30****Plains "Knotty Quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome-bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.**Jan 31 Thur 10:30 A.M.****DVD Bible Study - CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY****Feb 03 Sun 10:00 A.M.****Sunday Service - Communion Service****Feb 04 Mon 9:00 - 3:30****Plains "Knotty Quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome-bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.**Feb 07 Thur 10:30 A.M.****DVD Bible Study - CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY****Feb 10 Sun 10:00 A.M.****Sunday Service - following the service, bring-your-own-lunch. Followed Annual Congregational Meeting****11:30 A.M.**

**PART 2 -- ADULT DVD STUDY STARTS JANUARY 24  
CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY**

Dr. Timothy Paul Jones takes you through the most important events in Christian history from the time of the apostles to today. He brings to life the fascinating people and events that shaped our world. This isn't dry names and dates. It's full of dramatic stories told with a touch of humor.

Part 2 begins Thursday **January 24 at 10:30 a.m.** following tea, coffee and treats and we always conclude before noon. Everyone is welcome to join us! Let Pastor Margaret know of your interest in attending or if you have any questions.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Nicholas Barrett	17 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Rust
8 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Ralf	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Courtney Axford
10 <sup>th</sup>	Gabrielle Noble	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mary Wilson
11 <sup>th</sup>	Noreena Satchell (93)	24 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Johnson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Gracie MacPherson	27 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Cummings
13 <sup>th</sup>	Briar Ruddock	28 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Robins
16 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Dale	29 <sup>th</sup>	Sherry Graham
16 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Lammiman		
16 <sup>th</sup>	Danielle Ralf		



**We care about CHRISTMAS CARE.....**The 7th annual **Soup and Sandwich Lunch**, through the combined efforts of the Social Committee and the Finance Committee, was held Sunday, December 2. This event realized **\$478.00** for Christmas Care. **Thank you** to the producers of the homemade soups, sandwiches and to those who brought other contributions to the meal. **Thank you** also to those who washed up and cleared up afterwards. A delicious **Ladies Aid Pot Luck Dinner** was enjoyed on Tuesday December 11. The donations for Christmas Care totaled **\$145.00**.

### **Plains Church Notes - *It's Your Choice!* Sunday Sermon 25 Nov 2018.**

Sermon: **COINCIDENCE, SERENDIPITY OR DIVINE INTERVENTION.** Scripture: Genesis 45: 1-8

This topic was submitted by Nancy Millman. The scripture she chose for reflection is the dramatic and emotional climax of a story about a family. Among all Jacob's children, his 11<sup>th</sup> son, Joseph was the shining star. Joseph's 10 older brothers, jealous of Joseph took advantage of him and threw him in a dry well and then sold him to a caravan headed for Egypt. The story of Joseph was part of an epic saga which was all about a family that believed that the Creator of the Universe, had chosen them for a close and lasting relationship. The story of Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson relates how Abraham's family miraculously survived a terrible famine in Canaan because they came to Egypt where he was in charge of food distribution.

Having set the context of Joseph's story, we consider the topic which pertains not only to Joseph's story but to our own. First, let's be reminded of what the words **coincidence, serendipity and divine intervention** mean. **A coincidence** is when two or more things happen that weren't planned, and yet it seems like it they were. **Serendipity** is synonymous with 'good luck' or chance. **Divine Intervention** is a purported miracle or happening caused by God's active involvement in the world of humanity.

If you read Joseph's story Genesis 45 v.8 you will discover that Joseph believed that all the things that happened to him, were all God's doing, not his. Joseph had a strong spiritual connection with God. That helped Joseph to see how God could raise up good things out of bad situations. Instead of killing his brothers, he tested their characters to see if the years and guilt had refined them at all. Would they be willing to do anything to keep his little brother Benjamin safe? Eventually, they passed his test and Joseph revealed himself to them and forgave them.

We can say with assurance that the Biblical authors and editors who compiled our scriptures, wrote with conviction that the God who created us, loves us and desires a special relationship with all of his human children, not just one particular family. The thing is that for the majority of us, having that spiritual, mystical and miracle-ridden relationship with God that Joseph and Moses and Jesus had, do not happen in the course of our everyday lives. The stories in the Bible may lead us to think that they should happen and if they don't it's because of a lack of faith or it's because we live in a different world. We live in a world where science rules and technology can make anyone a magician. Some have surmised that due to our secular and scientific conditioning we have stopped believing or looking for signs of God's presence in our lives and in our world. I'm not sure that this is a modern or 21<sup>st</sup> century world phenomenon. Any reading of the ancient stories, including that of Joseph and his brothers will tell us that not everybody in the story was aware of God's involvement and presence. If they had been, the stories would have been very different. Truth is the vast majority of the people around our faith heroes such as Joseph, Esther, Moses, Mary, Jesus, and St. Paul didn't get or understand and some never got the message that God was doing something special through the lives of these ordinary people with extraordinary faith.

How does God infiltrate and influence people and events today? Some argue that God chooses more subtle means of connecting with us. The problem with "subtle" is that "subtle" is easier to miss or mistake as nothing more than a coincidence or moment of serendipity. Certainly for people of faith it is obvious in looking back at historic movements that God's involvement was present and powerful. When it comes to more subtle signs that defy logic or math like coincidences and surprising turns of good fortune it's still left to the person, as it was to Joseph as to how he or she will interpret that moment and let it shape or not shape our understanding of life or faith or God or ourselves. And something that happens to us which we find to have spiritual significance may not be seen or felt that way by those who are sitting beside us at the bedside of a dying parent or standing on the beach admiring the same sunset.

When something happens, big or small, and we feel in that moment that we are loved, or understood, it is a sacred moment. We move a step closer to the One who loved Joseph so that he in turn could forgive his brothers. The One who became flesh and lived among us, so that humanity, all sinners, all forgiven, could joyfully take our seat at the family table: The Table of God.

*Malcolm Rust*

### Plains Church Notes 16 December 2018

The church was full and there was plenty of chatter when Pastor Margaret was ready to start the service. With her typical humor she said aloud, "Ho, Ho Hush" and that did the trick! Annabella and Leslie Hindley lit the pink candle for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, the candle of Joy.

Shirley Dale, Church Treasurer, presented money gifts to Pastor Bell, Sherry Graham and Amy Dale on behalf of the congregation and in appreciation of their services during another year. Jack Cummings kept everyone's attention as he told of his personal experience of decorating with Christmas lights.

Not only has Leena Sibley done the lion's share of work in the Sunday School, with the children this year. She also wrote and then produced the Christmas play\* "The Toymaker Meets the Joymaker" - The story of a toy maker who loses his way and rediscovers the reason for joy at Christmas. Sincere thanks, Leena, Elizabeth Tucker and all the helpers.

\*Leena says: "The idea was given to me more than a year ago as the Holy Spirit continues to reveal to me how much he loves "broken things" such as broken people, living broken lives who God so lovingly wants to reconcile to Himself. Christmas is just that.....a time of finding the missing piece of ourselves. It was only 11 years ago in December that this reconciliation message was brought to me in a very powerful way and with it the peace that has not and will never leave. Emmanuel. God with us. Following the service apple crisp and hot chocolate were enjoyed by all in Oak Hall.

*Malcolm Rust*

### Appeal for Donations.

On Christmas morning a devastating fire broke out at the home of the Vader family on Dyer Street in St. Thomas. Fortunately no lives were lost, but they lost all of their personal possessions. This family consists of Grandpa and Grandma, 2 other adults and one child aged 2 ½. Our wonderful community has come together and donated much needed clothing for everybody, but the child, Connor, lost all of his books and toys. I am collecting used books and toys. Donations may be dropped off at 35 Dyer in St. Thomas or brought to Plains Church. On behalf of myself and the Vader family, thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

*Karen Cook*



### Auld Lang Syne

Auld Lang Syne was partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's. It was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, 'Auld Lang Syne' literally means 'old long ago' or simply, 'the good old days.'

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne

For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,

We'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne?

And here's a hand, my trusty friend And gie's a hand o' thine

We'll tak'A cup o' kindness yet For auld lang syne.



We will open the book, Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and Its first chapter is New Years Day.

People Who Lack Gratitude Will Never Be Truly Happy





## Pastor's Page

The Christmas trees are stripped of festive finery, the inflatable creatures and twinkling lights are receding from snow-starved lawns, store shelves are sitting half stripped in preparation for an overdose of REDS, PINKS, and HEARTS of every size, shape and flavor for Valentines Day!

It's a New Year and with it comes resolutions and reluctant admissions that some of last year's resolutions were unmet. Our *pie in the sky* optimism that New Year equals better days is somewhat tempered by realism born of experience.

Last year's predicaments and pressures do not go away at the clock's striking of 12 on New Year's Eve. If it didn't work for Cinderella, who lived in a fictional world, it won't work for us who live in a non-fictional world.

However, as a new year begins, we are nudged by the calendar and by New Year's celebrations of fire works, champagnes and cheers, to view the future with hope, and believe that there will be some new adventures, challenges and celebrations to decorate this year, making it unique and memorable.

There are bound to be many fond memories that are just waiting to be made, achievements about to be fulfilled; learnings that will inform us and transitions which will instruct and remind us that there is indeed, a season for everything and that God is present with us in them all. Just as the new Star led Magi to seek out the new King of the Jews, God will help us paint the yet unblemished canvas of 2019. The Light of Christ's love will shine on us and through us in our words and acts of caring and sharing.

Whatever the New Year offers in terms of challenge or opportunity, I'm heartened that I am sharing it with you. We're about to begin year 29 as pastor and people. Hard to believe that number, given that I'm only age 39! (preachers shouldn't really fib) HA!

I do want to warmly thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift which I received on Advent 3 from our Treasurer, Shirley. The Christmas cards and gifts I received over Christmas are cherished and appreciated, along with all the hugs, well-wishes and prayers. I appreciate the many considerate comments regarding the absence of my mother this Christmas. Not a day goes by that I don't think of her, or quote one of her 'Peg-isms' or look at a picture. She's never far away from my heart. I'm very glad that we were close friends as well as family.

I'm also thankful that God called me to live among you as your Pastor and friend. Let's follow Jesus together, as faithfully as we are able; Spirit-fed and Star-led we step into 2019. A new chapter of our story with our awesome God awaits!

Grace and Peace,