



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

6071 Fairview Road, R. R. # 4
St. Thomas ON N5P 3S8
E-mail: plainschurch@rogers.com
Website: www.plainschurch.ca
Phone: 519-633-2883

Newsletter Staff

Distribution: Barb Axford
Technical Support: Phyllis Huffman
Editor: Nancy Millman
Contributors: Pastor Margaret Bell
Rev. Malcolm Rust
Plains family

MARCH 2019

PLAINS CHURCH SPRING CHICKEN BBQ
Wednesday, April 03, 2019
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Advance Ticket Sales ONLY
NO tickets sold at the door
ADULTS - \$18.00

CHILDREN (12 years - 6 years) \$6.00
PRE-SCHOOL (under 6 years) - free

PHONE 519-775-2526 519-631-4069
or Church office for tickets

MENU

Quarter chicken, Baked beans, Baked Potatoes
Rolls, Cole Slaw Salad, Pies & Cheesecakes
Juice, Tea & Coffee



Cash donations toward purchase of chicken and condiments are welcome. Please see Edith Norton 519-631-1776



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.

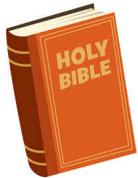
Cathy Tredenick	Marilyn Cartwright	Nicole Abbott	Family of Sylvia Lusted
Eleanor House	Janet Stewart	George Lidster	Marilyn Smith
Joslyn Wilcox	Cannady family	Vince Melvin	Pat Martyn
Randy Paul	Mary Ellen Smith	Betty Jones	Ashleigh & family
John Johnson	Jason Carnegie	Sally Paul	George & Claudia Eastbury
Jill Coull	Mary Underhill	Janet & Dennis	Vader family
Alan Armstrong	Piet & Alice denBoer	Cecil & Mabel Somerville	Aaron Everatt
David Greenslade	Blake & Audrey Hughes	Stephen Plaunt	Evan Plaunt
Mark Higgs	Betty Baker	Family of Don Ryckman	

Sunday Scripture Readings

March 03 - Transfiguration Sunday
Luke 9: 28 - 36
Psalm 99

March 10 Lent 1
Romans 10: 8b - 13
Luke 4: 1 - 13
Psalm 91: 1- 2: 9 - 16

March 17 Lent 2
Philippians 3: 17 - 4:1
Luke 13: 31 - 35



March 24 Lent 3
Luke 13: 1 - 9
1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13

March 31 Lent 4
It's Your Choice! Sunday
Luke 15: 1 - 3, 11b - 32
Psalm 32

April 7 Lent 5
John 12: 1- 8
Philippians 3: 4b - 14
Psalm 126

In Deepest sympathy

The Plains church family extends warmest thoughts and sympathy to Pat Kennedy, Erene & Josseline Mifsud, Evelyn Kennedy and the family of Sylvia Lusted. Sylvia is Pat & Evelyn's youngest sister. She was promoted to glory on Friday, February 15 after a long and courageous battle against cancer. Sylvia and her husband John lived in Waterloo until recently when they moved to Drayton to be closer to their daughter. Sylvia will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Pastor Margaret Bell

CHURCH FAMILY CAMP OUT 2019

25 consecutive years camping at Springwater.

Dates are June 10 - 16, 2019 Monday to Sunday INCLUDING FATHERS' DAY WEEKEND

OR June 12-17th (so people don't have to rush to leave on Sunday), to be negotiated with Springwater .

Sherry Graham will really need to know as soon as possible if any campers will camp longer than Thursday to Sunday, as there will be a minimum fee each night.



EVENTS FOR MARCH

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Mar 01 Fri | 2:00 P.M. | World Day of Prayer - Union United Church |
| Mar 03 Sun | 10:00 A.M. | Sunday Service - Communion Service |
| Mar 04 Mon | 9:00 - 3:30 | Plains "Knotty Quilters" quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome |
| Mar 05 Tue | 4:30-6:30 P.M. | Pancake Supper in Oak Hall - No Advance ticket sales. Proceeds to Pearce Williams Christian Centre Building Fire Code Upgrade Fund. |
| Mar 07 Thur | 10:30 A.M. | DVD Bible Study - CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY |
| Mar 09 Sat | 8:00 A.M.
9:30 A.M. | Men's Breakfast - Buccaneer Restaurant, Port Stanley
Visit to Extencicare Home, Port Stanley |
| Mar 10 Sun | 10:00 A.M. | Sunday Service |
| Mar 11 Mon | 9:00 - 3:30 | Plains "Knotty Quilters" quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome |
| Mar 12 Tues | 1:30 P.M. | Ladies Aid - Guest Speaker Cathy Grondin of Community Dinners. Everyone welcome. |
| Mar 13 Wed | 8:30 A.M. | After 8's Breakfast - Sunset Cafe |
| Mar 17 Sun | 10:00 A.M. | Sunday Service |
| Mar 18 Mon | 9:00 - 3:30 | Plains "Knotty Quilters" quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome |
| Mar 24 Sun | 10:00 A.M. | Sunday Service |
| Mar 24 Mon | 9:00 - 3:30 | Plains "Knotty Quilters" quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome |
| Mar 31 Sun | 10:00 A.M. | Sunday Service - It's Your Choice! Sunday. Topic: Should an atheist serve as a Minister in a Christian Church? Submitted by Barb Axford |
| Apr. 01 Mon | 9:00 - 3:30 | Plains "Knotty Quilters" quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome |
| Apr. 03 Wed. | 4:30-6:30 | Plains Church Spring Chicken Barbeque |
| Apr. 07 Sun | 10:00 A.M. | Sunday Service - Communion Service |
| Apr. 09 Tues | 1:30 P.M. | Ladies Aid - Guest Speaker-Adminstrator from St. Thomas Seniors' Centre |
| Apr. 10 Wed | 8:30 A.M. | After 8's Breakfast - Sunset Cafe |

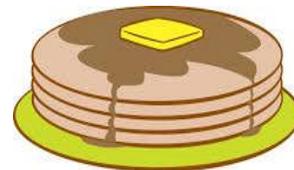


PANCAKE SUPPER
TUESDAY, March 05, 2019
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

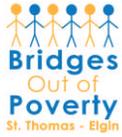
No advance ticket sales. Pay at the door.
Adults - \$8.00 Children 6 - 12 years - \$6.00
Children under 6 years - no charge

**Proceeds to PEARCE WILLIAMS CHRISTIAN CENTRE
BUILDING FIRE CODE UPGRADE FUND**

Cash donations toward the purchase of sausage and fruit are welcome.
Contact Donna Limon, Nancy Millman, Edith Norton



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**



Stable Employment and Its Impact on Poverty

Part of a series presented by Bridges Out of Poverty - <http://www.endpovertyinelgin.com/>

Poverty is a reality in every community across our country. The first article in our series spoke of the role of Education in helping eradicate poverty. In this article, we consider some of the benefits of Stable Employment.

Like Education, having Stable Employment also opens doors! Most employment opportunities these days require at least a high school diploma – mostly because having one demonstrates an ability to learn, and thereby suggests we would likely be trainable in the job. Without at least a GED, however, advancement within a company is rare – assuming one can even find a job.

As with everyone, employment allows for access to resources. This is key when someone is trying to get out of poverty. With a steady and predictable income, we can take care of ourselves and our family. We can provide shelter, food, and clothing – we can go to the dentist, get a haircut, or occasionally go out for dinner at a restaurant. Access to resources – whether social, financial, recreational, or wellness resources – can help to build self-esteem, good health, and a sense of well-being. We're able to access transportation, recreation, and even a vacation. But without a job – or with a job that pays too little - those resources and opportunities move farther away from someone living in poverty.

As society develops a deeper understanding of poverty and feeds it, increased importance is now being placed on the concept of earning a "Living Wage". By definition, a living wage raises the minimum hourly wage to a level sufficient for workers to meet the basic needs of their families (e.g. the aforementioned food, shelter, clothing, and transportation). A higher "Minimum Wage" is a step in the right direction, but for many families it still falls short of covering all the bills. We will look a bit deeper into this subject in future articles, so be sure to check out our upcoming issues.

In our next article, however, we will talk a bit about how having Healthy Relationships in our lives can change everything – including our opportunities ...

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

6 th	Shirley Griffin (80)	18 th	Jackson Wilcox
7 th	Jenny Lee Graham	18 th	Edith Norton
7 th	Hazel Brekelmans	21 st	Dave Higgs
8 th	Mark Higgs	23 rd	Pat Walker
9 th	Alexander Chen Martyn	25 th	Jason Carnegie
10 th	Kathy Sawyer	29 th	Jill Coull
11 th	Annie Springer	29 th	Marilyn Pettit
14 th	John Norton	29 th	Sharon Wilson
16 th	Spencer Noble	29 th	Lana Sibley
17 th	Kaitlyn McCarthy	30 th	Jonathan Higgs
17 th	Jo-Anne Pettit	31 st	Elsie Walker
		31 st	Paul O'Drowsky

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

10 th	Jim & Marilyn Cartwright
28 th	Jack & Linda Cummings (60)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes to Marlene Smith, who celebrates her **80th** Birthday on Friday, March 1. Congratulations, Marlene and many more.

HAPPY 85TH BIRTHDAY REV. JOHN DICKINSON

In February's Plains Facts we congratulated John on his 80th birthday ... but Rev. John has attained **85** years. So, **Happy 85th Birthday, Rev. John Dickinson!** Good for you and thank you for your years of service in God's Ministry.

Highlights of the Annual Congregational Meeting, February 10, 2019

Clerk Assistant was Mary Crosby.

Pastor Margaret Bell opened the meeting with a Devotional.

Michael Sargeant was nominated as Chairperson.

Corrections were noted and made throughout the printed annual report.

The printed agenda and the printed minutes of the Congregational Meeting of October 21, 2018 were approved.

Malcolm Rust spoke to the high quality of music enjoyed by our

congregation, thanking the Choir Director and Pianist Amy Dale, Organist Sherry Graham, the Choir and the choice of hymns each Sunday morning.

The printed reports, as corrected were approved.

The 2019 Operating Expense Budget was approved.

Proposed items on the 2019 Capital Costs Budget were addressed. Phyllis Huffman spoke to the website upgrade, noting that a design has been approved, work is progressing and is so far under budget.

Tom Lammiman spoke on behalf of the Trustees regarding a proposed plan for an Visual/Audio project to bring the facilities up to regulation standards. This may include projectors, remote controlled drop-down screens each side of the front of the sanctuary, wireless microphones, the lease/rent of an approved worship program and other up-to-date equipment. Trustees were given approval to proceed with their investigation of costing, proven equipment available and adaptability to our facilities and needs. There is a window of time for completion, to allow for caution, and detailed research.

A second project, which is imminent, will be the refurbishing of the church sanctuary. This to include the removal of the brick facade across the front wall, and replacing that area with oak panelling and drywall while retaining the current cross and sunburst light in their present location. Some drywall repairs are required on the walls, and the entire sanctuary to be painted. Some of this work has already been approved in a previous budget. Also suggested was the upgrading of the lighting and the ceiling fans. All the work will be done by Plains church members. Trustees will report their estimated cost for approval at the next Congregation Meeting on May 26, 2019, or sooner, to allow for the work to commence.

Because of these two projects, approval of the 2019 Capital Costs Expense Budget will take place at a later date. The suggestion that, upon approval, two fund raising accounts may be created-"Sanctuary Up-grade" and "Visual/Audio Project".

Other Business included the motion to remove Gary Higgs from the position of Trustee after serving for two 5-year terms. Seconded and carried.

The next Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 26, 2019, following a bag lunch.

Adjourned at 1:45 p.m. Rev. Malcolm Rust closed the meeting with prayer.



AN IRISH WISH

May you always have....

A sunbeam to warm you,

Good Luck to charm you,

And a sheltering angel

So nothing can harm you,

Laughter to cheer you,

Faithful friends near you,

And whenever you pray,

Heaven to hear you.



FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as of February 28, 2019

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	14,217.91	629.34	776.50	75.00	15,698.75
Expenses	<u>14,817.17</u>	<u>629.34</u>	<u>343.93</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,790.44</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	(-599.26)	0.00	432.57	75.00	(-91.69)
Balance end of 2018	<u>50,071.60</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>769.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50,841.59</u>
Balance as at 02/28/2019	<u>49,472.34</u>	0.00	1,202.56	75.00	50,749.90

1. The General Fund shows a net loss as at 28th of February, 2019 of (-\$599.26).
2. Missions income as of the 28th of February 2019 totalled \$629.34. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$315.00 CBOQ Local Missions - \$40.00; CBM - General Budget - \$218.34; and CBM Sharing Way undesignated - \$56.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain at the end of February, 2019 of \$432.57. There is an amount from previous years of \$769.99, for a balance in the Communion Fund of \$1,202.56.
4. The designated Sunday School amount as at 28th of February, 2019 was \$75.00. Those funds will be paid to the Treasurer of the Sunday school at the end of the first Quarter.
5. An amount of \$1,000 has been received from the Executors of the Estate of Helen (Peg) Bell, and is not yet designated.
6. There is a memorial donation for the late Earl Kipp of \$100, plus \$1,000 from the Estate of the late Earl Kipp, and is not yet designated.
7. Donations in memory of the late Tom Marshman total \$400.00, and are not yet designated.
8. There are donations IMO of Gary Dunn of \$15, IMO Jim Maynard of \$660.00, and IMO Jim Duffy of \$260. These funds are not yet designated. There is also a donation of \$50 towards future projects.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer



A ventriloquist is telling Irish jokes in Davy Byrne's pub in Grafton Street, Dublin, when, O'Leary, an irate Irishman stands up shouting, 'You're making out we're all dumb and stupid. I oughtta punch you in the nose.'
'I'm sorry sir, I.....'
'Not you,' says O'Leary, 'I'm talking to that little fella on your knee.'

THE BIBLE'S TOP 10 MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE.

The Rev. Margaret Bell

Wendy Lessard suggested our topic. She provided six names on today's top 10 list. I added four more with her approval to make 10. We have the names of 5 women and 5 men. All of these people made the list because of name familiarity and their faithful actions, words or presence that garnered them a place in Holy Writ and a special place in the lives of generations of believers. We can only briefly touch on their stories today.

10. Ruth of Moab.

Her story is found in the OT book named for her. She made the choice to leave her country, Moab, and return to Bethlehem with her Jewish mother-in-law. Her vow of loyalty and love to her mother-in-law has remained a profound expression of human devotion. "Where you go, I will go. Where you live, I will live. Your people shall be my people and your God my God..." After a series of events, Ruth and Boaz marry and have a son, Obed who will one day become a grandpa to a shepherd boy named David. So Ruth, a foreigner, a widow, and a refugee holds an honored place in the lineage of Israel's Messiah. And yet Ruth's most outstanding quality is kindness. It brought healing, hope, and a new beginning.

9. Deborah, Prophet and Judge

Deborah was a prophet and judge in the years before the tribes of Israel united under a king. Judges settled all kinds of disputes for the community. One day Deborah summoned the top soldier of the people and told him that God wanted him to lead an army against the King of Canaan. The soldier whose name was Barak said, "I'll only do this if you come with me." Deborah agreed to go but prophesied that the great victory would go to a woman. An army was raised. The battle was waged. Canaan's army was wiped out. But the Canaanite general named Sisera escaped. He hid in a tent that belonged to a woman named Jael. When Sisera fell asleep, Jael finished him off with a tent peg and a mallet. So Deborah's prophesy had come true. The battle was won by a woman. The gruesome story ends with a refrain that you'll find regularly in this book: "And then there was peace in the land." Deborah acted as judge of her people for 40 years.

8. Queen Esther

Esther was a Jew living in exile in Persia who became the Queen of King Xerxes but who kept her cultural identity a secret from her royal husband. The king was convinced that the Jews living in the country were traitors and should be exterminated. The terrified Esther was told, "Perhaps you've come to this royal position for such a time as this." She intervened and the Jews were spared. Still to this day, the Jews celebrate Purim. It's a day for fun and frolic and for telling the story of Esther, a brave woman who seized the day and used the power of opportunity to save her people.

7. Mary Magdalene.

Mary was from the village of Magdala. She was healed of a mental illness by Jesus. She was one of several women who travelled with Jesus and the disciples. She had some means because she and the women provided for the disciples from their resources. She is remembered and revered for being one of the women who were present at Jesus' crucifixion and burial. She was first or among the first to arrive at Jesus' tomb only to find it empty. She and the others with her were instructed to tell the other disciples that Jesus had risen. Those are the Biblical facts. Over time she has captured the imaginations of generations of believers, including artists, authors, film makers, and feminist Bible scholars. Mary Magdalene is the 2nd most mentioned woman in the New Testament, after Jesus' mother. Despite all attempts by the church to ignore, demean or patronize Mary Magdalene, her testimony as an eye-witness to the empty tomb remains intact. All four gospels put her there. All four acknowledge her as the first evangelist of the Church. Her voice was the first to proclaim "Christ is risen He is risen indeed". The power of Mary Magdalene's place in the Easter story inspires women to take their rightful place as leaders in the community of Christ.

6. Saint Paul

Self-named as the last of the apostles, Paul is credited as the author or the inspiration behind most of the NT books, as well as being the hero of the book of Acts. Someone has said that St. Paul's teachings transformed the proclamation of Jesus to the proclamation **about** Jesus. But before Paul could be Jesus' spokesman he had to overcome his past as a

persecutor of the church. Jesus forgave Paul and gave him a second chance. Paul's impact on the church would not have happened without the power of forgiveness that turned his life around.

5. King David

We know David as a teenager with a killer sling-shot, a shepherd, singer, harpist, and poet. He became the best friend of the King's son then public enemy number 1. A warrior of unequalled renown, a nation builder, he almost lost his crown when he committed adultery and killed Bathsheba's husband. He was the apple of God's eye yet God forbid him to build the temple because of the blood on his hands. David is portrayed in Holy Writ as the greatest of Israel's kings, whose throne would one day be owned by the Messiah. However, David's power is not found in the annals of world history. In fact, very little evidence has been found outside the Bible of David. David's power holds in the powerful poetry and prayers of the Psalms. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." His powerful words continue to comfort, instruct, challenge and bless God's worshipping people.

4. Moses, Prince of Egypt

Son of slaves, exiled murderer, shepherd, deliverer, prophet and law-giver Moses is highly revered by all 3 Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Genesis gives us his bio from infancy to old age. Moses leads sheep for his father-in-law before he rescues and leads his people through that same wilderness until they are finally permitted to enter the Promised Land. There's a lot that can be said about Moses. Suffice it to say, for our purposes today, that his life is proof of the power of preparation. Moses was uniquely qualified in every way to be the deliverer for that time in that place, for those people.

3. Mary, Jesus' mother.

Mary at first glance is just another statistic, young, vulnerable, poor, unmarried and pregnant. And yet when the angel of God presents her with the truth about this, unexpected, impending birth she does not run off wildly in the opposite direction. She says, "Yes." "Let it be to me as you've said". Part of the Christian church venerates Mary. She is called "God Bearer" "Mother of God." "Queen of Heaven". We Protestants prefer to call her Mary. The Koran devotes a long chapter to Mary, more verses about her than in our Bibles. John tells us that she was with Jesus at the cross and with his followers on the day of Pentecost. A sword pierced her heart when she said "yes." But the power of her "yes" to God has inspired and encouraged so many, including us, to do the same.

2. Abraham, God's Friend

He is the father of 3 monotheistic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Monotheistic means 'one God.' In Hebrews he tops the list in a chapter about faith heroes. His faithful response to God's call on him to leave Ur and go to an unknown land was remarkable and unprecedented, since he didn't know anything about this God that was telling him to pick up his household and hit the road. Abraham is portrayed as a man of faith who had his good points and his flaws. But he trusted God and eventually he did become the father of many nations, although he couldn't possibly live long enough to see it. In the NT letter of James it says, "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. And he was called God's friend."

1. Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus was unique in that he had divine power. However, Jesus made it clear that the healings were a validation of his words and teachings about a kingdom where the top lists of the world are turned upside down. A kingdom where the last are first and the first last. A kingdom where enemies are loved, and prayed for and forgiven. A kingdom where faith in God can move mountains and build bridges where previously there were high walls of division. The power that truly exemplifies Jesus, in his person, his mission and in the ongoing story of his church is the power of unconditional love. A love that welcomes all. A love that forgives and begins anew. A love that endures forever and ever. It's a wonder working power. It is a power that inspired Ruth to be kind, Deborah to be bold, Esther to seize the opportunity, Magdalene to stay loyal and present, David to pray, Moses to prepare, Abraham to believe, and Jesus to live, to die and to rise again for love. That power of God that lived in these, also lives in you and me. None are excluded. All have a part to play in the ongoing saga of the Kingdom of a wonder-working God.

Summary by Malcolm Rust

PASTOR'S PAGE

LENT

40 days

on the road

heading to a cross

LENT

40 days

praying, giving, serving

loving all the world

LENT

40 days

cup, bread, life

shared and spilled out

LENT

40 days

Love means this:

forgiving friends and enemies

LENT

40 days

sing out Alleluias!

Christ is risen indeed!

LENT

40 days

praying, giving, serving

following the Jesus road.