



THE PLAIN FACTS

a monthly newsletter of

FIRST YARMOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

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Plains family

APRIL 2020

When this is over,
may we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger,
Full shelves at the store,
Conversations with neighbours,
A crowded theatre,
Friday night out,
The taste of communion,
A routine check-up,
The school rush each morning,
Coffee with a friend,
The stadium roaring,
Each deep breath,
A boring Tuesday,
Life itself.

When this ends, may we find,
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be,
we were called to be,
we hoped to be
and may we stay that way –
better for each other because of the worst.

Contributed by Elsie Walker





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	Alma Hopkins	Heather Crafts
Dave & Janet Stewart	Ray Martin	Milton Springer	Marietta Roberts
Vince Melvin	Michael Kingswood	Carol Maes	Karl Crocker
Ashley & family	Cannady Family	Neil	Don Gillard
Jason Carnegie	Sally Paul	Janet & Dennis	Ellen Brekelmans' family
Jill Coull	Mary Underhill	Phil	Greg Lidster
Ferne Jameson-Pell	Dick & Jim Ronald	Larry Mizon	Betty Graham
Marilyn Smith	Ed Somerville	Family of Betty Nick	

In Sympathy

We offer our prayers and condolences to Natalie Shoemaker her daughter Rayce and to Tom and Jonathan Daye at the passing of Natalie's dear mother, Betty Nick on February 21 in B.C. She was 80 years. She leaves her husband Andy and the family with countless wonderful memories and she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Pastor Bell



EVENTS FOR APRIL

All cancelled due to COVID19

From the Pastor:

In times of uncertainty and change, it helps to listen to the wisdom of those who also lived through challenging times and helped to change them for the better. So in this period of fear and uncertainty I offer the wise words of Rosa Parks:

"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear."

So, my friends, let us make up our minds and do what must be done: keep a safe distance between each other, wash our hands frequently, eat well, exercise, stay away from large gatherings of people, refrain from overbuying goods that others may need more than we do.

Lastly, let me send you a blessing/prayer from St. Patrick of Ireland.

May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the Hand of God protect us.
 May the Word of God direct us. Amen

We can do this.
 Blessings and peace,
 Pastor Margie



Some of the Pancake Supper kitchen crew.....

Photo by Betty Rewbotham

Left to Right: Jack Cummings, Betty Lidster, Jill Coull, Paul O'Drowsky, Mary Crosby, Donna Limon, Marion Lammiman, George Lidster, Charlie Rewbotham, Nancy Millman, Edith Norton

The **PANCAKE SUPPER** on Shrove Tuesday was a successful event. **\$1,000.00** has been forwarded to the **UNION COMMUNITY CENTRE**. Thank you to those who attended. We appreciate your support. Thank you to all who made financial donations and to those who donated pancake mix, and syrup. Thank you to the team.....to the ones who set up, who choreographed the workers, who cooked, who mixed, who griddled and flipped, who served, who cleared, who washed, who steeped and percolated, who cleaned up and cleared away. These events require a lot of hands doing a lot of work. **WHAT A TEAM. THANK YOU!**

UNDER CONSTRUCTION:



Re: CoronaVirus shut-down:

Above all keep some normality in our lives. Sunday is church time in my life so if I am to keep this normal I need to spend time renewing and refreshing my soul and spirit. Keep things as normal as possible. Spend time to make your self feel good by dressing in something you feel good in. Blessings --keep normality in your life as much as possible--wash your hands--feel good about yourself ---this is beyond your control and it will pass. *Words of wisdom from Elsie Walker*

QUILT FOR SALE:

This quilt was created, assembled and sewn by Elsie Walker. It was hand quilted by Plains Knotty Quilters: Edith Norton, Sharon Axford, Marion Maynard, Madge Barrett, Lillian Hartford, Rona Wilson, Carolyn Plaunt, Nancy Millman, Beth Phoenix.

Elsie has donated it to the Knotty Quilters (Plains Ladies Aid).



Size: 82" x 92" (Queen Size)

Price: \$800.00

The proceeds to go toward the refurbishing of the front of the church sanctuary.

If interest please contact Nancy Millman or Elsie Walker.



FAMILY CAMP OUT at Springwater
The dates are **FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND**
June 17 - 21, 2020 (Wednesday to Sunday)



NOTE: There may not be a hard copy of the Plain Facts April News Letter due to the closure of the printing shop which produces it.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

7TH Brenton Axford
7th Ryan Ruddock
8th Brian Plaunt
9th Tiffany Graham
11th Mary Smoke
13th Madge Barrett
13th Malcolm Rust
18th Jack Cummings
18th Diane O'Brien

ANNIVERSARIES

19th Lillian Hartford
20th Donna Limon
21st Cassidy Proctor
21st Sally Paul
26th Evan Jackson
26th Troy Dale
28th Pauline Duffy
30th Michael Johnson
14th Margaret Bell, Ordained in 1991
23rd Malcolm & Donna Rust



Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. *Will Rogers*

This year, International Women's Day falls on a Sunday. It has been around in some form since 1909. Predominantly celebrated in Socialist and Communist countries until it was adopted by the Feminist movement and the United Nations in the 1970's. The annual commemorations vary. In some countries it is a public holiday, in others a day for protests and in some places it is ignored altogether. The hashtag title of the sermon is #EachforEqual.

On the front page of your worship sheet you'll find a young person striking the #EachforEqual pose. Below the picture is a rewording of the theme: "An equal world is an enabled world" which means that the more educational, economic, cultural and spiritual opportunities that girls and women have in their communities, the healthier and wealthier those communities will become. Issues of gender equality involve every aspect of our lives from big to small.

The world is a long way from achieving gender equality. More women are likely to suffer severe injuries in a car crash as most safety features have been designed for men. Thousands of girls become child brides every day because they are seen as an economic burden for their families. Only 25% of seats in national parliaments are filled by women. Less than 7% of world leaders are female. Six countries give women equal work rights and Canada does not. The main message of IWD 2020 is that each person can do our bit to bring about gender equality.

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

Malala Yousafzai

Although the focus for IWD is on women and girls, issues of being treated with equity and respect is important for men and boys. Males are victims of abuse, too. The numbers for women are higher. 1 in 3 women experience abuse at some point in their lives. I believe it is 1 in 4 for males. One abusive situation is one too many. Indigenous women are 5x more likely to be abused. It's important to remember and celebrate that the majority of men are not abusers. The majority of men want a more peaceful world and positive future for their daughters, granddaughters, sisters and nieces.

As we read in the gospel lesson today, Jesus believed that Samaritans, a culturally specific minority who were despised

"At the core, feminism simply consists of the radical notion that women are people too."

by the majority of Jews, were people too. He believed that a Samaritan woman, who was despised for her culture, looked down on for her gender had a questionable reputation because of multiple marriages was a person, too. And so were tax collectors, prostitutes, beggars, disabled, abled, rich, and poor, outcasts, insiders, criminals, governors, and slaves. Jesus treated every person as "people too."

He went out of his way to ensure that the ones who were not treated or seen as worthy by the religious or political big shots of the day were welcomed, healed, lifted up and encouraged to believe that they were worthy because they were people, too. No matter what the prevailing culture told them they were—no matter who their faith leaders told them they were—no matter what circumstances told them they were---they were more, much more. They were blessed because they were God's people. And as God's children they were salt of the earth and lights in their world.

Lastly, for Canadians who are marking IWD the hashtag label #BecauseOfYou is being promoted on twitter. #BecauseOfYou encourages us to celebrate the women and girls who make or have made a positive impact on your life. On the card that you were given when you came in to church today, write down a name of a woman or women who have made an impact on your life. Past or present, a community leader or someone important in your life.

I invite you to take your card home with you. You may want to add more names as you think of them. Then post it up somewhere. Place it where you will notice it and be reminded of that woman or girl you admire. Put it where your child, spouse or grandchild may notice it. Then if you are asked about the name you can share why that woman matters to you—you can tell them about March 8 being IWD. Plains people, gals and gents, I salute you! #BecauseOfYou I am living my calling from Jesus to be a preacher woman. Amen.

Paragraphs of Margaret's sermon selected by Malcolm Rust

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as of 24 March 2020

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	20,356.34	739.01	920.85	345.00	22,361.20
Expenses	<u>22,933.60</u>	<u>739.01</u>	<u>558.25</u>	<u>345.00</u>	<u>24,575.86</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	(-2,577.26)	0.00	362.60	0.00	(-2,214.66)
Balance end of 2019	<u>50,208.97</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>444.39</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50,653.36</u>
Balance as at 03/24/20	<u>47,631.71</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>806.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>48,438.70</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net loss as of the 24th of March, 2020 of (-\$2,577.26).
2. Missions income as of March 24, 2020 totalled \$739.01. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$397.00; CBOQ Local Missions - \$60.00; CBM - General Budget - \$225.01; and CBM Sharing Way undesignated - \$57.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain at the 24th of March, 2020 of \$362.60. There is an amount from previous years of \$444.39, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$806.99.
4. The designated Sunday School amount as at the 24th of March, 2020 was \$345.00. That amount has been paid to the Sunday school Treasurer at the end of the 1st quarter.
5. The Future Projects Fund as at the 24th of March , 2020 totals \$7,968.79. The Plains Ladies Aid and the Plains Social Committee have each generously pledged \$2,500 towards the Future Projects Fund, which would then give a total of \$12,968.79 towards the audio/visual upgrades. Expenses to date for the renovation project total \$3,887.48, leaving a balance of \$9,081.31 in the Future Projects Fund. Donations towards the Future Projects Fund are gratefully accepted.

Respectfully Submitted
Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer

From the Finance Committee:

In light of the COVID 19 concerns and the cancellation of church and all activities at Plains, the Finance Committee would like to remind you that monthly expenses of the church will continue and we encourage all donors who are not on the PAR Program to maintain support financially. Our new website, www.plainschurch.ca has a **Donate Now** button and your receipt will be issued immediately. Alternatively, you could mail the Treasurer your givings or make up your offerings when we return to church. Please don't send cash in the mail. Thank you for your continual support. Stay safe!



Sherry Graham, Chair
on behalf of the Plains Finance Committee

Payable to Plains Church General Fund Mailing Address
Shirley Dale
44694 Fruit Ridge Line
R. R. # 5, St. Thomas, ON
N5P 3S9

Pastor's Page

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. -The Easter Gospel Luke 20:19-20

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" I would much rather share this joyous proclamation with you in person, but I am doubtful like Thomas the disciple that it will happen this year.

So far 2020 has been an 'annus horribilis' (to borrow a quote Queen Elizabeth II) in light of the Covid19 Pandemic. We think of those who have suffered the most from this pernicious, sneaky virus, whose health was compromised by it and the many precious lives lost because of it. We hold in our prayers their families and friends, as well as politicians, medical personnel, personal caregivers and front-line essential service workers who diligently carry out their duties even as researchers fervently seek answers.

As I thought about what I might share with you by way of an Easter message, I recalled the scripture passage from Luke 20: 19-20. The words that stand out for me given the current weird world situation were "*and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear...*" In the case of the disciples, they feared and rightly so, that the ones who had killed their leader would come gunning for them, too. We too, are fearful these days, not of leaders but because we could catch a very nasty virus. We do not lock our doors to stop the authorities, but because the authorities have told us to stay home and stay at a safe distance from others. The circumstances differ, but the uncertainties, the unknowing and the disruptions of our routines leave us feeling kind of similar to the disciples' as they faced their dilemma.

I am hopeful that this new normal will not remain THE normal. No doubt many lives and the way we do some things will change due to this world-wide event. Hopefully we will come through this valley of the shadow with a deeper appreciation for our leaders, our nation, for the gift of life and Mother Earth and for the cherished values and beliefs that carried us through.

But Jesus' disciples had no reason to be as optimistic or hopeful. Their leader had been crucified. Rome was an unforgiving Master. Any dreams of Jesus being the

Messiah they wanted had been smashed into splinters. As far as they knew their own days were numbered, and it was a short list.

But then, in the middle of their darkest hour, Jesus showed up! He stood with them in their locked room. They saw with their own eyes the scars on this hands and side! Death had been defeated and the tomb had been forever robbed of its victim.

The first thing we're told that Jesus said to them was, "Peace be with you." When we are locked in by fear and uncertainty of what the next day or news conference will bring, Jesus stands beside us in the locked rooms of our fear and speaks peace into our quaking spirits. We are not alone. We are God's own. God loves us.

But Jesus didn't just give the disciples a word about peace and then disappear. He also breathed his Spirit on them, and gave them a purpose for living.

Everyone needs a purpose. Jesus said, "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me so I send you.*" *John 20:21*

If this Easter time you find yourself limited to home, locked in because of fear of disgusting bug or out of an abundance of caution and compassion for the well-being of others, know that his risen Spirit has been breathed on you. And with the Spirit comes a purpose: to go forth, to reach out, to speak, to pray. The purpose of your life's calling has not changed just because of a virus. You are still Christ's hands, feet and voice in your world. But your methods may have to be rejigged.

Your purpose may now involve making phone calls, sending texts or emails to let others know that they are not alone in their 'locked' rooms. Your purpose may involve picking up a few groceries for a neighbor or family member or just doing what you've been asked to do: social distancing yourself, so that this greedy virus will be cheated.

Whether you are staying at home or having to be present at work because what you do is essential to the well-being of others, know that wherever you are, Christ is beside you. His love offers you a deep peace and gives you a high purpose. You have been Spirit sent by God to share peace, compassion and hope. Because of you, others will not feel so alone as they live in their locked rooms. Because you stand with them, they'll know that HE stands with them, too.

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret".