



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Editor: Nancy Millman
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Rev. Malcolm Rust
Plains family

SEPTEMBER 2020





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
Dave & Janet Stewart
Vince Melvin
Ashley & family
Jason Carnegie
Mary Underhill
Family of Joe Dees

Marilyn Cartwright
Ray Martin
Carol Maes
Cannady Family
Sally Paul
Rae Axford
Leslie Micallef and Family of Neil Dyck

Heather Crafts
Milton Springer
Larry Mizon
Ferne Jameson-Pell
Janet & Dennis
Judy Jacklin

Marilyn Smith
Marietta Roberts
Betty Graham
Wayne Dale
Greg Lidster
Cody
Family of Patsy Marilyn Green

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sept 06-Labour Day Weekend

DIY Communion
Psalm 149
Matthew 18: 15 - 20

Sept 13-Grandparents' Day

Romans 14: 1 - 12
Matthew 18: 21 - 35

Sept 20-Caring Cupboard Sunday

Psalm 105: 1 - 6, 37 - 45
Philippians 1: 21 - 30
Matthew 20: 1 - 16

Sept 27

Psalm 78: 1 - 4, 12 - 16
Philippians 2: 1 - 13
Matthew 21: 23 - 32

Oct 04-World Communion Sunday

Philippians 3: 4b - 14
Matthew 21: 33 - 46
Psalm 19

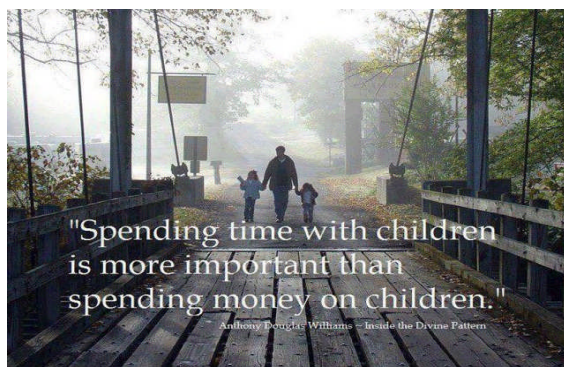


IN SYMPATHY

The Plains family extends our sympathy to Leslie Micallef, and her sister Lisa, on the passing of her brother-in-law Neil Dyck in Alberta on August 1, 2020 at the age of 63, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Our Plains Church Family extends sympathy to the family of the late Patsy Marilyn (Small) Green who passed away August 22 in London at the age of 85. She was a beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, sister to Donna Meszaros, Don Small, Lana Anderson and Gil Small, aunt to Dave and Linda Axford, Doug and Helen Axford, Vickie and Jeff Merkle, Dale and Barb Axford and Leanna & Henry Westbrook.

The Plains church family extends our sincere sympathy to Annette & Deane Proctor and their daughters Cassidy & Joelle at the passing of Annette's dear father, Joe Dees. Joe was a well known businessman and entrepreneur in St. Thomas and area. He was 76 years. Joe was a follower of Jesus Christ and a supporter of Forest City Church. He will be missed.



TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:

"Take care of your thoughts when you are alone", and
"Take care of your words when you are with people."

Inspiring and Positive Quotes

EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER ARE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS

and the strict and necessary requirements of the Medical Officer of Health for our health, safety and well-being.

- Sept 11- Sept. 18** The Pastor will be on vacation for one week, from Friday, September 11 to Friday, September 18 2020. There will be a YouTube service distributed for Worship time on Sunday, September 13 but none for September 20. There will not be Zoom Coffee Breaks on September 13th and 20th. If pastoral needs arise during the week, please contact a deacon
- Sept 13 Sunday** - National Grandparents' Day
- Sept 20 Sunday** - St. Thomas/Elgin Food Bank Sunday
(Caring Cupboard)
- Sept 22 Wednesday** - Autumn begins!!!



Even though we are apart, we are together in Spirit and in ministry. I wanted to share with you heart-warming news.

The Ladies Aid has generously donated **\$500** to CBM's **Lebanon Crisis!** These monies will be matched by the Canadian government dollar for dollar. We are so grateful to the Ladies Aid and others of our church family who responded with generous and compassionate action to this desperate situation. Many lives in that troubled and grieving nation will be helped and healed by the outpouring of love and concern from the wider world. Donations can still be made to CBM for Lebanon relief through regular giving envelopes, PAR or directly to the cbmin.org website. Your donations will still be of great help. Let us keep Lebanon's people in our prayers.

Blessings and WAY TO GO, Plains Team!

Pastor Margie

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.

Size: 82" x 92" (Queen Size) Price: \$600.00

Elsie has donated it to the Knotty Quilters (Plains Ladies Aid). The proceeds to go toward the refurbishing of the front of the church sanctuary. Please contact Nancy Millman or Elsie Walker.



Where have all the Grandma's Gone?

In the dim and distant past
When life's tempo wasn't so fast,
Grandma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, bake and baby sit.
When the kids were in a jam,
They could always call on Gram.

But today she's in the gym
Exercising to keep slim.
She's checking the web or surfing the net.
She's counting the "likes" that she can get.
Nothing seems to stop or block her,
Now that Grandma's off her rocker.

MOVING FORWARD
THE PLAINS' RESPONSE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC
SEPTEMBER 2020

Due to the COVID19 Pandemic and by order of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Provincial Government, Plains Church suspended public worship services and events on March 16, 2020. Since that time, restrictions have been partly lifted. However, until the rate of infection dissipates, it behooves all citizens and faith communities to do what we can to help contain the spread of this deadly and dangerous virus.

On August 19, 2020 the Pastor and several leaders of the church met to discuss a way forward for the congregation. Many helpful ideas and opinions were expressed as we considered the guidelines provided to us by Public Health authorities. Our discussion lead to these conclusions:

It was agreed that our top priority is the safety and wellness of the congregation and Pastor.

It was agreed that reopening the church building to the public for worship services should wait until the end of September and at that time, an assessment could be made as to whether the return of children to school had affected the rate of infection/number of cases.

Upon the advice of our church lawyer, it was agreed that prior to reopening a Policy and Procedure Document will be composed, approved and posted on the church Website which will include the steps we will take to promote health and safety for congregants, leaders, staff and visitors.

Faith community leaders are responsible for preventing risk of infection among staff, volunteers, community members, and visitors who participate in their organization's activities. (Public Health)

It was also agreed that recorded YouTube worship services in the church sanctuary will resume after the wall renovations are completed and the church building has been cleaned.

In the meantime, the Pastor will continue to provide worship materials and sermons online from home and host Zoom meetings/coffee breaks.

Small group or committee meetings held inside the church building will have to adhere to the church's Covid19 Policy and Procedures.

These measures will include much of what we've come to expect: keeping two metre social distance, wearing face coverings inside the church building, using the hand sanitizers provided, health questions asked (screening) upon entrance into the building and keeping a record of attendees and their contact information.

There are some things we can't do right now, or must do differently. For example, Public Health authorities prohibit children's programming/Sunday School. Hymn singing is also prohibited and social gatherings after worship inside the building like we are used to, can't happen. In-house Communion services are suspended until it is deemed safe to participate.

And then of course, all the touched surfaces must be kept as clean as possible.

On the brighter side, over the past 7 months we have been adapting to this new normal which affects every area of our lives and world. So, just as schools and businesses are adjusting and their practices are evolving to meet the challenges of these days, so we will do the best we can, to care for the spiritual, physical and mental health of the Plains Church Family.

It is hoped that the improvements and updates that have been made to the Sound and Video systems will enable us to reopen safely and allow us to use up to 30% of the entire building capacity—Oak Hall & Sanctuary, for services if we choose to move forward at some point.

We're treading carefully but we are moving forward. We're all in this together -- all for one and one for ALL! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Margaret



As the taxi pulled away, she realized she had left her purse on the back seat. Later she called the company and was relieved that the driver had found her bag. When she went to pick it up, several off-duty taxi drivers surrounded her. One man handed her her pocketbook, two typewritten pages and a box containing the contents of the purse. "We're required to inventory lost wallets and purses," he explained. "I think you'll find everything there." As she started to put her belongings back into the purse, the man continued, "I hope you don't mind if we watch. Even though we tried, none of us could fit everything into your purse. And we'd like to see just how you do it!"



Thank you to The Plains family for the beautiful flowers which were delivered to my door and the phone calls and cards I did receive yesterday (July 25th) for my **75th birthday**. Ellen Brekelmans.

THANK YOU

Thank you to my Plains Family for the beautiful orange roses and the virtual hug that I received from you for my **85th birthday**. I miss you all and appreciate your good wishes. Stay safe!

Barb Axford

To my Plains family, thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement and the many phone calls I have received. Thank you, Margie, for your thoughtfulness. I really appreciate your kindness.

Judy Jacklin

To our Plains family, thank you for the flowers sent to us on the passing of Steven's mother Bonnie Brown, in June. Steve and Jo-Anne Pettit

Thank you to my Plains family for the beautiful flowers which I received on the occasion of my **80th birthday** on August 22. Marilyn Cartwright

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 st Jennifer Johnson | 14 th Eric Tucker | 24 th Dave Chesterfield |
| 8 th Katheryn Dale | 14 th Betty Plaunt (94) | 27 th Karl Crocker |
| 8 th Matt Ferguson | 16 th Gary Somerville | 29 th Bonnie Zacher |
| 11 th Simon Brekelmans | 20 th Charlie Rewbotham | 29 th Alyssa Carnegie |
| 12 th Todd Noble | 20 th Rebecca Carnegie | 29 th Annette Proctor |
| 12 th Bond Ruddock | 22 nd Tom Lammiman | |
| 12 th Louise Sargeant | | |

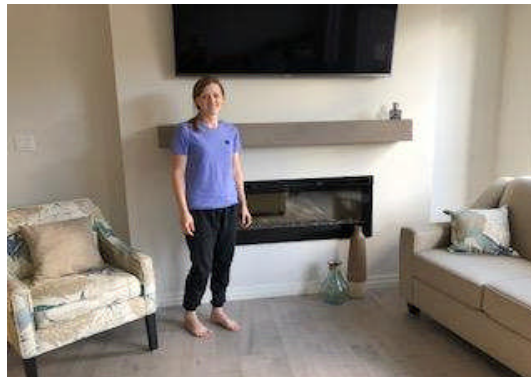
ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 nd Greg & Tiffany Graham | 17 th Ken & Judy Jacklin |
| 6 th Gary & Marjorie Higgs (57) | 20 th Charlie & Betty Rewbotham |
| 11 th Dennis & Louise Angyal | 21 st Jamey & Heather Dale |
| 16 th Geoff & Julie Robins | 30 th Deane & Annette Proctor |



Congratulations to Jenny Lee Graham on the purchase of her new home!

Photo by Margie Bell



He went to the store to buy camouflage trousers the other day, but he couldn't find any.

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as of 31 of August, 2020

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	60,084.88	2,009.86	1,924.91	395.00	64,414.65
Expenses	<u>59,248.06</u>	<u>2,009.86</u>	<u>1,298.37</u>	<u>375.00</u>	<u>62,931.29</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	836.82	0.00	626.54	20.00	1,483.36
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 08/31/20	<u>51,045.79</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,070.93</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>52,136.72</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as of the 31st of August, 2020 of \$836.82.
Grass cutting has been paid for May, 2020. There have been no janitorial services since mid-March.
2. Missions income as of August 31st, 2020 totalled \$2,009.86. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$949.50; CBOQ Local Missions - \$160.00; CBM - General Budget - \$601.36; and CBM Sharing Way undesignated - \$155.00. One hundred and forty-four dollars (\$144.00) has been sent to CBM for the Lebanon crisis and those funds will be matched by the Canadian government.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain at the 31st of August, 2020 of \$626.54.
There is an amount from previous years of \$444.39, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$1,070.93.
4. The designated Sunday School amount as at the 31st of August, 2020 was \$395.00. The balance will be paid to the Sunday school Treasurer at the end of the 3rd quarter.
5. The Future Projects Fund as at the 31st of August, 2020 totals \$20,650.25, which includes \$2,500 from the Plains Social Committee and \$2,500 from the Plains Ladies Aid for the renovation project. Expenses to date total \$18,873.06. That total includes paying the audio/visual supplier-installer's invoice, building materials for the renovations to the front of the sanctuary, taping and mudding the sanctuary, finish painting the sanctuary, as well as touch up paint in Oak Hall and the furnace room. That leaves a balance of \$1,777.19 in the Future Projects Fund. The monitor is installed in Oak Hall, but we are awaiting the mixer for Oak Hall. The cabinet for the mixer for the sanctuary is complete. There will be some incidental costs for the installation of the oak panels at the front of the sanctuary. That should be completed soon.
Donations are still gratefully accepted for the project.

Respectfully Submitted
Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer

****Once again, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the faithful people of Plains who continue to make sure their donations make it to my home, or to the CIBC bank account by etransfer, or through Canada Helps on our website. It is great to see the audio/visual project nearly completed.
Stay safe and stay healthy!**

The email address to send e-transfers to, is:

northridgesd@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 44694 Fruit Ridge Line, R. R. # 5,
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3S9

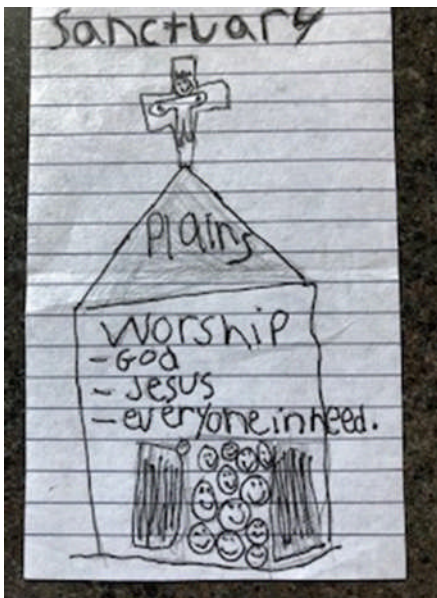
Thank you for your financial support,



Pastor's Pages "Whoever welcomes a child in my name welcomes me"-- Jesus (Matt.18:5)

September is here and with it comes the highly anticipated return of children to classes. In 2020, such anticipation is marked by anxiety and intense activity as decisions are made by school boards and parents over how or when or whether to allow their children into classrooms. I'm sure that we all understand that the socialization aspect of school is important and the children and youth really miss seeing their school friends! We pray for them/you and for the teachers, bus drivers, janitorial staff and administrators as we all wend our way carefully through the Covid19 pandemic situation.

September is also the month when, in 'normal' times, the church would be starting up our programs: choir, Ladies Aid, and Sunday School. Normally the second Sunday of this month would be Recovenanting Sunday with the registration of children in Sunday School classes. Because of current regulations, children's programming has been suspended in churches. While this is very sad, we understand the necessity of caution, and as the Letter from the Leaders explains, the health of our Plains people is paramount. That all being said, as I continue to share some memories of my experiences as your Pastor, I want to pay tribute to the 'generations' of children who have crossed my path and taught us about what it means to love, believe in, and follow a God of love. I've included some artwork that I've gathered over the past few years from the Plains children.



← Biz's artwork of a full church and happy church family!

For most of us, the Children's Time, when the children gather on the front pew to listen and talk with me is among our favorite times spent together as a Plains family! Especially wonderful, funny or poignant are times when a child either stumps me with a query or a response to my question. One of the fondest memories I have is of a little girl named Annie who, at around 7 or 8 years old asked, with a soulful expression: "If God is up in heaven, then why do we look down when we pray?" I can still remember being struck with the profundity of that simple question. I gave my answer, that looking down was a sign of respect. She nodded her head slightly as if to say, "Maybe. It's possible." On any given Sunday, I would have no idea of the age range or number of children who would present themselves in that front pew. That offers a challenge to try to say something relevant to kids of any and all ages and yet not fly too high or too low over their level of their understanding. I confess that sometimes, their responses or questions have flown pretty high above my expectations of what they know or understand for their ages.

For example, one morning I held a few kernels of corn in my fist. I opened my hand and asked, "What are these?" I expected simple answers, like "corn" or "seeds". But young Jackson, an aspiring farmer immediately responded, "Yield." I learned that I had to up my game if I was to keep up with today's children.

Malcolm Rust and his Brown Bag stories with the Plains children are the stuff of legend. I've been told more than once of his Easter Brown Bag story that revealed a real live bunny! Over the last 3 decades, Malcolm has occasionally treated the children with Brown Bag stories and they are always clever and instructive to people of every age.



←Emma J drew a picture of Jubilee.

The only live creature that I brought to show the children for Children's time, if memory serves me, was Jubilee, my feisty and clever tuxedo kitten. I hid Jubilee in my office, which at that time was located in the front corner of the sanctuary; until time to show her to the kids. As I carried her out in one hand, Jubilee was so excited by the people's reaction that she almost flew from my grasp, startling me to pieces! I have no idea what my story's point was about!

One 'brown bag' type of story I have done a couple of times with the children over the years involved a bag and a mirror. I showed the children a gift bag and told them that inside it was something that Jesus really, really loves. Then I invited each child to peak into the bag to see it. I had put the mirror inside so that they would see the reflection of their faces. I couple of children looked in the bag and didn't say anything. Then young Jessica looked into the bag. She spun around and raced to her mother singing out, "Mommy, Mommy, JESUS LOVES ME!" There wasn't a dry eye in the place that Sunday! What great joy there was in all our hearts to know that this child realized the wondrous truth that Jesus loved her.

Over the years, the Sunday School leaders and I have encouraged the children to take an active part in the ongoing life and ministry at Plains. A few years ago, a bequest of money was given to the Sunday School by the Basacco family in memory of Lena (Axford) Basacco. The money was spent on bright yellow shirts with a picture of an oak tree on the front, which the children wore when performing songs during worship time. The children have also enjoyed collecting Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday on the Ferguson's property and each year hosted the church family for a BBQ lunch on Recovenanting Sunday. We've enjoyed annual Christmas pageants put on by the Sunday School that have brought laughter to our lips, tears to our eyes, and blessings to our hearts! Every year the Concert dress rehearsals convinces Sunday School leaders that they are in for a disaster--- The children are restless, or AWOL. They can't seem to get it together. But then, like a Miracle, the concert goes off without a hitch (ok, maybe one or two little hitches) and the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving! Every year the children are adorable in their angel, shepherds, magi and animal costumes. Real babies playing Jesus or pregnant moms playing Mary have also provided us with holy moments!

And then, we must remember over 25 years of Church Camping at Springwater and all the campfires, bike trails, canoe rides, and worship times spent enjoying the beauty of God's creation beside the millpond. Those in attendance last year will always remember the baptisms of the Ralf family in the millpond. It was an awesome day!

The Plains children have also given me cards, gifts, flowers, and cakes for my special birthdays and anniversaries! It's been heartwarming to share personal milestones with them, even as they have shared their milestones with us. I'll never forget the day, Andrew came striding through the Oak Doors of the sanctuary to triumphantly declare, "I'm Double Digits!"

Lillie's portrait of the Pastor→



Occasionally over the years, I put a question box in the church for the children to place questions that they would like answered during Children's Time. Every week I would attempt to answer a question. Regrettably, sometimes the child who had submitted the question was not present for the answer. Here are a few of their thoughtful and challenging questions:

- Why do we celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas when he was born sometime in the Spring?
- Does God have a wife?
- Why did God make people?
- Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- What is a Faith Story? Why do people share them with the church?
- What is the difference between the United Church and the Baptist Church?
- Why is Jesus God's Son when Mary and Joseph had him?

It is an honor for me to explore these questions with the children. Often the topic for Children's Time was followed up by the Sunday School leaders during class time! What a great team!



← *Evan's pic of Children's Time*

The Commitment Statement created by the congregation in the mid-1990's has remained a central focus for our church family. *"To provide an environment for people to explore, develop and celebrate their faith in God."* The Sunday School, Youth Groups and Children's Time have provided opportunities for children to explore, develop and celebrate their faith in God. We hope and pray that what they've learned will provide a foundation for their journey of life and faith.

I share a poem that I recited at Children's Time in answer to one of those Question box questions. *Carter asked, 'Where does God live?'*

WHERE DOES GOD LIVE?

God lives in me,
God lives in you,
God lives in heaven,
and on the earth, too!
God lives in your heart
and God lives in mine,
God lives in this church
and in all humankind.
God lives in the wind
and God lives in the fire.
Because God is Spirit
God lives wherever we are.
If we're in our houses
or in our class room---
If we're in a space ship
on the way to the moon—

If we're in a desert
or in a field white with snow,
Our God is still with us
wherever we go!
So whenever you need God
all you need do is pray:
for God lives in your heart---
Yes! in *your* heart to stay!



Mandy's colorful pic of the Plains

THANK YOU, Plains children, past and present, for your artwork, questions, enthusiasm for learning and for your wisdom. You've taught your Plains Family a lot about our awesome God!
May you continue to grow in your faith. Remember, God lives in your hearts, to stay!

With Love,

Margaret