



**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](mailto:plainschurch@rogers.com)  
**Website:** [www.plainschurch.ca](http://www.plainschurch.ca)  
**Phone:** 519-633-2883

**Newsletter Staff**

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

# OCTOBER 2020



Decorations by Rona Wilson

Photo by Margie Bell

I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus,  
All around the world!  
Yes, we are the church together!

The church is not a building;  
the church is not a steeple;  
the church is not a resting place;  
the church is a people.



## 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	Heather Crafts	Marilyn Smith
Dave & Janet Stewart	Ray Martin	Milton Springer	Marietta Roberts
Vince Melvin	Carol Maes	Larry Mizon	Betty Graham
Ashley & family	Cannady Family	Cody	Wayne Dale
Jason Carnegie	Sally Paul	Greg Lidster	Phil Doyon
Mary Underhill	Rae Axford	Judy Jacklin	Family of Ferne Jameson-Pell
Mary Joan	Malcolm & Donna Rust and the family of Janet Marfleet		
Lillian & Gary Hartford and the family of Mel Sylvester			Ellen Brekelmans & family

### Sunday Scripture Readings

#### Oct 04-World Communion Sunday

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

#### Oct 25

Matthew 22: 34 - 46  
1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 8  
Psalm 90: 1 - 6; 13 - 17

#### Oct 11 -Thanksgiving Sunday

Luke 17: 11- 19  
2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15

#### Nov 01 - All Saints Day

Matthew 5: 1 - 12  
Revelation 7: 9 - 17  
Psalm 34: 1 - 10; 22

#### Oct 18 - 190 Anniversary

1 Thessalonians 1: 1 - 10



## IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Lillian Hartford, Gary Hartford, Stephen and Susan Hartford and family at the passing of Gary's life-partner Mel Sylvester. Mel was 58 years old. She was promoted to glory on August 31. She is survived by a dear son and brother. Mel fought the good fight against the ravages of ALS with Gary at her side all the way, every day. May she rest in peace in the arms of her Creator God. Pastor Margie

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ferne Jameson-Pell, who went to heaven September 18. She was a long time newsletter recipient and attended Plains briefly in the 1990's. She lived at Valleyview Home. Ferne is survived by two daughters Jeanette and Joy & families. Pastor Margie

The Plains family extend our sincere sympathy to Malcolm and Donna Rust on the passing of Malcolm's sister Janet Marfleet in England, who was called home September 20, after a long and courageous battle with leukemia. She and her husband Dennis traveled the world and lived with a great sense of gratitude and hopefulness. Sympathy is extended to their son Philip and Jackie, and grandsons Dan and Bex, Joshua, and their daughter Hilary.

The Plains family extend our sincere sympathy to Ellen Brekelmans on the passing of her brother Bertus de Gouw who died on September 28 in New Zealand. Bertus leaves behind his wife Johanna of 50 years and Bart and Martin and Miranda and their families, and sisters Anna of New Zealand, Thea, Riet and Jeanne of Holland and Ellen of Canada.





Dear Plains family:

We trust this note finds you well and doing your best to manage during these challenging times.



In an effort to keep the congregation informed the deacons and pastor met on the 23rd of September to discuss the possibility of opening the church for services and address the church's anniversary. At this point there are a number of things that will come into play.

First, the deacons have met with the various church leadership to identify the challenges of a church opening. From that a policy, screening document and waiver have been developed and has been circulated back to the leaders for review. It is our intent to have that done and in place at some point in October.

Secondly there is the matter of the church's 190th anniversary. The deacons and pastor understand and appreciate how important these celebrations are to us as a church family.

**After some discussion we have decided to hold a DRIVE-BY parade at the church  
on the Church's 190th Anniversary Sunday, October 18 at 1 p.m.**

Children are invited to deliver Happy Anniversary posters or pictures of their church family or of the church to the Plains mail box ahead of time for videoing and posting on October 18.

Congregants are invited to drive into the church parking lot and move past the canopy where the Pastor and Deacons will greet you. Vehicles will ENTER the church lot from the Sparta Line driveway (west end) and EXIT at the Fairview Road (east end). Please remember your face coverings.

It is our church's habit of enjoying food together and so we hope to provide a tasty dessert at this celebration to take home that will be prepared and presented according to health safety guidelines.

In Bible times, the people of God marched into Jerusalem singing Psalms of joy and praise to their Maker! So please join our Plains Praise Parade! Decorate your vehicles and make signs to celebrate God's love and faithfulness! Join with your Plains family to thank God for 190 years of ministry and blessings!

In the interim the Deacons will continue to monitor the circumstances around Covid -19 regulations. Look for further information or reminders about this event in your weekly emails or mailings from Pastor Margaret.

It is our intent that the leadership of the church have the best interests of the health and well being of the congregation and their families at all times We ask that God guide our thoughts and actions during these times, and look forward to the day we can all be together again.

Blessings,  
Wayne Dale on behalf of the Deacons Committee



We extend our **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Donna Limon** who recently received a **25 year pin** from the Sweet Adelines Barbershop Chorus. Donna, her quartet and sister chorus members bring so much inspiration and joy to people's lives! And we are blessed to have Donna in our choir making music to the Lord with us! We look forward to the day when the choir and chorus are back!

**FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
as of 30 of September, 2020

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	66,292.21	2,209.53	2,096.91	405.00	71,003.65
Expenses	<u>65,948.77</u>	<u>2,209.53</u>	<u>1,790.23</u>	<u>405.00</u>	<u>70,353.53</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	343.44	0.00	306.68	0.00	650.12
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 09/30/20	<u>50,552.41</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>751.07</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>51,303.48</u>

- The General Fund shows a net gain as of the 30th of September, 2020 of \$343.44.  
Grass cutting has been paid up to June, 2020. There have been no janitorial services since mid-March.
- Missions income as of the 30th of September, 2020 totalled \$2,209.53. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$1,044.50; CBOQ Local Missions - \$180.00; CBM - General Budget - \$668.03, and CBM Sharing Way undesignated - \$173.00. One hundred and forty-four dollars (\$144.00) has been sent to CBM for the Lebanon crisis and those funds have been matched by the Canadian government.
- The Communion fund had a net gain at the 30th of September, 2020 of \$306.68.  
There is an amount from previous years of \$444.39, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$751.07.
- The designated Sunday School amount as at the 30th of September, 2020 was \$405.00. The balance has been paid to the Sunday school Treasurer at the end of the 3rd quarter.
- The Future Projects Fund as at the 30th of September, 2020 totals \$20,695.25, 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 \$1,822.19 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

**\*\*Praise God! We continue, even after the summer months, to show a net gain in the General Fund. The Plains folks are so faithful and generous! I would think we should be singing that old song, "God is So Good!" Donations continue to arrive regularly at my home at 44694 Fruit Ridge Line, St. Thomas, ON N5P 3S9, and through the CIBC bank account by e-transfer, or through Canada Helps on our website. Stay safe and stay healthy!**

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

[northridgesd@gmail.com](mailto:northridgesd@gmail.com)

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

Thank you for your financial support,



Rona Wilson has been making masks and has a few spares. If anyone wants one or two let her know and she'll get them to you.



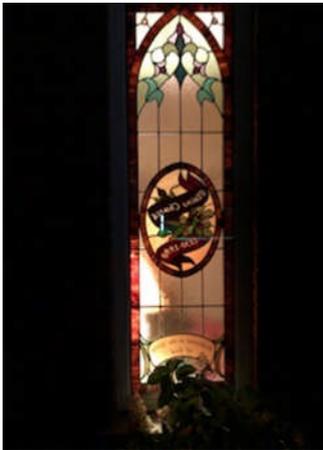
***“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord to display God's glory.” Isaiah 61:3b***

I thought we'd take a walk down memory lane to revisit the Anniversary celebrations of the past 30 years. Thanks to our newsletters I was able to compile a listing of events. Countless other happenings, including presentations, choir anthems, prayers, sermons and Children's talks along with visits from guests and former members blessed our celebrations. Two Children's talks that stand out for me included the Anniversary that Malcolm did a brown bag talk. He had made a long scroll on which each year of the church's life from 1830 was printed. The children unrolled the scroll to the *oohs and ahs* of the congregation. The scroll circled the sanctuary! That object lesson really drove home the length of time that our little church has existed to share the good news of Jesus! On another Anniversary Sunday I walked around the sanctuary to indicate various (donation) plaques while telling the children of the people in whose memory the various items were donated. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses!

Even though in the list below I did not note them as frequently as they occurred, at most Anniversaries we joyously celebrated a meal together whether it was cake or pot luck luncheon or celebration dinners. Nearly every Anniversary service I've been part of here included music from the choir, and often from our children's choir too. We love to praise the Lord with song at the Plains! Sacred music is deeply important and is really missed during this pandemic crisis. In 2020 we mark another major milestone: our 190<sup>th</sup> year of ministry. It has been an unusual year, so we'll mark it in an unusual way, as Deacon Wayne's letter has outlined. Here's a list of celebrations that we've spent together as Christ's church at Plains. Maybe you will recall a special service you attended or some of the individuals mentioned who participated or were guest preachers or musicians. We are so grateful to God for them, for our memories, for each other, and for many more memories yet to be made!

My first Anniversary service among you was memorable indeed! It was October 14, 1990.

160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1990 October 14 Dedication of stained glass windows & door panels; Johnny Stevens sang at 7p.m. service. History Book “A Year in the Life of Plains Baptist Church” marked events of Plains' 190<sup>th</sup> year.



161<sup>st</sup> 1991 October 20 The Kingsway Quartet from London performed at an evening service

162<sup>nd</sup> 1992 October 18 Plains Reunion Choir, featuring former choir members & musicians; including Esther Higgs and Kathy Limon

163<sup>rd</sup> 1993 October 17 Theme: Come, Celebrate Hope! youth group & children participated and on Saturday, October 16 A Baseball Game was played at Union Ball Park between the Axford & Higgs teams, with winners playing against the Plains Newcomers

164<sup>th</sup> 1994 October 16 10 a.m. service with Ted Hampton from Toronto as soloist (Peg Bell's first cousin) Offering was designated for the New Gas Furnace Fund

165<sup>th</sup> 1995 October 15- 10 a.m. service with Sylvia (Douglas) Snyder, guest soloist. Sylvia grew up at the Plains and taught Sunday School in the former Plains Church.

1995 October 15 at 3p.m. “The Fire in the Rose” a presentation about family violence and ministry to families was presented by Woodbine Baptist Church, Toronto to the Elgin Baptist Association Churches which was hosted at Plains

166<sup>th</sup> 1996 October 20 10 a.m. service with Rev. Dr. Dale Soble, Area Minister, special music by choir and Heather Limon & her trumpet 7:30 p.m. Music with The Kingsway Quartet

167<sup>th</sup> 1997 October 19 10 a.m. Pastor Bell, preached, choir and junior choir sang. Carolyn Reed our guest soloist and guitarist from St. George, ON performed

168<sup>th</sup> 1998 October 20 Guest speaker Ross Daily, broadcaster, “Grey Scale” & “Daily Business”

169<sup>th</sup> 1999 October 17 New NRSV Pew Bibles were Dedicated “To the Glory of God”

170<sup>th</sup> 2000 October 14 Saturday, Anniversary Celebration Dinner at Pearce Williams Centre  
Sunday, October 15, Dedication of the Time Capsule at 3 p.m. on front lawn  
Dr. Joyce Bellous, Professor, McMaster Divinity College was the speaker

171<sup>st</sup> 2001 October 14 A Certificate of Recognition/License to Preach was presented to Deane Proctor who was ministering at Dutton and Iona Station Baptist Churches

172<sup>nd</sup> 2002 October 20 We dedicated the Building Addition & Unveiled the Cornerstone: Charlie Rewbotham, Harvey Barrett & Dave Zavitz (CHAD Construction) did the honors.

173<sup>rd</sup> 2003 October 19 Rev. Dave Stewart, retired Chair Thames Valley District School Board preached with special music by the Plains senior and junior choirs

174<sup>th</sup> 2004 October 17 A 3 p.m. service was held with Rev. Dr. Audrey Manual Morikawa as guest speaker. She was then President of Women’s Division of the Baptist World Alliance, The EBA churches were invited to join us for the service.

175<sup>th</sup> 2005 April 15 Friday, Congregational Celebration Dinner in Oak Hall, 6 p.m. with Johnny Stevens providing music.

175<sup>th</sup> 2005 October 16 at 3 p.m. Rev. Deane Proctor speaker. The choir, Erene Mifsud and the Plains Quartet provided special music.

176<sup>th</sup> 2006 October 15 Fr. Mark Sargent, retired Canadian Forces Chaplain was the preacher. Special anthem by the choir and Heather Limon accompanied hymns on the trumpet.

177<sup>th</sup> 2007 October 14 Speaker Rev. Dave Stewart from Port Stanley. “One Way Ticket” performed, featuring Erene Mifsud! The Special offering was for Pave the Parking Lot Fund.

178<sup>th</sup> 2008 October 19 The Elginaires Male Barbershop Chorus performed in the 10 a.m. service. Special Offering for *Pave the Parking Lot* Fund. (Note: On Nov. 12 we held a live concert at the church featuring Terry Sumsion to raise funds for the new Parking Lot.)

179<sup>th</sup> 2009 October 18 Rev. Allan Burr, former pastor at Bloomsburg and Jerseyville Baptist Churches was our guest preacher. (Note: Allan offered the Ordination Prayer at Pastor Bell’s Ordination at Plains in April 1991.)

180<sup>th</sup> 2010 October The Winner of the Anniversary Hymn contest was announced: Sharon Axford! We’ve sung her hymn every anniversary since then and love it still. At 7 p.m. The Kingsway Quartet from London performed.

2010 November 6 The Plains family shared a catered Meal at Oak Hall followed by a program of Historical Vignettes performed in the sanctuary. Malcolm Rust was emcee. He presented Jean Griffin, our dear church historian with a gift of flowers.

181<sup>st</sup> 2011 October 16 Rev. Malcolm Rust was the guest preacher in the a.m. service. At 3 p.m. a *Celebration of 50 years of Ordained Ministry* was held for Malcolm Rust, followed by a reception in Oak Hall. Plains was packed with his family, church family & community friends!

182<sup>nd</sup> 2012 October 21 A Dedication Service was held for the Oak Furnishings in the Church Foyer in memory of David H. Zavitz, Jean Dale, Anna Lang & Elsie (Tapsell) Ricketts.

183<sup>rd</sup> 2013 October 27 Plains joyfully recognized several 50 Year + Church members with certificates. Special music was offered by our Plains Choir & Quartet. Pastor Bell preached.

184<sup>th</sup> 2014 October 14 Worship at 10 a.m. with special music by the choir and pot luck luncheon.

185<sup>th</sup> 2015 October 18 The Plains thanked Barb Axford with a gift of roses for being our Flower and Card Steward for over 40 years, A Pot luck luncheon followed the service.

186<sup>th</sup> 2016 October 16 Rev. Ronald Watson, former CBOQ pastor & Area Minister was our guest speaker .The choir sang "The Great I Am still Is".

187<sup>th</sup> 2017 October 15 at 10 a.m. The Honorable Steve Peters, former MPP, former Speaker of Ontario Legislature, and local historian was our guest speaker.

188<sup>th</sup> 2018 October 14 Plains Choir presented special music & the deacons committee participated in worship leading, Pastor Bell preached. A pot luck lunch was held in Oak Hall.

189<sup>th</sup> 2019 October 20 The Rev. Stephen Filyer, retired CBOQ pastor and a family friend to Pastor Margaret was our guest preacher. A congregational pot luck followed the service.

190<sup>th</sup> 2020 October 18 1 p.m. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, we will hold a Drive- by Parade!

Friends, we have so much for which we are grateful in this season of Thanksgiving and in this season of pandemic. The God who brought his people out of slavery in Egypt and from exile in Babylon is leading us day by day through this time of challenge and uncertainty. How blessed we are to be surrounded by God's constant love and this family of believers that we call The Plains! Stay strong, my dear Plains Church family! Hoping to see you on Sunday, October 18!

Peace, love and balloons.

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