



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
Editor: Nancy Millman
Contributors: Pastor Margaret Bell
Plains family
On Line: Martin Proulx

DECEMBER 2020



Photo by Nancy Millman



Photo by Margie Bell

Thank you to Dan and Shirley Dale for the Creche set up in the yard at the front of church.
Thank you to Heather Dale for restoring and repainting the figures and to Dan Dale for stabilizing the figures and adding the lighting.



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	Pete Schellenberger
Dave & Janet Stewart	Ray Martin	Milton Springer	Mary Joan
Family of Vince Melvin	Carol Maes	Larry Mizon	Betty Graham
Ashley & family	Cody	Family of Mary Underhill	Judy Jacklin
Jason Carnegie	Sally Paul	Phil Doyon	Rae Axford
Family of Jane Gagne	Jean Lammiman	Hazel Brekelmans and family of Marion Rowland	
Carl and Leena Sibley and family	Jenny and family	Kevin, Allin and family of Myron Cannady	
George Eastbury		Family of Margaret Ferguson	

Sunday Scripture Readings

Dec 06-Advent 2-PEACE

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Mark 1: 1-8

Dec 27-Christmas 1

Luke 2: 22 - 40

Dec 13-Advent 3-JOY

Luke 1: 47 - 55

Jan 03-Sunday before Epiphany

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

John 1: 1 - 9, 10

Dec 20-Advent 4-LOVE

Luke 1: 26 - 38



In Sympathy

We send our sympathy to Kevin and Allin (Axford) Cannady, Keaton and Kandra in Calgary on the passing November 4, 2020 of Myron Earl Cannady. Myron was a proud father, father-in-law, and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by sons Kevin, Keenan and Kirk and their families, all in Calgary. Myron was predeceased in 2018 by his wife Katherine 'Kathy' Rose (Hooge). *Barbara Axford*

We are sad to announce the passing of Hazel Brekelmans' mother Marion Rowland, who lived in Fergus Ontario. Our love and prayers go out to her family, including Hazel, Emily and Simon.

Our loving sympathy is extended to Bonnie Melvin and family at the death of Vince on Friday, November 6. Vince was 79 years and was surrounded by his loving family at the end. He will be dearly missed.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Rod Ferguson on the passing of his wife of 60 years, Margaret Ann Ferguson on November 20, 2020. Much loved mother of Malcolm Ferguson (Barb), Donald Ferguson (Maureen) and Catherine (Katie) Gutmanis (Art) and the late Roderick George Ferguson. Dear sister of John Martyn (Sally), Harold Martyn (Pat), George Martyn (Patricia), and Marjory Watson (late McKellar). Dear sister-in-law of Margaret Patterson (late Ivan) and Joyce Ferguson (late Colin). She is fondly remembered by grandchildren, nieces and nephews and long-time friends. Margaret will be remembered as a wonderful wife, parent, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and neighbour. Margaret was a lifelong sportswoman, animal lover, traveler and card player. She leaves a legacy of enthusiasm, strength, determination, and resilience. She will be greatly missed



Dec 06 Sun Communion Sunday - The Communion offering goes to the CBOQ Fellowship Fund. These monies help support retired and widowed clergy and seminary students. To give include your donation on the Other line of your envelope or Par and write Fellowship fund. Thank you for giving!

Dec 24 Thur 7:00 p.m. PLAINS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE -

Christmas Eve at Plains will sure look different this year, but it won't sound different! The Plains Church Family is invited to a Plains' Parking Lot Christmas Eve Service! Special music, the Scriptures and carols will be enjoyed by everyone as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on this holiest of all nights! But this year, we're going to do it outside in our vehicles, rather than sitting shoulder to shoulder in a crowded church. There is limited parking, as you are aware. Therefore, we are issuing this invitation to our church family and newsletter readership only. We hope that you will fill up your vehicle with people who are in your 'bubble' so as to minimize the # of vehicles and maximize the # of spaces available.

EVERYONE MUST BOOK A PARKING SPOT AHEAD OF TIME
by contacting **Charlie Rewbotham**

The service will begin at 7 o'clock pm. Please arrive in plenty of time to find a spot. Parking lot spots will be filled on a 'first come first serve' basis. After you arrive, turn your radios to **FM90.1** to listen to the service. Please note that there cannot be any parking in the church driveway due to safety issues, or on the church lawn due to weeping bed issues. Parking will only be allowed in the delineated parking spaces as well as the Angle Parking (49 parking spaces in total) along the Sparta Line side of the Plains Cemetery. Note that the church building will not be open to the public.

Only people who have booked their parking space prior to the service will be guaranteed a spot. The Christmas Eve service will be recorded to be put on YouTube afterwards for those unable to attend and others in the community. We look forward to being together, safely and rejoicing in God's most amazing Gift to us, Jesus, our Christ.

Contact Charlie at 519-637-2547 or papatruck637@yajoo.ca

to reserve your parking spot for a Plains' Parking Lot Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 at 7 p.m.

If you want to be DISTRESSED, look within.
If you want to be DISTRACTED, look around.
If you want to be DELIVERED, look up.

If you want to be DEFEATED, look back.
If you want to be DISMAYED, look before.
If you want to be DELIGHTED, look to Christ.

Submitted by Louise Sargeant

Wendy J. Porter, PhD Associate Professor of Music and Worship, McMaster Divinity College An invitation from Wendy Porter to join the MDC chapel at noon every Monday! Go to YouTube and search "MDC chapel" to access that week's service. If you are able, check in early at 11:45am, and say 'hello' in the chat section to let us know you're there. Please feel free to actively participate as you feel led.



The video stays available, so if you miss the 12:00pm Monday time, please watch it later. If some part of it is meaningful to you, it would be wonderful to hear about it, and I would love to be able to pass this on to the ones who have generously shared in this week's service.

Submitted by Malcolm Rust

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 th	Kelly Ruddock	17 th	Elizabeth Tucker
4 th	Adam Rust	22 nd	Linda Willand
5 th	Steve Plaunt	24 th	Brock Dale
6 th	Jim Cartwright(80)	26 th	Mabel Somerville (96)
7 th	Melanie Wilcox	28 th	Doug Sawyer
9 th	Jon Ferguson	30 th	Josseline Mifsud
11 th	Emily Brekelmans	30 th	Madison Hepburn
12 th	Dave Axford	31 st	Betty Rewbotham
12 th	Dennis O'Brien		
15 th	Brent Peterson		

ANNIVERSARIES

11 th	Eugene & Mary Crosby
12 th	Mike & Lorainne Plaunt
20 th	Don & Suzanne Ferguson
26 th	George & Pat Martyn (56)
31 st	Chris & Stephanie Johnson



We wish to gratefully thank all the Plains family for your warm words of sympathy and for your prayers on the loss of our so dearly loved Nigel.

Pauline Duffy- Cathy and our families .

Thank you for the cards, phone calls and beautiful bouquet of flowers we received. Your love and support means so much. My mom was a beautiful, kind, loving person and she will be forever missed. Thanks again

Hazel Brecklemans



Dear Plains family:

It is the intent of the deacons and the pastor to ensure that no one is left alone during this coming winter season as well as dealing with the current COVID-19 situation. Therefore we would like to establish a member *care phone list* so that we can stay in touch with each other. We will be contacting you in the coming days to see how are you doing and to ask a few short questions that are listed below.

We would also like to see if there are any other angels out there that may want to assist us with our phone calling. Those angels would be assisting with calling over the winter months from January to March. If that seems like something you would like to do, please contact me at 519-709-3253 and we'll look at providing

you a phone list. Looking forward to speak with you soon.

Blessings

Wayne Dale

1. Are you in regular contact with any members of the church?
2. If so who would that be?
3. How often would you prefer to be contacted?
4. Would you consider becoming a member care phone angel?

To those who prepare reports for the Annual Report Book:

This has of course been an unusual year, but would you please prepare a short report for the 2020 Annual Report Book to be published later in January.

Marjorie Higgs, Clerk

Caring at Christmas

Normally at Plains the church family would be holding a number of community fund raising and supportive Church events, including a Soup and Sandwich lunch, Ladies Aid Christmas dinner with \$ donations, White Gift Sunday for Christmas Care, and Breakfast and packing at Christmas Care with the Plains Men's Group. While we dearly miss being together to share these outreach projects there is still much that we can do to participate in the ministry of caring that this Season represents and the Christ-child embodies. The deacons and pastor encourage our church family to pray for and support the amazing community agencies that are doing their best to serve the needs of so many people at Christmas and all year round. Here are some that are doing God's work among us.

The St. Thomas -Elgin Food Bank (Caring Cupboard)
P.O. Box 20025, St. Thomas, On N5P 4H4
803 Talbot St. ,
St. Thomas,
519 -633- 5308

Inn Out of the Cold (Central United Church)
135 Wellington St. (corner of Wellington & Moore Streets).
St. Thomas
519-637 -9898



The Salvation Army
salvationarmy.ca
or Christmas Kettles

Canadian Baptist Ministries **cbmin.org** have many options where you can donate, including Hopeful Gifts for Change where your donations can help transform the lives of at- risk women, children and vulnerable communities in many parts of the world. You may also support CBM and Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec through your regular giving envelopes or PAR forms.

Christmas Care which is located in the Elgin Centre (Mall) will be receiving toys for the gift hampers until Christmas Eve. Toys not used this Christmas will be stored for next year's drive. Donations of toys or monetary donations can be dropped off at Christmas Care Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Any non-perishable food items donated this year which do not make it into the food hampers will be distributed to other care agencies such as Caring Cupboard, Grace Cafe and Inn Out of the Cold. Folks can drop by Christmas Care any time to donate, visit or to find out how the program works.

Please prayerfully consider how you can share the love that was born among us that first Christmas. May the angel's enduring message of Peace on Earth and goodwill for all continue to inspire hope, courage and compassion in all hearts and homes this Christmas and always.
May God bless you all!

Pastor Margaret and the Deacons: Betty, Wayne, Joanne and John

Anything that we can give is needed to show others that they are seen, remembered and loved.

The LADIES AID have made a donation of \$500.00 to **CHRISTMAS CARE**. This has been matched by the SOCIAL COMMITTEE with their cheque for \$500.00 to **CHRISTMAS CARE**.

T'was a Month Before Christmas 2020

T'was a month before Christmas, and all through the town,
 People wore masks, that covered their frown.
 The frown had begun way back in the Spring,
 When a global pandemic changed everything.

They called it Corona, but unlike the beer,
 It didn't bring good times, it didn't bring cheer.
 Contagious and deadly, this virus spread fast,
 Like a wildfire that starts when fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned.
 Borders were closed across air, sea and land.
 As the world entered lockdown to flatten the curve,
 The economy halted, and folks lost their nerve.

From March to July we rode the first wave.
 People stayed home. They tried to behave.
 When summer emerged the lockdown was lifted.
 But away from caution, many folks drifted.

Now it's November and cases are spiking.
 Wave two has arrived, much to our disliking.
 Front line workers, doctors and nurses
 Try to save people from riding in hearses.

This virus is awful, this COVID-19.
 There isn't a cure. There is no vaccine.
 It's true that this year has had sadness a plenty.
 We'll never forget the year 2020.

And just 'round the corner -the holiday season.
 But why be merry? Is there even one reason
 To decorate the house and put up the tree?
 When no one will see it. No one but me.

But outside my window the snow gently falls,
 And I think to myself, "Let's deck the halls!"
 So, I gather the ribbon, the garland and bows.
 As I play those old carols my happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled and neither is hope.
 If we lean on each other, I know we can cope.

Author unknown



Submitted by Pat Martyn

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

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	84,040.41	3,134.37	2,516.91	450.00	90,141.69
Expenses	82,241.89	3,134.37	2,498.00	405.00	88,279.26
Net Gain(Loss)	1,798.52	0.00	18.91	45.00	1,862.43
Balance end of 2019	50,208.97	0	444.39	0.00	50,653.36
Balance as at 11/30/20	52,007.49	0.00	463.30	45.00	52,515.79

- The General Fund shows a net gain as of the 30th of November, 2020 of \$1,798.52.
Grass cutting has been paid up to 30th of August, 2020. There have been no janitorial services since mid-March.
- Missions income as of the 30th of November, 2020 totalled \$3,134.37. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$1,626.00; CBOQ Local Missions - \$180.00; CBM - General Budget - \$973.37, and CBM Sharing Way undesignated - \$211.00. 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 November, 2020 of \$18.91.
There is an amount from previous years of \$444.39, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$463.30.
- The designated Sunday School amount as at the 30th of November, 2020 was \$450.00. The balance of \$45.00 will be paid to the Sunday school Treasurer at the end of the 4th quarter.
- The Future Projects Fund as at the 30th of November, 2020 totals \$20,770.25, 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 \$19,547.28 That total includes paying the audio/visual supplier-installer's invoices, 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 \$1,222.97 in the Future Projects Fund. We are awaiting an invoice for the video switcher/mixer, and that will be paid in December/20. The Oak panels have been installed at the front of the sanctuary, as well as a valance and the carpet and baseboard. The project is nearly completed! Many thanks to all who have supported the project monetarily and with talented hands.

Respectfully Submitted
Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer

I would like to personally thank the very generous donors who continue to send in their donations to my address, or by e-transfer or through Canada Helps. You are the people who will ensure that Plains Church will continue to have a presence on the Oak Plains of the old Yarmouth Township after its 190th anniversary and beyond.

Keep the faith. We will get through this! God's love to all of you!

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

Photo by Margie Bell



**FIRST YARMOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH
COVID -19 POLICY AND PROCEDURE
2020-2021**

PREAMBLE

This document is based upon provincial legislation as it currently stands. It will be subject to change as provincial legislation changes. The Policy and Procedure document will be posted on the Website when the church officially reopens for congregational/public worship.

In the meantime, anyone entering the church building will be required to wear a face covering, use the hand sanitizer or wash hands and record your name, and date of entry on a list provided so we can keep an accurate record of persons entering the premises.

POLICY & PROCEDURE

Anyone who is not feeling well should stay home for their own safety and the safety of others.

Anyone who is unable to wear a face covering due to health reasons are encouraged to access the church's virtual services.

YouTube worship services, monthly newsletters and mailings to those without internet access will continue for any who choose not to attend onsite services.

Indoor services will be limited to 30% of room capacity in the Sanctuary (approximately 50 people) and 30% capacity in Oak Hall (approximately 40 people) to allow for 2 metres or 6 feet physical distancing.

Health screening for COVID-19 symptoms will be conducted upon entry to the church building. An attendance record and contact info will be kept.

A screening form with a waiver will be made available online and on site for congregants and visitors to fill out for every service or event attended.

People entering and exiting through the main door of the building will maintain a safe distance of two metres.

Face-coverings must be worn inside the building. Face-coverings are encouraged in any gatherings outside the building if conditions prevent 2 metres physical distancing.

High touch surfaces will be cleaned prior to and following each event or meeting held in the church building.

Signs regarding mandatory face covering, respiratory etiquette (ie. sneezing or coughing into the elbow) hand washing and hand sanitizer will be posted in high visibility areas.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located at the entrances of the sanctuary and Oak Hall.

People will be required to greet each other without physically touching.

People who live in the same household may sit together at services. All others must be two metres apart in all directions.

Communal items such as communion plates, cups and offering plates will not be passed from person to person.

On site children's programming which includes Sunday School and Nursery will be suspended until further notice. Any infants or children who attend service must remain with and be cared for by their parents/ guardians. Any toys, books or items belonging to the church which are handled by children will be set aside after by the supervising adults at a designated place for disinfecting.

Congregational singing is discouraged. Soloists or worship leaders will stand at 2 metres or more away from anyone who is outside their household, or will be behind an impenetrable barrier.

Sharing of items such as Hymn books, Bibles, bulletins and microphones is discouraged, unless sharing is done between members of the same household. Any items that are used will be sanitized after use.

Planned or spontaneous supervised social gatherings in Oak Hall before/after Sunday service cannot exceed the room's 30 % capacity and physical distancing of two metres must be maintained.

Plains Baptist Church Covid19 Screening and Waiver 2020-2021

Are you currently experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms? This includes fever, chills, coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, runny or stuffy nose, lost sense of taste, or smell, headache, muscle aches, extreme tiredness, or digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain.

- Yes
- No

Have you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?

- Yes
- No

Have you been in close contact with someone who has returned from outside of Canada with new Covid-19 symptoms? (see list of symptoms above)

- Yes
- No

Have you travelled through or visited within a Red Zone area in Canada in the last 14 days?

- Yes
- No

Have you been in close contact with someone who is currently sick with new Covid-19 symptoms?

- Yes
- No

*If any of the above responses are affirmative, it is **strongly recommended that you not attend** a church service or meeting at this time for your safety and the health & safety of others.*

Waiver/Release

The undersigned agrees that, in using the facilities at First Yarmouth Plains Baptist Church he/she does so at their own risk and hereby releases the church, its members and staff from any and all claims associated with the use of this facility, particular with respect to potential exposure to any virus or pathogen including Covid-19. Note: Please complete this page and bring it with you to the church. If you forget to bring it with you, it will be provided for you when you arrive.

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____



December 2020

Greetings to my dear Church family and Merry Christmas!

This year has held challenges that we as a society and world have not faced for a century. And yet here we are, so very thankful to God for all the blessings that we have both received and shared!

Certainly, top among the blessings that we may recount to each other and before God are our leaders in the political, medical and scientific fields, as well as essential workers in our stores, fields, the transport

industry, emergency response and others. For years, Canadians viewed the military, police and fire protection services as our heroes in uniform. This year the hero status goes to nurses, personal care workers, doctors, hospital and Health Unit administrations, and anyone who goes the second mile for love of their neighbors, communities or families. One lesson we have learned over and over in this time is **not** to take things, our health or the people for granted. In fact, at no other time in my lifetime have I heard the words of the Torah and Jesus spoken so often by so many people outside of church: **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR!**

I know that you have been living that timeless message my friends. You have loved your neighbors by wearing face coverings in public, washing your hands, keeping a safe distance and staying away from over-crowded places! Many of you are keeping a watchful eye on your vulnerable family members and friends. You have been diligent about supporting community agencies like the Caring Cupboard and Salvation Army and your church so that we can all move forward through this crisis and minister God's grace to others while doing so! Thank you for all the ways you are daily being God's angels of blessing to others!

Over the year, some families suffered the deaths of beloved family members. It was difficult and strange to not hold Services of Thanksgiving and Memorial as we're used to doing. Be sure to keep the grieving ones in your prayers and on your personal contact lists. Others have welcomed newborns or new in-laws to the family! I was delighted to meet my first great-grandnephew, Wolfie who lives in St. Catharines with his proud parents. This time of separation from some of our families and traditional gatherings has been mitigated somewhat by technology. Thank goodness for Skype, Zoom, Face Time, phones, snail mail and Face Book! Although these ways of communicating are not the same as sharing hugs and meals together, they help us stay connected. They keep the channel of communication and caring flowing!

As you know, at the church, the renovation and sound/visual updates were just getting nicely underway in March. Then we were forced to close our doors. However, over the course of the summer, the heart of our little church kept on beating! The new sound system was installed, the sanctuary was painted and the east wall of the sanctuary was transformed! We are so grateful to the Trustees and happy helpers who contributed so much work, time, and expertise to the project. We are grateful to our members who donated to the Special Projects Fund, General Fund, and Missions. Thanks to the volunteers who just showed up at the church to set everything to rights and give it a thorough cleaning! It was heartwarming to see the church property outside kept in tip top condition, too! Thanks to all concerned!

It has been difficult and sad as time has gone on, to be absent from Sunday Worship Services. It has been strange not to be eagerly anticipating church suppers or bazaars or DVD groups, Ladies Aid meetings or

choir practices. However, the major concern of the deacons, leaders, and I believe, members has been the personal safety of our members. I want to sincerely thank all our leaders for their prayers, encouragement, dedication and decisions made on the church's behalf over during this crazy year.

Two decisions made which helped bring some 'normal' albeit in a creative-Covid-caused way, was to hold a Drive by Praise Parade on the church's 190th Anniversary! What a great day it was to see a long line of Plains parishioners lined along Sparta Line and led by Floyd Axford on his John Deere Tractor! Another decision made has been to hold a Parking Lot Christmas Eve Service for our membership to attend and enjoy! It's won't be the same, but it promises to be memorable! It promises to be a moment when we can gather as a Church family to praise God for his greatest Gift EVER to the world!

Over two thousand years ago, during some of the darkest days of God's people, God chose to connect in a new and surprising way. In a dark stable, in an over-crowded town, God arrived in the form of a newborn baby. His parents were displaced and impoverished. But they were filled with faith. Jesus was born into a world beset by violence, dominated by an autocratic ruler and crippled with poverty and disease. He came to be a beacon of light in a world broken by human evil, violence and selfishness. In baby Jesus, God arrived to show us just how much God truly loves and values humanity: becoming one with us in our creativity, intelligence, vulnerability and brokenness. In baby Jesus, God arrived to show us **that "Love your neighbour as yourself"** really is the answer to the world's problems. As we go forward into a new year with all its challenges and blessings, let us ask God for his Spirit of love to infuse us and use as lights in someone else's dark world. I want you to know that you are a HUGE blessing to this Preacher gal!

Sending virtual hugs and much love from



and Jasmine, too!

