

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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JANUARY 2021

2021

WE ARE STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD,
WE ARE IN THE OPEN DOOR,
WE ARE TREADING ON THE BORDER LAND
WE HAVE NEVER TROD BEFORE.
ANOTHER YEAR IS OPENING, ANOTHER YEAR IS GONE,
WE HAVE PASSED THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT,
WE ARE IN THE EARLY MORN.

WE HAVE LEFT THE FIELDS BEHIND US
OVER WHICH WE SCATTERED SEED;
WE HAVE PASSED INTO THE FUTURE
WHICH NONE OF US CAN READ.
WE HASTEN TO FRESH LABOUR—
TO THRASH AND REAP AND SOW.
THEN BID THE NEW YEAR WELCOME AND
LET THE OLD YEAR GO!





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	Bob Bell
Carol Maes	Larry Mizon	Family of Betty Graham	George Eastbury
Ashley & family	Mabel Somerville	Judy Jacklin	Jason Carnegie
Sally Paul	Phil Doyon	Rae Axford	Jenny and family
Jean Lammiman	Family of Dick Ronald	Family of Dave Axford	Carl & Leena Sibley
Carol Ashton			

Sunday Scripture Readings

Jan 03-Sunday before Epiphany

Matthew 2: 1 - 12
John 1: 1 - 9, 10

Jan 10-Baptism of Jesus

Genesis 1: 1-5
Mark 1: 4 - 11
Acts 19: 1 - 7

Jan 17-Epiphany 2

John 1: 43 - 51
Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6: 12 - 20



Jan 24-Epiphany 3

Mark 1: 14 - 20
Psalm 62: 5 - 12
Jonah 3: 1-5; 10

Jan 31-Epiphany 4

Mark 1: 21 - 28
Psalm 111

Feb 07-Epiphany 5

Mark 1: 29 - 39
Psalm 147: 1 - 11; 20c
Isaiah 40: 21 - 31

In Sympathy

We send our sympathy to the family of David Brian 'Dave' Axford. Dave passed away unexpectedly December 10, 2020 in hospital and leaves to mourn his wife, Linda (Pin), children Courtney, Jessica (Aaron) and Brenton. He was son of late Ken Axford and Donna (Les) Meszaros and brother of Vickie (Jeff) Merkle, Doug (Helen), Dale (Barbara) and Leanna (Henry) Westbrook. Many aunts, uncles and cousins will miss Dave's infectious grin and sense of humour, including aunts Madge Barrett and Barb Axford.

Barb Axford

The Plains Church family extends our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Betty Graham (late Don) who died at her residence at Valleyview Home on December 26, 2020. Betty was 90 years. She is mourned by her children Mary (Robert) Evans, Kim (Sherry) Graham and Susan Graham (Andrew Woodburn). She was a dear grandma to Macy Evans, Greg (Tiffany) Graham, Jenny Lee Graham and loving great-grandma to Kellen and Ellis. Betty was a member of Centre St. Baptist Church. Sifton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Betty was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Pastor Margaret Bell



REGULAR EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2021 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.

Jan 03 Sun Communion Sunday -

Jan 10 Sun 11:00 A.M. SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING to vote on an amendment to the plains constitution. This amendment will permit electronic meetings and voting.

Church Members who cannot join the Special Meeting called on Zoom for Sunday, January 10 at 11 a.m. to vote on this amendment may telephone the Clerk, Marjorie Higgs, 519-631-2248 in advance of the meeting to register a vote.

The details of the full amendment are on pages 7 and 8 of this January 2021 Plain Facts.

Jan 24 Sun Caring Cupboard Sunday

Jan 31 Sun 1:00 P.M. Annual Congregational Meeting on ZOOM

Christmas Eve Parking Lot Service

Not sure what to expect, approximately 35 to 40 people turned up at Plains Church parking lot for a last minute "shot" of Christmas Spirit. They were not disappointed! The service, led by Pastor Margie bundled up for the cold, dispensed warmth, peace and love. Coming through the automobile radios tuned to FM 90.1 flowed scripture readings, Christmas Carols, vocals, duets, the quartet, and enhancement of a trumpet. It flowed smoothly and folks left the parking lot with spiritual appetites satisfied.

But it was not until viewing the **YouTube** video version that the full impact of this unique event was revealed. A huge **THANK YOU** to **Phyllis Huffman** for her tasteful, meaningful and professional editing of this video. The Plains Church congregation can be proud to have it posted virtually for the world to enjoy!

THANK YOU to Phyllis Huffman and Todd Ruddock for the technical work, to Sherry Graham at the organ and Amy Dale at the piano for the musical accompaniment, to Danielle Ralf for the solo; to the duet-Dan Dale and Amy Dale; to the quartet-Dan Dale, Amy Dale, Wayne Dale and Donna Limon; and to Heather Limon for the trumpet accompaniment. **THANK YOU** to photographers Matthew Johnson, Betty Rewbotham, Malcolm Rust, Phyllis Huffman, Margie Bell, Sherri Doner, and Maggie Shipley, Phyllis's mom, for the photos used.

And **THANK YOU** to Pastor Margaret Bell for pulling it all together!



**2021 ST. THOMAS/ELGIN FOOD BANK
SUNDAYS (Caring Cupboard Sundays)**
Please mark these dates on your calendar:.....

January 24
May 2
September 19
November 14

Be who you are and say what you feel because the ones who mind don't matter, and the ones who matter don't mind.

Dr. Seuss



Thank you to my Plains family and friends for the flowers which I received for my 80th birthday on December 6. Jim Cartwright

Also a big **Thank you** for the beautiful poinsettia delivered to our apartment. Jim and Marilyn Cartwright

To Margie and the Plain's family.

I would like to **thank you** for the beautiful red poinsettia flower I just received this week. It is brightening my living room in the dark days before Christmas. It gets my mind off worrying about my nephew Adriaan in The Netherlands. Adriaan is terminally ill. Merry Christmas to you all. Ellen Brekelmans

Thank you so much for the shasta daisy floral arrangement. It looks so cheerful in our livingroom. You are so thoughtful. Doug Sawyer

Thank you to my Plains Church family for the lovely poinsettia delivered by "Santa Dan". It is a much needed lift of cheer. Madge Barrett

Thank you to all my Plains family for the lovely poinsettia plant sent to me for Christmas. Wishing you all the joys of the season. Sally Paul

Thank you to my Plains family for the beautiful red poinsettia. Merry Christmas and a happier New Year to everyone. Carol Maes

Hey Sunday School teachers **thanks** for the Christmas gifts that you sent to me and my brother. We hope that you all have a merry and safe Christmas. From Cameron and Koly Dale

To the Plains Family, with the loss of my precious son, stepson, Dave Axford, your thoughtfulness/kindness means more than words can possibly express. Les and I want to **thank** Margie for her ministry at the funeral home, and gravesite, her support and prayers. **Thank you** so much for the beautiful flowers/ cards we received from members of the Plains Family. Les and Donna Meszaros

A **BIG THANK** you to the Plains family for the unexpected gift this Christmas. It has been exciting and challenging for me to learn about this new system and I'm not done yet, since we just got the new camera installed. I'm glad we are all benefitting from the new technology. Phyllis Huffman

Thank you to my Plains Family, Barb and her helpers for the poinsettia I received at Christmas. It is so nice to be remembered and thought of at this special time of year. A special **Thanks** to Margie and all the church members who put together the church videos during this pandemic so that we can still have our church service each Sunday even though we're not together in person. Let's hope for a better 2021. Stay healthy and safe. God Bless Everyone. Marion Maynard

Dear Plains Baptist Family:

Thank you for the beautiful plant in memory of Dave. He was a great man with a gentle soul who truly valued family and friends. I appreciate your kindness and know Dave always felt a part of your family in your presence and in his heart. Your thoughts are greatly appreciated. Linda Axford

Thank you to the Plains family for the generous Christmas gift presented to me by Shirley Dale on your behalf. I am so grateful to God for all of you! You are my gift! Pastor Margie



Photos by Margie Bell

Floyd and Sharon pose with the certificate marking the Plains's 190 th anniversary that we received from Hon. Jeff Yurek's office.



Sherry Graham, Pastor Margie Bell, Amy Dale and Phyllis Huffman receive Christmas gifts from the congregation

Photo by Betty Rewbotham

Nativity Scene at the Church.

It was donated by Ken and Pat Zavitz a couple of years ago, and Heather Dale, while she was laid off work this spring during Covid, refurbished all the characters by painstakingly painting each one. It took her hours to do the painting. .

Dan Dale also worked on the characters, putting bracing on the bottoms of the figures, and he fixed up the creche from the shed and has installed lighting so they shine at night! Thank you to Heather for her work and also to Dan for his contribution.

Photo by Shirley Dale



The tallest oak in the forest was once just a little nut that held its ground.

Dr. Seuss

2020 Communion Fund



The year 2020 has been challenging to all of us. We have maintained social distancing, worn our masks and stayed home whenever possible.

During this time of Covid, Front Line Workers are keeping our country functioning. On behalf of the Plains Family we sent messages of gratitude and prayer support directly to 44 of these brave people connected to Plains church and/or its members.

Through the year, we also sent 51 greeting cards, 59 floral arrangements and made 6 Memorial Donations. We sent 23 Christmas cards and Christmas elves Dan Dale, Bruce Green, Ken Greenslade and Diane O'Brien delivered 20 poinsettias on your behalf.

The Communion Fund is invaluable in letting people know that they are remembered and loved, especially during the difficult and uncharted time that we are currently experiencing. Thank you for your continuing support.
Barbara Axford, Flowers and Cards Co-Ordinator

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 th	Nicholas Barrett	17 th	Martin Rust
8 th	Justin Ralf	22 nd	Courtney Axford
10 th	Gabrielle Noble	22 nd	Mary Wilson
11 th	Noreena Satchell (95)	24 th	Andrew Johnson
12 th	Gracie MacPherson (16)	27 th	Linda Cummings
13 th	Briar Ruddock	28 th	Julie Robins
16 th	Amy Dale	29 th	Sherry Graham
16 th	Marion Lammiman		
16 th	Danielle Ralf		



I was born at home on the farm at Willowbunch. Saskatchewan, January 11, 1926-- 95 yrs ago.

Noreena Satchell

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

They say I'm old-fashioned and live in the past, but sometimes I think progress progresses too fast!

We ought to be thankful a whole heaping lot, for the places and people we're lucky we're not.

Plains Baptist Constitutional Amendment for 2020

December 17, 2020

Dear Church family,

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the necessity has arisen to amend the Plains Church Constitution so that the Annual and other congregational meetings can be held to conduct church business and ensure the ongoing ministry at Plains.

The Constitutional amendment proposed on page 2 was compiled using the format that the CBOQ used last summer in order to conduct the 2020 Assembly virtually. The proposed amendment has been reviewed by the church lawyer, Amy Dale and by the Pastor and church deacons.

The Plains Constitution states that the Annual Meeting must be held within the first 6 weeks of the new calendar year. The Annual meeting has been scheduled for Sunday January 31 2021 at 1 pm. Therefore, in order to conduct business safely during this time of Covid-19 health and safety restrictions, we will require electronic voting.

A Special Meeting is hereby called by the Pastor and deacons to approve a Constitutional amendment. The present Constitution requires a quorum of 20 church members to vote at church meetings. A 2/3 majority of voting members is required to pass a Constitutional amendment.

The Special Meeting to vote on the Constitutional amendment will be held on ZOOM during the regularly scheduled Zoom Coffee Break time on Sunday, January 10 at 11 a.m.

Church members who wish to register a vote but are unable to join the Zoom Meeting may telephone the Church Clerk, Marjorie Higgs in the week preceding Sunday, January 10 to register your vote.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

The Plains deacons give notice that the Plains Constitution be amended to permit electronic meetings and voting.

Notice of the Special meeting will be given by the Pastor during Worship Services leading up to January 10 and this letter along with the proposed amendment will be included in the January 2021 Plain Facts Newsletter.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PLAINS CONSTITUTION
NEW**

7.4 Electronic meetings are permitted. Members may participate in a meeting electronically and shall have the ability to:

- a. register a vote**
- b. be counted towards determining quorum; and**
- c. participate in any and all discussion.**

Where necessary, an electronic meeting may be held without physical attendance by members as long as all participants can see/hear one another. Members participating by electronic means shall inform the clerk about their intentions to attend the meeting electronically. Members must advise the chairperson, about their intentions to leave the meeting either temporary or on a permanent basis. Members participating by electronic means will be deemed to have left the meeting when no longer electronically connected to the meeting. The chairperson of the meeting may direct that the connection be terminated if the member cannot be clearly understood, or if a poor connection or background noise is deemed to be disruptive to the meeting. In the case of a loss of connection, or any connection issue which impedes the ability of a member to participate in the meeting in real time, the meeting will continue without attempts to reconnect them to the meeting. If electronic communication is interrupted during a meeting and remains interrupted while a vote is taken, the member affected is deemed to have left the meeting prior to the vote.

NEW

7.5 Registering a vote as noted in 7.4 a. shall be by one of the following means

- a. a simple show of hands for or against the motion,**
- b. a verbal indication as to for or against the motion**
- c. or, by an electronic tabulator where this option is available.**

In all cases the clerk shall record the vote, and the results as reported by the clerk shall be final and binding.

NEW

7.6 Electronic meetings shall be permitted for all committees or groups established by the church and shall be conducted in accordance with the terms set out in 7.4. and 7.5

AMENDED

7.9 A quorum of 20 members present either in person or electronically will be required for a vote at a church meeting.

Any questions regarding this amendment may be forwarded to Betty Rewbotham, Deacons chair; Dan Dale, or Pastor Bell.

In conclusion: The preference of our leaders and members is to be able to join together in person for purposes of sharing this ministry that our loving God has given to us.

However, these extraordinary times require extraordinary measures!

We must adapt so that we can move forward. In the future, having this electronic 'option' may increase our 'attendance' at meetings for those who cannot otherwise be in-church to participate, but can join in on-line.

Voting privileges will always be reserved for church members in good-standing.

Thank you in advance for your attention and participation in this matter.

The deacons and Pastor wish to sincerely thank Dan Dale, Louise Sargeant & Amy Dale for their expertise, time and effort spent in putting this proposal together and reviewing it at rather short notice! Thank you!

As we attended the Christmas Eve service we were so moved ! To ALL involved who lead, played, sang, read, taped, parked cars, displayed the creche , decorated inside and outside, took pictures and attended ...We Thank God with a very grateful ♥ for your delivery of The Christmas Story. Yes it is 2020 and we are living through the Covid pandemic, but because of all of you, The Greatest Story ever told continues and WAS told again and received with great Joy ! Thank you.

Betty and Charlie Rewbotham

Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than YOU.

Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.

People are weird. When we find someone with weirdness that is compatible with ours, we team up and call it love

Today I shall behave as if this is the day I will be remembered.

Dr. Seuss

PASTOR'S PAGE

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." Matthew 2: 1-2

Greetings, dear friends and a blessed, long awaited New Year to you!

Even though the calendar year has transitioned, in the church we are still midway through the Season of Christmas. As you know from the dozen-versed carol, there are 12 days of Christmas, which ends with the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. The word, 'epiphany' literally means a "manifestation of the divine." In the Christian church, Epiphany refers in the main to the manifestation of the divine to the world through the coming of Jesus Christ. The *Feast* of the Epiphany focuses on the manifestation of the Christ to the gentiles; that is, to the wider world beyond the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. In other words, Epiphany celebrates that Jesus was born as a gift to all of humanity!

The Magi seemed to sense the essence of that universal message from God as they stared up at a New Star. The Magi were not Jews, but foreigners. But, from their studies of the heavens, they determined that a new star would herald the birth of the next Jewish king. And even though this king belonged to a different culture, language and religion, the Magi did not let that stop them from going on a long, tedious and dangerous journey to find him. And when they finally did find him living in Bethlehem, they offered him gifts that were fit for a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is thought that the gifts given by the wise men are what inspired the Christmas tradition of gift giving. Let us not let the gift-giving aspect of the ancient story distract us from the elemental teaching in it that Jesus was born to all of us; including the rich, poor, royal, ordinary, Jewish, Baptist, liberal, conservative, black, brown, white, straight, and LGBTQ+. We all belong to God and to one another! That is an 'epiphany' that many have realized in a deeper way during this pandemic!



In late December 2020, an astronomical treat called the Great Conjunction, which is the alignment of two planets, Jupiter and Saturn, has been seen by people who have had the advantage of cloudless night skies. Experts tell us that the two planets had not been seen this close together since the 1200's. The media has nicknamed this planetary spectacle as *The Christmas Star* and many are wondering if a Great Conjunction was the Star that the magi witnessed following Jesus' birth. We'll never know this side of Heaven if the Christmas

Star of 2020 was the same Star that was viewed by the wise men of Jesus' time. But the light of God that the magi followed, and the divine love that the Christ child embodied still shines the everlasting rays of hope, joy, love, forgiveness, justice and peace upon God's wondrous and wounded world.

In her 2020 Christmas message, Queen Elizabeth II said, *"The Bible tells how a star appeared in the sky, its light guiding the shepherds and wise men to the scene of Jesus's birth. Let the light of Christmas, the spirit of selflessness, love and, above all, hope, guide us in the times ahead."*

Even though a pandemic has caused most of us to change course (often) with our planning, doing and dreaming, the Morning Star of God named Jesus is with us and will never leave or forsake us. Let us turn our eyes on Jesus, and let his life of *divine humanity* and *human divinity* manifest itself in our good deeds and loving prayers. May God's love shine through us, making us 'epiphanies'; signs of God's loving presence and gracious essence for others to see and emulate in 2021.

Peace to you,

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