



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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FEBRUARY 2021

When I look at a patch of dandelions I see weeds that are growing to take over my garden.
Children see flowers for mom, and white fluff to blow on while making a wish.

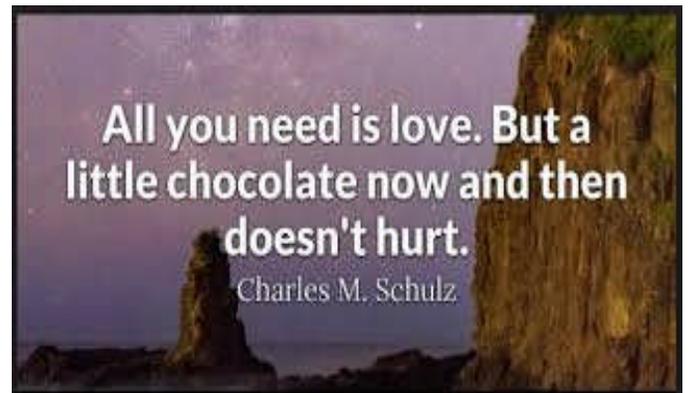
When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm, so I sit silently and just listen.
Children feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know the words they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pushing me back when I walk.
Children close their eyes, spread their arms, and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty floors.
Children jump in it, and see worms to play with.

When I see a fresh fall of snow out my window in the morning, I think of the work of shoveling to clear the walkway and driveway.
Children see little balls of snow for an impromptu "snowball fight" and big balls of snow for construction a snowman.

Are we given children to teach, or to learn from? No wonder God loves little children.



Submitted by Shirley Dale



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
Carol Maes
Ashley & family
Sally Paul
Jean Lammiman
Cathy Smoke

Marilyn Cartwright
Ray Martin
Larry Mizon
Mabel Somerville
Phil Doyon
Carol Ashton
Michelle Carnegie

Heather Crafts
Milton Springer
Carl & Leena Sibley
Judy Jacklin
Rae Axford
Larry Seabrook

Pete Schellenberger
Bob Bell
George Eastbury
Jason Carnegie
Jenny and family
Family of Marjorie Somerville

Sunday Scripture Readings

Feb 07-Epiphany 5

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

February 14-Transfiguration Sunday

2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6
Mark 9: 2 - 9

February 21-Lent 1

Genesis 9: 8 - 17
Psalm 25: 1 - 10
Mark 1: 9 - 15

February 28-Lent 2

Genesis 17: 1 - 7; 15 - 16
Romans 4: 13 - 25
Mark 8: 31 - 38

March 07-Lent 3

Exodus 20: 1 - 17
Psalm 19
John 2: 13 - 22



In Sympathy

The Plains family sends our sympathy and prayers to the friends and family of Marjorie Somerville who was promoted to glory on January 22, 2021 in her 90th year. She was a dear friend to Toots Gillard, a loving mother to Al (Sue) Somerville and Linda (Doug) Lammiman, Aunt to Karl (Donna) Crocker and sister-in-law to Mabel Somerville. Marjorie was a cheerful presence at many of our worship services and bazaars. She will be missed!

Pastor Margaret Bell



To those currently receiving the PLAIN FACTS NEWS LETTER by email on your phone, ipad, laptop, etc. but have no way to print a copy, a paper copy can be made available to you. A few paper copies will be left in the black mailbox by the front door of the church and hopefully, will be available by Saturday morning, February 06.

If you arrive and there are none left, please call me at 519-775-2526, text 519-872-3319 or e-mail me. That will help us to determine how many additional copies to print next month.

We realize that many folks had received their paper copy when attending church service on Sunday morning, and that that method has been temporarily removed because of the Covid-19 shut down.

If you can arrange to pick up a copy for your neighbour(s), I am sure that would be appreciated.



Feb 07 Sun **Communion Sunday**

Feb 14 Sun **Valentine's Day**

Feb 15 Mon **Family Day**

Feb 17 Wed **Ash Wednesday**
10:30-11:30 A.M. **Weekly Lenten Group on Zoom**

Lent is fast approaching and the church family is invited to gather on Zoom. Wednesday mornings, starting Ash Wednesday, February 17 until Wednesday, March 24 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for a ZOOM Lenten Gathering Time of conversation, reflection, and prayer. (and you can bring your coffee and smiles, too)

Each Tuesday those who have responded to Pastor Margie indicating a willingness to join, will receive an email with a Lenten Reflection which we will share together on Wednesday morning. Group participants will receive an INVITATION to the Zoom gathering around 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

Anyone wishing to join may do so at any time by letting Pastor Margaret know by the Sunday prior to the Wednesday Zoom Gathering.

Feb 24 Wed 10:30-11:30 A.M. **Weekly Lenten Group on Zoom**

Mar 03 Wed 10:30-11:30 A.M. **Weekly Lenten Group on Zoom**

Mar 05 Fri **World Day Of Prayer**

This event will not be held this year, as in previous years, because of Covid-19.

A video service has been prepared so it can be passed around to folks in the community. No preparation is required. The video service is available on DVD, USB memory stick or by downloading from wicc.org.

The Ladies Aid will send a donation of \$250.00 and if you wish to make a personal donation, that would be to WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (WICC) at 47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3

Zoom video meeting of Plains Baptist Church January 10, 2021

Meeting called to order by Clerk, Marjorie Higgs.

Motion from Deacons made by Betty Rewbotham that we adopt to the Constitution that electronic meetings shall be permitted. Members may participate in a meeting electronically and shall have the ability to register a vote, be counted towards determining quorum and participate in any and all discussions. Motion seconded by Phyllis Huffman, voted and passed. Counting assisted by Mary Crosby.

The motion has been passed and it will stay in the constitution. This will allow anyone who is unable to attend meetings to go on line in the future.

Amendment votes by phone: 27

Amendment votes by video (Zoom) 20

TOTAL votes 47 unanimous in favour

Meeting was adjourned by Micheal Sargeant.





Joel Robert Poinsettia is who's to blame.
Introduced this plant that bears his name.
The "Poinsettia" plant from Mexico
Is now linked to Christmas as we all know.

Two hundred years ago to this day
Poinsettia arranged plants in a massive display
With leaves of deep red, others white as the snow
When in full bloom made quite a show.

It also reminds us of something so dear
It's the birth of a baby whose message is clear;
To love one another with all of our might
And worship the baby born on that night.

Thanks for the beautiful poinsettia plant.
Danial and Shirley Dale

Thank you Plains: The floral arrangement arrived the day of my 95th and is still surviving. Your thoughtfulness has helped to brighten these days of being "in".
Noreena Satchell

To Barb and the Plains family: **Thank you** so much for the beautiful flower arrangement sent to us at the passing of Betty, our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandma. Also thank you for supporting her while in Valleyview by sending her a Christmas poinsettia. It is comforting to have our church family by our side.

Kim, Sherry Graham and family

Some Highlights of the Annual Meeting, Sunday January 31, 2021

History was made in the life of Plains Church on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. when 26 people of the congregation met electronically, via Zoom for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Clerk Mary Crosby called the meeting to order, Danial Dale was nominated Chairman and Pastor Margie opened with her devotional. From the printed Annual Report committee reports were accepted, the 2021 Operating Expense Budget was accepted, and the Capital Costs Budget was accepted, and it was noted that expenses for the sanctuary renovations and the new audio and video equipment are paid.



Then this meeting took on a personal flavour. Phyllis Huffman commended our Pastor Margie Bell as she rose to meet the challenge of technology this year because of the covid-19 restrictions. She tackled the learning curve of YouTube sermons both in her home and in the church, Zoom coffee breaks on Sunday mornings, the in-car Christmas Eve Service, and everything in between. Margie thanked Phyllis for her training and the hours spent becoming familiar with the new equipment and for her skill and knowledge along this journey.

Malcolm Rust pointed out the financial stability of this little church although it's doors have been forced to remain closed. For a small church there is a high level of commitment. YouTube services and Zoom connections played a large part in nurturing this commitment. Although the income dropped somewhat, at the same time expenses also were down and the result has been continued financial stability.

The increasing importance of the church's web site was noted, and it was agreed that for future meetings it would be helpful and interesting to have a written report from the webmaster. Martin Proulx is doing an outstanding job at keeping the website current, interesting, and informative.

George Martyn, on the subject of his retirement as a Trustee commented that this church is flexible and open when it comes to welcoming new people into committee positions so that others may step down.

It is hoped that, when covid-19 has been conquered and we are able to attend church services again, that these services will continue to be taped and made available to persons unable to be there in person. With this in mind it was suggested that the church's Privacy Policy should be reviewed, and if necessary, up-dated.

Praise for the beautifully renovated east sanctuary wall was expressed, as well as much gratitude for those who worked long hours on this project. Some of those included Dan Dale, Nick Dale, Charlie Rewbotham, Wayne Dale, Stephen Plaunt, Ross Woodhouse, and Paul O'Drowsky.

The meeting was adjourned, as folks congratulated each other on having accomplished this technical milestone!

The following is taken from the local bi-weekly publication “*Port Stanley Villager*”. It was referred to me by Marjorie Higgs, who also did the leg work required to obtain the necessary permissions for me to use this material.

“Local Students Supporting Berm Effort

Local teacher, Jayna Basson and her students at Kettle Creek Public School are trying to make a difference for our local environment. Jayne’s unique Environmental Collaborative Opportunities Class, together with the Berm Committee are working on a plan to plant a Carolinian Forest at the Berm...The students recently did essays on the Carolinian Forest project, and here are excerpts from two of their essays.”

By Payton Lessard

The Carolinian zone is one of Canada’s eco zones. The Carolinian Forest is stretched across the most southern part of Canada. The Carolinian Forest is over 431k. This is barely 0.1% of Canada’s forested area. Although. The Carolinian Forest is home to more animal and flower species than any other ecosystem in Canada. There are many rare species in the forest. It is also very popular for the beauty of its flowers. The Carolinian Forest has the most beautiful and rarest tree species in the country.

The Carolinian Forest is one to the most unique and rarest species in the country, but it is the smallest forest in the country. As the forest shrinks more and more species of trees, animals, plants and flowers are endangered. In the Carolinian Forest there are 70 tree species, 220 plant species and over 500 animal species. The most common tree species in the Carolinian Forest are; sugar maple, beech, oak basswood and ash. The most common plant species in the Carolinian Forest are; flowering dogwood and sassafras. Most common animal species in the Carolinian Forest are; white-tailed deer, Virginia opossum, hooded warbler, red bellied woodpecker, squirrels O(as well as flying squirrels) raccoons and possums. Most of the species in the Carolinian Forest are rare. If we don’t make changes now these species won’t be rare, they will be extinct.



By Evan Jackson

Although the Carolinian Forest zone has all the diversity and beauty of Canada condensed into this little spot, it is shrinking and losing the environment to suburbs and cities. Having once been 80% forested, now only 11% of this already small area is covered in trees and if we continue developing this land like we are, that number is going to drop even further.

In this shrinking little ecosystem, 90% of Canada’s threatened and endangered species are fighting a losing battle to the construction companies and needy cities and we can’t hope for them to last long without help or habitat. The Carolinian Forest is something that needs to be treated as what it is, a beautiful piece of nature and instead we have destroyed it with our need for easy lives.

The Carolinian Forest is being destroyed and with the help of the Port Stanley Villagers Association, a plan is formed to put together a 6 acre forest on the Berm. The injustice that this amazing and diverse place has received is mind blowing. It has been walked over by the needs for easy commuting, stores close by, and playgrounds within walking distance when it should be our top priority. The Port Stanley Villagers Association has decided to help solve the problem and hopefully they are only the beginning of the supporters. The Carolinian Forest has been nearly irreversibly ruined and without quick action by everyone, there will be no chance to bring it back.

The Carolinian Forest is an extremely small forested area and it’s only getting smaller. The Carolinian Forest is the most lush and diverse ecosystem in Canada. Although being an amazing deposit of nature, the Carolinian Forest is being destroyed by developing cities. We can help stop the problem by helping build new forests in the green spaces that we have left. The Carolinian Forest is an amazing place and without the help of everyone, it could be fully destroyed, maybe not in the next 10 years, or even 20, but at some point, it could be gone.

FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH
Financial Statement as of January 31, 2021

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	10,940.21	183.67	592.00	0.00	11,715.88
Expenses	6,425.05	183.67	46.78	0.00	6,655.50
Net Gain(Loss)	4,515.16	0.00	545.22	0.00	5,060.38
Balance end of 2020	52,078.97	0	(-69.27)	0.00	52,009.70
Balance as at 01/31/21	56,594.13	0.00	475.95	0.00	57,070.08

- The General Fund shows a net gain as at the 31st of January, 2021 of \$4,515.16. The net gain is partly due to the HST Rebate received in January, 2021 of \$4,135.28 from the renovation project in 2020. We are awaiting invoices for snow plowing and salting for November, December, 2020 and January, 2021.
- Missions income as at the 31st of January, 2021 totalled \$183.67. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$135.00; CBM General Budget - \$23.67; and Sharing Way - \$25.00.
- The Communion fund had a net gain as of January 31st, 2021 of \$545.22. The 2020 deficit in the Commuion of (-69.27) was deducted from that balance giving us a total in the Commuion Fund of \$475.95.
- There were no Sunday school donations in January 2021.
- The Special Projects/Future Projects Fund has a balance of \$75.00 with no expenses to date.

Once again, I would like to personally thank the wonderful people of Plains who have continued to make sure their donations arrive at my home office, either by mail, drop off, or etransfer. Your faithfulness endures!! Thank you so much!!

Respectfully submitted,
 Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 nd	Rod Axford	12 th	Matthew Nicole
4 th	Shirley Dale	14 th	Ken Wilson
4 th	Donna Crocker	14 th	Steve Pettit
5 th	Randy Greer	17 th	Ross Woodhouse
7 th	Dallas MacPherson	20 th	Randy Bale
8 th	Pat Kennedy	20 th	Brad Bastien
9 th	William Chen-Martyn	23 rd	Bronwyn Ruddock
10 th	Terry Nicole	24 th	Dominic Kiesel
10 th	Laura Penner	25 th	Mary Crosby
11 th	Janice Burgess	25 th	Ava Sargeant
		27 th	Nancy Millman

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 4 th | MargaretBell came to Plains in 1990 to be the first full-time minister. |
| 14 th | Ron andLynda Prong (64) |



PASTOR'S PAGE

On Sunday January 31 2021, the Plains Baptist Church made history by holding our first virtual Annual Congregational Meeting. Dan Dale took note of that historic moment as chairman of the meeting. All in all, the Zoom experiment went smoothly and we are grateful for everyone who joined us and for those who were with us in spirit. Considering that the pandemic had sidelined us for most of a year, the reports indicated that groups and leaders, members and adherents remained connected, concerned and conscientious.

Pastor's Devotional for the Virtual Plains Annual Meeting January 31, 2021

Scripture: Romans 1: 7-12 The words of St. Paul to the church in Rome: "To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

My Comment: I echo the sentiments of St. Paul as he talks about his longing to be with his church friends again. I MISS YOU ALL! Let us Pray:

Gracious God, with thankful hearts we join together today by virtue of the internet to proclaim your steadfast love and faithfulness to your world, to your church and to the people of the Plains. Like the apostle we long to be together in person, to worship you in sanctuary of our little church on the corner; to sing your praises and to serve our community with our presence as well as our dollars. You understand our longing and are grateful that over these months of pandemic our church has remained strong, our people have avoided the virus, and our ministry has continued. We uphold our sister churches and faith communities who also have had to close and get creative with their ministries over these last months. Bless them, we pray and continue to make them and us channels of your peace in this troubled world.

Be with us as in our meeting. We lift up to you those who cannot meet with us today. May they know that they matter to us and their participation and presence in our church is valued so much. Be with us as we discuss, deliberate, decide and move forward with your ministry. May your Spirit abide and always be our Guide in all we think, do or say. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

Friends, on the first Sunday of February, 31 years ago I began my ministry with you. It was one of the best things that God had ever done for and with me....It still is.

Peace & Love,

