



**THE PLAIN FACTS**  
*a monthly newsletter of*

**FIRST YARMOUTH  
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## APRIL 2021

When this is over,  
may we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger,  
Full shelves at the store,  
Conversations with neighbours,  
A crowded theatre,  
Friday night out,  
The taste of communion,  
A routine check-up,  
The school rush each morning,  
Coffee with a friend,  
The stadium roaring,  
Each deep breath,  
A boring Tuesday,  
Life itself.

When this ends, may we find,  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be,  
we were called to be,  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay that way –  
better for each other because of the worst.



This poem was on the cover of the April 2020 Plain Facts News Letter. One year later the message is just as meaningful, and the hope it projects just as encouraging.

*Contributed by Elsie Walker*



## 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	Rae Axford	Jenny and family
Milton Springer	Marlene Smith	Gerry Coull	Jason & Michelle Carnegie
Larry Mizon	Carl & Leena Sibley	George Eastbury	Larry Seabrook
Ashley & family	Sally Paul	Marilyn Smith	
Ken Greenslade and the family of his sister Shirley Rolls			

### Sunday Scripture Readings

#### April 04-Easter Sunday

Mark 16: 1-8  
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

#### April 11-Easter 2

Psalm 133  
John 20: 19-31

#### April 18-Easter 3

Psalm 4  
Luke 24: 36b-48



#### April 25-Easter 4

Psalm 23  
John 10: 11-18

#### May 2-Easter 5

Psalm 22: 25-31  
John 15: 1-8

## In Sympathy

The Plains family extend our sympathy to Ken Greenslade on the passing of his sister Shirley Rolls who died in Edmonton on March 6. She was 89 and only sister to Ken, Alan and Lawrence. She has suffered from ailing health for a long time and we are grateful that she is at peace.



## 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.

Elsie has donated it to the Knotty Quilters (Plains Ladies Aid).

Size: 82" x 92" (Queen Size) Price: \$800.00

If interest please contact Nancy Millman or Elsie Walker.



17 03 2020

**EVENTS FOR APRIL****April 02****GOOD FRIDAY****April 04****7:00 A.M.****EASTER SUNDAY Communion Sunday**

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** will be held around Dayna's Oak Tree. Please feel free to bring your own coffees and breakfast snack if you would like to linger to chat outside with folks afterward or from the warmth of your vehicles. The church will not be open to the public. Bring your face coverings, Join us at the Oak Tree to celebrate the rising of our Saviour, Jesus!



The (regular time) Easter Worship service will be recorded on **YouTube** as we've been doing.

The 2021 Special Easter Offering will be divided evenly between the Plains General Fund and CBOQ Missions unless otherwise designated by the giver. We are so grateful for your generous support and faithful stewardship of this ministry we do apart but together in the name of Jesus Christ.

**April 22 Thur****EARTH DAY****ELGIN ST. THOMAS ELGIN FOOD BANK**

(Caring Cupboard)

**NEW LOCATION:** 24 John Street

(upstairs at the Royal Canadian Legion)

P.O. Box 20025, St. Thomas, ON N5P 4H4

Phone: 519-633-5308

e-transfer: [stthomaselginfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:stthomaselginfoodbank@gmail.com)

Manager: Karen M. McDade

Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesdays noon – 3:30 p.m.

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

7 <sup>TH</sup>	Brenton Axford	19 <sup>th</sup>	Lillian Hartford
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ryan Ruddock	20 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Limon
8 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Plaunt	21 <sup>st</sup>	Cassidy Proctor
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tiffany Graham	21 <sup>st</sup>	Sally Paul (92)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Smoke(92)	26 <sup>th</sup>	Evan Jackson
13 <sup>th</sup>	Madge Barrett	26 <sup>th</sup>	Troy Dale
13 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Rust	28 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Duffy
18 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Cummings	30 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Johnson
18 <sup>th</sup>	Diane O'Brien		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

14 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Bell, Ordained in 1991
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Malcolm & Donna Rust



Easter egg hunts are proof your children can find things when they really want to.

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.



**Thank you** for the beautiful bouquet and the reminder of being held in your prayers. It is a learning time that God is not limited in his promise of grace and means by which he restores our souls. He is our shepherd and we shall not want. Carl and Leena Sibley

**Thank you** to my church family for the unexpected arrival of a beautiful bouquet of flowers for my 75th birthday. Jo-Anne Pettit

### **My Appreciation to Plains!**

For some time now I had been considering selling my house and moving to Orillia, which many of you knew. With three sisters, son Bob, and all their families up north, I decided to make the move, as they were always after me to do so.

I took the plunge, put the house up for sale and it was sold in 5 days! No backing out now!

My biggest concern was leaving Plains church after 33 years. Where did the time go! In 1988, Don, one day said he would like to go to a country church. We went to Plains and never looked back!

Over the years, I have made some wonderful memories with friends. The choir came first. Amy has, over the years, stretched our ability year after year, that you could say she has made us into a terrific choir. Sherry and Amy play together so well on the piano and organ. I hear many lovely comments about the girls.

Over the years I have enjoyed working with all the groups: deacons, Ladies Aid, Knotty Quilters, Bazaars, Social Committee, dinners and funeral luncheons. Linda Cummings wants to know, "who will make the gravy now?" (Inside joke). There will always be someone to fill your shoes!

I must say, I was overwhelmed with the drive-by, only find there would be many pictures taken, gifts, flowers and cards! What a surprise! Even the Zoom group got involved.

**Many thanks** to you all. I will certainly enjoy the Ipad and will have no excuse not to keep in touch.

I will be watching Margie's sermons every Sunday, as well. She has done her very best to keep us all together over the last year and keep Plains alive and well.

My love to you all.

Edith Norton

**Thank you** to my friends at Plains Church for the thoughtful gift of these flowers.

They really helped to brighten my days coping with the death of my only living brother.

**Thank you** also for those friends that sent cards. I know I am truly blessed to have such caring people in my life. **Thank you** everyone.

Rona Wilson



### **Have You Met The Tate Family?**

You may have heard of the **Tate** Family....They're in many organizations. There is **Dic Tate** who wants to run everything. **Ro Tate** is always trying to change things. **Agi Tate** Stirs up trouble whenever possible with the help of **Irri Tate**, Who is always there to lend a hand. Every time new ideas are suggested, **Hesi Tate** and **Vegi Tate** are there to say they can't possibly work. **Imi Tate** just wants to copy other organizations and never try anything new. **Devas Tate** loves to be interruptive and **Poten Tate** wants to be the big shot. But it's **Facilli Tate**, **Cogi Tate** and **Medi Tate** who always save the day and get everyone pulling together.



Photo by Sherri Doner

Pastor Margaret Bell, Nancy Millman, Edith Norton,  
Betty Rewbotham, Donna Limon, Sherry Graham.

Edith was presented with an ipad from the Ladies Aid, Social Committee and the Congregation. Chair of the Deacons, Betty Rewbotham made the presentation on behalf of the Congregation.



Amy Dale presented her with a storage case and stylus, from the Choir.



Wayne Dale driving his 1953 Canadian M38 A1C Willys Jeep



Photos by Nancy Millman

Line of vehicles entering the church property

Thank you to Phyllis Huffman, her mother Maggie Shipley, Sherri Doner and Betty Rewbotham, who recorded the afternoon event on film and still photos. Phyllis has created a video, complete with background music by the Plains choir, which she has downloaded onto Edith's Ipad for her to share and refer to with pride, nostalgia, happiness and love.

A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked.

Spring makes the world a happy place. You see a smile on every face.  
Flowers come out and birds arrive. Oh, isn't it grand to be alive?

**FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Financial Statement as of 31st of March, 2021**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	25,653.47	793.01	1,070.00	0.00	27,516.48
Expenses	<u>21,080.68</u>	<u>793.01</u>	<u>365.84</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>22,239.53</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	4,572.79	0.00	704.16	0.00	5,276.95
Balance end of 2020	<u>52,078.97</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(-69.27)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>52,009.70</u>
Balance as at 03/31/21	<u>56,651.76</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>634.89</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>57,286.65</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as at the 31st of March, 2021 of \$4,572.79. 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 2021.
2. Missions income as at the 31st of March, 2021 totalled \$793.01. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$395.00; CBM General Budget - \$207.01; Sharing Way - \$61.00, and \$130.00 for World Food Crisis.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain as of 31st of March of \$704.16. The 2020 deficit in the Commuion of (-69.27) was deducted from that balance giving us a total in the Commuion Fund of \$634.89.
4. There have been no designated Sunday school donations in 2021.
5. The Special Projects/Future Projects Fund has a balance of \$1,816.90 with no expenses to date. The camera installed in the sanctuary has been removed and returned to d & s Audio, and that firm has given a rebate of \$1,276.90. A new camera will be purchased soon for recording Sunday services. Donatons in memory of Betty Graham for that fund totalled \$75.00 and in memory of Ray Martin totalled \$465.00.

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, PAR, or etransfer. "Great is thy faithfulness!"  
 Thank you so very much!!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Shirley E. Dale Treasurer

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



Spring is the time of the year, when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade

## Pastor's Page

I don't know if you've noticed but during this pandemic the days and weeks have been *flying* by! I didn't expect this to happen at all. I thought that the time would drag, that weeks would crawl by and that it would take **FOREVER** before we would get on the other side of this dreaded virus! We're not over the hump yet, of course, but at least we can see the light at the tunnel's end! Medical experts who eat, sleep and drink "science" are calling these vaccines 'miracles'. Amen to that, and thank God for them!



Some of you may not share my feelings about time *racing* along. I'm sure that many people, especially those who have school-aged children and the more 'extroverted' personalities among us have been desperate to see restrictions end and the curve flatten so that the world can get back to business as usual. But business will not return to usual in some ways even after Covid is history. Online schooling, online work, online shopping and other pandemic--practices will likely become a normal part of the return to normal.

The last year has also dragged for many suffering from anxiety, depression and just outright dread. Job insecurity and lack of social interactions have exacerbated mental health issues, and other challenges that cannot be cured with a dose of vaccine. It is important for us to continue to uphold

each other in prayer and with active concern and practical acts of support. Let us endeavor to listen more and give opinions less. Let us take time to care for ourselves. We cannot care for others if we are sick, stressed or burned out.

Returning to the theme of time flying by, just take a look at these pictures of the pastor! Yes, both of these women are me. The first picture was taken during the Service of Ordination when I became a "Reverend". The service was held at Plains on Sunday, April 14, 1991 at 3 p.m. The church was filled to the rafters with church members and neighbors and with my family members, friends from 'home' and colleagues. Betty Rewbotham was the chair of deacons and presided at the service. Rev. Allan Burr, my former Pastor at Jerseyville, prayed the Ordination prayer as the hands of many preachers, Plains deacons, and my dear Mother were laid upon me as I knelt "before God and everybody." My friend Linda who was pastoring in Winnipeg at the time, preached the sermon. The choir sang, as did Karen, a member of First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls. A dramatic reading was shared about Women in Ministry. I read it alongside three more 'preacher women'. Do you think I was trying to make a point? Yes, indeed! Well, needless to say it was a wonderfully LOOOONG afternoon! After a dozen people offered 'official' Greetings, (emceed by the Rev. Malcolm) we enjoyed refreshments in the Sunday

School room. Those were the days before Oak Hall existed! We just opened up the back wall of the sanctuary and spread out.

As I reflect on that day and many, many others since, I'm acutely aware of the people who were part of that happy, celebrative congregation who are now gone. Many have been promoted to glory, including my Mom. Some moved away from the neighborhood, many grew to adulthood and flew the spiritual nest. Some chose to move on to another church where they believed God was sending them. Over the years other pilgrims joined our church to continue their faith journey; each one has been a blessing in their own unique way. I can't be subjective about this church, I confess, but I believe that the people of the Plains continue to be a warm, friendly, rural (and rural friendly) open-minded, open-hearted congregation. No church is perfect. The Pastor has her gifts and her blind spots. But we share a love for God and for our church. We care about what is going on in the world. We look for ways to serve as we're able and inspired. We share the desire to use the spiritual and material resources we've been given by God to make this part of the world a kinder, more caring place. You've heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." It takes all Jesus disciples to share the good news of God's love sent to the world in Jesus. It's not just the role for the clergy or the choir or the deacons to fulfill. It's the calling of each of us. Even though most of us didn't become ordained as a Reverend, each of us was ordained at our baptism or upon our confession of faith to be the Body of Christ alive in our world. "Go and preach the good news", St. Francis of Assisi once said "and if necessary, use words."

Well, the brunette with the big eye-glasses and high expectations of herself has changed some over 3 decades. But the woman I am in 2021 is grateful that I've spent *almost* half of my life and all of my professional calling in this community, sharing the gospel and, when necessary, using words to do it. I don't even want to *think* about how many sermons I've written in 31 years, but they've (mostly) been labors of love.



A blessed Easter, my friends! Stay safe! Be sure to get your vaccinations when you're able. Before you know it, we'll be back at the Plains, praising the God who raises the dead to life, and ministers amazing grace through ordinary people, like you and this preacher woman-- who loves you.

Peace, love, and hope,

*Margaret*