



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

Web site: Martin Proulx

MARCH 2021



**MAY LOVE AND LAUGHTER LIGHT YOUR DAYS,
AND WARM YOUR HEART AND HOME.
MAY GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIENDS BE YOURS,
WHEREVER YOU MAY ROAM.
MAY PEACE AND PLENTY BLESS YOUR WORLD
WITH JOY THAT LONG ENDURES.
MAY ALL LIFE'S PASSING SEASONS
BRING THE BEST TO YOU AND YOURS!**



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	Cathy Smoke
Dave & Janet Stewart	Family of Ray Martin	Milton Springer	Bob Bell
Carol Maes	Larry Mizon	Carl & Leena Sibley	George Eastbury
Ashley & family	Mabel Somerville	Marilyn Smith	Jason & Michelle Carnegie
Sally Paul	Phil Doyon	Rae Axford	Jenny and family
Larry Seabrook	Gerry Coull	Rona Wilson and family of her brother	Pete Schellenberger

Sunday Scripture Readings

March 07-Lent 3

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

March 14-Lent 4

John 3: 14 - 21
Ephesians 2: 1 - 10

March 21-Lent 5

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34
John 12: 20 - 33



March 28-Palm Sunday

Mark 11: 1 - 11
Psalm 118: 1-2; 1 9-29

April 04-Easter Sunday

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

In Sympathy

The Plains Church family extend our sympathy to Vera Martin and the family of Ray Martin who passed away suddenly at his home in Sparta on February 5, 2021 in his 88th year. Beloved husband (65 years) and best friend of Vera (nee Smith) Martin and loved father of Donald (Dona), Jeffrey (Dana), Julie Gonser (Randy) and Jennifer Harrison (Tom), Ray was a very interesting and a very interested man. He will be missed. The service of Memorial and Thanksgiving was held at Williams Funeral Home on February 9 with Pastor Margaret officiating.

Our sympathy is extended to Rona Wilson and the family of Pete Schellenberger of Stratford. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and dear brother. He 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, March 06.

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.

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

Mar 05 Fri World Day of Prayer-Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) has prepared a full-length World Day of Prayer video service. This video can be accessed by individuals as a YouTube video or be shared by Zoom to a group. The World Day of Prayer 2021 service video can be viewed by going to wicc.org and clicking on the One Hour Service Video box.

Also, the WDP service video will be shown on the Rogers Cable Community Channel on Friday, March 5th at 5:00 pm.

Donations given to WICC not only support the World Day of Prayer movement but provide generous grants that support social justice projects in Canada and the world. If anyone would like to make a donation they may do so by donating online at wicc.org or mailing a cheque to: WICC, 47 Queen's Park Cres E., Toronto, ON, M5S 2C3

Mar 07 Sun Communion Sunday**Mar 10 Wed 10:30-11:30 A.M. Weekly Lenten Group on Zoom**

Mar 14 Sun Daylight Saving time begins
2:00 P.M. A Good-bye and God Bless Drive-by Parade for Edith Norton.
 (see top of page 5)

The Plains family is invited to attend a drive-by parade at Plains Church to honor Edith Norton as she prepares for her move from our community to live nearer to her family.

March 14 marks the one year anniversary since our last Sunday Worship service before the pandemic lock-down. It also happens to be four days before Edith's 86th birthday!

Vehicles are asked to line up along Sparta Line and then enter the west entrance to the church parking lot. Edith will be greeting you as vehicles drive under the church canopy. Vehicles will then exit the lot onto Fairview Road.

If you choose to park your vehicle to have a brief outdoor visit with others, please park your vehicle 2 metres from other vehicles and away from the 'through-route' of the parade. Please maintain a distance of 2 metres from other people if you exit your vehicle and to be extra safe, please wear a face covering.

Bring face coverings if you plan to open your car windows or exit the vehicle for any reason.

Feel free to decorate your cars or bring cards for Edith. Let's give her a real Plains' send-off, along with all our love, prayers and best wishes for the future!

Mar 17 Wed 10:30-11:30 A.M. Weekly Lenten Group on Zoom**Mar 20 Sat SPRING BEGINS****Mar 24 Wed 10:30-11:30 A.M. Weekly Lenten Group on Zoom****Mar 28 Sun Palm Sunday****April 02 GOOD FRIDAY****April 04 EASTER SUNDAY Communion Sunday**

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.

What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school? He was eggspelled!

Empowering Women & Their Families –Tiny homes with a BIG vision Submitted by Sherry Graham

Everyday Sanctuary Homes, YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin and Doug Tarry Limited (DTL) have come together as local St. Thomas-Elgin organizations to work collaboratively with shared interests related to affordable housing in St. Thomas. Project Tiny Hope's vision is that all members of the community have access to safe, affordable, clean, and sustainable housing. Tiny Hope seeks to develop this housing through a combination of building tiny homes and low rise apartment units while creating community and advancing public and private partnerships.

The YWCA has been operating in Elgin County since 1902. In 1928 the YWCA began construction of a permanent home at the corner of Mary and Curtis Street and with the new building came the Women's Residence Program. The YWCA invests in community partnerships and innovative strategies to end youth and adult homelessness including the operation of 4 youth homes, 2 adult residences and providing all residents with intensive case management. As a leader in housing-based case management the YWCA has taken the lead role in the development and implementation of the St. Thomas-Elgin Youth Homelessness Protocol and is leading the way on a community development project focused on ending women's homelessness.



SANCTUARY HOMES was established in 2014 by a group of concerned Elgin County citizens who were and remain interested in addressing issues of poverty, homelessness, and adequate housing. As a local, not for profit, faith-based group they strive to provide affordable, safe housing in a supportive community environment with appropriate community resources to improve and sustain the well being of marginalized populations.



DOUG TARRY LIMITED (DTL) has been providing housing to individuals and families in St. Thomas since 1954. **DTL** has spearheaded several philanthropic ventures in an effort to give back to the community and beyond such as the St. Thomas Elevated Park, The Angus McKenzie Trail and Project Hope which is highlighted in this video. **DTL** recognizes the state of urgency to provide residents of St. Thomas-Elgin area with more affordable housing options. As a recognized leader in the building industry and a member of several provincial and national decision making tables **DTL** provides expertise, knowledge and innovation. **for more information** go to their web site at <https://www.ywcaste.ca/project-tiny-hope/> Donations may be made by eTransfer- Use online banking and send an eTransfer to finance@ywcaste.ca By Phone-with Visa or Master Card (519) 631-9800 Donate -by credit card, cheque, debit, cash YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin 16 Mary Street West St. Thomas, ON N5P 2S3



A Campaign to Build a Hospice in Elgin County

Our community is currently in the process of building a Hospice that will anchor palliative care services in the community. Hospice of Elgin will include a 10-bed residence providing 24-7 care, a palliative clinic, wellness center, grief and bereavement programs, and more. The Hospice is scheduled to open in 2022. Hospice of Elgin is committed to providing compassionate care and support to palliative individuals, their family, and caregivers, both during the illness and after the loss of a loved one. Care is provided at no cost in our 10-suite residence, palliative care clinic, wellness centre, and in the community.



Hospice care is only possible thanks to the generous support we receive from donors and the community.

Elgin Residential Hospice (Hospice of Elgin) 613 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, ON N5P 1C6 519.631.7495
www.elginhospice.com

How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket? Only one—after that it's not empty anymore!

Just a missive to inform the Plains Church family that Edith Norton has sold her home in St. Thomas and is moving to Orillia to be close to her son Bob Nicolle and to her three sisters and their families. Her official move date is Mid-April.

Edith has been active at Plains for the past **three** decades as a choir member, Social Committee member and Ladies Aid member, and deacon. She will be greatly missed but we are happy that she will be moving 'back home' and much nearer to her family.

Pastor Margie



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Marlene Smith	18 th	Jackson Wilcox (18)
6 th	Shirley Griffin	18 th	Edith Norton(86)
7 th	Jenny Lee Graham	21 st	Dave Higgs
7 th	Hazel Brekelmans	23 rd	Pat Walker
8 th	Mark Higgs	25 th	Jason Carnegie
9 th	Alexander Chen Martyn	29 th	Jill Coull
10 th	Kathy Sawyer	29 th	Marilyn Pettit
11 th	Annie Springer	29 th	Sharon Wilson
14 th	John Norton	29 th	Leena Sibley
16 th	Spencer Noble	30 th	Jonathan Higgs
17 th	Kaitlyn McCarthy	30 th	RaeLynn Ralf
17 th	Jo-Anne Pettit	31 st	Elsie Walker (86)
		31 st	Paul O'Drowsky

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

10 th	Jim & Marilyn Cartwright
28 th	Jack & Linda Cummings



Congratulations to **Erene Mifsud** who has recently been employed by Canada Life (formerly London Life Insurance) of London. She is currently reporting for duty each morning in mail distribution, with other areas beckoning to her.



My dear Plains friends: You have been so kind. The lovely flowers, gifts of food and many phone calls have helped me so much. Margaret's words on Tuesday, February 9 were thoughtful, with special music. **Thank you** Dan and Amy. Vera Martin

Thank you to my Plains family for the flowers which I recently received. Carolyn Plaunt



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 **You Tube** 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. The video stays available, so if you miss the 12:00pm Monday time, please watch it later.

Submitted by Malcolm Rust

One Easter, a father was teaching his son to drive when out of nowhere a rabbit jumped on the road. Slamming on the breaks, the son said, "I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny." His father replied, "It's okay son—you missed it by a hare."

FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH
Financial Statement as of February 28, 2021

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	16,515.04	337.34	799.00	0.00	17,651.38
Expenses	<u>12,933.65</u>	<u>337.34</u>	<u>107.07</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13,378.06</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	3,581.39	0.00	691.93	0.00	4,273.32
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 02/28/21	<u>55,660.36</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>622.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>56,283.02</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as at the 28th of February, 2021 of \$3,581.39. 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 and February, 2021.
2. Missions income as at the 28th of February, 2021 totalled \$337.34. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$220.00; CBM General Budget - \$82.34; and Sharing Way - \$35.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain as of February 28th, 2021 of \$691.93. The 2020 deficit in the Commuion of (-69.27) was deducted from that balance giving us a total in the Commuion Fund of \$622.66.
4. There were no Sunday school donations in January or February of 2021.
5. The Special Projects/Future Projects Fund has a balance of \$390.00 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, 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

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

Thank you for your financial support



The 2021 Rotary Music Festival was held virtually this year. The Afternoon of Competitions will be held March 6th, via zoom for the competitors and the adjudicator. This will be taped and posted on the Rotary Website.
<https://www.rotarysthomas.org/>

Submitted by Sherry Graham

Pastor's Page

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8. This year's UN Theme for the day is "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 World." I have included some information from the UN WOMEN Website on the 'status' of Women in 2021:

Women's full and effective participation and leadership in all areas of life drives progress for everyone. Yet, women are still underrepresented in public life and decision-making, as revealed in the UN Secretary-General's recent report. Women are Heads of State or Government in 22 countries, and only 24.9 per cent of national parliamentarians are women. At the current rate of progress, gender equality among Heads of Government will take another 130 years.

Women are also at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19, as front-line and health sector workers, as scientists, doctors and caregivers, yet they get paid 11 per cent less globally than their male counterparts. An analysis of COVID-19 task teams from 87 countries found only 3.5 per cent of them had gender parity.

When women lead, we see positive results. Some of the most efficient and exemplary responses to the COVID-19 pandemic were led by women. And women, especially young women, are at the forefront of diverse and inclusive movements online and on the streets for social justice, climate change and equality in all parts of the world. Yet, women under 30 are less than 1 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide.

Although I don't have the statistical evidence, I would also say that female leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ in terms of Ordained ministry continues to lag behind that of men, although there are many women who fulfill countless roles; both up-front and behind the scenes, in the Church of Jesus Christ! Biblical interpretation of the roles of women in the leadership of the church continues to divide congregations and denominations, including ours. At present, the LGBTQ+ ministry debate in some churches within our denomination, has somewhat eclipsed the "Women in Ministry" issue.

However, it was just a couple of years ago that I attended a day-long Conference sponsored by Baptist Women, a partner organization in CBOQ. I was heartened to see a room filled with women, of all ages who were there because they held a position of ministry leadership in their respective churches. However, I was disheartened by the conversations that were shared by some about how they and their leadership role were downplayed or resisted by other clergy or church members. I had been hoping that I would hear far different stories rather than repeats of those I'd heard in the mid-1990's and early 2000's.

One story from this conference that stood out for me was the testimony of a middle-aged, ordained woman, who was not serving in a Pastoral role but remained an active member of her Home church. She told us that the Pastor of that congregation was planning to soon hold an 8 - week Bible Study on 'Why women should not be ministers.' When asked why she remained in that church, the Reverend Doctor Woman replied that she stayed to support the 'Associate Director for Youth'; a young adult woman hired by the church to oversee 'Youth and Children's Ministry. This Youth Ministry Director was also at this conference with her. She told us that their church refuses to call her 'Associate Pastor' or "Youth Pastor", because she is female. Hence, she is referred to as 'Director.' Sadly, we don't have to travel far to discover churches

who continue to benefit greatly from the ministry of the women and girls in their churches, yet believe that certain 'ministry' roles are 'women's work' while Pastoring is 'men's work'. Their views are helped by literal interpretations of some selected Bible verses and bolstered by centuries of "patriarchal attitudes". "Patriarchy" as defined, "is a social system where men hold the primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property." Patriarchy has been alive in well almost as far back as "when Adam was a boy" as my mother used to say; and certainly shaped the formation of the early church, even as it continues to do though, perhaps in lesser degrees.

As we read in Genesis 1:27 when God created humankind, God made THEM in God's image and likeness: that is both male *and* female. Thus we can assume that **before** the Fall, the Genesis 3 story about the forbidden fruit and innocence lost; that Adam and Eve were equals. After all, the story of Eve's creation in Genesis 2 says that she came from Adam's side, not from his feet. But ever since Adam and Eve were evicted from Paradise for a sin that they both committed, women have been blamed, shamed and defamed as the "weaker sex". And yet to women God gave granted the sacred and holy duty of carrying new life in their bodies and birthing human beings into existence. So much for the term "weaker sex!"

On International Women's Day 2021 let us give thanks for the strong, resilient, tender and vulnerable women and girls who grace Mother Earth with their presence and bless our lives. We've come a long way, but in 2021 women still need other women and men to be allies in the struggle for equity, opportunity and respect. I'm very thankful to God that God sent me to a church where men and women work together as a team, dividing up ministry roles, not primarily along gender lines but along giftedness and ability-lines. I recall that when I first arrived here and read the Plains Church Constitution, that I was struck by the description of the Deacons board: they shall be 2 men and 2 women. WOW! You probably don't realize how progressive and inclusive you really are, although I've done my best to tell you so for the past 3 decades! And, my friends, I'm thankful that it was in this church that I was ordained 30 years ago next month and respected as your Pastor; *Not* your 'Director'.

I pray that the women who enter ministry or other professional or volunteer roles which have been long-associated as male dominated ones will receive the affirmation they need from you and me and the Plains Family so they can flourish as the strong and courageous Daughters of God that they were born and gifted to be. And may we also support the boys and men of our congregation in whatever fields of ministry or personal/career goals that they seek to pursue. There are men and boys who face the challenge and stigma of choosing more traditional 'female' roles, like Nursing, or Teaching Elementary School or being a dancer, or artist; or even teaching Sunday School! At Plains, let us be caring allies to anyone who needs our affirmation, prayer and spiritual support as they meet the challenges and discover the blessings of 'being human' in God's world

Peace & Love,

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