

**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](mailto:plainschurch@rogers.com)

Website: [www.plainschurch.ca](http://www.plainschurch.ca)

Phone: 519-633-2883



**DECEMBER 2021**

**Newsletter Staff**

Distribution: Barb Axford

Editor: Nancy Millman

Contributors: Pastor Margaret Bell  
Plains family

Web site: Martin Proulx

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know  
That your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered  
Will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God.

Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
And the dead will live again  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?  
This sleeping child you're holding  
Is the Great I Am.

Oh Mary did you know?





## 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.*

Family of Rae Axford  
Deanna  
Cherie Doyon  
Rose  
Don & Penny Sawyer  
Doug Sawyer

Jenny and family  
Jill & Gerry Coull  
Marlene Smith  
Sharon Axford  
Elsie Walker's niece  
Ellen's sister Ann in New Zealand

Family of Larry Mizon  
Family of Hugh Lessard  
Shirley Griffin  
Linda Hepburn  
Toots Gillard

John & Sherri Doner  
Paula Welter  
Family of Larry Wilcox  
Karl Crocker  
Rev. Brian Sherry  
Family of Peter Sloman

### Sunday Scripture Readings

#### Dec 05-Advent 2

Luke 3: 1-6  
Malachi 3: 1-4  
Philippians 1: 3-11

#### Dec 12-Advent 3-JOY

Philippians 4: 4-7  
Luke 1: 39-45, (46-55)

#### Dec 19-Advent 4

Luke 1: 47-55  
Psalm 80: 1-7  
Luke 2: 1-20

#### Jan 02- Christmas 2/Epiphany

Ephesians 1: 3-14  
John 1:1 1-8



### In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Kristina Mizon and the family of Larry Mizon of Sparta, who passed away on November 1, 2021 at the age of 73. Larry was brother-in-law to Steve and Jo-Anne Pettit, and father of Andrew.

The Plains Family extends our sympathy to Mary Smoke, Cherie and Phil Doyon and families at the passing of Mary's dear brother Larry Wilcox on November 8, 2021. Larry had recently moved back to St. Thomas from NL. He was 78 years. He was well known in the St. Thomas community for many years as "Skippy the Clown." He will be dearly missed.  
Pastor Margaret Bell

The Plains family extends our sympathy to Jeff (London) Terry (N.Z.) at the passing of a dear father, Rae Axford on November 29 2021 in his 89th year. Rae was the son of the late Israel Axford and has resided in Dutton for the last few years. He and his late wife, Joyce were frequent attenders of our church suppers and interested in our ministry here. Rae was a gentle man and he will be missed by his Axford kin and everyone who knew him.  
Pastor Margaret Bell

The Plains family extends our heart-felt love and prayers to Wendy Lessard, Tyler & Chrissy, Lee, Paulo, Tazia, Dax, and Peyton Lessard at the passing of a loving husband, father and grandfather. Hugh got his wish to die peacefully in his bed at home on November 29. Hugh will be dearly missed by all his car club friends and dear family! Hugh struggled with health issues for several years and had many miraculous recoveries. He was frequently compared to a cat with its nine lives. Hugh was a long-time member of the Plains Church. He will be missed.  
Pastor Margaret Bell

## EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2021

- Dec 05 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday - Advent 2
- Dec 12 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Advent 3
- Dec 14 Tues 12:00 noon **Ladies Aid CATERED lunch** in Oak Hall
- Dec 19 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Advent 4
- Dec 24 Fri 7:00 P.M. **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.**  
All who are double vaccinated may attend.
- Dec 25 Sat **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- Dec 26 Sun **Boxing Day - NO Worship Service**
- Jan 0 2 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Sunday before Epiphany/Communion Sunday

**LADIES AID CATERED CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 12:00 noon in Oak Hall

Cost **\$30.00** per person, payable at the door

Individually Packaged - contactless meal served in covered containers

**Menu-** Coleslaw, served with dinner roll and butter.

Roast turkey, stuffing, cranberries, squash,  
mashed potatoes, and gravy.

Cherry cheesecake cup

Gluten free is available upon request.

Men are welcome. Members and guests to show proof of double vaccination.

Attendance to be confirmed in advance, no later than Monday, December 6, 2021

Please notify Nancy Millman at 519-775-2526 or [anmillman@rogers.com](mailto:anmillman@rogers.com)



Please bring monetary donations or food for Elgin/St.Thomas Food Bank

**HER NEW ADDRESS:**

Hazel Brekelmans: 2102 Jumping Pound Common,  
Cochran , ALBERTA, T4C 2 L1



How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed!

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?  
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!





Photo by Margie Bell

On November 6, 2021 Margie Bell celebrated her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her front yard was decorated for the occasion!

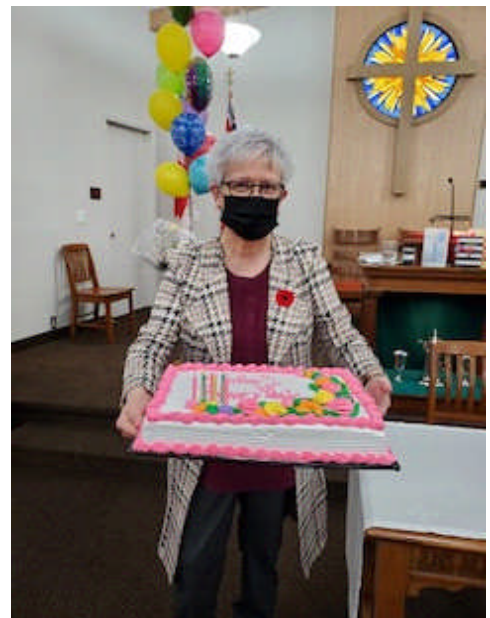


On Sunday morning, during the November 07 service, Pastor Margaret Bell was presented with balloons, flowers and a birthday cake, by Deacon Chair Betty Rewbotham on behalf of the Deacons and the congregation.



Photo by Margie Bell

Repair work is being done on the damaged canopy over the front door of the church. Workers are Gary Higgs, Dan Dale and Charlie Rewbotham.



Dear Friends:

**Thank you** for joining together to mark another life milestone! For half of my 65 years, you have laughed, cheered, shared meals, raised balloons and in many other ways encouraged me as a woman, a child of God, and as your Pastor-Friend. I am grateful for YOU and for ALL that you do to bless my life and the ministry that we share. YOU ARE MY TRUE GIFTS. With Love, Pastor Margie

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

4 <sup>th</sup>	Kelly Ruddock	17 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Tucker
4 <sup>th</sup>	Adam Rust	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Linda Willand
5 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Plaunt	24 <sup>th</sup>	Brock Dale
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Cartwright	26 <sup>th</sup>	Mabel Somerville (97)
7 <sup>th</sup>	Melanie Wilcox	28 <sup>th</sup>	Doug Sawyer
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jon Ferguson	30 <sup>th</sup>	Josseline Mifsud
11 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Brekelmans	30 <sup>th</sup>	Madison Hepburn
12 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis O'Brien	31 <sup>st</sup>	Betty Rewbotham

**ANNIVERSARIES**

11 <sup>th</sup>	Eugene & Mary Crosby
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mike & Lorainne Plaunt
20 <sup>th</sup>	Don & Suzanne Ferguson
26 <sup>th</sup>	George & Pat Martyn



VON Middlesex-Elgin Supportive Care and Bereavement Program and  
Knox Presbyterian Church, St Thomas Presents:



**A Community Memorial Service For Individuals and Families Grieving the Death of a Loved One**

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:00 – 8:00 pm**

In person option available at Knox Church  
55 Hincks Street, St Thomas (use the Mitchell Street Entrance)  
Masks and Proof of double vaccination required. Physical Distancing will be Observed  
Service will be posted on Facebook at a later date.



**Thank you** to everyone for the messages of sympathy, cards and flowers when my sister Shirley passed away. Much appreciated.  
Blessings to all at Plains. Pauline Duffy

Rev. Deane Proctor, who is currently pastoring at First Baptist Church Charlottetown PEI, has recently graduated with his Doctor of Ministry from Tyndale University, Toronto. Deane is the nephew of Dan and Shirley Dale, Wynn and Marissa Dale, Wayne Dale, Marion and Tom Lammiman, and Ruth Ann and Bruce Hammond.

Dr. Deane was baptised at Plains, was a deacon and youth leader and received his license to preach from Plains before starting his pastorates at Dutton and Iona Station. Deane is married to Annette and they have two daughters, Cassidy and Joelle.

*Malcolm Rust and Margaret Bell*

**NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**  
December 6, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.  
Columbus Club of St. Thomas, 265 Wellington Street

St. Thomas Elgin Second Stage Housing invites you to join them for an outdoor memorial ceremony in remembrance of this important day.  
The day commemorates the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked the nation.

**FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**Financial Statement as of 30th November, 2021**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	79,949.58	3,629.87	2,607.55	0.00	86,187.00
Expenses	<u>82,781.72</u>	<u>3,629.87</u>	<u>2,403.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>88,814.71</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	(-2,832.14)	0.00	204.43	0.00	(-2,627.71)
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 11/30/21	<u>49,246.83</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>135.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,381.99</u>

- The General Fund shows a net loss as at 30th of November, 2021 of (\$-2,832.14).  
 Grass cutting has been paid in full for 2021.  
 Please note that the General Fund balance includes monies in the amount of \$1,073.50 for repairs to the canopy.
- Missions income as at the 30th of November, 2021 totalled \$3,629.87. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$2,007.40; CBM General Budget - \$1,141.37, Sharing Way - \$201.00, \$230.00 for World Food Crisis, and \$50 to Partners Overseas.
- The Communion fund had a net gain as of 30th of November, 2021 of \$204.43. The 2020 deficit in the Communion Fund was (\$-69.27) leaving a balance of \$135.16 in the Communion Fund.
- There have been no designated Sunday school donations in 2021.
- The Special Projects/Future Projects Fund has income of \$2,690.02 to date.  
 Expenses to date total \$2,403.12, leaving a balance of \$1,348.49 in the Special Project Fund.  
 Donations in memory of Betty Graham for that fund totalled \$75.00, in memory of Ray Martin totalled \$485.00, in memory of Helen (Peg) Bell totalled \$20.00, and in memory of Betty Plaunt, \$275.00.  
 Donations in memory of Sally Paul to date are \$493.12 for Special Projects. Donations in memory of Kay Axford total \$65.00 to date.
- Donations in memory of Sally Paul to the General Fund total \$20.00 and in memory of Carl Sibley total \$40.00.

Once again, I would like to personally thank the wonderful people of Plains who continue to make sure their donations arrive at my home office, either by mail, drop off, PAR, or e-transfer, and now, "Praise the Lord," by putting their donation on the collection plate at the church! It is so wonderful to see the Plains family back together again at the church.

Thank you so very much!!  
 Merry Christmas!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Shirley E. Dale,  
 Treasurer



Some of my favourite childhood memories involve our family's annual trips to the local Christmas tree farm. Although we have an artificial tree at our house, my children are still able to partake in the tradition by accompanying my parents when they cut down their tree.

When I announced we would be helping them pick a tree the following weekend, I expected Ethan, my six-year old, to be excited about the outing.

Instead, he furrowed his brow, puzzled, and asked, "What did they do with the one we got them last year?"





December 2021

Greetings, my friends!

As I write this Christmas message, preparations are underway in Port Stanley for the Dickens Day Parade! The Parade, like a lot of things ‘Christmas-y’ was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. Hopefully, a happy crowd will gather to celebrate a long-standing tradition in that Port community that has seen a lot of

change over the past two years. “Constant change” have been the catchwords for dealing with the Covid 19 virus and we’re not quite done with it yet. Hopefully as children aged 5-11 are vaccinated, the remaining restrictions (and threat) will ease. In the Fall, as it became realistic to think about reopening the church for public worship, the leadership, backed by our members made a decision that did not bring us complete joy. The decision was made to adopt the standard set for non-essential businesses to limit attendance to fully vaccinated people. It was an important step that allowed us to move closer to a sense of normalcy. It was the right choice to make and we made it knowing that those unable to attend would be able to access our services by YouTube if they choose to do so. When the church decided in 2019 to update and install new video and sound capabilities, we had no idea how timely and necessary they would be in keeping our church inspired, informed and united! This year, we plan to hold the Christmas Eve Service INDOORS! As unique and special as last year’s parking lot celebration proved to be, it will be wonderful to be together to praise God for the gift of his Son, Jesus! Anyone may attend the Christmas Eve Service if double vaccinated. The good Lord, willing and the snow doesn’t rise up too high, we’ll sing “Glory to God in the Highest” to celebrate His birth!

This summer during vacation time I was able to spend some quality time with my dear niece Ashleigh and her hubby, Blake, and their two cocker spaniel puppies, Tinkerbelle and Bo! Then I travelled to St. Kitts to share a meal and a visit with my oldest nephew Jason, his spouse, Leslie and their family. My great-grand nephew, Wolfie (1yr) smiled the entire visit! He was born in July 2020 and, unbiased as I am, I believe him to be one of the best of God’s blessings that came out of THAT year!

This summer, my nephew, Jonathan, who is a police officer in Toronto and his partner, Brittany purchased their very first home! They were so excited to have their own space after living in apartments along with their ‘sizeable’ doggy, Spencer. A new space meant that Jon finally had room for Grandma Bell’s oak kitchen table and the six oak chairs that she purchased from a furniture maker in Sparta, some years back. Jon and Brittany were delighted to have a table so they would not have to eat any more picnic-style meals sitting on their dining room floor! Mom would be so pleased that Jonathan wanted her table. She and

my dad bought it for \$1.50 in the early 1940's! Roy and I spent our growing up years eating many tasty meals around that table. I've enjoyed using it in my home since Mom's passing in 2017. Wow, there's a few stories *that* table could tell!

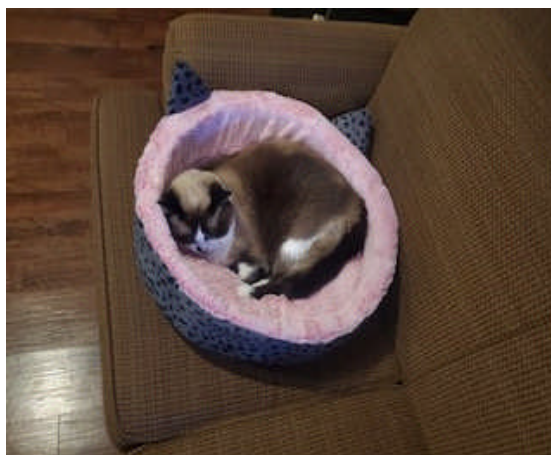
Maybe this Christmas you'll be able to finally sit at table with family and friends after having spent Christmas 2020 alone or sharing meal times via FaceTime. Or, maybe this Christmas there will be an empty chair. There will thousands of empty chairs at Christmas tables this year, due to the deadly virus or for a variety of other sad reasons. Let us be mindful of those in our circle who have lost loved ones or who have suffered reversals and setbacks health wise or economically. Let's keep them in our prayers and be generous in our expressions of support and friendship.

Another personal event of note for me this year is that I marked a notable birthday. I must say that my 65<sup>th</sup> was very enjoyable and I deeply appreciate the cards, gifts, phone calls, Facebook messages, meals, balloons, Yard Card (goodness me!) and (2) birthday cakes! As my mother often said, "Margie, the good Lord set you down in a very nice part of the country!" She was right! It comforts me to imagine my mom sharing Christmas dinner with Dad and all the folks she loved and dearly missed.

On this Christmas, my 31<sup>st</sup> spent in this 'very nice part of the country', I wish God's Advent blessings of hope, peace, joy and love upon you and yours! May the divine Light of LOVE that shone in Jesus be a light on our way forward into a New Year. Let us be grateful for the gifts of Love in our lives that have sustained and blessed us during a challenging year. And let us continue in this ministry of the gospel that we are called and chosen both to be and to do; in Jesus' name.

Peace & love,

*Margaret*



Oh, Jasmine got a new bed for her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday!