



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?
The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream, we dream we know.
We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.
We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.
We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreath our brides, we mourn our dead.
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of the year.

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A MESSAGE OF PEACE, FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2022

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the "Message of Peace" - the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked and he had to choose between them. One picture was a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains were all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace. The other picture had mountains too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell, and in which lightening played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the king looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush the mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest...perfect peace. The king chose the second picture. "Because," explained the king, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all these things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."



Author unknown



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.

Jenny and family	John & Sherri Doner	Doug Sawyer	Rev. Brian Sherry
Jill & Gerry Coull	Ashley & Blake	Paula Welter	Russell
Cherie Doyon	Marlene Smith	Shirley Griffin	Don & Penny Sawyer
Elsie Walker's niece	Sharon Axford	Linda Hepburn	Karl Crocker
Toots Gillard	Tiffany & family	Ellen's sister Ann in New Zealand	
Mabel Somerville & the family of Carol Robbins	Family of Jessie Higgs	Ashleigh and Blake	
Family of Margaret Helmer	Mary Smoke and the family of Kathy Smoke		
Harold and family			

Sunday Scripture Readings

Jan 02- Christmas 2/Epiphany

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

Jan 09-Baptism of Jesus

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Jan 16-Epiphany 2

John 2: 1-11

Jan 23-Epiphany 3

Luke 4: 14-21

Jan 30-Epiphany 4

Luke 4: 21-30

Feb 06-Epiphany 5

Luke 5: 1-11

In Sympathy

We send our deepest sympathy to Vera Martin and her family on the death of Vera's sister, Margaret. Margaret Evelyn (Smith) Helmer was wife of Don Helmer and cherished mother of David Helmer and Janet Helmer. Margaret passed away Dec 23 in London at the age of 88. *Barbara Axford*

We extend our sympathy to the family of Jessie Marie (Patterson) Higgs, who passed away December 14, 2021 at the age of 93. Jessie was a long-time friend of the Plains church and received the newsletter for many years. She will be missed.

The Plains family extends deepest sympathy to Mary Smoke, Cherie and Phil Doyon and family at the passing of Cherie's sister, Kathy on December 30, 2021. Kathy was 64 years. In her youth, Kathy was an enthusiastic participant in St. Thomas Special Olympics. She will be dearly missed by her mother, siblings, nieces and nephews. The service to celebrate Kathy's life was held on January 5 at Sifton Funeral Home. with Pastor Margaret presiding. *Pastor Margaret Bell*

Thank you



Our **thanks** to our Plains Church family for the poinsettia delivered by Dan Dale. Merry Christmas everyone. Malcolm & Donna Rust

Thank you to the Plains Church family for the beautiful poinsettia plant. It surely brightened my livingroom and my spirits. Merry Christmas to you all. Noreena Satchell

Thanks for the lovely poinsettia. Marilyn Cartwright

Thank you to my Plains Church Family for the lovely flowers that I received following dental surgery. Barbara Axford

Thank you for the beautiful Christmas floral arrangement in celebration of my retirement of 36 years of Nursing. This was a great surprise! It's the thoughtfulness of people like you that makes the world so bright! We miss you and look forward to joining you once again when Covid is under control. Happy New Year to all! Blessings. Joanne & Paul O'Drowsky

We are all aware of the very rapid increases in the spread of the Covid Omicron Variant . So as a cautionary measure to protect our church families we deacons have met and are recommending that we DO NOT hold in person worship services on Sundays, Jan 2, 9, and 16th 2022 .

We also recommend that we resume our Sunday coffee breaks by Zoom at the 10:45 a.m. time so that people can stay connected.

We were very thankful that we could worship together Christmas Eve to celebrate our Saviour's birth. We feel, given the Covid-19 "Omicron circumstances", that it is time to take this safe break.

Please continue to send your offerings by mail, e-transfer or delivered to the Treasurer's mailbox, as expenses continue.

Thank you all so much for your great stewardship throughout 2020-21!!

The deacons will assess the situation in a few weeks and suggest any appropriate changes. God bless all of you for your love and support in helping us make these difficult decisions in our ministry together.


In Christian love,

Deacons Betty Rewbotham , Chair
Wayne Dale
Linda Willand



Jan 23 Sun **10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service - Food Bank Sunday**

Jan 30 Sun **10:00 A.M.**
1:00 P.M. **Sunday Service -**
Annual Congregational Meeting will be via ZOOM only.
Report books will be available by email delivery. Hard copies will be available for pick up at the church black mail box.



**2022 ST. THOMAS/ELGIN FOOD BANK
SUNDAYS (Caring Cupboard Sundays)**

Please mark these dates on your calendar:.....

January 23
May 1
September 18
November 13

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 th Justin Ralf	16 th Danielle Ralf
10 th Gabrielle Noble	17 th Martin Rust
11 th Noreena Satchell (96)	22 nd Mary Wilson
12 th Gracie MacPherson	24 th Andrew Johnson
13 th Briar Ruddock	27 th Linda Cummings
16 th Amy Dale	29 th Sherry Graham
16 th Marion Lammiman	



There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues.



Madge Barrett receives a Christmas cactus from Nancy Millman on behalf of the Ladies Aid in recognition of her long tenure as an active member of the group. This was presented at the Ladies Aid Christmas Dinner on December 14, 2021.



Marion Lammiman presents Amy Dale with a Christmas gift from the Plains Choir. Thank you Amy for ALL you do to enable and enhance our worship times



YOUR COMMUNION FUND 2021

During 2021, as we all did the things that we had to do to 'stay safe' during yet another year of 'Covid', actual 'life' went on around us. Your Communion Fund honored those occasions of celebration and of sadness among our congregation. We sent 46 floral arrangements, 1 Memorial donation, 11 Gift Cards, 1 'Other Gift' and 47 greeting cards. Christmas elves Dan Dale, Ken Greenslade, Diane O'Brien and Barb Axford delivered 22 poinsettias and we sent 20 Christmas cards. Thank you to our Plains Ladies Aid who funded the poinsettias and Christmas card mail-out and we thank our congregation members for continuing to support the caring ministry of our Plains Communion Fund.

Barb Axford, Flowers & Cards Co-Ordinator

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.

When things change inside you, things change around you.

Pastors Page

On Sunday, December 19 I was presented with a monetary Christmas gift from my dear church family. Thank you for this annual reminder of how generous and kind that you all are to me all the time! I appreciate so much the Christmas cards and gifts that appeared in my mail box or on my desk prior to Christmas Day. Your continued good will, good humour and good faith is very much appreciated by this preacher gal. Thank you!

Christmas plans for many people were dampened and hampered by the sudden arrival of the Covid *Grinch* called Omicron variant. Even though the virus is rampaging, for those who have been vaccinated, the symptoms seem to be manageable, if unpleasant. Let's do what we can to support our hospital, retirement and long-term care facilities, and other essential workers as they endeavor to protect and care for their patients, clients, customers and themselves. And if you've not gotten your booster, yet, please sign up!

Throughout this pandemic dilemma, the leaders of our congregation have been of one mind: to protect our congregation as much as possible while also ministering to our collective need to be serving and worshipping as a faith community. My hat's *off* to Amy Dale, our church's legal counsel, who ably assisted us in making decisions over the months that respected provincial and local health guidelines. We are blessed to have the Visual and Sound equipment in place so that services can be recorded and posted. Phyllis' willingness to tackle a steep learning curve, even for a techy, made it possible to record, edit and post services to a wider, worshipping audience. All of our leaders, from the Deacons, Trustees, Treasurer, Newsletter editor, choir, musicians and committees, have stepped up when needed to hold the church together. And to our faithful givers and prayer supporters—you always play a vital part in our church family's spiritual and financial stability! Your dedication has been and remains remarkable.

I am very grateful to God that I was called by a small, country church that dreamed of going it alone with God; leaving behind the financial security of a shared two-church pastorate, to taking on a leader full-time. It took a lot of faith and courage to make that historic and 'seismic' change. There have been a **lot** more changes in and around our church since 1990. Change is one constant in our lives but so is our awesome God! God's Spirit has led us, fed us, healed us, forgiven us and equipped us through the changes that we've met. God will always be with us. That reality is what the story of Christmas and the birth of Emmanuel is all about.

Let us move forward into the challenges and opportunities of 2022 with faith in our God who loves us, more than we'll ever know. Let us support and pray for one another and trust that in life, in death, in life beyond death, and in the midst of a pandemic, God is with us. AND we have our loving Plains Church family with us, too! Thanks be to God!

Peace & Hope,

