



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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FEBRUARY 2022

What does love mean on this Valentines day

Love is doing more for another than for self

Love is encouraging and supportive

Love is patient

Love is kindness for one another

Love is helping and laughter too

Love is appreciating all you do

Love is sharing interests

Love is a comfort

Love is always there

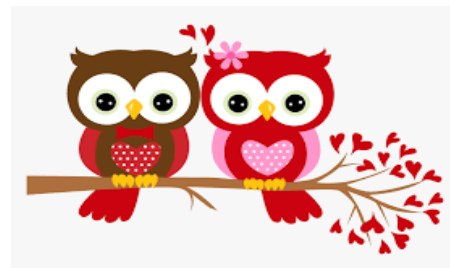
Love is meant to be shared

Love is beauty in the eyes of the beholder

Love is showing that you care.

Love is you and all you do

Happy Valentines Day to YOU!





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
Jill & Gerry Coull
Cherie Doyon
Elsie Walker's niece
Toots Gillard
Chantelle Purdy

John & Sherri Doner
Ashley & Blake
Marlene Smith
Sharon Axford
Tiffany & family

Doug Sawyer
Paula Welter
Shirley Griffin
Linda Hepburn
Harold and family

Rev. Brian Sherry
Russell
Don & Penny Sawyer
Karl Crocker
Randy Greer

Sunday Scripture Readings

February 06-Epiphany 5

Luke 5: 1-11

February 13-Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Psalm 1

Luke 6: 17-26

February 20-Epiphany 7

Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Luke 6: 27:38

February 27-Transfiguration

Exodus 34: 29-35

Psalm 99

Luke 9: 28-43

March 06-Lent 1

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

Romans 10: 8b-13

Luke 4: 1-13



Dear Margie and the Plains Family.

I would like to **thank you** all for the beautiful flower bouquet I did receive this week.

I do miss my sister Anna very much.

We were very regular in contact with each other by phone or Skype. Your support as a family means a lot to me. **Thanks** again.

Ellen Brekelmans.

I would like to **thank** my Plains family for the attractive floral arrangement which I received for my 96th birthday. Also a **thank you** for the beautiful cards and the many phone calls.

Noreena Satchell

To my Plains family **thank you** for the lovely flowers that Barb sent to me, and for all of your prayers and good wishes and for Margie's visits.

Shirley Griffin

Margie and my wonderful church family:

I have received a beautiful flower arrangement. The vase consisted of red tulips, yellow and mauve daisies, with white baby's breath. When I first looked at those flowers, I could see all the church family and the love you sent to me. **Thank you** for thinking of me and for all of your prayers. Love you all.

Sharon Axford

My high-school English teacher was well known for being a fair, but hard, grader. One day I received a B minus on a theme paper. In hopes of bettering my grade and in the spirit of the Valentine season, I sent her an extravagant heart-shaped box of chocolates with the pre-printed inscription: "BE MINE." The following day, I received in return a Valentine from the teacher. It read: Thank you, but it's still BE MINE-US

EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Plains will re-open for Worship on Sunday, February 6, the first Communion Sunday held in 2022.

Feb 06 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service - Communion Sunday

Feb 13 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service - Dedication of Church Leaders 2022

Since we were closed on Caring Cupboard Sunday in January, please bring any non-perishable food items or monetary donations for the St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank.

Feb 20 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service

Feb 27 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service

Mar 04 Fri - The World Day of Prayer - This event will not be held again this year.

This year the service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of **England, Wales and Northern Ireland** and a video has been produced for viewing and distribution.

After February 1st, anyone can view the World Day of Prayer 2022 Service Video (55-minutes). Just go to www.wicc.org and click on "World Day of Prayer 2022 Service Video".

Theme: I Know the Plans I Have for You (based on Jeremiah 29:1-14)

Also, this same service video will be shown on many local cable TV channels – check your local cable network listings for Friday, March 4th.

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



Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada

Mar 06 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service - Communion Sunday

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4th Shirley Dale
4th Donna Crocker
5th Randy Greer
7th Dallas MacPherson
8th Pat Kennedy
9th William Chen-Martyn
10th Laura Penner
11th Janice Burgess

ANNIVERSARIES

14th Ken Wilson
17th Ross Woodhouse
20th Brad Bastien
23rd Bronwyn Ruddock
24th Dominic Kiesel
25th Mary Crosby
25th Ava Sargeant
27th Nancy Millman

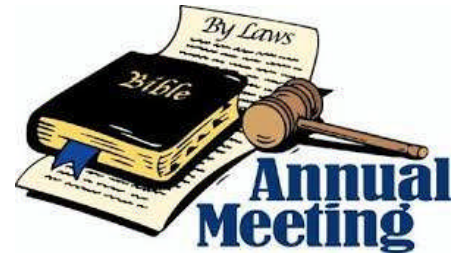
4th Margaret Bell came to Plains in 1990 to be the first full-time minister.
14th Ron and Lynda Prong (64)



My friend Mark and I work in a lawn-mower-parts warehouse. Somehow Mark got the idea that his wife did not want a card on Valentine's Day, but when he spoke to her on the phone he discovered she was expecting one. Not having time to buy a card on his way home, Mark was in a quandary. Then he looked at the lawn-mower trade magazines scattered around the office—and got an idea. Using scissors and glue, he created a card with pictures of mowers, next to which he wrote: 'I lawn for you mower and mower each day.' Mark's wife loved it. The card immediately graced their refrigerator door.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting, Sunday January 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

There were 30 people present via Zoom.



The meeting was called to order by Clerk, Mary Crosby. Pastor Margaret Bell gave the devotional to open the meeting, which included reading the poem, “Such Love”.

Wayne Dale was nominated as Chairperson, and the Agenda was approved, including the addition of a “New Project” being added to New Business.

A Notice of Motion by the Trustees in the minutes of the Fall meeting of October 24 was addressed, stating that the Trustees shall appoint a church member to act as secretary-treasurer and be responsible for the operation of the church cemetery. This was approved and the trustees will act upon this motion at their next Trustees Meeting.

Approval of a bonus of \$1,100.00 for Pastor Bell, to be paid into her R.R.S.P., was approved. All other reports were approved as printed, and Chairman Wayne Dale commended those working on committees and/or guiding this congregation through these difficult times.

Under New Business, the Deacons recommended that the Pastor, Chair of Deacons, Newsletter Editor, Chair of Trustees and Privacy Officer be designated as persons authorized to submit items or changes to the Church’s Web site. This was approved.

The 2022 Operating Budget was approved, which included a 2% pay increase for Pastor Bell. It was noted that expenses in 2021 were lower again due to the covid protocols.

The New Project inserted under New Business turned out to be the letter of retirement from Pastor Margaret Bell, which had previously been submitted to the Deacons, and was read to those at this meeting today by Pastor Bell. Her retirement to take affect in three months, with her last day in the pulpit at Plains to be Sunday, May 8, 2022–Mother’s Day.

Louise Sargeant moved that we accept this letter with great regret, and with wishes for much happiness in the future for Pastor Bell. This was seconded and approved, not without a few tears!

It was agreed that a Search Committee should be struck immediately. It was pointed out by George Martyn, that we could not “replace” Margie because she is this church, she has made it what it is today with her leadership and her love, and it will be difficult to find a new preacher. According to the church’s constitution, the Search Committee should consist of two Deacons and three members at large. The Deacons will meet in one week’s time to appoint two of their members. The members at large appointed at this meeting are Dan Dale, Wayne Dale and Sherry Graham.

The next Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 1:00, hopefully at the church.

Wayne Dale closed the meeting with prayer.

A YEAR LONG GOAL REALIZED THIS WEEK FOR LOCAL EMERGENCY SHELTER , ST. THOMAS, ON

After a full year of anticipation, planning and preparation, the Board of Directors of Inn Out of the Cold St. Thomas-Elgin, now operating as



The INN, is excited to announce the opening of 10 Princess Avenue. The new facility will be open 24 hours a day starting Wednesday January 26.

The INN has operated for nearly 12 years at Central United Church on Wellington Street. Most of that time they were open just during the winter months but in 2020, with the onset of COVID, they also opened a day site at 423 Talbot Street, in partnership with the City of St. Thomas and with the support of the provincial Social Service Relief Fund. Additionally, they were able to keep their overnight shelter open year-round during COVID with the support of Central United. It soon became obvious by the amount of people they were serving at both locations that a full time, 24/7 shelter was a dire need for those experiencing homelessness in St. Thomas. In January 2021, a building was purchased with a provincial grant and plans began to form to retrofit the space to meet the operational needs of an emergency shelter.

The INN is planning on creating a hub of services to meet the needs of the guests. Mental health and addictions support, health care, harm reduction services, practical help like identification replacement and assistance with housing and Ontario Works applications are some of the benefits that will come to those seeking help at **The INN**.

The INN continues to need community support. Volunteers are required to assist with the expanded meal program and donations of specific items of need, including financial support for ongoing operations are appreciated.

For further information contact:

Lori Fitzgerald, Executive Director 519-933-9895 director@innelgin.ca www.innelgin.ca

Hello everyone:

This is a long overdue update on my life in Cochrane. I lived with Em and Kevin for 3 months when I first arrived. They both worked full time so I did lots of walking and sightseeing. It was hard at first with so many changes until I found employment. I work mornings in a hotel and afternoons in a daycare. I really enjoy both jobs for different reasons. Employment led me to buying a condo on the outskirts of the city. It is peaceful, beautiful and quiet. Apparently last summer the area was shared with a bear (can't wait to see him this summer). Every night when I'm leaving work I look forward to going home and just being there. It's a great feeling when everything starts to become familiar and normal. I am settled.!!!



Kevin and Emily are doing well. They started a logging business together. Kev drives the truck and 'Em does the books. We spend Sundays together. I approve of her choice, he is a good guy.

I hope everyone is staying healthy, happy and safe. I miss you all. I am planning a trip back in October so save my seat. I think of you and watch my video often. Lots of Love

Hazel Brekelmans



FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH
Financial Statement as of 31 January, 2022

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	5,497.32	148.67	142.00	0.00	5,787.99
Expenses	6,402.25	148.67	309.83	0.00	6,860.75
Net Gain(Loss)	(-904.93)	0.00	(-167.83)	0.00	(-1,072.76)
Balance end of 2021	54,039.93	0	310.86	0.00	54,350.79
Balance as at 01/31/22	53,135.00	0.00	143.03	0.00	53,278.03

1. The General Fund shows a net loss as of 31st of January, 2022 of (-\$904.93). Included in the January expenses was a bill for November 2021 snow plowing and salting of \$596.64. We are awaiting a bill for December 2021 snow plowing and salting.
2. Missions income as at the 31st of January, 2022 totalled 148.67. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$125.00; CBM General Budget - \$13.67, and Sharing Way - \$10.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net loss as of 31st of January, 2022 of (-167.83.) There was a balance in the Communion fund from 2021, leaving us a balance of \$143.03 in that fund.
5. The Future Projects Fund had income of \$50.00 from a memorial donation in memory of the late Margaret Helmer, with no expenses in 2022.

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 etransfer, and/or on the plate at the church. I look forward to seeing all of you on February 6th when we can safely return to church services at Plains!

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley E. Dale

Treasurer

In honour of Heart and Stroke Month - 5 Tips for Healthy Living

Move your body: Physical activity lowers your chances of developing heart disease and other conditions. Aim for 30 minutes a day.

Walking is an excellent place to start.

Reduce stress: Exercise, meditation and unplugging from technology are just some of the ways you can reduce stress in your life.

Cook meals at home: Take out may be convenient, but these meals are overloaded with sodium and fats. Cooking at home is the easiest way to ensure you're putting healthy fuel in your body. Add lots of heart-healthy, leafy greens, omega-3s and healthy nuts such as almonds and walnuts.

Get enough sleep: Your body needs time to rest, restore and rejuvenate. Not getting enough Zs puts you at higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease, the World Health Organization reports.

Be proactive: Prevention is your best defence against heart disease. Talk to your doctor about your concerns and don't ignore warning signs or gut feelings that something might be wrong.

A healthy heart is a happy heart. Why not embrace a healthier lifestyle this month, and every month. Your heart—and your health—will thank you for it.



Letter of Retirement, submitted to the Annual Meeting, January 30, 2022

To the Deacons & Members of First Yarmouth Plains Baptist Church:

With a heart overflowing with gratitude for 32 years of ministry as your Pastor, I am serving three months notice of my retirement from full-time pastoral ministry and the pastorate of Plains Baptist Church.

It is my intention, after a period of adjustment to retirement, to participate as a lay member of the congregation. This outcome will, in part, be contingent upon the sensibilities of a new pastor and upon the agreement of the congregation.

It is my sincere hope and prayer for this church that a new leader will be found who will bring new insights, fresh energy and a joyous faith to help the church meet the challenges and opportunities of faithfully doing Christ's ministry in a post-Covid world.

It is also my fervent hope and prayer that the next Pastor will come to love and appreciate this special church family as much as I have.... and do... and always will. As one of the hymns that we love to sing together affirms:

*Grace alone which God supplies;
strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone,
We will go forth in grace alone. (W&R 436)*

Pastor's Page

As I was wandering around the house, pondering how I would approach this note to you, I happened upon a page of stickers. The stickers depict PEANUTS characters. One sticker contained two catchwords closely associated with Charlie Brown: "GOOD GRIEF!" In Charlie Brown's case "Good Grief" described his luck or should I say, LACK of it. However, when "Good Grief" is used in the context of mental health, it is not a negative nor an oxymoron. It is the hopeful description of how grief helps us to face, and process pain or loss and move forward to a place of acceptance and healing.

My hope for the church family is that we will share some good grieving moments in the coming days. Hopefully, gratitude will be the pervasive attitude as the past is celebrated and adjustments are made to embrace the future with faith and joy. We do have SO much for which to be thankful! From our first day: February 4, 1990, the Plains pastor and people have been a 'good fit'! We serve God together in peace and harmony, sharing our tears, fears and laughter. During a pandemic, the church has done meaningful, loving ministry in this community and among our fellowship, in Jesus' name. Thirty-two years of loving teamwork is awesome! Thanks be to God!

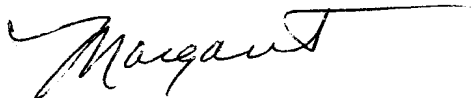
My choice to retire at this time was not easily or quickly made. It was made with the consultation of others, including the counsel and prayerful support of the Deacons committee. I've been paying attention to the inner voice which has been whispering to me for some time that the time was nearing for Plains to explore new leadership.

So, for me the “sign” that signaled NOW as the right time for retirement was the sense of calm I experienced as I made the decision. It was a similar feeling to the way I’d felt when I took the step of faith to apply for Seminary in 1986. It was similar to the way I felt at the age of 14, as I answered God’s call to be baptised. I can only attribute this sense of inner certainty to God’s loving and gracious activity in my life. As one of my Grandma Ronald’s favourite Bible verses says, *“In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths.”* *Proverbs 3:6 KJV* This verse has been my catchword for most of my life.

My sincere and warm thanks for ALL the words of congratulations, prayers and support that I’ve received since Sunday! You all are loved and appreciated, more than you know.

I am confident that the church family will stand united, offering strong support, wisdom, resources and prayers as the Plains Search Committee carries out a sacred task on your behalf. Let us do our good grieving; and then let us go forth, in grace alone.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.