



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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The Season of Advent

DECEMBER 2022



On a night long ago, in a place far away
A baby was born on the first Christmas Day.
His name was Jesus, and He was a King
And he came to the world to change everything.
This morning we'll look at the story and see
The baby that came to love you and me.
We'll hear about angels and wisemen and sheep.
And the manger in which baby Jesus could sleep.
It's a story that's crazy, amazing, and true.
It's the story about how much God loves you.
So let's listen carefully as we tell the story.
And let's worship Jesus, the Great King of Glory.



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	Karl Crocker	Plains Search Committee	Family Cathy Tredenick
Jill & Gerry Coull	Carl Sanders	Mary Lou Pearson	Women of Iran
Cherie Doyon	Shirley Griffin	Ryan Ruddock	Gerry House
Sharon Axford	Linda Hepburn	Don Sawyer	Rev. Mike Nicholson
Tiffany & family	Randy Greer	People of Ukraine	The homeless
Aleta Behie	Lori-Ann	Evelyn Crafts granddaughter Brittany	
People of Russia	Gary Higgs	People of the Maritime Provinces	
Jean Lammiman	Anna Kiesel	Family of Michael Lammiman	Family of Deanna Chute
Family of Ollie Perry	CBOQ Search Committee for Executive Minister	Bodhi MacCallum	
Family of Mildred Woodhouse			

Sunday Scripture Readings

Dec 04-Advent 2-PEACE

Genesis 3:1-15

Dec 11-ADVENT 3-JOY

Jeremiah 31: 31-34



Dec 18-ADVENT 4-HOPE

Luke 1:39-56

Dec 25-CHRISTMAS 1

NO SERVICE

Jan 01-CHRISTMAS 2

Matthew 2:13-23

IN SYMPATHY

The Plains Church family extend our sincere sympathy to Ross and Anna Woodhouse on the passing of Ross's mother Mildred Woodhouse on November 2 at 103 years. Mildred is survived by many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and their families. She was the last surviving member of her own immediate family, having been predeceased by four sisters and six brothers. She will be dearly missed.

The family of Plains Church extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Deanna Chute who passed away on November 5 at 81 years. Dearly loved mother of Barbara and Bill Walters and sister of Sharon and Floyd Axford and Ken and Judy Jacklin. Fondly remembered by several nieces and nephews, Deanna will be dearly missed.

The Plains Church family extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Olga (Ollie) Perry who passed away on November 9, 2022 in her 96th year. We join Ollie's family in mourning their loss. Ollie lived a long life of serving her Lord. Ollie's cheerful attitude, and her butter tarts, will be missed by all who knew her.

We want to extend our condolences to the Tredenick, Barrett and Axford families on the passing of Cathy Tredenick, daughter of Madge and late Harvey "Buck" Barrett, on Monday, November 14, 2022 at the age of 64 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. Cathy was a member of Plains Baptist Church and had blessed the church with her friendship and, in years past, with her singing in the choir and her artistry in rendering sketches of the church. Please hold her husband, Stephen, her sons, Joshua and Jeremy, her mother, Madge Barrett, her brothers Michael and Timothy, her aunt Barb Axford and the rest of the extended family in your prayers. The Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, November 19 at Plains with Rev. Phil Butler and Rev. Margaret Bell Officiating.

Rev. Phil Butler and Barb Axford

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2022

- Dec 02 Fri 6:30 P.M.** **Elgin Baptist Women Ladies Christmas Pot Luck Dinner** at Plains Baptist Church
- Dec 04 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service - Advent 2** - Communion Sunday -Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler -monies received in the Communion Offering to go to CBOQ Fellowship Fund for students and retired pastors.
Christmas Care Sunday - Bring new unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items, or cash donations.
- Dec 11 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service - Advent 3** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Dec 13 Tue 12:00 noon** - Ladies Aid Christmas Pot Luck Lunch -Guests and men welcome
1:00 P.M. - Musical entertainment - Some members of "The Ukes of Hazard"
- Dec 18 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service -- Advent 4** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Dec 24 Sat 7:00 P.M.** - **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**
- Dec 25 Sun** **NO SERVICE**
- Jan 01 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service - Christmas 2** - Communion Sunday - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Jan 08 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Jan 09 Mon 9:30-3:30** **Plains "Knotty quilters"** commence quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome - bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.



PLAINS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Free will offering - Christmas envelopes will be available in the pew racks for those wishing a tax deductible receipt.

NOTE: There is no *After 8's Breakfast* in December

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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



NEW ADDRESS:

Leena Sibley's new address is: 8 Centre Street, St. Thomas, ON, N5R 2Z1
Phone: 519-631-5593

What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense?
"Wait, there's myrrh."



On Sunday November 13, members of the newly elected Council for the Municipality of Central Elgin were welcomed and recognized. Pastor Butler offered up a prayer for their coming duties and responsibilities, followed by a responsive blessing from the choir and congregation.

Mayor Elect for Central Elgin Andrew Sloan, Councillor Elect for Ward 2 Morgaine Halpin, and Deputy Mayor Elect Todd Noble.

Help wanted:

We need someone to help us with the recording of our Sunday services. If you can commit to one Sunday a month, please consider this. The job is easy, and full training will be provided. This has become an important ministry for Plains, and we want to continue it. Many thanks

Phyllis Huffman phylhuff@gmail.com



The Plains Ladies Aid held a successful Christmas Bazaar on November 26. Attendance was good and Oak Hall was buzzing with activity as folks browsed, chatted, and enjoyed refreshments. The money realized by the Ladies Aid was \$2,107.90 and the amount donated to the Social Committee was \$262.30. **THANK YOU** to everyone who worked so hard baking, sewing, crafting, quilting, collecting, serving, setting, clearing, cleaning up and everything in between. The amazing support of the Plains Church Family is greatly appreciated.



FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH
Financial Statement as at 30th of November 2022

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	87,881.46	6,184.37	3,753.05	125.00	97,943.88
Expenses	<u>72,496.28</u>	<u>6,184.37</u>	<u>3,486.29</u>	<u>75.00</u>	<u>82,241.94</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	15,385.18	0.00	266.76	50.00	15,701.94
Balance end of 2021	<u>54,039.93</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>310.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>54,350.79</u>
Balance as at 11/30/2022	<u>69,425.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>577.62</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>70,052.73</u>

- The General Fund shows a net gain as of 30th of November, 2022 of \$15,385.18.
Grass cutting has been paid up until the end of September, 2022.
- Missions income as at the 30th of November, 2022 totalled \$6,184.37. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$2,117.00; CBOQ Youth - 1,550.00; CBM General Budget - \$1,561.37, Sharing Way - \$196.00, and Sharing Way, Ukraine - \$760.00.
- The Communion fund had a net gain as of 30th of November, 2022 of \$266.76.
There was a balance from previous years of \$310.86, giving a total of \$577.62 in the Communion Fund.
- Donations totalling \$125.00 have been received for the Sunday School. An amount of \$75 has been paid to the Sunday School Treasurer, Sherry Graham, to date, with the balance to be paid at the end of Q4.
- The Special Projects Fund had income in 2022 of \$50.00 from a memorial donation in memory of the late Margaret Helmer, as well as the proceeds from the Easter Sunrise Breakfast of \$65.00.
Donations have been received in memory of the late Deanna Chute in the amount of \$463.12, and in memory of the late Cathy Barrett Tredenick in the amount of \$510.00 (\$100 designated for the music dept.)
There was a balance in that fund from previous years of \$1,841.00, now giving us a balance of \$2,829.12 .
There have been no expenses to date in 2022.
At the fall business meeting, the Trustees were asked to get prices on an electronic sign for the front lawn, so donations to this fund would go towards that project if approved.
- A very generous gift of \$65,000 has been received from Centre Street Baptist Church, as they regretfully have had to close and sell their building. We are very appreciative of this gift, and the money is with iA Private Wealth in a high interest savings account until a decision is made on whether to use some of the funds or invest it.

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/or on the plate at the church.

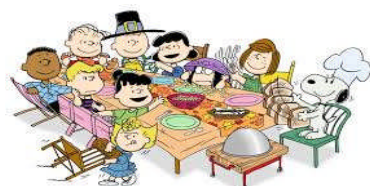
Respectfully submitted,

Shirley E. Dale

Treasurer

“CHRISTMAS SING ALONG” service at the Old English Church
Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 P.M.

“LIVING WITH GRIEF” service at Knox Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 P.M.



THE LADIES AID CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

Tuesday, December 13 at noon in Oak Hall

1:00 - Musical Entertainment - Some members of

“THE UKES OF HAZARDS” Musical group.

ALL LADIES AND MEN WELCOME.

When my niece was a student, her class of six-year-olds sang “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” at a Christmas concert. The line “God and sinners reconciled” was a tricky one for this age group. One little boy, with a voice that completely drowned out the rest of the choir, happily belted out, “God and sinners dressed in style!”

Advent is upon us and with it we anticipate God's arrival in the form of an infant, Jesus. Christmas was not the first time that God had "shown up" among us. The first time that we have recorded, was in the Garden of Eden, but the anticipation of that arrival was very different than the anticipation of this one. You see, we were in trouble, as in, we had done the opposite of what God had told us to do...and then God showed up.

My earliest memory ever is of standing in our living room and hearing my mom walking down the hall toward the living room with speed and determination...and of me thinking "uh oh...I'm in big trouble!" I don't know what I had done. Conveniently, I've forgotten that. But to hear my mom walk like that was daunting. My mom, a polio survivor who had to use crutches to walk, had a very distinct gait. She also tended to walk slowly and with care so as not to trip or fall. But when an intervention had to happen she could walk at an alarming pace! I was scared as I waited for her to arrive.

Now, don't get me wrong: I love my mom now and I loved my mom then. I also felt confident in her love for me. But love can include anger, frustration *and* discipline. My mom was loving but she also felt a deep responsibility to teach us kids how to live an honest, caring and Christ-like life. So, to know I had done something wrong and to hear her coming, was a fearful prospect.

The first "advent" was also a fearful prospect. Adam and Eve were in a panic because they had disobeyed the one and ONLY law that God had given them. This was God who had just created the most amazing world and placed Adam and Eve in a bountiful garden. This was God who had spent time speaking with them and had gifted them to each other. This was God who loved them! Yet Adam and Eve hid in the bushes, feeling guilty about what they had done, ashamed of themselves and just plain scared about God's arrival.

And then: "Ready or not, here I come!" God showed up.

Rather than continue a futile cosmic game of hide and seek, Adam and Eve tell the Lord what they had done (quick to point the finger elsewhere...) and the consequences begin to unfurl. Yet even in that devastating moment God still cared for his precious children: clothes first (leather was suddenly in vogue), healthy limits next (out of the garden so they won't wreak more havoc) and the beginning of a promise to deal with the problem that Adam and Eve had invited into the perfection of God's creation – the problem of sin: humanity setting itself up as better than, smarter than, more enlightened than God.

That first advent was terrifying. But God showed himself faithful and loving through it all and through the generations after. God continued to re-iterate, in growing detail, his great promise to deal with their...our...sin. And God's people who believed and trusted the Lord, waited longingly for God to set right what humanity had messed up.

Advent reminds us that "ready or not, here God comes!" But it also reminds us that God is not surprised by our lack of readiness, our lack of faith or our lack of obedience. God longs for better for us but it will take God's intervention, his own stepping into our world and offering his own life, to deal with what we have done wrong.

If you're feeling scared of God today, tell him what you've done. If you carry guilt, talk to him about it. Ask for God's forgiveness. Experience God's forgiveness. If there are still repercussions from your actions, know that God is FOR you and walks with you. And let fear turn to delight so that you can step out of the bushes and anticipate God's arrival with joy and freedom.

Phil