



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Sunday School Christmas Pageant
"The Law of the Gift"

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JANUARY 2023

Christian New Year's Resolutions

How can I use the New Year, to better serve my Lord?
I'll read my Bible every day, and be more in accord.
I'll find new ways to serve others; I'll love my neighbor, too.
I'll focus on "give" instead of "get" in everything I do.

I'll forgive the people I'm mad at; Angry feelings I'll discard;
I'll try to love my enemies, even though it's hard.
In the new year, I'll lift people up instead of putting them down.
I'll fill my heart with love and joy, and never wear a frown.

I'll let go of my worries; I'll put it all in His hands;
I'll repent and try to sin less, and obey all His commands.
I'll love my Lord with all my heart, with all my mind and soul,
And if I do those essential things, all the rest will be in control.

By Joanna Fuchs





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	Bodhi MacCallum
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	Sheila Greenslade	David & Michelle	Jean Lammiman
Family of Betty Shelley-Weib		CBOQ Search Committee for Executive Minister	
Family of Joyce Rose	Toots Gillard	Bodhi & Aria MacCallum	Family of Peggy Payne
Shirley Dale	Family of Marjorie Lanning		Family of Harry Gillard

Sunday Scripture Readings

Jan 01-CHRISTMAS 2

Matthew 2:13-23

Jan 08-Epiphany

Acts 10:34-43

Jan 15

Hebrews 5: 11-6: 3



Jan 22

Luke 10: 17-20

Jan 29

1 Corinthians 14: 1-25

Feb 05

Matthew 5: 13-20

IN SYMPATHY

The Plains Church family extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Betty Shelley-Wiebe, one of the Plains "Ladies of the Lake" from Port Bruce who passed away on December 3 at 81 years. She loved attending services at the Plains, especially in the Fall and Winter months when the Bait Shop was closed! We will miss her big smile, friendliness and that cool streak of blue in her silver hair! The Service to celebrate her life was held at Kebbel Funeral Home Aylmer on Wednesday, December 7 with Rev. Margaret Bell officiating. She will be dearly missed.

FLOWERS and CARDS 2022

During 2022, our Plains Family sent 48 floral arrangements, 58 greeting cards, 10 gift cards, 1 other gift, and made 6 monetary donations to express care, concern and sometimes, happiness, to congregation members and neighbours. Thank you for your regular donations to our Plains Communion Fund to make this outreach ministry possible. With the help of Diane O'Brien, Dan Dale, Ken Greenslade and Jack Cummings, we also delivered 28 poinsettias and sent 28 Christmas cards to people we especially remember at this Holy Season. Thank you to our Plains Ladies Aid and Social Committee for funding the purchase of the poinsettias.

Barb Axford, Flowers and Cards Convenor



EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2023



- Jan 01 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday -
Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Jan 08 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service - Epiphany**
- 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.
- NOTE:** Please submit 2022 Year End Reports to Clerk, Mary Crosby spartacrosby@hotmail.com by **Thursday, January 12, 2023**
- Jan 11 Wed 8:30 A.M. **After 8"s Ladies Breakfast** - Sunset Café
- Jan 15 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Jan 16 Mon 9:30-3:30 **Plains "Knotty quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome - bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.
- Jan 22 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler -
ST. THOMAS/ELGIN FOOD BANK SUNDAY
- Jan 23 Mon 9:30-3:30 **Plains "Knotty quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome - bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.
- Jan 29 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Jan 30 Mon 9:30-3:30 **Plains "Knotty quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome - bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.
- Feb 05 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Feb 06 Mon 9:30-3:30 **Plains "Knotty quilters"** quilting in Oak Hall. All crafters welcome - bring your own projects. Bring your own lunch.
- Feb 12 Sun 10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
12:00 noon **Annual Congregational Meeting** - Bring a bag lunch
- NOTE:** Please submit 2022 Year End Reports to Clerk, Mary Crosby spartacrosby@hotmail.com by **Thursday, January 12, 2023**

2023 ST. THOMAS/ELGIN FOOD BANK SUNDAYS (Caring Cupboard Sundays)

Please mark these dates on your calendar:

January 22	May 7
September 17	November 12



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 th Justin Ralf	16 th Danielle Ralf
10 th Gabrielle Noble	17 th Martin Rust
11 th Noreena Satchell (97)	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	



What was the caterpillar's New Year's resolution? To turn over a new leaf.

Ladies Aid Pot Luck Lunch

was held on December 13 with an excellent turnout of 34 folks. As usual, food was abundant and tasty.

THANK YOU to Donna Limon and Carolyn Plaunt who helped set tables and prepare the kitchen.

THANK YOU to Dan Dale and Gary Higgs who did dishes and cleaned up the kitchen.

A very special **THANK YOU** to the members of the musical group, "Ukes of Hazard" who provided the after dinner entertainment. They generated plenty of smiles, toe tapping and hand clapping!



From left: Ann Walker, Terry Rivest, Maureen Barendregt, Pat Kennedy, Lynn Hulst, Ann Aarts and Wendy Lessard.

I think of you people often and I am always telling someone about my "friends" back home. I keep fairly well except for the arthritis in my knee and hip. But we must keep going. Thought I should send a picture of where I finally hung the picture you people gave me. After months of isolation, Covid and not walking very far we went shopping and got a table for my dining area. Then Paul came and hung the last of the pictures. You may be able to see the tops of a couple of Barb's Santas that made the move with me. I also brought Moms ceramic Christmas tree and nativity scene plus some Christmas crafts. Not much but enough to make it a bit festive. There are decorated trees etc. all through the building. So lots of festive atmosphere here. I would appreciate it if you could post this and wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** as I have run out of stamps and writing power. Received lovely letters and cards from so many. Miss you all. Merry Christmas.

Elsie Walker



We have just received some good news for the next news letter. Our Grandson Cameron (Axford) has passed the first of two sections of the Bar Exams. His last section is in early March in Toronto. I am glad he got the news before Christmas. He said it took a "load off".

Sharon and Floyd Axford



Why should you stand on one leg on New Year's Eve? To start the new year on the right foot.

My New Year's resolution is to procrastinate. I'll start tomorrow.



On December 17, 2022 the Sunday School children, under the direction of Leena Sibley who was assisted by her daughter Hanna Patrick, presented their Christmas Pageant.

This included an entrance procession with recorded musical accompaniment, a manger scene, and the costumed chorus singing “Love Is the Greatest Gift”.

They presented a drama, “The Law of the Gift” followed by musical presentations.

Their program concluded with the singing of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”.

Thank you to the children taking part and sharing their talents with the folks at Plains Church. A big **THANK YOU** to Leena Sibley for the arrangement, direction, preparation and refreshments following the presentation.



Shirley Dale presented appreciation gifts from the Plains Family to Rev. Phil Butler, to our organist Sherry Graham, to our pianist and choir director Amy Dale, to our Technical Director and Advisor Phyllis Huffman, and to our Sunday School leader Leena Sibley.

Rev. Phil Butler, Sherry Graham, Leena Sibley, Shirley Dale, Amy Dale and Phyllis Huffman.

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	97,331.79	7,206.54	4,565.05	125.00	109,228.38
Expenses	83,002.90	7,206.54	4,124.04	125.00	94,458.48
Net Gain(Loss)	14,328.89	0.00	441.01	0.00	14,769.90
Balance end of 2021	54,039.93	0	310.86	0.00	54,350.79
Balance as at 12/31/2022	68,368.82	0.00	751.87	0.00	69,120.69

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as of 31st of December, 2022 of \$14,328.89.
 2. Missions income as at the 31st of December, 2022 totalled \$7,206.54. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$2,859.50; CBOQ Youth - 1,550.00; Ministers Fellowship Fund at Christmas - \$195.00; CBM General Budget - \$1,628.04; CBM Sharing Way - \$214.00; and CBM - Ukraine - \$760.00.
 3. The Communion fund had a net gain as of 31st of Decemberr, 2022 of \$441.01. There was a balance from previous years of \$310.86, giving a total of \$751.87 in the Communion Fund.
 4. Donations totalling \$125.00 have been received for the Sunday School. That amount has been paid to \$1,841.00, giving a new balance of \$3,119.12 in the Special Projects Fund. There have been no expenses to date in 2022. The Trustees were asked to get a price on an electronic lawn sign at the fall business meeting. The cost of that would come out of the Special Projects Fund, if approved.
 - 5a. There was \$100 donated in memory of Cathy Barrett Tredenick for the music department and it has been used towards the cost of projecting the words to the hymns and songs onto the screens.
 6. 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.
 7. The Ladies Aid and Social Committee each contributed \$100 for a total of \$200 to the Dielman family whose home was destroyed by fire this past year.
- 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley E. Dale
Treasurer

Why do you need a jeweler on New Years Eve?
To ring in the new year.

Why are there so many vampires out on New Year's Eve?
For Old Fangs Time

Where is New Years Eve so Mathematical?
Times Square

What happened to the fireworks who were arrested on New Years Eve?
They were let off.

What happened to the woman who stole a calendar on New Year's Eve?
She got 12 months!



Happy New Year! This is a time of resolutions for many. So, what are your resolutions? Do you have any spiritual resolutions? In 1 Peter 2:9 followers of Jesus are described as a “royal priesthood” suggesting that we are spiritual leaders in our community. That means we have a responsibility to know Jesus Christ and grow in that relationship so that we are equipped to point people to him. As you contemplate resolutions, consider a spiritual resolution to grow in faith. Here are a few ideas to help.

READ HIS STORY. If you are not already in a regular routine of reading the Bible, that is a good place to start. Here are some great resources to get you started.

- **The YouVersion App**, which you can download onto your phone or access from your computer, lets you read the Bible wherever you are in your preferred translation. It also offers you “Reading Plans” to read through all or a portion of the Bible in a certain amount of time (you can choose).
- **The Bible Project** (www.bibleproject.com) has short, animated videos to help explain themes and books of the Bible. It’s goal is to show how the whole Bible is one story from beginning to end.
- Starting in Matthew, reading one chapter a day you can **read through the New Testament** in less than a year (260 days).
- Rather than reading whole chapters each day, **read your way slowly through a book** of the Bible, reading only a few verses at a time but reading them several times, pausing between each reading to meditate on the passage. You can use the following questions to help your meditation:
 - What does this passage tell me about God?
 - What does this passage tell me about humanity?
 - What does this passage challenge me to do/change/know?

TALK WITH HIM. If reading the Bible is already a part of your spiritual routine but prayer is a struggle (or a mystery) for you, here are some ways to help begin or strengthen your times of prayer with God.

- **Pray the Lord’s Prayer** from Matthew 6:9-13. Pause after each line and speak to God about your needs related to that line OR paraphrase the Lord’s Prayer from beginning to end in your own words.
- **Pray Scripture.** This is the same as praying the Lord’s Prayer but you are using other passages from the Bible to prompt your own prayers or to put in your own words. You could take a different Psalm every day and pray through it.
- Practice **Listening through Silence.** Sit in silence for a few minutes with a short verse from the Bible that has struck you. Simply repeat those words and then be silent, repeat the words again and be silent, and so on, allowing longer and longer periods of silence. This allows space for God to speak to you.

SERVE HIM. Perhaps you have a rhythm of Bible reading and prayer that is working well for you but putting your faith into action is something you need to grow.

- Find a cause in the neighbourhood that serves people in need (the poor, the sick, the dying, the marginalized) and commit yourself to **volunteer** with them.
- Invite a neighbour over for a meal or a coffee to get to know them and **show love and hospitality.** Try to invite someone you don’t know well or who you haven’t seen for a long time.
- **Spend time with someone** who might otherwise be forgotten. If you are visiting a family member in a nursing home, you might also talk to someone other than your family member while you are there. If someone asks for money on the street, you could offer to buy them a coffee or lunch and, if they’re willing, sit with them and *listen* to them.
- Think of something that God has done for you, that you are grateful for and **tell someone.** They may not share your faith or any faith, they may even disagree with you. But simply share without trying to convince *and* listen to *them*.

These are only a few ideas. You may have others of how to continue to grow your faith in Christ. The important thing is to keep stretching and growing as you represent Christ to our community, because...

“you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (2 Peter 2:9)

Phil