



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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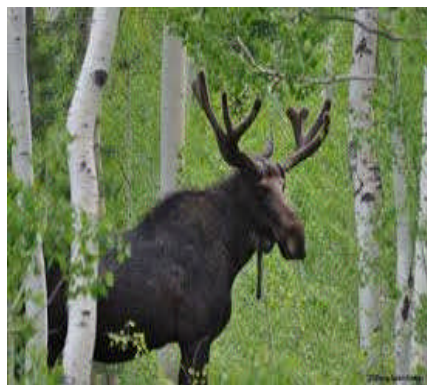
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JULY/AUGUST 2023

LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH
by Bonnie Dobson

Land of the silver birch
Home of the beaver
Where still the mighty moose
Wanders at will
Blue lake and rocky shore
I will return once more

High on a rocky ledge
I'll build my wigwam
Close to the water's edge
Silent and still
Blue lake and rocky shore
I will return once more



High as an eagle soars
Over the mountains
My spirit rises up,
Free as a bird.
Blue lake and rocky shore
I will return once more

Deep in the forest
Down in the lowlands
My heart cries out for thee
Hills of the North
Blue lake and rocky shore
I will return once more



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.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Karl Crocker | Heather Crafts | Rona Wilson | Wild fire firefighters |
| Jill & Gerry Coull | Carl Sanders | Anna & Ross Woodhouse | Maritime wild fire victims |
| Cherie Doyon | Shirley Griffin | Rev. Mike Nicholson | Alberta wild fire victims |
| Floyd & Sharon Axford | Linda Hepburn | Gerald Vreman | Plains Search Committee |
| Randy Greer | Jeremy | Brittany | The homeless |
| Lori-Ann | Judy Jacklin | Wendy Lessard | Women of Iran |
| George & Pat Martyn | Doug Sawyer | Jean Lammiman | People of Turkey & Syria |
| Toots Gillard | Elsie Walker | Mary Lou Pearson | People of Ukraine |
| Bodhi McCallum | Maggie Shipley | Scott Houghton | People of Russia |
| Kathy Alonso | Marjorie Higgs | Carl Sanders | Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church |
| Tim McCoy & family | Zoey Chen & Regina Chen-Martyn | | People of Dauphin Manitoba |

Sunday Scripture Readings

July 02
Psalm 72

July 09
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 16
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



July 23
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-36

July 30
Job 9:32-35

Aug 06
TBA

Aug 13
TBA

Aug 20
TBA

Aug 27
TBA

Sept 03
Zechariah

The Land Acknowledgement plaque is in place on the front of the church, just west of the front door, beside the black mail box.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“The First Yarmouth (Plains) Baptist Church acknowledges that it is located on the land of the McKee Treaty that was signed by the Wyandot (wai-uhn-daak) and by Anishinaabe (a-nish-in-aabey) Nations, including ancestors of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. It is also the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee (hoe-deno-show-nee), Attiwonderonk (atti-wonder-onk)(Neutral) and Mississauga Nation. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) endure in Canada and we accept responsibility as a religious institution to seek to correct miseducation and damaging stereotypes and to renew respectful relationships with Indigenous communities”

Adopted April 2023



EVENTS FOR JULY/AUGUST 2023

July 02	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday - Canada Day Weekend - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
July 09	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Guest Preacher - Rev. Steve Filyer
July 16	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Guest Preacher - Rev. Steve Filyer
July 23	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
July 30	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
Aug 06	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday - TBA
Aug 13	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - TBA
Aug 20	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - TBA
Aug 27	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - TBA
Sept 03	Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler

NOTE:

Rev. Phil Butler will be taking some time off from Friday, July 7 to Monday, July 17 (inclusive). During this time the Deacons will be monitoring phone messages at the church and they can be contacted directly in the event of a death or a pastoral emergency. The Deacons are: Michael Sargeant (chair) 519-769-2670, Pat Kennedy (secretary) 519-860-5095, John Gibbons 519-207-2651 Carolyn Plaunt 519-631-2213.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 nd Bob Limon	14 th Wayne & Wynn Dale
3 rd Ashley Sawyer	16 th Greg Graham
5 th Michael Sargeant	21 st Don Ferguson
6 th Jeff Wilcox	25 th Wayne Higgs
7 th Sherri Doner	25 th Ellen Brekelmans
8 th Darrin Ralf	25 th Aria MacCallum
10 th Gary Higgs	26 th Sharon Axford
10 th Anna Woodhouse	27 th Mike Jackson
12 th Carolyn Chesterfield	31 st Erene Mifsud
12 th Todd Ruddock	

ANNIVERSARIES

6 th Karl & Donna Crocker (55)
6 th Mike Jackson & Amy Dale
7 th John & Sherry Doner
15 th Tim & Cathy McCarthy
22 nd Dave & Carolyn Chesterfield
28 th Bob & Donna Limon
28 th Ross & Anna Woodhouse

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 st Sue Anne MacCallum	16 th Ken Greenslade (90)
5 th Kim Vanderberghe	19 th Ken Jacklin
6 th Kolton Dale	22 nd Marilyn Cartwright
8 th Karen Cook	23 rd John Gibbons
15 th Barbara Axford (88)	24 th Lesley Micallef
15 th Bodhi MacCallum	25 th Tyler VanDuynhoven

ANNIVERSARIES

7 th Martin & Laura Penner
9 th Brian & Tiffany Plaunt
20 th Deb & Ramzi Afara
20 th Zoey & Regina Chen
29 th Steve & Jo-Anne Pettit



For Sale: Double Bed size -
73" x 80"
Hand quilted by Plains Church
Knotty Quilters
Created and assembled by
Wendy Harris
Contact Nancy Millman
anmillman@rogers.com
519-775-2526 519-872-3319
Make an offer.
Proceeds to support Ladies Aid



Jenny Lee Graham was presented a monetary wedding gift from the Plains Family at a bridal shower held on May 31. The total donations collected was \$350.00.

On Tuesday, June 13 seventeen ladies from the ladies Aid, the Ladies After 8's and guests enjoyed lunch out at Pinecroft Green Frog Tea Room, Aylmer.



Left: Mary Crosby, Louise Sargeant, Linda Cummings, Marilyn Smith, Mary Sawyer.
Right: Marion Lammiman, Linda Willand, Noreena Satchell and her daughter Charlotte.

Left: Carolyn Plaunt, Marjorie Higgs, Madge Barrett, Barbara Axford.
Right: Marion Maynard, Judy Jacklin, Donna Limon. Photographer Nancy Millman

CAMPING WEEKEND JUNE 23-25th, 2023

The 27th Annual Camp Out was another success. This was our 21st year at Springwater and the weather only dampened the group fire but never put it out! We were able to still enjoy nature, fishing, biking, hiking, playing games and conversation under awnings. The numbers were slightly down, with 52 people attending throughout the weekend (down from 61 last year. We had 6 trailers, 2 motor homes and 1 tent, the same as last year. We had 24 camp Friday evening and 26 camping Saturday evening. This included 6 children who enjoyed playing together once again. There were 37 people at the BBQ/potluck Saturday night (41 last year) 49 people at the breakfast (41 last year) before church on Sunday.

Thank you for the financial assistance from the Ladies Aid and Social Committee, once again! Also, thank you to all who assisted in the delivery of supplies, especially Donna Limon and to the group cooking and preparing the food at supper and breakfast. We thank Charlie Rewbotham for bringing his generator again for hydro to cook the french toast, so breakfast was ready on time!

Submitted by Sherry Graham



Malcolm Rust and Gary Higgs, playing bowl a ball



CBOQ ASSEMBLY 2023, by Louise Sargeant

I was pleased to represent Plains Baptist Church at the 135th annual assembly of Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec held June 8 – 10, 2023 in Mississauga with the theme being “Associating. Belonging. Called.” Rev. Leanne Friesen was unanimously approved as the new Executive Minister.

Several new pastors and churches were recognized and updates were provided by CBOQ partners - Canadian Baptist Ministries, Canadian Baptist Women, and McMaster Divinity College.

Only 1 divisive motion was brought forward and was handled with dignity and respect.

Plenary sessions were presented by Rev. Sam Chaise on “Associating”, Rev. Rhonda Y. Britton on “Belonging” and Rev. Leanne Friesen on “Called”.

I attended learning sessions “The ABC’s of the New Testament” led by Rev. Sidney R. Porter and “Conversations on Women and Men in Flourishing Partnership in Ministry” led by the Journey Together team.

Some stats reported were: more than 40 new church plants, 16 new pastors, 21 CBOQ churches closed during the last five years, and 9 churches left CBOQ.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Hello Plains Family. It is time once again for an update.

As you know the Pastoral Search Team has been working hard over the past 16 months, meeting 27 times to date. We have received and reviewed over 17 resumes and interviewed a total of 6 candidates that encompassed three separate posting processes. At this time, we are actively engaged with two candidates and are hopeful of a positive outcome. As part of the process, we are asking the congregation to review the following “Theological Statement” that the Committee has supplied to the various applicants and provide any comments or questions to the committee for its consideration. It is our hope that the statement can be formally adopted by the church at its fall 2023 meeting.



PASTORAL
SEARCH
COMMITTEE

The Search Team wishes to express our thanks to the congregation for its continued support, encouragement, patience and prayers as we manoeuvre our way through the process.

Submitted by Dan Dale

A STATEMENT OUTLINING THE THEOLOGICAL COMPASS

WHICH GUIDES THE PLAINS CHURCH

MARCH 2022

GOD

God is the Creative Spirit, whose essence is love. God's relationship with the world is one of compassion along with a desire for justice for the most vulnerable and for Creation. God is neither male nor female. God is more than human labels or titles. Hence, the Bible encourages a variety of names for God. ie. Creator, Refuge, Word, Father, Mother Eagle, Mother Hen, Midwife, God, Lord, Savior, Rock.

JESUS

God's beloved Son & first-born child of Mary, who embodies God's love for all people. Jesus was human and so he died. We find in his cruel, and unjust death, God identifying with our suffering. We find in his risen life, God's affirmation of life and God's judgement over evil. Jesus words and acts of mercy towards the most vulnerable shows us that God is on the side of those the world considers least, less and last. Our path of service is to follow Christ's example. "For when we do an act of mercy to one of the least of these, our brothers or sisters, we do it to Christ." ref. Matthew 25:40

SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit refers to God as God's presence is sensed and discovered in Creation, in God-Believing folks and in whomever the Spirit chooses. We cannot control nor define the Spirit, for God is a mystery and Other than us. God's Spirit can be discerned in the people, words and acts of compassion, kindness, justice-seeking, good will, and in confrontations against evil powers.

BIBLE

A library of books written by the ancient Jews and Christians who were inspired by God to record their people's relationship with God in their times. Baptists recognize the authority of the Scriptures as a primary source for informing and inspiring our faith. It is where the story of Jesus' life, ministry and the beginnings of the early church are recorded.

At Plains we hold some parts of The Book to be more authoritative than other parts. We highly honor the parts which we find are consistent with Jesus'

teachings and example of a self-less, giving and forgiving God, who welcomed all people into the circle of care including: poor, sick, dying, wayward, women, children and foreigners/gentiles.

The Bible contains words attributed to God but the Book is not to be worshipped. THE WORD of God, says the Bible is Jesus. (John 1:1)

The Bible is an incredible library of books, letters, histories, and poetry written by people through whom God communicated messages of love & judgement, gave rules for living in loving relationship & responded to sin with forgiveness and offered second chances.

Christ and his command to his friends to love each other as he loved them, is the lens through which we interpret his story and the ministry that the Church should and is doing now.

INCLUSION

In our life together as a Baptist congregation we recognize God's loving leadership over the church. "Jesus is Lord", the earliest church in ACTS, declared.

However, Plains is part of that ecumenical movement that realizes that God's will and work is not nor ever was contained in one religion, denomination or by any special collection of churches which hold certain doctrines or practices sacrosanct.

Historically and currently Plains church is associated with the Elgin Baptist Association and the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec.

Plains has evolved a more progressive, or open-minded theology and inclusive posture than some of our Baptist cousins.

Like many churches our members come from a variety of denominational backgrounds, including R.C. and UCC.

We hold a progressive posture toward issues, such as women in Ministry & leadership .

Our attitudes toward LGBTQ+ issues and people are less dogmatic and more inclusive than the CBOQ's official stance.

Plains has a history of inclusivity regarding its leaders.

The congregation has welcomed into their midst a black Canadian Pastor, (1959-61) a divorced pastor (1979-86) and a female pastor (1990-2022).

Marital status or gender has not been a factor influencing standing as a church member or lay leader.

Patriarchy and the resulting inequality between genders was the collateral

damage of sin entering and harming human relationships. (Genesis 3)

SALVATION

We believe in salvation, that is, forgiveness of sin, it is God's gift of grace given to the world through his Son, Jesus. (John 3:16)

At Plains we acknowledge that each person will have their own views about God, the work of the Cross. As Baptists, we uphold the individual's right to discern the scriptures and God's will for their lives, themselves.

However, as a community of Faith we choose to lift up Christ's emphasis of putting people before keeping rules, and putting grace over law.

COMMUNITY

Plains is a community which celebrates volunteers, which its members are.

We enjoy marking life's big events and transitions together.

Members faithfully contribute to the wider mission of the church.

We support local agencies, like the Food Bank

and we support the wider mission of the Baptist

and world community by supporting CBM and CBOQ along with other ministries, as we are able.

Historically Plains has been more

committed in her support of local mission over international.

The church has always valued the spiritual upbringing of the children, youth and adults through Sunday School, Youth group and Adult study groups. These ministries have waned over the past 3-5 years, and were stymied in part due to the pandemic.

However, the Plains has always included people of every age and stage in its scope of care and hopefully, this will continue.

ORDINANCES

On the first Sunday of each month we gather at the Lord's Table to remember his death and rising and to celebrate our belonging as God's family of faith.

The church baptizes new believers by immersion and rebaptizes people who feel the spiritual need to be immersed. The church also welcomes people into membership by profession of faith, without baptizing. We also accept members who transfer from another Christian church.

Sometimes another mode of baptism is used (sign of the cross in water on forehead) for special circumstances.

The guiding philosophy for baptism is that the amount of water or the mode is not the most important thing. What is important is the person's desire to follow Jesus and to commit themselves to a deeper walk with God.

CONCLUSION

For many years, Plains was small, rural church where (almost) everybody was related to each other.

For decades the church building was the hub for youth and social events as well as a worship space.

That sense of community unity, and the warm friendly atmosphere that is felt when anyone comes through the door, is one of this church's greatest assets.

It's surpassed only by the love of God that meets us, feeds us, and sustains us and then sends us on The Way.

This Statement was Compiled
at the request of the Plains Search Committee
March 8, 2022
The Rev. Margaret A. Bell, Pastor

FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH
Financial Statement as of 30th of June, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	51,193.44	3,755.52	2,082.00	0.00	57,030.96
Expenses	<u>38,721.23</u>	<u>3,755.52</u>	<u>2,040.68</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>44,517.43</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	12,472.21	0.00	41.32	0.00	12,513.53
Balance end of 2022	<u>68,368.82</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>751.87</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>69,120.69</u>
Balance as at 06/30/23	<u>80,841.03</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>793.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>81,634.22</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as of 30th of June, 2023 of \$12,472.21. No grass cutting bills to date.
2. Missions income as at the 30th of June, 2023 totalled \$3,755.52. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$1,137.50; CBOQ Youth - \$1,225.00; CBM General Budget - \$425.02, Sharing Way - \$108.00, CBM Ukraine - \$240.00, CBM Turkey Earthquake \$520.00, & Turkey and Syria Foodgrains Bank - \$100.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain of \$41.32. There was a balance in that fund from previous years of \$751.87, leaving a balance of \$793.19 in that fund.
4. The new tables and chairs for Oak Hall have been purchased and the new electronic sign has been paid for from the Centre Street Baptist Church donations to Plains.
5. A very generous further donation from the closure of Centre Street Baptist Church has been received in the amount of \$30,900, as well as the \$65,000 received in 2022. Special thank you to the wonderful people of Centre Street for their kind donations to help further God's work in this community at Plains!

Once again, I would like to personally thank the wonderful people of Plains who continue to make their donations via the offering plate at the church, mailing or delivering them to my home office, using PAR (preauthorized remittance through their bank), or by etransfer.

Respectfully submitted,
 Shirley E. Dale
 Treasurer



The Plains Church congregation has sent \$2,000.00 to the Red Cross Maritimes Wildfire Relief Fund which offers aid by providing cots, blankets, water and emergency shelter for misplaced persons who are victims of the wild fires in the Maritime Provinces. Donations will be matched by the Provincial and Federal governments. This donation comes out of the gifts recently received from Centre Street Baptist Church, following that church's closure.

You know you are from Canada when ... You are excited whenever an American television show mentions Canada.

Life in the Root

This time of year I love to sit under the shade of a big tree with the sounds and sights of creation around me, a cold drink by my side and a good book. Ahhhh...refreshment for my soul. For 23 years we had in our backyard the perfect shade tree under which to sit. Unfortunately, time and weather took its toll and we had to take it down. We replaced it with a young sugar maple with the hope of, someday, providing that wonderful summer shade again.

Last summer the new tree leafed out, offering only a whisp of shade, but we knew it was putting down roots and would continue to grow. This spring we saw the leaves start to form and we waited...and waited...and then realized that those leaves were not opening out or greening up. Closer inspection showed them to be dry, crispy, and lifeless. What a disappointment!

I spoke to my brother-in-law, a horticulturalist, and he suggested that I examine the trunk for signs of “girdling.” This was a new concept for me, but he described it as removal of the outer layer of bark on a tree, such that it cannot get the nutrients from the ground to the leaves. Sure enough, patches of the bark had been chewed away so that our young leaves could only draw nutrients from the trunk and branches and eventually ran out of that emergency supply and starved. The likely culprits of this sinister girdling were the cute, innocent little critters who run around our yard every day. Back to the nursery...choose another tree...dig up the old one...plant the new (but this time with a protective cover around the trunk). Sadly, I cut the dead tree up and set the root ball aside to dry out so I can cut it up and compost it as well.

Then, just the other day I noticed fresh green leaves projecting from that root ball. There is still life in the root! What tenacity. What resilience! A wonder to behold. It made vivid for me the words of Isaiah:

*“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.” (Isaiah 11:1)*

This passage points to Jesus. It comes right after a description of God’s discipline and then restoration of his people. But it is not speaking of the resilience and tenacity of God’s people, rather of God himself. It reminds me of the times that I have tried to live out of my own wisdom, times when I ignored what God had said and did what I wanted. I was chewing away the life-giving faith God had grown in me. But even in the inevitable heartache that followed, God showed up. *God keeps coming back* even after we work against him, even after we take God for granted, even after we recklessly chew away the life-giving faith he has gifted to us. God cut down a tree, but brought life from the root – because that is what God does.

This summer I will be preaching from passages in the Hebrew Scriptures (the “Old Testament”) that portray Jesus, the shoot from the root, the hope for our recklessness. Because, long before the first Christmas, God was already showing up as Saviour to people who were their own worst enemy. And God continues to offer hope, shelter and refreshment in Jesus Christ that surpasses our wisest ideas and overcomes our worst failures.

Phil