



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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OCTOBER 2023



**HARVEST
HANDS**



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 | Mary Lou Pearson | Maggie Shipley | 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 | B.C. wild fire victims |
| Randy Greer | Jeremy | Brittany | The homeless |
| Lori-Ann | Jean Lammiman | Wendy Lessard | Women of Iran |
| George & Pat Martyn | Toots Gillard | Wally Leeson | People of Turkey & Syria |
| Family of Robert Gray | Carolyn Chesterfield | Steve Menley | People of Ukraine |
| Zoey Chen & Regina Chen-Martyn | | Mabel Somerville | People of Russia |
| Family of Joanne Oostrom | | Jean Palmer | Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church |
| Stephen Plaunt | Malcolm Rust | Ellen Brekelmans | |

In sympathy

The Plains family extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Joanne Oostrom, of Port Burwell who passed away August 29, 2023 in her 76th year. Beloved wife of Bill Oostrom and sister of Marilyn Pettit, she will be dearly missed.

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REV. ROBERT SPICER:

As Rev. Rob Spicer is currently residing a distance away in Arkona, initially, he will work from home on Mondays and Wednesdays, and work from the Church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Friday will be his day off. Cell number for contacting Rob (519-873-0972) for Pastoral Concerns. Church phone is 519-633-2883



PLEASE NOTE:

On Sunday, October 1, 2023, Rev. Spicer’s first Sunday as Plains Pastor, there will be a “Meet and Greet” in Oak Hall following the service, with coffee, tea and refreshments. All are invited to attend.

Sunday, October 15, 2023 following the 193 Anniversary Service, we will hold a Pot Luck Luncheon in Oak Hall. All are invited to attend.

Sunday, October 22, 2023 following the service - bring your own lunch. 12:00 P.M. - Congregational Meeting

EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2023

- Oct 01 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday -Rev. Robert Spicer- First service at Plains - Followed by refreshments in Oak Hall.
- Oct 04 Wed 8:30 A.M.** **After 8's Ladies Breakfast** - Sunset Café. All ladies welcome
- Oct 08 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Rev. Robert Spicer
- Oct 09 Mon** **Thanksgiving**
- Oct 10 Tue 1:30 P.M.** Ladies Aid Meeting - Don Crocker is going to tell us about making honey. It will be about bees and sunflowers. New members welcome
- Oct 15 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Guest speaker Rev. Leanne Freisen, newly appointed Executive Minister of CBOQ- **193 Anniversary Sunday** - Followed by a pot luck lunch in Oak Hall. Special Anniversary Offering equally divided between the General Funds and Missions.
- Oct 22 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Rev. Robert Spicer, (Bring a bag lunch), followed by
12:00 P.M. **Congregational Meeting**
- Oct 29 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Rev. Robert Spicer
- Nov 01 Wed 8:30 A.M.** **After 8's Ladies Breakfast** - Sunset Café. All ladies welcome
- Nov 05 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday - Rev. Robert Spicer

Thank you so much to the whole Plains family for the wonderful send-off you gave us on my last Sunday as your interim pastor. The cake was delicious, the flowers are still beautiful and, most of all, the donation to Harvest Hands was deeply appreciated and meaningful to us. **Thank you** to Margie and the Deacons for praying for us on our way. We will continue to hold all of you up in prayers, including Pastor Rob, Melissa and Olivia. Blessings to all of you. We'll see you around!

Phil and Anne Butler



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

6 th	Jean Lammiman (99)	18 th	Judy Burgess(80)
8 th	Olivia Spicer	18 th	Pat Martyn
11 th	Laura Crocker	20 th	Bob Bell (94)
11 th	Dan Dale	21 th	Marion Maynard (85)
11 th	Rona Wilson	21 st	Wendy Lessard
12 th	Julee Dale	24 th	Evelyn Crafts
17 th	Simon Martyn Bradley	28 th	Mateo Mifsud
17 th	Bob Weare		

ANNIVERSARIES

3 rd	Michael & Louise Sargeant
4 th	Bill & Danielle Ralf
11 th	Rob & Melissa Spicer (26)
12 th	Denny & Diane O'Brien
13 th	Nicholas & Julee Dale
18 th	Jason & Michelle Carnegie
20 th	Dan & Shirley Dale (50)
20 th	Todd & Kelly Ruddock
21 st	Tom & Marion Lammiman
28 th	Don & Theresa Toth

Deacon John Gibbons has a new cell phone number 226-268-8448

Jean Palmer's new address:
Metcalfe Gardens, 45 Metcalfe Street
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5Y1



With hands on Pastor Phil Butler, Margaret Bell and the Deacons prayed for him and his wife Anne, as they move on in their work with God.

Pastor Phil Butler, his son Owen, Deacons John Gibbons, Carolyn Plaunt, Pat Kennedy, Michael Sargeant and Margaret Bell

On Sunday, September 10 Pastor Phil Butler preached his last sermon at Plains as Interim Pastor while the congregation searched for a full-time Pastor following the retirement of Pastor Margaret Bell in May of 2022. At his request of no gifts, a donation was made to Helping Hands on his behalf. Helping Hands is a non-profit food distribution centre dedicated to rescuing food from bakers, growers and retailers for re-distribution to organizations, agencies and missions .

A floral arrangement was presented, and a commemorative cake was enjoyed by everyone in Oak Hall following the service.

On Sunday, September 17 the Guest Speaker was Jim Collins, Co-founder and Executive Director of Harvest Hands (food re-distribution ministry). When asked how he explained the quick and vast growth of this project which operates solely on donations and volunteers, his reply was “It’s God’s work. There is no other explanation”.

**HARVEST
HANDS**

HARVEST HANDS started by knocking on the doors of growers and manufacturers three years ago by Jim and Jacinthia Collins, and they immediately found dozens of businesses and people willing to donate surplus and unsellable food products. All of the food they redistribute is donated, as is all the labour, including the truck drivers – individuals who drive their own vehicles to both pick up and deliver boxes and palettes of food.

HARVEST HANDS is a non-profit food distribution centre dedicated to ‘rescuing’ food from bakers to retailers to help agencies and thousands of families throughout SW Ontario. Funded entirely by donations and volunteer-driven, **HARVEST HANDS** provides food to over 160+ organizations, agencies and missions, who in turn, feed over 52,000 meals per month, including individuals and families seeking food.

Jim Collins is a businessman who founded Harvest Hands to rescue thousands of dollars of surplus food to help families and agencies with safe and nutritious meals for a hand-up to a healthier future, partnering with agencies to make a difference in lives.

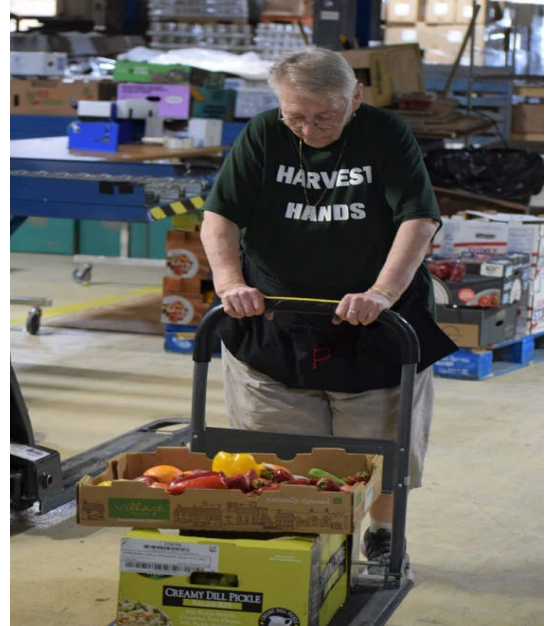
Our network is comprised of more than 160+ agencies across SW Ontario including food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, missions, emergency shelters, residences, seniors' residences, community housing and other programs. We are motivated to demonstrate God's love through acts of kindness and are committed to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in our region.

HOW DOES HARVEST HANDS WORK:

Food is donated by bakers, growers and retailers.
 Suppliers contact us when they have a surplus.
 We pick up at the supplier's warehouse.
 We bring all food back to our warehouse for sorting and quality control.
 We provide food to 160+ agencies in 14 counties across South Western Ontario.

OUR VISION

In the process of eliminating hunger for those most vulnerable, our vision is to seek practical means to equip individuals and families with skills for independent living. This includes training on education and employment, financial management and other aspects of healthy living.



Food Distribution Centre
 122 Edward St.
 St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 1Z2
 (800) 439-1898

harvesthands.ca

Mailing Address
 PO Box 81
 St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T5

info@HarvestHands.ca

Harvest Hands work is made possible entirely by donations

All gifts will be tax receipted as allowed by CRA regulations.

Every \$1 donated helps us provide the equivalent to 3 nutritious meals to families in need.

Your monthly support will make a difference monthly in hundreds of families lives.

\$25 per month will provide 75 nutritious meals per month

\$50 per month will provide 150 Meals nutritious meals per month

\$100 per month will provide 300 Meals nutritious meals per month

If you live in the St. Thomas / Elgin County region, we would love to hear from you.

We need drivers, food sorters and volunteers for a variety of tasks.

You can volunteer one day per week or one day per month. Whatever meets your schedule.

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked the stock boy, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?' The stock boy answered, 'No ma'am, they're dead.'

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH
Financial Statement
as of 30th of September 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	74,424.24	4,973.53	3,984.13	10.00	83,391.90
Expenses	<u>59,174.36</u>	<u>4,973.53</u>	<u>3,062.29</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>67,220.18</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	15,249.88	0.00	921.84	0.00	1,617.72
Balance end of 2022	<u>54,039.93</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>310.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>54,350.79</u>
Balance as at 9/30/2023	<u>69,289.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,232.70</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>70,522.51</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as of 30th of September, 2023 of \$15,249.88.
2. Missions income as at the 30th of September 2023 totalled \$4,973.53. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$1,392.50; CBOQ Youth - 1,775.00; CBM General Budget - \$682.03; CBM Sharing Way - \$164.00; Sharing Way - Ukraine - \$340.00; Sharing Way - Turkey - \$520.00, & Turkey & Syria Foodgrains Bank - \$100.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain as of 30th of September, 2023 of \$921.84. There was a balance from previous years of \$310.86, giving a total of \$1,232.70 in the Communion Fund.
4. Donations totalling \$10.00 have been received for the Sunday School. That amount has been paid to the Sunday School Treasurer, Sherry Graham at the end of the 3rd quarter.
5. Special Projects Fund --Carried forward from 2022 - \$3,119.00; Memorial Funds in 2023 - \$20.00; Other Donations - in 2023 - \$100.00, Centre Street Baptist funds for Electronic Sign - \$24,558.00, and Centre Street Baptist Funds for Tables and Chairs - \$6,659, for a total of \$34,456.

Thank you to all the Plains Family who continue to help this church on the corner of the Oak Plains remain a thriving community of believers, spreading God's word to all.

We look forward to welcoming our new Pastor, the Rev. Rob Spicer, his wife, Melissa and their daughter, Olivia on October 1st, 2023!

Shirley E. Dale
Treasurer

Biography of Rev. Leanne Friesen

newly appointed Executive Minister of CBOQ

Guest Speaker on October 15, 2023 for 193 Anniversary

Leanne has a deep and vibrant love for Christ, visionary leadership, innovation, a strong theological foundation, and commitment to our Baptist identity. Her desire is to build supportive relationships with CBOQ pastors and churches, empowering them to thrive within local communities through missional discipleship. Having been the Lead Pastor of Mount Hamilton Baptist Church for almost 18 years, she has led a congregation through significant, strategic transformation to build a growing church family, with diversity in age, ethnicity and background. She is sought after as an inspiring and thoughtful speaker and leader by many interdenominational groups, and has served on the board of CBOQ as well as McMaster Divinity College.



PASTOR'S PAGE

REV. ROBERT SPICER

Rob was born 26 MAY 1971 in St. Thomas, Ontario and grew up in Aylmer, Ontario. He lived with his parents, Fred and Mary Margaret and his sister Rose Mary. He also has two brothers, Brian and Brent. Rob is the youngest of the siblings. On 11 OCT 1997 Rob married Melissa and on 8 OCT 2008, Rob and Melissa had their daughter, Olivia.

Rob graduated from East Elgin Secondary School in Aylmer, Ontario in 1990. He attended the University of Guelph for about a year and half in pursuit of a B.Sc. in physics. When that didn't work out, he enrolled at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology and graduated with a diploma in Electronics Engineering Technology (Communication) in 1996.



Melissa Spicer, Rev. Robert Spicer, Olivia Spicer

Rob worked as a Technical Writer and Quality Assurance Manager for TouchLink Communications Inc.

After TouchLink, he worked for Anritsu Electronics Inc. as a Technical Sales Support person until he was laid off.

Rob then entered ministry work on a more intentional basis, first as a Christian Education Director and later as an Associate Pastor while in seminary. Rob attended Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville, NS from 2003-2006 where he acquired his Bachelor of Theology. While there, he was employed as the Associate Pastor of Youth and Family ministries at Woodville and Billtown United Baptist Churches. After graduation, he returned to Ontario where he was employed as Pastor of West Oro Baptist Church from AUG 2006 - SEP 2015. In OCT 2015 Rob and his family moved to Arkona, where he began as Pastor of Arkona Baptist Church, 1 NOV 2015.

Rob has about 20 years of ministry experience in different contexts starting as a Sunday School teacher when he was a teen, and later he volunteered as a youth leader. In 2002-03 he was employed as the Christian Education Director at Bethany Baptist Church in Ottawa and worked primarily with the youth and children. His other experience in pastoral roles is briefly outlined above.

Rob enrolled with the military 17 DEC 2018 as chaplain to the members of HMCS PREVOST in London, ON.. Since his enrolment he has endeavoured to provide a ministry of presence to the crew and to form relationships that will be beneficial in future situations.

Rob enjoys many different hobbies and activities including reading (fiction and non-fiction), playing, singing and listening to a wide range of music, cycling, mechanical work on vehicles (he misses his 1952 Minneapolis Moline ZAU), comic books and movies, all things STAR WARS and many other things. As a family the Spicers also enjoy playing card and board games when they have time.