



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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SEPTEMBER 2023

September

by Helen Hunt Jackson



The golden-rod is yellow; The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards, with fruit are bending down.
The gentian's bluest fringes are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed, its hidden silk has spun.

The sedges flaunt their harvest, in every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side make asters in the brook.
From dewy lanes at morning, the grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter, with yellow butterflies.

By all these lovely tokens, September days are here,
With summer's best of weather, and autumn's best of cheer.
And of this colour and beauty which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the feeling which makes September fair.



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
Stephen Plaunt	Laura Penner	Family of Bob Heil	People of Ukraine
Family of John Griffin	Mabel Somerville	Steve Menley	People of Russia
Zoey Chen & Regina Chen-Martyn			Mississauga Chinese Baptist Church

Sunday Scripture Readings

Sept 03

Zechariah 12:10-13:1

Sept. 10

Romans 13:8-14

Sept. 17

TBA



Sept 24

TBA

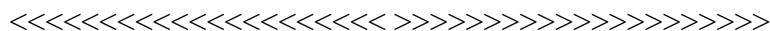
Oct 1

TBA

In sympathy

The Plains family extend our sincere sympathy to Laura Griffin and the family of John Griffin who passed away on July 22, 2023 in his 72 year. He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years Laura Griffin (Brown), his children, Louise Talbot Brady of Hitchen England, Geoff (Maree), of Basildon England, Jamie (Deb), Shane (Kim), and Shawn all of St. Thomas, his Grandchildren, Ashley, Thea, Tuscany, Gaia, Noah, Brody, Gavin and Wyatt, and great-grandchildren, Dallas, Kallum, Brooklyn, Aubree. He will be greatly missed by all his nieces, nephews, and best friends, Rick and Diane Froats.

John was the youngest of six children of the late Edward and Madeline Griffin. Dear brother to the late Roy and Jean Griffin, late Colin Griffin, late Tom and Norma Griffin, late brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jim and Ruth Watson, son-in-law to the late Doug and Lillian Brown. He is survived by his only sister Betty and brother-in-law George Lidster, sister-in-law Shirley Griffin, and brother-in-law Bob and Joyce Brown. The funeral was held at Williams Funeral Home, on Thursday July 27, at 3:00 p.m.



My daughter, Josseline Mifsud was married to Andrew Silaidis on July 22 in a beautiful backyard wedding in London at Andrew's parents. It was a perfect day for an outdoor wedding with Mother Nature fully cooperating. They reside with their cat Harley at a home they purchased in St. Thomas last summer. They honeymooned in Niagara on the Lake. Josseline was beaming with joy throughout the whole event. It was well planned and there were no unexpected snags. They certainly are a well matched pair and I am fortunate that they chose to live close by, about 5 minutes from my home. I thank God to be blessed with two wonderful daughters, Josseline and Erène and two fine sons, Paul and Shawn. Submitted by Pat Kennedy

EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

- Sept 03 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler
- Sept 06 Wed 8:30 A.M. After 8's Ladies Breakfast** - Sunset Café - All Ladies welcome
- Sept 10 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service** - Interim Pastor Rev. Philip Butler - **Grandparents' Day**
Pastor Phil Butler's last service at Plains. Cake will be served in Oak Hall following the service.
- Sept. 12 Tues 1:30 P.M. Ladies Aid Meeting** - Speaker Roxanne Bale, talking about her Ministry process and studies. Guests and new members are welcome
- Sept 17 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service** - Speaker to be announced - Sunday School registration
Food Bank Sunday - ST. THOMAS ELGIN FOOD BANK
e-transfer stthomaseelginfoodbank@gmail.com
Hours: Mondays to Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Sept 24 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service** - Speaker to be announced
- Sept 30 Sat** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Oct 01 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday -Rev. Robert Spicer- First service at Plains

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8 th Katheryn Dale | | 24 th Dave Chesterfield |
| 8 th Matt Ferguson | 14 th Eric Tucker | 27 th Karl Crocker |
| 11 th Simon Brekelmans | 16 th Gary Somerville | 29 th Alyssa Carnegie |
| 12 th Todd Noble | 20 th Charlie Rewbotham | |
| 12 th Bond Ruddock | 20 th Rebecca Carnegie | |
| 12 th Louise Sargeant | 22 nd Tom Lammiman | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 nd Greg & Tiffany Graham | 17 th Ken & Judy Jacklin (40) |
| 6 th Gary & Marjorie Higgs (60) | 20 th Charlie & Betty Rewbotham |
| 11 th Dennis & Louise Angyal | 21 st Jamey & Heather Dale |
| 16 th Geoff & Julie Robins | 29 th Matt & Tesha Cosentino |



Rona Wilson - 870 O'Loane Avenue, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6S6
PLEASE NOTE: The address in the new Directory is incorrect.

Blessed are those who spoil and snuggle, hug and hope, pray and pamper for they shall be called grandparents.



On Sunday, July 2 (Canada Day weekend) Gary McLeod was welcomed into membership at Plains Church from Centre Street Baptist Church.

Deacons Michael Sargeant, Carolyn Plaunt and Gary McLeod and Pastor Phil Butler.

Also on that day Rona Wilson was bid farewell as she embarks on a new chapter of her life, moving to Stratford to be closer to her family and back to her roots.

She was presented with a pottery berry bowl from Pinecroft, from the congregation, and cake was served on her behalf, in Oak Hall following the service.



Deacon Carolyn Plaunt, Rona Wilson and Margaret Bell



On August 16 Ken Greenslade celebrated his 90th Birthday. On Sunday August 20, Birthday cake in his honour, was served in Oak Hall following the service.

Grandparents hold our hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever.

Search Committee Update

September 2023

As you know, Rev. Robert Spicer preached for a call on Sunday August 13th and a formal letter calling him as our next pastor was sent out. I am pleased to let you know that Rob has advised us that he is delighted to accept our call and is looking forward, along with his wife Melissa and daughter Olivia, to joining the Plains family.

It may be of interest to note, that even though everyone is allowed to attend and participate in the discussion, our constitution stipulates that voting shall be limited to church members only. In matters of such magnitude as choosing a new pastor the Search Committee felt it was important not only for us as a congregation but for the candidate as well that we know how everyone felt about the candidate and had an equal opportunity to be heard. To that end, a ballot was prepared to allow both members and adherents to register their vote. It is with great pleasure that we advise you that the members voted 98% in favor and the adherents 75% in favor of calling Rev. Robert Spicer as the next pastor for First Yarmouth (Plains) Baptist Church. As it stands now, Robert will be joining us starting October 1, 2023. We have a few small details to complete including his employment agreement, which we anticipate will be in place, signed and sealed by mid-September.

The Search Committee wishes to express our deepest thanks to the congregation for its support, patience and understanding over the past 19 plus months, and for such a resounding showing of support for Robert and the future of Plains.

Danial R. Dale, Chair
First Yarmouth (Plains) Baptist Church
Pastoral Search Committee

**FIRST YARMOUTH (PLAINS) BAPTIST CHURCH
INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF 27TH OF AUGUST, 2023**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	66,491.90	4,538.87	3,824.13	0.00	74,854.90
Expenses	<u>51,391.33</u>	<u>4,299.19</u>	<u>2,383.29</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>58,073.81</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	15,100.57	239.68	1440.84	0.00	16,781.09
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 08/27/2023	<u>83,469.39</u>	239.68	2,192.71	0.00	85,901.78

1. The General Fund shows a net gain as of 27th of August, 2023 of \$15,100.57. Grass cutting is paid up to June 30/23.
2. Missions income as at the 27th of August, 2023 totalled \$3,824.13. That amount will be forwarded to CBOQ and CBM on September 1st, 2023.
3. The Communion fund has a net gain as of the 27th of August, 2023 of \$1,440.84. There was a balance in that fund from previous years of \$751.87, leaving a balance of \$2,192.71 in that fund.
Donations in memory of the late John Griffin totalled \$1,043.88 and that money is in the Communion 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



Grandchildren restore our zest for life, and our faith in humanity.

I wouldn't change my grandchildren for the world. But I wish I could change the world for my grandchildren.

Grandchildren complete life's circle of love.

Returning to Church

September is here again and with it the kids go back to school, life in churches gets busier and Sunday School and youth ministries gear up again. Even Sunday morning worship attendance often sees an uptick as people come home from holidays, trips, campers and cottages. It's a time of returning.

Unfortunately, there's often a quiet re-assessing that happens as well as the "regulars" silently observe and ask "who hasn't come back?"; a realization that some are slow to return and may not be returning. Sometimes the reasons are known, sometimes not. There's a sadness that goes along with that.

Less than a year ago now, Anne and I listened quietly as a friend of ours, with determined anger in her voice and tears in her eyes said to us: "...and that is why I will *never* EVER go back to church again...!!" We didn't try to argue with her. In fact we agreed with and understood her reasons.

But that can't be the end of the story. Not for me, not for you. To simply let someone drift away from God's people goes against the job that Jesus gave us to do. He told us to "go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). He told us to search for the lost sheep (Luke 15:4). If we quietly wait for people to *maybe* come back we are doing neither. We cannot force anyone to return, but we can go and be the church with them, encouraging faith, fostering a relationship of trust and praying for God's Kingdom to come.

This past Sunday I announced that I will be finishing my work as interim Pastor at Plains on Sunday, September 10th because I have accepted a position with Employment Services Elgin. This is part of a dream that God gave to me and Anne a year ago. The plan is to start a home-based community of people who want to explore and experience what faith in Christ is. Home based because there are many people who will *never* step through the doors of a church building. I will receive my income from a non-ministry source because many of those same people are cynical of where church money goes, how it is used and other abuses of power that the media has reported about the wider Church. And it will be small because that is where deep relationships are forged and where hard questions can be explored in safety. We feel called to do this, NOT because other ways of doing ministry are wrong – they aren't, we still need established churches like Plains to do the work of the Gospel in their communities. We are doing this because there is a need for *new* expressions of church, of ministry, of community and of the Gospel in order to meet the spiritual needs of those who will not return to OR who have never had anything to do with the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Anne and I are excited (and terrified) about this next step for us. Please keep us in your prayers! We are also going to keep you in our prayers as you embark on your next exciting (and terrifying) step of forging a relationship with a new pastor and his family and as you take steps of faith together to do the job Jesus gave us all to do.

Phil