



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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DECEMBER 2023

THAT CHRISTMAS STAR

That Christmas star which shone
So many nights ago
Gives us hope and peace.
It sets the world aglow.

So when you see
Bright stars in the sky
Let it remind you
To give thanks to God on High.

God sent his only Son.
No gift could ever compare.
This gift of love truly shows
Just how much God does care.

Catherine Pulsifer



EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2023

- Dec 01 Fri 6:00 P.M.** Elgin Baptist Women Ladies Christmas Pot Luck Dinner at Plains Baptist Church
- Dec 03 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Advent 1 - Communion Sunday - Rev. Robert Spicer - Communion offering to go to CBOQ Fellowship Fund for students and retired pastors.
- Dec 10 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Advent 2 -Rev. Robert Spicer
- Dec 12 Tues 12:00 A.M.** **Ladies Aid Pot Luck Lunch** in Oak Hall - Guests and men welcome
1:00 P.M. Musical Entertainment - Some members of the "No Worries Band" Ukelele group with Pat Kennedy and Wendy Lessard at the piano.
- Dec 17 Sun 10:00 A.M.** Advent 3 -Rev. Robert Spicer - Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- Dec 22 Fri 7:00 P.M.** Blue Christmas - A Service to make space for your grief at Christmas
- Dec 24 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Advent 4 - Rev. Robert Spicer
7:00 P.M. **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**
- Dec 31 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Christmas 1 -Rev. Robert Spicer
- Jan 07 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday
- Jan 14 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service**

**PLAINS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sunday, 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 *Ladies After 8's in December***COMING EVENT:****INDUCTION SERVICE**

for Rev. Rob Spicer

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Phil Butler

Details to follow



"What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!"— The Grinch, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2023

The sun shone on Plains Church Ladies Aid Christmas Bazaar on November 25.

Attendance was up, with 83 signing in at the door and Oak Hall was buzzing with activity as folks browsed, chatted, shopped, and enjoyed refreshments.

The money realized for the Ladies Aid was \$1,651.10 and the amount donated at the door supporting the Social Committee was \$392.75



Some of the kitchen crew included Gary Higgs, Gary McLeod, Donna Limon, Donna Crocker, Stephen Plaunt and Wendy Lessard.

THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard baking, sewing, crafting, quilting, collecting, serving, setting, clearing, washing dishes, cleaning up and everything in between.

THANK YOU Donna Limon and Donna Crocker for the decorations and table centre pieces.

The amazing support of the Plains Church Family is greatly appreciated



“Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to.” —
Fred Gailey, "Miracle on 34th Street"

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as of 30th November, 2023


	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	92,297.90	6,326.87	4,509.13	45.00	103,178.90
Expenses	<u>76,004.22</u>	<u>6,326.87</u>	<u>3,786.41</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>86,127.50</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	16,293.68	0.00	722.72	35.00	17,051.40
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 11/30/2023	<u>84,662.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,474.59</u>	<u>35.00</u>	<u>86,172.09</u>

- The General Fund shows a net gain as of 30th of November, 2023 of \$16,293.68.
Grass cutting invoices are paid up and including August 31, 2023.
- Missions income as at the 30th of November, 2023 totalled \$6,326.87. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$1,997.50; CBOQ Youth - 2,075.00; CBM General Budget - \$1,092.37; CBM Sharing Way - \$202.00; Sharing Way - Ukraine - \$340.00; Sharing Way - Turk - \$520.00, & Turkey & Syria Foodgrains Bank - \$100.00.
- The Communion fund had a net gain as of 30th of November, 2023 of \$722.72.
There was a balance from previous years of \$751.87, giving a total of \$1,474.59 in the Communion Fund.
- Donations totalling \$45.00 have been received for the Sunday School. The balance will be paid to the Sunday School Treasurer, Sherry Graham at the end of the 4th quarter.
- Special Projects Fund --Carried forward from 2022 - \$3,119.00; Memorial Funds in 2023 - \$590.00; 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 \$34,926.34. Expenses in 2023 totalled \$31,217.34, leaving a balance of \$3,809.00 in the Special Projects Fund.

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.

Shirley E. Dale
Treasurer





THE LADIES AID CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER
Tuesday, December 12 at noon in Oak Hall
1:00 - Musical Entertainment - Some members of
"No Worries Band" Ukelele Musical group.
ALL LADIES AND MEN WELCOME.

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



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!!! Wait...what? That's right we are entering Advent which in the church's liturgical calendar is the beginning of the year. I know it's confusing isn't it. We seem to have several beginnings in the church year. Things sort of slow down over the summer vacation months so often we think of things starting up in September as schools get back in session. Then of course the calendar New Year begins with January 1st.

Advent though is an important time for the church, as mentioned it is the beginning of the cycle for the church calendar. It is a time of looking forward to Christ's return... the return of the King.

This is a time of... waiting! A season of waiting. In some ways it's the season we've been waiting for. Advent arrives on December 3rd this year right after we celebrated Reign of Christ Sunday on November 26th. The celebration of our king, our shepherd, our saviour. Now, we turn the page and begin again by looking toward his return and the coming kingdom he will bring. However, this arrival is not like finally making it to grandma's house on Christmas morning; no Advent is about arriving to wait.

Great, just what you and I both want to hear. More waiting. It seems like waiting is a theme for me this fall as Melissa, Olivia and I still wait to sell our house in Arkona and move to St. Thomas or area. But we don't wait in despair for that or for Christ and his kingdom. Instead, we wait in hope; not just hope but shocking hope that will wake us up to the realities of God's kingdom here now and yet to come. Advent comes and causes us to take note, to remember that something bigger and better is coming.

As we watch and wait, we realize that the kingdom that is coming is one that is based on just peace. That is a peace where people will know they are loved, valued and seen. A kingdom where justice and peace are tangible and real. Realizing this we experience fierce joy even in the midst of a world that still has war, hunger, sorrow, corruption and greed. Know that Jesus is coming and bringing a kingdom of just peace, we can face it all and rejoice. How can we find joy in pain and in all that surrounds us? We find it in being transformed by God's great and powerful love. A love so great that it changes us from the core out. It's like physical training, if you have a solid core, other exercise becomes easier. Likewise, God's love changes our heart/our soul/ our core and from there our lives are transformed to be more like his son, Jesus. Then we say with Mary, "let it be according to your word."

Finally, Advent culminates, after all the waiting and transforming, with the wondrous light that is Jesus. We look back as we move forward to the birth of Immanuel, God with us. It is he who brings light, who is the light which leads us, comforts us, surrounds us and calls us to reflect him to the world. You might have thought, that this was what Advent was really about, anticipating Christmas and Jesus birth, but it's not really. Christmas simply concludes the season by pointing us back to where our hope, joy, peace and love begins so that we can look forward to when these things are all realized in the coming of the kingdom with Jesus. Amen, come Lord Jesus!



Pastor Rob Spicer