



THE PLAIN FACTS a monthly newsletter of

#### FIRST YARMOUTH PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

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### **Newsletter Staff**

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# JANUARY 2024







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	Steve Walters	Wild fire firefighters
Jill & Gerry Coull	Carl Sanders	Anna & Ross Woodhouse	People of Turkey & Syria
Cherie Doyon	Shirley Griffin	Family of Atileo Sansota	People of Ukraine
Floyd &Sharon Axford	Linda Hepburn	Gerald Vreman	People of Russia
Randy Greer	Malcolm Rust	Mabel Somerville	People of Israel & Gaza
Wendy Lessard	Pat Martyn	Toots Gillard	Women of Iran
Wally Leeson	Doug Lammiman	Mark Higgs	The homeless
Zoey Chen & Regina Chen-Martyn		Isabelle	Mississauga Chinese
Family of Rev. Mike Nicholson		Bob Weare	Baptist Church
Carol Chapman	Family of Earlene M	onkman	

#### In Sympathy

The Plains family extend our sincere sympathy to Bob and Donna Limon on the passing of Donna's sister Beatrice Earlene Monkman from Georgetown Ontario on December 27, 2023 at the age of 87. She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Ralph, and daughters Nancy Hickey (Paul) and Karen Wanless (Douglas). She will be dearly missed.

#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 8<sup>th</sup> Justin Ralf
- 10<sup>th</sup> Gabrielle Noble
- Melissa Spicer 11
- 11<sup>th</sup> Noreena Satchell (98)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Gracie MacPherson
- 13<sup>th</sup> Briar Ruddock
- 16<sup>th</sup> Amy Dale
- 16<sup>th</sup> Marion Lammiman
- 16<sup>th</sup> Danielle Ralf 17<sup>th</sup> Martin Rust 22<sup>nd</sup> Mary Wilson  $24^{th}$ Andrew Johnson  $27^{th}$ Linda Cummings 29<sup>th</sup> Sherry Graham





At the Ladies Aid pot luck luncheon on Tuesday, December 12 and again at the church service on Sunday morning December 17, cash donations from the Plains family were collected for *Christmas Care*. The end result(s) is that **\$600.00** has been forwarded to the 2023 *Christmas Care* campaign, Serving St. Thomas and Area families since 1980 thanks to the folks at Plains.

#### What is a New Year's resolution?

Something that goes in one year and out the other.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

#### **EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2024**

Jan 07 Sun 10:00 A.M. Sunday Service - Communion Sunday Epiphany Sunday

**Note:** Please submit your 2023 Year End Reports to clerk Mary Crosby <u>spartacrosby@hotmail.com</u> by **Thursday, January 11, 2024** 

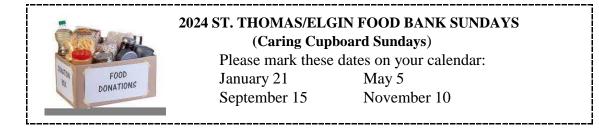
Jan 14 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service
Jan 21 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - St. Thomas/Elgin Food Bank Sunday
Jan 28 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service
3:00 P.m.	Induction Service for Rev. Rob Spicer
Feb 04 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday
Feb 07 Wed 8:30 A.M.	Ladies After 8's Breakfast at Sunset Café. All ladies welcome.
Feb 11 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service -
12:00 noon	Annual Congregational Meeting - Bring a bag lunch

NOTE: There is no Ladies After 8's Breakfast in January

#### **INDUCTION SERVICE**

for Rev. Rob Spicer Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Guest Speaker: Rev. Phil Butler Followed by a meal in Oak Hall





What happened to the man who shoplifted a calendar on new years eve? He got 12 months. On Tuesday, December 12, following an abundant pot luck lunch in Oak Hall, Ladies Aid members, friends, family and guests were treated to an hour of delightful musical entertainment by the "No Worries" Ukelele Band. Following their performance Pat Kennedy, on behalf of the group, was presented with a cheque from the Ladies Aid for \$250.00 to Elgin St. Thomas Community Foundation- Anita May Music & Mental Health Fund. This fund has been set up by the family of Anita May who passed away in September following a difficult struggle with bi-polar. Anita's husband Brian is the instructor of the "No Worries" Band.



Nancy Millman, President of Ladies Aid. Band Members Janet Sale, Pat Kennedy, Madeline Carter. Guests Shane McNulty (Drummer), Julie McNulty Soloist. Band Member Wendy Lesard, pianist/vocal/ukelele.



On Sunday morning December 17, Margie Bell presented appreciation gifts to some of the important people who contribute to our church activities, on behalf of the congregation.

Organist Sherry Graham, Pastor Rob Spicer, Pianist and Choir Director Amy Dale, Treasurer Shirley Dale and presenter Margie Bell.

A very big THANK YOU from all of us!

photo by Betty Rewbotham

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 2023 in pictures.



Heather Limon on the trumpet joined Sherry Graham on the organ and Amy Dale on the piano for the singing of the hymns.

The Advent Candles were lit by John Doner and John Gibbons.



Brenda Silcox, Phyllis Huffman, Melissa Spicer, Margie Bell, Amy Dale singing "O Holy Night" a capella.



The Choir under the direction of Amy Dale





Dan Dale singing, "Let There Be Peace On Earth" accompanied by Amy Dale.



Pastor Rob Spicer

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

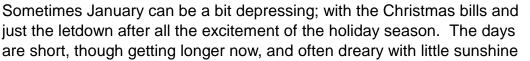
Welcome to 2024, another year has dawned. What does God have in store for us this year I wonder? More challenges and more blessings are my guess.

Every year at this time we often hear of people making "resolutions" to change or improve their lives. Whether it's losing weight, reading more, eating healthier, travelling, people are eager to make changes so that they can feel better or more fulfilled.

I've never really been a "new-years-resolution" guy, maybe I know myself too well so that I know that I wouldn't be able to make it stick. I do believe in making changes to improve myself and my life but I realize that it is going to take more than a simple statement on New Year's Eve to get that done.

I am looking forward to 2024 and the many changes still to come in to mine and my family's lives. I am looking forward to moving (it's going to happen). I am looking forward to starting new ministries at Plains. Mostly, I am looking forward to developing the friendships and relationships with you, my Plains family.

Typically, the New Year in the church begins with Epiphany and Jesus' baptism, revealing through scripture who Jesus is as our prophet, priest, king and messiah. It then moves in to Jesus' call to disciples and his ministry giving us the examples of how we are to follow him and help bring about the Kingdom of God in our midst – in our time.



or warmth. It's easy to understand how our moods might be sort of bleak too. Our challenge our inspiration is to hold on to the light that we celebrated at Christmas. To see the sun behind the clouds. Our calling is to lift each other up and support those who are floundering. Then, when it's our turn, to rely in them to support us.

We truly don't know what God has planned for this year, this week or even tomorrow. But we do know he works in all situations to bring us closer to him. So, with Aaron, I pray these words over you for 2024.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you;

May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

May the Lord look with favor on you and give you peace."

Pastor Rob Spicer

