



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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MARCH 2024





EASTER ACROSTIC

E is for Early when women found the tomb
A is for Alleluias exploding through the gloom
S is for a Saviour who rose up from the dead
T is for the Truth of all He did and said
E is for Eternal, the life that Easter sings
R is for Rejoice! Jesus Christ is King of Kings!

EVENTS FOR MARCH 2024

- Mar 03 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday
Mar 06 Wed 8:30 A.M. **After 8's Ladies Breakfast** - Sunset Café. All ladies welcome.
- Mar 10 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service**
 Daylight Savings begins
- Mar 12 Tues 1:30 P.M.** **Ladies Aid Meeting**- Speaker Jullian Johnston from "Days For Girls", an organization which makes and delivers menstruation kits for girls in poor countries. Guests welcome, including those from surrounding churches. Donations of feminine hygiene products will be collected for the St. Thomas-Elgin Food Bank.
- Mar 17 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - St. Patrick's Day
Mar 19 First Day of Spring
- Mar 24 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service**
Mar 29 Fri 10:00 A.M. **Good Friday Service**
- Mar 31 Sun 7:00 A.M.** **Sunrise Service** followed by breakfast in Oak Hall
10:00 A.M. **Sunday Service**
- April 3 Wed 8:30 A.M.** **Ladies After 8's** at Sunset Café. All Ladies welcome
- April 7 Sun 10:00 A.M.** **Sunday Service** - Communion Sunday
April 10 Tues 1:30 P.M. **Ladies Aid Meeting**

	<p align="center">FAMILY CAMP OUT 2024 at Springwater The dates are June 21, 22, 23, 2024 An increase in fees should be expected</p>	
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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

6 th Shirley Griffin (85)	20 th Janet Gibson
7 th Jenny Lee Grant	21 st Dave Higgs
7 th Hazel Brekelmans	23 rd Pat Walker
8 th Mark Higgs	25 th Jason Carnegie
9 th Alexander Chen Martyn	29 th Jill Coull
10 th Kathy Sawyer	29 th Marilyn Pettit
16 th Spencer Noble	29 th Sharon Wilson
17 th Kaitlyn McCarthy	29 th Leena Sibley
17 th Jo-Anne Pettit	30 th Jonathan Higgs
18 th Jackson Wilcox	30 th RaeLynn Ralf
18 th Edith Norton(89)	31 st Elsie Walker (89)
20 th Gary McLeod	

ANNIVERSARIES

28th Jack & Linda Cummings (65)

IRISH PROVERB: If you buy what you don't need you might have to sell what you do.

On Thursday, February 1 Pastor Rob Spicer sent out the following e-mail to the Plains congregation:

“I regret to inform you all that due to a COVID 19 outbreak within our church family (including Melissa and myself) the deacons and I have decided to cancel worship this week, Feb 4th 2024. I know of at least 19 people from our congregation who have been infected this week and there may be others. We are hopeful that we can be back together on Feb 11th for our worship service and annual meeting. Please pass this message to those without email.”

Sign of the times:



photos by Betty Rewbotham

Following Pastor Rob and the Deacons' decision, the Social Committee made a further cancellation decision.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting of February 11, 2024

Thanks to Mary Crosby, Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Mary Crosby at 12:15 pm.

The Devotional was given by Rev. Spicer reading from Numbers Chapter 6:22 to 27. Followed by prayer.

Pat Kennedy was elected as Chairperson, the agenda was accepted and the minutes of the meeting of October 2023 were approved.

The reports were approved as printed.

Olivia Spicer was added to the Sunday School Leaders.

Stephan Plaunt was removed from the trustees, and Todd Ruddock is replacing Stephan and has committed to 6 years. A new trustee member is Murray Silcox .

BIG THANK YOU to Malcolm Rust for all the years he has done the front cover for the Annual Booklet.

Melissa Spicer has volunteered, with the help of Olivia to take over this position.

It was mentioned that we have not done a photo directory for about 9 years.

Next Meeting Date: April 14th, 2024 at noon.

Reverend Spicer is away from April 22 to May 12th.

IRISH PROVERB: Enough and no waste is as good as a feast.

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 as of 29th of February, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	14,211.11	834.34	648.00	0.00	15,693.45
Expenses	15,675.01	834.34	484.42	0.00	16,993.77
Net Gain(Loss)	(-1,463.90)	0.00	163.58	0.00	(-1,300.32)
Balance end of 2023	82,406.00	0	1,412.33	0.00	83,818.33
Balance as at 2024-29-02	80,942.10	0.00	1,575.91	0.00	82,518.01

1. The General Fund shows a net loss as of the end of February, 2024 of (-\$1,463.90.) The church was closed on Sunday, February 4, 2024 due to illness in the congregation, and could be part of the reason for the net loss.
2. Missions income as at the 29th of February totalled \$834.34. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM. This amount is made up as follows: CBOQ - General Budget - \$150.00; CBOQ Youth - \$400.00; CBM General Budget - \$238.34; and CBM Sharing Way - \$46.00.
3. The Communion fund had a net gain as of 163.58.
There was a balance from previous years of \$1,412.33, giving a total of \$1,575.91 in the Communion Fund.
4. The Special Projects Fund has a balance of \$4,755.50 for future projects.

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

friends



Friendship is a priceless gift
 That cannot be bought or sold,
 But its value is far greater
 Than a mountain of gold.

For gold is cold and lifeless,
 It can neither see or hear.
 In times of trouble
 It is powerless to cheer.

It has no ears to listen,
 No heart to understand.
 It cannot bring you comfort,
 Or reach out a helping hand.

So when you ask God for a gift,
 Be thankful if he sends
 Not diamonds, pearls or riches,
 But the love of a real, true friend.



PASTOR'S PAGE

Lent. St. Patrick's Day. Spring. Easter. Daylight savings time. It's March 2024. A lot is happening this month. What do I choose to write about with all this happening?

Sometimes life is like that, isn't it? It throws all sorts of stuff at us at once. It makes it hard to decide which way to turn, what to do, and how to focus. It's times like these that I think we can take advice from Patrick, Apostle to Ireland. In a song called *The Lorica*, written by Gayle Salmon and sung by Steve Bell we find these words:

I bind unto myself today,
The gift to call on the Trinity.
The saving faith where I can say.
Come three in one, oh one in three.

Be above me, as high as the noon day sun.
Be below me, the rock I set my feet upon.
Be beside me, the wind on my left and right.
Be behind me, oh encircle me with your truth and light.

The words are based on a writing called St. Patrick's Breastplate, attributed to the saint who lived in the 5th century.

Patrick as we now know him was born in Britain the son of a deacon and at age 16 he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland. The Baptist Encyclopedia says,

Patrick was wild and wicked until his sixteenth year, when he remembered the God of his fathers and repented him of his sins, and enlisted in the divine service. There is no ground for doubting but that he preached the gospel of repentance and faith in Ireland, and that his ministrations were attended by overwhelming success. There are accounts extant of a number of his baptisms, but they are all immersions.

It goes on to say, "We have strong reasons for regarding St. Patrick as a Baptist missionary, and beyond contradiction his baptism was immersion." Now, I know that officially Baptist's didn't come about until the reformation hundreds of years later but that is kind of cool.

I can't imagine his life was easy but I think the words of the song above tell us where he got his strength and courage to continue on. With his feet firmly grounded on the rock of salvation he was able to bring the good news to the Celts of Ireland. We often think of the legend of him driving the snakes from the island. I have heard it said that these weren't physical snakes but the pagan druidic priests and practices of his day. It's hard

to sort out the fact and fiction that surrounds Patrick's life, but I believe he was a true warrior for God and that he came to love the people who had snatched him from his homeland and desired that they know the God of hope and life.

I don't think any of us has been snatched and kidnapped from our homes but we sometime face a no less daunting task of living in a world that is frightening and uncertain. We too can bind ourselves to the triune God and he will surround us with all we need to carry out the mission he has set us too. The bridge to the song goes like this:

God's ear to hear me.
God's hand to guide me.
God's might to uphold me.
God's shield to hide me.
Against all powers deceiving.
Against my own unbelieving.
Whether near or far.

During Lent, and as we celebrate Easter may we recognize that God listens, guides, protects and sustains us now and always.

***He gives strength to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
Youths may become faint and weary,
and young men stumble and fall,
but those who trust in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not become weary,
they will walk and not faint.***

Isaiah 40:29-31

Pastor Rob Spicer