



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

6071 Fairview Road, R. R. # 4
St. Thomas ON N5P 3S8

E-mail: plainschurch@rogers.com

Website: www.plainschurch.ca

Phone: 519-633-2883

Newsletter Staff

Distribution: Louise & Michael Sargeant

Editor: Nancy Millman

Web site: Martin Proulx

Contributors: Rev. Rob Spicer

Plains family

Betty Rewbotham



MARCH 2026



Eric Tucker and his Grandfather Bob Limon are welcomed to supper by Michael and Louise Sargeant

The Plains Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, brought the community together for food, fellowship and funds.

Photos by Betty Rewbotham



Above: Melissa, Rob and Olivia Spicer join Rob's brother Brent and friend Trudy.

Left: Sharon Wilson gets serving directions from Rob Spicer



EVENTS FOR MARCH 2026

Mar 01 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday
Mar 04 Wed 8:30 A.M.	After 8's Ladies Breakfast - Sunset Café
Mar 08 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Guest Preacher Rev. Margaret Bell Daylight Saving Time begins
Mar 10 Tues 1:30 P.M.	Ladies Aid Meeting
Mar 15 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service
Mar 22 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service
Mar 28 Sat 7:00 P.M.	Musical Jam Night. Come and entertain, or to be entertained.
Mar 29 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Palm / Passion Sunday
April 01 Wed 8:30 A.M.	After 8's Ladies Breakfast - Sunset Café
April 03 Fri 10:00 A.M.	Good Friday Service
April 05 Sun 7:00 A.M.	Sunrise Service - followed by breakfast in Oak Hall
10:00 A.M.	Easter Sunday - Communion Sunday

Want a visit from Pastor Rob?

Give him a call at the office **519-633-2883**, or on his cell phone **519-873-0972**.

Or if you're passing by the church, stop in for a chat, Monday-Thursday 9a.m. to 4p.m.

**FAMILY CAMP OUT 2026**

at Springwater
The dates are
June 19, 20, 21, 2026

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

6 th Shirley Griffin (87)	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	28 th Gabrielle Charlong(91)
10 th Kathy Sawyer	29 th Jill Coull
16 th Spencer Noble	29 th Marilyn Pettit
17 th Kaitlyn McCarthy	29 th Sharon Wilson
17 th Jo-Anne Pettit (80)	29 th Leena Sibley
18 th Jackson Wilcox	30 th Jonathan Higgs
18 th Edith Norton(91)	30 th RaeLynn Ralf
20 th Gary McLeod	31 st Elsie Walker (91)

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

28th Jack & Linda Cummings (67)



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Mary Crosby, Clerk

Mary thanked Melissa Spicer for her illustration on the cover of the Report Book, which Melissa explained, represented the cross at the front of the Sanctuary, with acorns collecting at the base.

Rev. Rob Spicer opened the meeting with a scripture reading and prayer.

Dan Dale was nominated Chairperson for the meeting.

The agenda was approved as printed, with 3 additions under New Business.

The minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2025 were approved as printed.

The reports were approved as printed, with minor corrections:

1. Clerk Report - The omission of the 3 baptisms on Easter Sunday of Abe Kroecker, Alyssa Willand and Levi Patrick, and their subsequent church memberships.
2. Deacons Report - The date of the pastoral review questionnaire was distributed in October, not November.
3. The Nominating Committee Report was amended to show the appointment of Abe Kroecker to the Trustees, instead of Dan Dale.

The Operating Budget and Capital costs budgets were approved, including a salary increase of 3% for Rev. Spicer.

Other Business:

1. The retirement of John Doner following his required term of service, was approved.
2. The Web Page report suggested that up-grades are required for the web site. This was discussed, and ideas were put forth. The web master Martin Proulx will be consulted, and outside advise will be sought. This will fall under the jurisdiction of the Trustees, and it was noted that \$1,834 is available for future projects.
3. The Deacons will review the Church policies, with the purpose of up-dating the constitution, etc. They will seek out a volunteer from the congregation to assist with this project.
Copies of these documents will be made available upon request.

The date of the Spring meeting was set for May 24, 2026 at 12:00 noon.

Rev. Spicer closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting Adjourned

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 Plains Church held a Pancake Supper for the Community in recognition of Shrove Tuesday. **Thank you** to the congregation for your donations to the costs. **Thank you** to the Community who supported us by attending.

A very big **Thank You** to everyone who helped with the planning, shopping, donating, setting up, cooking sausages, mixing, flipping pancakes, serving, pouring, clearing, washing, scrubbing, cleaning up and putting away afterward and all of the many little jobs in between which got done with quiet efficiency, while also having fun.

We had \$195.00 in donations and \$125.00 from the sale of surplus sausage. After all the bills were paid, the total deposit was \$1,583.00. Cheques for \$500.00 each were given to Inn Out Of The Cold and to the St. Thomas/Elgin Food Bank. The Food Bank also received the \$131.45 which was donated at the door. In addition to these monetary donations, the surplus sausages were donated to Inn Out Of The Cold, and the surplus boxes of pancake mix and unused syrup were donated to the Food Bank.

PANCAKE SUPPER, continued



We can thank Marion Lammiman and Donna Limon for making sure that the sausages were cooked to perfection!



Sherry Graham mixed up the pancake mix, keeping it light and fluffy!



Some of the kitchen staff included Steve Gibson and Charlie Rewbotham cooking pancakes, Sherry Graham mixing batter, and Emma Wilcox and Dan Dale washing dishes.



Serving on the buffet table were Olivia Spicer dishing up fruit salad, Melissa Spicer serving pancakes to Malcolm Rust, and Rob Spicer serving sausages.



Dinner plates to the ready are Abe Kroecker, Oaklynn, Alyssa and Noah-James.

Financial Statement
First Yarmouth Baptist Church
February 28, 2026

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	17,237.66	339.34	877.35	70.00	18,524.35
Expenses	<u>16,908.49</u>	<u>339.34</u>	<u>484.78</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>17,732.61</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	329.17	0.00	392.57	70.00	791.74
From Previous Years	<u>88,217.80</u>		<u>3419.56</u>		<u>91,637.36</u>
Totals	<u>88,546.97</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3812.13</u>	<u>70.00</u>	<u>92,429.10</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net gain of \$329.17 as of the 28th of February, 2026.
2. Missions income to the 28th of February, 2026 totaled \$339.34. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM.
 Missions amount is made up as follows: CBOQ General Budget \$140.00; CBM \$163.34; and Sharing Way - \$36.00.
3. The Communion fund had a gain of \$392.57 at the end of February, 2026. There are Communion funds left over from 2025 and previous years totalling \$3,419.56, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$3,812.13.
4. The Sunday school received donations of \$70.00 to date. That amount will be paid to the Treasurer of the Sunday School at the end of the first quarter.
5. A balance of \$1,834.00 remains in the Special Projects Fund from previous years. Donations in Memory of Noreena Satchell total \$141.25 and in Memory of Toots Gillard \$45.00.
 That leaves a balance in the Special Projects Fund of \$2,020.25.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer



Relationships-- of all kinds-- are like sand held in your hand. Held loosely, with an open hand, the sand remains where it is. The minute you close your hand and squeeze tightly to hold on, the sand trickles through your fingers. You may hold onto some of it, but most will be spilled. A relationship is like that. Held loosely, with respect and freedom for the other person, it is likely to remain intact. But hold too tightly, too possessively, and the relationship slips away and is lost.



From Lucky Charms to Lenten Ways

March carries us fully into the season of Lent. The days stretch a little longer, hints of spring begin to appear, and yet we are still walking the reflective road toward the cross. It is a month that holds both celebration and contemplation—green decorations and solemn prayers, festive gatherings and quiet repentance.

Midway through the month comes St. Patrick's Day, a day that in our culture often leans toward parades, shamrocks, and perhaps even a bowl of Lucky Charms. There is nothing wrong with a bit of fun or festivity. But beneath the bright green lies the story of a deeply faithful follower of Christ.

St. Patrick was not Irish by birth. As a teenager, he was kidnapped from Britain and taken to Ireland as a slave. During those lonely years tending sheep, his faith deepened. After escaping and eventually becoming a priest, he chose to return to Ireland—not for revenge, but for mission. His life was marked not by luck, but by courage, forgiveness, and steadfast devotion.

And perhaps that is where St. Patrick's Day intersects beautifully with Lent.

Lent invites us to move from superstition to substance, from surface celebration to spiritual depth. It calls us beyond the idea of "luck" and into the practice of trust. We are reminded that our lives are not shaped by charms or chance, but by grace. The same God who sustained Patrick in exile sustains us in our wilderness seasons.

This month, as shamrocks appear in store windows and children delight in green treats, perhaps we might gently ask ourselves: What are the "lucky charms" we rely on? What quick comforts or easy assurances distract us from the deeper work of faith? Lent does not scold us for these things—but it does invite us to something richer.

It invites us to prayer that roots us.

It invites us to generosity that stretches us.

It invites us to reconciliation that heals us.

As a congregation, we continue walking this Lenten path together—supporting one another in quiet acts of faithfulness. Some days will feel reflective and meaningful; others may feel ordinary or even heavy. Yet in all of it, God is present. Transformation rarely arrives in fireworks; it grows slowly, like spring beneath the soil.

Soon we will approach Holy Week, the heart of our story. But for now, March gives us space to practice steady discipleship—to move, as it were, from lucky charms to Lenten ways.

May this month bring both joy and depth. May we celebrate with gratitude, reflect with honesty, and trust that the Spirit is shaping us into a people of courage and compassion.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rob

