



THE PLAIN FACTS
a monthly newsletter of

**FIRST YARMOUTH
PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH**

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APRIL 2026

HOLY WEEK AT PLAINS

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 10:00 A.M.

Sunday School participating with palm parade

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

FRIDAY, APRIL 03 AT 10:00 A.M.

A half hour Service of readings and prayer

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 05 AT 7:00 A.M.

SUNRISE SERVICE

at Dayna's Oak Tree

Followed by a light breakfast

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

Special music by the Plains Choir

The Special Easter Offering will be divided evenly between the General Fund and CBOQ Missions. Special Easter Envelopes are in the church pews or you can include your EASTER OFFERING on the "other" line of your regular giving envelope or include in PAR.

NOTE: It stands open until the Spring Business Meeting, May 24.

EVENTS FOR APRIL 2026

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. 10:00 A.M.	Sunrise Service - followed by breakfast in Oak Hall Easter Sunday - Communion Sunday
April 12 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service
April 19 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Guest Preacher Rev. Stephen Jones
April 26 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Guest Preacher Rev. Stephen Jones
May 03 Sun 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Service - Communion Sunday
May 06 Wed 8:30 A.M.	Ladies After 8's Breakfast - Sunset Café

NOTE: PLAINS CHURCH SPRING BAZAAR AND OUTDOOR PLANT SALE
Saturday, May 23, 2026 9:30 - 11:30 A.M. Details to follow

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

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

7 th Ryan Ruddock	18 th Diane O'Brien
8 th Brian Plaunt	19 th Lillian Hartford
9 th Tiffany Graham	20 th Donna Limon
11 th Jean Palmer (96)	26 th Hunter Cosentino
11 th Larry Seabrook	26 th Evan Jackson
13 th Madge Barrett	26 th Troy Dale
13 th Malcolm Rust	30 th Michael Johnson
18 th Jack Cummings	

ANNIVERSARIES

23rd Malcolm & Donna Rust (44)



Ladies Aid Meeting, March 10, 2026

CELEBRATING 96 YEARS OF SERVICE



THE LADIES' AID 1982

Left to right (sitting) Jean Axford, (*Madge Barrett's mother*) Clara Field, Vera Goodwin, Doris Carter (*Marjorie Higgs' mother*)

Left to right (standing) Madge Barrett, Margaret Rice, Ruth Higgs, Sharon Axford, Isabel Gillard, (*Patricia Martyn's mother*), Madeline Griffin, Doris Van Velzer.

On Tuesday, March 10, 2026 Plains Ladies Aid members, with members of the Social Committee and Pastor Rob Spicer present, officially ended 96 years of Christian ministry under the umbrella of the Plains Ladies Aid.

In an article about the Ladies Aid, written by former President Sharon Axford, and published in the Plains Baptist Church History Book (J. Griffin, editor), a Baptist Women's Missionary Society was formed in May 1930, with the Pastors' wife, Mrs. Waddell acting as the President. That first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Harold Parker. In those early years, monies raised went directly to Baptist Missions. A few years later the group reorganized as a Ladies Aid. While still mission-minded, the group also aided in "helping out the church." Membership lists from 1941-45 listed 35 names.

Madge Barrett's mother, Jean Axford and her aunt Madeline Griffin were members of the Ladies Aid in the 1940's and they remembered putting on chicken suppers which were well attended. Food that was left over was donated to the local school for the children to enjoy. During the 1940's the Ladies Aid donated to the Red Cross to support the War effort. In 1941 the Ladies Aid helped with a Red Cross Carnival at Union. The first Fall bazaar put on by the

Ladies Aid was in October of 1941. The first Spring Bazaar to which the community was invited was held in May of 1970. In the mid-1960's Ladies Aid meetings were held in members homes, but in the 1970's the group resumed meeting at the church. A list of Past presidents includes Sharon Axford, Jean Griffin, Betty Rewbotham, Carolyn Plaunt, and Mary Lou Greenslade. Jean Axford was treasurer for many years, followed by Edith Norton and Louise Sargeant.

Over the years, the Ladies Aid have made donations to assist the church with large and small expenditures, such as kitchen appliances, kitchen supplies, new cupboards, Camping at Springwater, and renovation projects. Funeral luncheons have been served as a way of offering comfort and support to grieving church families and community friends.

In recent years, monthly meetings have welcomed community leaders as guest speakers who have shared news of their projects with us. Each special speaker received a monetary donation from the Ladies Aid to support their work. A fraction of the community partners that our group has financially supported includes Grace Café, Hospice Elgin, St Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation, Union Community Centre/Sports Club, Operation Smile, Fresh Start and Effect Hope. Faithful to its foundational roots as a Women's Missionary Circle, every year the Ladies Aid sends a mission "allotment" to support the Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec. For many years the Ladies Aid played a huge role in keeping the church's finances "in the black"!

Sadly, in recent years, attendance at monthly meetings has declined and members able to take leadership roles have declined too. Because of inclement weather in Januarys and Februarys, no meetings have been scheduled for those months, reducing the monthly meetings to 4 per year. The Knotty Quilters no longer convene to quilt in Oak Hall. For these and other reasons, it seemed practical, though also poignantly painful, to disband the Ladies Aid and put more support behind the Plains Social Committee. Some members of the Ladies Aid are already Social Committee members so the number of meetings for them will be halved. Bazaars and funeral lunches for which the Ladies Aid have been responsible for organizing will continue to be organized under the auspices of the Plains Social Committee. At our last meeting, the Ladies Aid's Treasurer, Carolyn Plaunt, reminded the group of our historic beginnings. And then after discussion led by President Nancy Millman, a vote was taken. The decision to disband was unanimous. After the vote, members and friends formed a circle, held hands and paused to remember and celebrate the women upon whose shoulders we stand. After naming some of these women, including past members Madeline Griffin, Jean Axford, Anna Lang, Sally Paul, Edith Norton, Elsie Walker, Mary Lou Greenslade, Doris Carter and others, the Rev. Margie Bell, our Ladies Aid Secretary, offered a prayer, thanking God for the dedicated and fruitful ministry of the Plains Ladies Aid.

A "Grand Finale" luncheon will be held this coming June. Well done, good and faithful servants! Together let us move forward and continue the ministry of care and outreach given to us by our Lord Jesus to both embody and do, to the glory and praise of God!

-submitted by Rev. Margie Bell and Madge Barrett (past Ladies Aid secretary)



Front row: Marion Maynard, Louise Sargeant, Madge Barrett, Judy Jacklin, Marjorie Higgs
 Second row: Donna Limon, Barb Axford, Margie Bell, Betty Rewbotham, Diane O'Brien, Mary Sawyer
 Back row: Donna Crocker, Carolyn Plaunt, Marion Lammiman, Nancy Millman, Jo-Anne Pettit
March 10, 2026 Photo by Rob Spicer
 Guests were Diane O'Brien, Marion Lammiman and Jo-Anne Pettit, from the Social Committee.



Malcolm Rust, Sherry Graham and Betty Rewbotham who presented the flowers.

On Sunday 29 March Sherry Graham was honoured with flowers in recognition of her role as Chair of the 2026 St Thomas Rotary Music Festival which concluded with the Keynotes Concert this past week.
 Well done, Sherry!

Submitted by Malcolm Rust



Layla took part in the Palm Sunday branch waving parade, assisted by Stephen Plaunt.

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
as at 31ST OF MARCH, 2026

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Communion Fund</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Income	26,837.59	538.01	1,218.90	70.00	28,664.50
Expenses	<u>28,802.49</u>	<u>538.01</u>	<u>866.15</u>	<u>70.00</u>	<u>30,276.65</u>
Net Gain(Loss)	(-1,964.90)	0.00	352.75	0.00	-1,612.15
From Previous Years	<u>88,217.80</u>		<u>3419.56</u>		<u>91,637.36</u>
Totals	<u>86,252.90</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3772.31</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>90,025.21</u>

1. The General Fund shows a net loss at the end of the first quarter of (-\$1,964.90.)
2. Missions income to the 31st of March, 2026 totaled \$538.01. That amount has been forwarded to CBOQ and CBM.
Missions amount is made up as follows: CBOQ General Budget \$205.00; CBM \$277.01; and Sharing Way - \$56.00..
3. The Communion fund had a gain of \$352.75 at the end of March 2026. There are Communion funds left over from 2025 and previous years totalling \$3,419.56, leaving a balance in the Communion Fund of \$3,772.31.
4. The Sunday school received donations of \$70.00 to date. That amount has been paid to the Treasurer of the Sunday School Treasurer, Sherry Graham.
5. A balance of \$1,834.00 remains in the Special Projects Fund from previous years. Donations in Memory of Noreena Satchell total \$216.25 and in Memory of Toots Gillard \$45.00.
That leaves a balance in the Special Projects Fund of \$2,095.25.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirley E. Dale, Treasurer



There are seasons in the life of the Church when we are invited to pause and pay closer attention to the ways God is already at work among us. In this month’s stories, we see how churches used CBOQ grants to create opportunities for children and youth to encounter community, leadership, and the message of the gospel.

As we continue preparing our hearts for Easter, we have

also made a number of Easter resources available to support churches in worship, reflection, and discipleship during this season. Whether used in services, small groups, or personal devotion, these resources are designed to help congregations slow down, reflect on Christ’s journey to the cross, and prepare to celebrate the hope of the resurrection.

And as we look ahead, our wider CBOQ family will soon have an opportunity to gather together. CBOQ Assembly registration is now open, and we hope many of you will plan to join us as we worship, pray, and discern together under this year’s theme, *And Then They Prayed*. Early bird registration closes April 17. As we continue through this season, may we remain attentive to the quiet ways God is at work — in our churches, in our communities, and in our own hearts.

May we be people who notice, nurture, and join in the new things God is bringing to life among us.

Cathy Millar | Associate Director of Communications, Mississauga City Baptist Church.

Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec <communications@baptist.ca>

Submitted by Malcolm Rust

Everyday Easter Living!



April arrives with a sense of movement. The snow finally loosens its grip, the days grow brighter, and signs of new life begin to appear around us. After the long journey of Lent, April carries us into the heart of the Christian story: Easter and the promise of resurrection.

Easter is more than a single joyful Sunday—though it certainly is that. It is the beginning of a season that reminds us again and again that death and despair never have the final word. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. And the disciples discover, slowly and sometimes hesitantly, that Christ is alive among them.

What strikes me about the resurrection stories in the Gospels is how ordinary they feel. Mary mistakes Jesus for the gardener. Two disciples walk with him for miles before realizing who he is. The risen Christ shows up in locked rooms, around breakfast fires, and along dusty roads. Resurrection, it seems, often appears quietly in the midst of everyday life.

Perhaps that is where the message of Easter meets us most clearly today.

We often look for dramatic signs of hope, yet the life of God is constantly unfolding in small and faithful ways. It appears in acts of kindness that go unnoticed. It grows in moments of forgiveness when relationships begin again. It rises whenever compassion overcomes fear, and whenever love proves stronger than despair.

As a congregation, April invites us not only to celebrate resurrection but to live it. Easter faith is not simply believing that something happened long ago—it is trusting that God is still bringing new life out of places that seem barren or broken. The resurrection calls us to be people of hope in a world that often feels weary (especially these days).

Spring itself becomes a gentle teacher of this truth. Seeds buried in cold soil begin to awaken. Trees that seemed lifeless begin to bud. Creation quietly proclaims what Easter boldly declares: life is always pushing its way forward.

In the weeks after Easter, we will continue exploring what it means to live as a resurrection people. How do we practice hope? How do we embody grace? How do we become witnesses to the renewing work of God in our community?

Thank you for the many ways you already do this. Your prayers, your generosity, your compassion, and your presence in one another's lives are signs of resurrection among us.

May April bring you moments of surprise and renewal. And may the risen Christ meet you, as he did the first disciples, in the ordinary places of your life—reminding you that new life is always possible.

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Rob