

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1947

**Minister**—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.,

The Manse, Newton Mearns.

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**Session-Clerk**—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A.,

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## Church Services

FORENOON—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

A Class for Beginners and for children living at a distance from the Church is held during the Forenoon Service.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

The beginning of a New Year is not strictly speaking in any sense part of the Christian Year. The latter extends from the season of Advent, through Christmas, Epiphany, Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Whitsunday to All Saints' Day at the end of November. If, therefore, the Christian Church were observing its own Calendrical Year it would not pause to mark the dawn of a New Year on January first.

The passing of time is not a theme on which one likes to meditate. It may be beneficial in some cases. Paul speaks of "redeeming the time because the days are evil." Yet it is very doubtful if such a theme inspires so much as it depresses. "The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, moves on; nor all thy Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it."

There are two things in this respect that one would say, (1) that if the passage of Time is not going to help us to face life with more courage, then we would be better to forget about it. Certainly there are great passages in the Bible on the subject. For example the 103rd Psalm. "As for man his days are as grass. As the flower of the field so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it and it is gone and the place thereof shall know it no more." Yet the greatness of the thought of the Psalmist is in the contrast that follows. "But the Mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Time is obliterated in the light of Eternity. It is not the flight of Time that makes that passage in the 103rd Psalm inspiring but the background of the everlasting Mercy of God against which it is set.

That leads me to the second reflection, whether the passing of Time is a Christian thought at all. To dwell upon it is to be conscious of one's advancing years and lose the spirit of the child. You cannot meditate on the passing of time and keep the childlike heart. Either then, we must give up one or the other, and we prefer the attitude of the children being tucked up in bed "Good-night, Mummy, fun to-morrow" the child looks forward. The old man looks back. The Christian man is like the child. He looks ahead, "Forgetting the things that are behind and looking forward to that which is before, I press on toward the mark."

It would be true, indeed, to say that the Christian Gospel eradicates the thought of time altogether. We are creatures of time and it is difficult, if not impossible, to conceive how life can be lived without or outside of time. That is our human finite mind. We are endeavouring to think of Eternity with a mind created in the main to deal with things of the earth. Yet, when we come to listen to Paul as he speaks of the Love of God in Christ, it is quite obvious that time is now obliterated from his thoughts. "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate me from the Love of God." . . . It is endless. It is timeless.

Once again, then, the thought of time is outwith the Christian Philosophy of life.

"Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be;  
The last of life for which the first was made."

Yours very sincerely,

W. MURRAY MACKAY.

## RETIRAL OF MR. D. W. JOHNSTON from the office of Registrar of the congregation.

It was with very great regret that the Minister read to the Meeting of the Congregational Board in November a letter intimating the above. Since the inception of the Systematic Giving Scheme Mr. Johnston has held this responsible post. In order to maintain secrecy in an individual's giving both a Systematic Treasurer and a Registrar are employed. The former deals with numbers, the latter with names. In all the years in which Mr. Johnston was connected with the Scheme, I cannot remember a single instance of a mistake having been made by him. In addition to the accuracy demanded there is the labour of sending out by post quarterly, half-yearly as the case may be, the receipts for the previous period, as well as the envelopes for the ensuing one.

It will be evident that a great amount of work requires to be done by the Registrar (we hope Mr. Keir will not read this) and yet it would not be right to say that for with Mr. Johnston it has been a labour of love. It is only the fear that he might make a mistake that urges him to relinquish. When Mr. Johnston remarked this, an Elder commented that he hoped that at Mr. Johnston's age his mind would be as sharp as Mr. Johnston's is.

We would like to include in our thanks the name of Mrs. Johnston, who must often have helped her husband. Like her husband she is of a retiring disposition, and yet no couple in the Church are more universally loved by all who know them.

## THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR NEW ORGANIST.

We were sorry to part with Mr. Lindsay for he was not only a good musician but also had built up the Choir from small beginnings. We wish him well in his new appointment.

To Mr. G. Howard Paterson, however, we extend a very warm welcome. He has already demonstrated to us his abilities as a musician, and has a gracious personality that we feel will commend him to all. We are fortunate, indeed, as a Congregation to have secured his services.

The Junior Choir performed most creditably on Christmas Sunday and the Anthems were a delight to listen to. Their rendering of everything was very tasteful, and even the "Amens" were sung in most accomplished style. We feel happy that through this Choir young people will be introduced to sacred song. The Choir meets on Thursdays from 7 to 7.30 p.m.

## REGISTER.

### Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Morag Katherine, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Reid, Eddington Drive.

Gavin Wellwood, son of Mr. & Mrs. Roser, Eaglesham Rd.

Eileen Ann, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Stuart, Newtonlea Ave.

Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Stewart, Ashview Terrace.

Sandra Monteith, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Watson, Glamis Avenue.



**Marriages.**

*"Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."*

George Alexander Bell and Marion Taylor Geddes.  
Robert Wylie Close and Margaret McConnel Ross.

**Deaths.**

*"Christ, the first fruits of them that are asleep."*

Mrs. Hutchison, Larchfield Avenue.

J. A. Taylor, Morar, Beech Avenue.

**NEW MEMBERS.****By Profession of Faith.**

- Miss Muriel Allan, Woodneuk, Firwood Road.
- Mrs. John Craig, 5 Manse Lane.
- Miss Fiona Kerr, Kereston, Kilmarnock Road.
- Mrs. Mackay, 75 Main Street.
- Mr. Alexander Miller, C/o Crookfur.
- Mrs. Robert McCallum, North Lodge, Hazeldean.
- Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Reid, 14 Eddington Drive.
- Mr. Gordon S. Robertson, Liberton, Kilmarnock Road.

**By Certificate from other Congregations.**

- Mr. & Mrs. James H. Asher, Elmara, Kilmarnock Road.
- Mr. & Mrs. W. Beattie Hutchison, 30 Larchfield Avenue.
- Miss Sheila Hutchison, 30 Larchfield Avenue.
- Mr. & Mrs. J. P. S. Lillie, 12 May Terrace, Giffnock.
- Mrs. Patterson, Water Lynne, Rysland Avenue.
- Miss Robina G. Wilkie, Craigiehill, Gilmourton Crescent.

**FINANCE.****Income for the months of October, November and December, 1946.**

Systematic Giving	...	...	...	£367	18	0
Church Door Plate	...	...	...	66	13	8
Donations—National Church Extension	...	...	...	35	3	11
Seat Rents	...	...	...	5	10	0
Income Tax Rebate	...	...	...	4	5	6
Sundry Receipts	...	...	...	2	0	6
Maintenance of Ministry—Envelopes	...	...	...	2	6	6
Retiring Collections—						
Earl Haig Fund	...	...	...	14	4	0
Hospitals	...	...	...	10	16	3
Service Parcels	...	...	...	8	18	0
National Church Extension	...	...	...	13	5	7
do do Special Appeal				12	17	0
				£543	18	11

It will be observed from the above figures that Donations for the National Church Extension Fund amount to £35 3s. 11d.

On 12th November last a mock "Trial by Jury" was staged by the members of the Social and Badminton Club as a result of which the Fund benefited to the extent of £10 10s.

The Clyde Valley Male Voice Choir gave a Concert in the Church Hall on the 19th December. This was the Choir's first post war appearance and the Concert they gave was of a very high standard—something for all seems to be their motto. The audience appreciated their efforts very highly and the Choir promised to re-visit us at some future date. The net proceeds of the Concert amounted to £25 3s. 11d. The Finance Committee would like to thank the Congregation for the support given them in their efforts to raise money for the National Church Extension Fund.

**NEW PROMISE CARDS.**

It has been reported that some members of the Systematic Giving Scheme are having difficulty in completing the Promise Cards which have recently been issued.

In order to assist members to decide on the amount to promise, it should be noted from the Budget Letter that the requirements of this Congregation for "Ourselves and Others" has increased since 1940 by £1,000, whereas the ordinary Income for 1946 has increased by £274 as compared with 1940.

It is admitted that it is not an easy matter to decide what increase should be made in the individual contribution. If the Church were a Club the matter would be very simple—it would mean that the sum required divided by the number of members would equal the contribution of each and they would pay accordingly.

The Church does not, however, come under this category and it is hoped that the following table may be of some service to members.

The suggested amount of increase is shown in the first column and is multiplied by 840, the approximate number on the Roll of the Congregation.

Increase		by 840	Total
per week		members	per annum.
1d.	...	£3 10 0	... £182
2d.	...	7 0 0	... 364
3d.	...	10 10 0	... 546
4d.	...	14 0 0	... 728
5d.	...	17 10 0	... 910
6d.	...	21 0 0	... 1092
9d.	...	31 10 0	... 1638
1/-	...	42 0 0	... 2184

It is agreed of course that every member cannot afford an additional 6d. or 1/- per week, but 3d. per week is 13/- per annum and when multiplied by 840 the total is £546.

**THE WOMAN'S GUILD.**

During the first half of the session the meetings have been fairly well attended and the speakers have been attractive.

Outstanding among them was Dr. James Kelly whose unique knowledge of international affairs was shown in his account of visits paid to the liberated countries of Europe, particularly Norway, Czecho-Slovakia and Holland. The Society of World Churches and the World's Sunday School Association in connection with which these visits were made deal with the spiritual side of the people as UNNRA deals with their material welfare. Churches and Theological Colleges are re-established and supplied with books. Dr. Kelly spoke of the wonderful courage displayed by the Church Pastors and members in face of great suffering. One thing he told us, which is not generally known here, was that the Resistance Movement was more than half religious.

We were privileged to have at one meeting the Rev. Elizabeth Barr, B.D., who is minister of a church in Clydebank. Her address was very helpful and was much appreciated.

With regard to the more specific work of the Woman's Guild, the Home Mission side was represented by Miss Rhind, a Church Sister, and the Jewish Mission by Miss Dougall from Tiberias Hospital. At the Mother's Night Miss McQuaker described her work as a social Psychiatrist in a Clinic in Edinburgh.

We were very much indebted to Mr. Graham Lindsay and the members of the Choir for a very enjoyable Musical Evening and to the Social Committee of the Guild for a very pleasant Social Evening.

The meetings will be resumed on 13th January when we hope to have with us Miss Ramsay from the Women's Foreign Mission Committee. Miss Ramsay spent some years in India and is an excellent speaker. We extend a cordial invitation to all, to this and all the other meetings of the session. The speakers at the latter include Dr. Margaret Scott, Mrs. Leiper Fraser, President of the Women's Temperance Association, Mr. John Nimmo and the Rev. Duncan Macpherson, with whose Song Recital on 24th February the session closes.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

In common with Christian Congregations all over the land our Church has never been behind in recognising the significance of Christmas in the lives of the young. Accordingly, on Saturday, 21st December, two "parties," to



include all the children of our Sunday Schools, were held in the hall which had been gaily decorated for the occasion. The Beginners and Primary pupils met in the afternoon, while the "party" for the Seniors was held in the evening. All the traditional Christmas games were engaged in, and, to add variety to the programme, a delightful display of films was given. In spite of feeding restrictions imposed by bread rationing, the catering was on quite a liberal scale, and for this Mr. Nimmo and the teachers wish to thank all those kind friends who helped with gifts of provisions. Both "parties" were thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present.

On Sunday, 22nd the forenoon service in the Church was a Special Christmas one in which the children took a prominent part. The front pews were reserved for the pupils of the Sunday Schools and each scholar brought a gift for the young inmates of Stobhill Hospital. The singing of the Christmas hymns was led by a junior choir composed of past and present pupils of the Sunday School. Two Anthems were very tastefully rendered, the solo parts being taken by Olivia Mackay and Sheena Niven. (Much credit is due to Mr. Paterson for what was accomplished in such a short time). An appropriate address from Mr. Mackay held the interest of young and old and all who were present felt rewarded for having "braved the elements."

#### THE SOCIAL AND BADMINTON CLUB.

The Social and Badminton Club has completed the first half of their syllabus and is beginning the second half with a Games Night on the 7th January.

Badminton has come into its own again and is a very popular part of the Club's activities. Two American Tournaments have been held and two matches played, one of which was lost and the other won. A knock-out Tournament for ladies is now under way and the second round should be completed by the end of January. A match has also been arranged with the Mearns Parish Church Club and we are looking forward to this very much.

The Social activities of the Club have also been very successful. A mock Trial by Jury was produced by the members in November. This was written and acted by Club members who enjoyed it almost as much as the audience. A Beetle Drive followed by a Go-as-you-please Concert was also a very popular feature, though by the appearance of some of the Beetles on the completed cards, we do not seem to have many artists among the members. On Christmas Eve, a Fancy Dress Party was held, and the colours and varieties of the costumes made the hall look very bright and Christmassy. Everyone brought a gift, value not more than one shilling, all of which were put into a large box, and after tea each person picked one out. Luckily no one got the same gift as they had brought. A Fancy Dress Parade was held, the winners of which were Mr. Andrew Russell with the most representative costume and Mr. James Hamilton with the most original costume. After tea Carols were sung and the Party closed with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

May we take this opportunity of inviting any member or adherents of the Church, young or old, to come along and join us in the second half of our session.

#### THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

A very successful Social Evening held in the hall on the last Friday of the year brought to a close another successful half session. All the usual week night activities of the Company have been carried on successfully, and in addition a Barbell Squad has been introduced. Boxing is another new feature and this has been taken up enthusiastically under the instruction of Mr. Adamson. Owing to illness the services of Mr. McDougall were lost to the Company and the progress of the pipers temporarily arrested but it is pleasing to report that Pipe Major Taylor has taken

over the instruction of the boys and successful results are anticipated. Arrangements are already on hand for a Display at the end of the session and also another Camp at Barrhill in the summer. A letter has been received from the schoolmaster expressing the hope of a return visit and it is pleasing to note that such a good impression was created by the boys.

#### THE LIFE BOYS.

As usual keenness and happiness are the key notes of the Life Boy activities and all the boys spend a most enjoyable evening in the hall each Friday. Handicrafts have formed an important part of the session's work and some of the results are most creditable. Santa Claus paid a visit to the Team just before Xmas and all the boys got a gift from the tree which was gaily decorated. During the absence of Mrs. Robertson through illness the staff have carried on most efficiently and great credit is due to all. Thanks are also due to Mr. McClure for assistance so willingly given.

#### THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The G. A. meets every Monday at 7.30 p.m. Most of our nights now are spent rehearsing for our concert under the guidance of Mr. McLaren and Mr. Stewart. This year it will be held on the 12th, 13th and 14th of February.

We had a visit last month from the soldier the G. A. adopted. He is now demobbed and out of hospital and is very grateful for everything the branch did for him.

Our meetings have been remarkably well attended and have been enjoyed by all.

We are always pleased to see new members and any girl wishing to join the G.A. can be assured of a welcome into our fellowship.

#### CHOIR NOTES.

The Organist and Choir are desirous of producing the Sacred Cantata, "Olivet to Calvary," in April, 1947.

More members are required for all sections of the Choir, even those who are not members of the Church but would like to give a helping hand are requested to meet Mr. Paterson on the 9th January, at 8 o'clock prompt in the Upper Hall.

The Junior Choir meets on the same evening at 6.45 p.m.

#### Christmas Gift to men and women on Service.

The Parcels' Committee (Convener, Mr. Nimmo) has sent to each man and woman on Service a copy of the New Testament, a Postal Order for £1 and a letter from the Kirk Session.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Any members changing their addresses are earnestly requested to notify the Session Clerk so that their names may be given to the Elder of the District to which they have gone, thus preventing disappointment at not receiving Communion Cards.

#### SEAT LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews or any others requiring Sittings might please see Mr. Meiklejohn or any member of the Seat Letting Committee at the close of any Morning Service.



## RECORD ATTENDANCE AT COMMUNION.

At the Communion on the first Sunday in November the attendance was 465. This is the largest number present at any Communion in the history of the Congregation.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

The Kirk Session has decided to inaugurate Discussion Groups to be held in the Church on Sunday mornings at 10.15 a.m. It is proposed that there should be four Groups in all, two for young people between the ages of 12 and 16, and two for those of ages 16 to 18. It is hoped to have the first meeting on Sunday, 12th January.

It has also been decided by the Kirk Session that the Band of Hope should be resuscitated. A meeting of all members of the Congregation interested in Temperance work among the young is to be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday, 22nd January, at 7.30 p.m.

During the years prior to the War there was in existence a very successful Young People's Union which met on Sunday evenings. The absence of the young men and women on War Service caused this organisation to lapse. A desire has been expressed that this meeting should be revived and arrangements have been made to have a first meeting on Sunday, 12th January, at 7.45 p.m. in the Upper Hall. Young people of 18 years of age and over are cordially invited.

## VARIA.

Mr. John Keir, Yesnaby, Arthurlie Drive, has kindly accepted the position of Registrar of the Congregation, and we extend to him our grateful thanks.

The Rev. Professor J. G. Riddell, Trinity College, will assist the Minister at the Communion Services on the first Sunday in February.

On Sunday, 26th January, the South West Area is to be visited by a band of Missionaries. Mr. Mackay asked that one be sent to us, and this was the reply, "The Rev. William Stewart, B.D. of Nagpur will be at your disposal for Sunday 26th January. He is one of our best younger missionaries and you can safely recommend him. He is also very good with younger folks if you have any Youth Group, Bible Class or Fellowship."

"Now, the New Year reviving old Desires,  
The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires,  
Where the White Hand of Moses on the Bough,  
Puts out, and Jesus from the Ground suspires."

—Omar Khayyam.

## SUPPLEMENT.

Contributions to the next issue of the *Supplement* which will appear in March, should be in the hands of the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, not later than Sunday, 23rd February, 1947.

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