

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

FEBRUARY, 1949

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Church Services.

MORNING—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUPS—10.30 a.m.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION—7.45 p.m.

A Class for Beginners and for children living at a distance from the Church is held in the Upper Hall during the Morning Service.

REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Sheila Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Humbie.
Juliet Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morton, 83 Beech Avenue.

Katherine Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Little Greenlaw.

Colin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luz, Kinfauns Drive.

Marriages.

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

Francis Anderson Murray and Sheila Mary Stuart.
Isobel Florence Nicholson and John Herbert Pearson.

Deaths.

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

Mrs. Burns, 75 Larchfield Avenue.

Miss Janet Hunter, Redthorn, Glebe Road.

NEW MEMBERS.

By Profession of Faith.

Mrs. Donald Nicholson, Kyleakin, Thorntonhall.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

Mrs. Duff, 9 Grangemuir Road, Prestwick.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. George, 139 Ayr Road.

Mr. Robert E. George, 139 Ayr Road.

Mrs. Harold H. Laing, Lyndhurst, Ayr Road.

Mrs. E. Linklater, 32 Hazelwood Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Marshall, 10 Hazelwood Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. John Richmond, 14 Hillend Road, Clarkston.

Miss Marion Richmond, 14 Hillend Road, Clarkston.

Mrs. Tom Smith, Little Greenlaw.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Walker, Wilmorham, Ford Road.
Mrs. Allan Tweedie, Faside Lodge.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

During the winter some members of the Woman's Guild have been making Layettes and Baby Clothes for children in the distressed countries of Europe, chiefly Germany, Poland and Austria. Six Layettes have been despatched, and one parcel of garments which helped to complete three Layettes sent by other branches. From authoritative sources we learn that these parcels are very much appreciated and letters have come from mothers expressing their gratitude to the women of Scotland. Under these circumstances we feel that what we have done has been worth while. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Amos and Mrs. Mackay who have carried through this work so capably and to Mr. Mackay for taking the parcels to the depot in Glasgow.

YOUTH REPLY TO COMMUNISM.

Nearly 800 young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 gathered in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, at the week-end to consider the Christian response to the challenge of Communism. They were drawn from various Church of Scotland youth organisations and were from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Falkirk, Saltcoats, Dumfries and Coatbridge.

A call to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to create some definite Church policy in relation to Communism and "evil in general" was made by Mr. Andrew McCance, Newton Mearns, who said that the youth of the Church lacked leadership from the elders and ministers on the subject.

He was speaking on a resolution by the Christian Workers' League, Lauricknowe, Dumfries, recommending the reformation of Church youth fellowships on lines of Christian Action, and that the members should become responsible for the organisation on those new lines.

"We feel," he said, "that this idea of setting youth to catch youth is being stretched a little too far. By all means do everything possible to encourage groups, but when it comes to the point when youth have to make their voice heard against things they believe to be wrong in their own churches they stand very little chance of a sympathetic hearing. Youth's position in the Church is very doubtful indeed."

While agreeing with many of the resolutions passed by the conference he did not think any of them practical. He asked those present to realise how little they, as youth, could really do. "What we need on top of all these resolutions is real leadership from this house in which we are sitting."

The resolution was eventually carried, amended to read:—"We recommend that Church youth fellowships should conduct a percentage of their meetings on Christian Action lines."

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

This meeting in the Upper Hall on a Sunday evening at the close of the Second Service has had a very successful winter under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Andrew McCance. Last Sunday, the 23rd January, we had an excellent paper from Miss Muriel Allan on the subject "Is the Sermon on the Mount practicable?" The discussion that followed was of a high moral and religious tone, and it is felt that the word "practical" was not the most important fact about the question. What Christ had done was to endeavour to introduce into life a new spirit of which certain illustrations in the Sermon on the Mount were instances such as "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of

thee turn not thou away." It was pointed out also that the striving to show this new spirit was more important than the actual achievement. Even if the Christian should fail, it mattered more that he had tried with all his might, and with the Grace of God to manifest it. Another speaker suggested that even the Communists did not expect their ideal to be immediately realised, but at some time in the future, so the Christian did not despair that he could not see the Spirit of Christ filling all life, but he looked forward to the day when the Kingdom of God would come on the earth. When Christ called on his followers to lend to those who asked, He did not think only or primarily of money, but of giving ourselves freely to Him, and to our fellow men as manifestations of the new spirit. We came away from the meeting greatly refreshed and would ask even more of our young people to avail themselves of the inspiration of this discussion group.

During the winter the Young People's Union have been considering the question of Christianity and Communism and the following is part of the Report which they submitted to the Youth Committee of the General Assembly in December last.

4. Problems. The problems involved in the first part of the resolution are (a) Lack of training in Christian Doctrine and (b) General lack of training in political matters. This latter cannot be given by the Church, but youth should be encouraged by the Church to take an interest in politics. At the moment the position is this: the young Communist has a government behind him, the young Christian has a Church devoid of political policy.

5. The Future Task. Difficulties which are met by individuals of the various youth groups in their attempt to carry the Christian way of life into political and industrial fields should be raised as subjects of discussion for a subsequent meeting of their group. This would help to combine the religious and political aspects of our life, and this would be a definite task of the youth groups.

The Minister's Bible Class could include, as they used to do the whole age group 17-30, and in these classes the Christian Doctrine could be fully made plain to the Church's youth. This is the task of the Bible Class. These two types of group—the Discussion Group and the Bible Class—are the only ones involved in this question.

6. Connected Problems. Consideration must be given to the fact that a great number of young people in the age group 17-30 are fully employed in University or Training College, and they do not have a great deal of spare time. Unless they see that the Church has actually decided on a definite policy and is determined to carry it out, they will not readily consent to using what time they have to help in this project.

General Reception of the Report: We cannot help feeling as we gradually work deeper into this immense problem that this drive to interest youth in the Church will, at the very best, only nibble at the problem. We have had nothing like enough time to consider it, and no two day Conference can do much better. This question of Communism is a question which involves the entire Church. Points which we have discussed require the consideration of mature Adult minds, and unless all ages in the Church are given a chance to consider the question thoroughly, the Church will simply carry on as it is doing irrespective of any suggestion which youth might make.

We heartily agree with the reason for this action taken by the Youth Committee on the instructions of the General Assembly, but we feel that the General Assembly is evading the main issue.

ANDREW McCANCE.

BURNS' SUPPER.

This was held under the auspices of the Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club on Tuesday, 25th January, in the Hall at 7.30 p.m. There was an excellent attendance, and the function was a great success. The toast of the "Immortal Memory" was proposed by Mr. Gilbert S. McVean and was a fitting tribute to Scotland's national

poet who had portrayed in his works so beautifully the home and especially the peasant life of our land. In his reciting of the latter the speaker had the faculty of making the words live. His address was interspersed with brilliant flashes of humour. On one occasion he said as he searched somewhat feverishly through his notes, "you will remember the opening words of the poem, 'To a Mouse,' you will remember the closing words." Then as his search proved in vain he added quietly almost to himself, "I don't." Mr. A. S. McCance gave the toast of "The lasses" and showed how adaptable a speaker he is in this subject in a lighter vein. He paid tribute to some famous women of history such as Ruth, Esther, Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell, Madame Curie etc. Mr. James Stewart replied for the lasses and showed himself possessed of a considerable knowledge of the works of the poet. He spoke of women who had had a great influence on the life of the rhymers, such as the housekeeper who filled his ears with tales of witches and warlocks, his mother, Alison Begbie who inspired "Mary Morrison," and he conjectured what the life of the poet might have been if only she had been permitted to have more influence over him. Ian Wood piped in the haggis which was carried by Ewen Peden in Highland Dress. Mr. Macnaughton gave "To a Haggis" and Mr. Nimmo recited "Tam O'Shanter" and other poems. These were most excellently rendered. Mrs. Cormack and Mr. Fiddes delighted us with some songs, and Miss Hunter was at the piano. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mr. Walter Rodger who was in his most brilliant vein. To Miss Anne McDougall, the Secretary and the Committee who carried a heavy burden in the running of the Supper, we offer our warmest thanks.

SEAT LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews or any others requiringittings might please see Mr. Meiklejohn, at the close of any Morning Service.

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 removed, thus preventing disappointment at not receiving Communion Cards.

GIFTS TO MEN AND WOMEN ON SERVICE.

Just before Christmas a Gift of a Postal Order of £1 and a Greetings Card was sent to each of our members who are serving with His Majesty's Forces.

COMMUNION.

At the February Communion there was an attendance of 403 at the Forenoon Service when the Rev. Wm. Steven of Queen's Park West Church officiated and 36 at the Evening Service which was taken by the Minister, a total of 439 for the day.

VARIA.

On the 20th February the visiting minister in the forenoon will be the Rev. W. D. Chisholm, M.A., Midmar, Aberdeenshire. He is preaching with a view to a vacancy in our vicinity, and we give him a warm welcome to our congregation.

We greatly enjoyed the visit to our congregation on 30th January of the Rev. Philip W. McNaughton, M.A., Calabar. He refreshed our interest in a Mission Field that is for ever associated with the name of Mary Slessor. The land, he said, is one filled with the sense of oppression. You look out from the Manse at a broad river. On the other side of it is an island that is very flat. Beyond for a mile extends the brown Cross River. All round the house is forest and jungle. You have a feeling that you are hemmed in, not only by outward elements, but by invisible forces. Fear pervades everywhere. There are no flowers in the gardens, except in those of the Christians. Surely a beautiful thought that Christians should grow flowers in their gardens.

Our thanks are given to Mr. Andrew Russell and family, Newton House, for giving hospitality over the week-end to Mr. MacNaughton.