

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1950

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The Manse, Newton Mearns.

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Registrar—Mr. JOHN KEIR,
Yesnaby, Arthurlie Drive, Newton Mearns.
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Church Services.

MORNING—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUPS—10.30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 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"

David Allan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan, Pollok House.

George, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wardrop, 116 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow.

Stephanie Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steel, Dunmohr, Hazlewood Avenue.

Deaths.

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

Mrs. Corner, 14 Gifford Drive, Hillington.

Miss Elizabeth Mather, Lennard, Westbrae Road.

Mr. James Stirling Smith, Ardmore, Larchfield Av.

New Members.

By Profession of Faith.

Edith Simpson Hay, 43 Barrhead Road.

Helen Fyfe McDougall, 51 Beech Avenue.

Mrs. Archibald McDougall, 22 Eddington Drive.
Isobel Catherine Morris, Glendye, Larchfield Ave.
Joan Moyes, Cairnknowe, Ayr Road.
Jessie Margaret Henderson Shaw, Glenard, Glebe Road.
Jessie Eleanor Henderson Sneddon, 105 Ayr Road.
Mrs. Jean Wilson, Kelanton, Edzell Drive.
Edward Cranston Campbell, Latimer, Arthurlie Dr.
Grahame Scott Kerr, 20 Berryhill Road, Giffnock.
Graham Steel, 63 Hazelwood Avenue.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

Mrs. Janet Cuthbert, 5 Greenbank Av., Whitecraigs.
Mrs. Edward Campbell, Latimer, Arthurlie Drive.
William Corner, 14 Gifford Drive, Hillington.
Dr. Archibald McDougall, 22 Eddington Drive.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2 and verse 4, we read: "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sin, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." This word "grace" is one that we meet continually in the New Testament, and which is constantly on the lips of St. Paul. The kernel of the Christian Gospel is contained in it. When the Apostle says, "By grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God," he is uttering in a few words the core of the good news that had come to him in Christ.

We are apt to understand by this word "grace" a supernatural power that comes down from above into our life and enables us to say things and do things that otherwise would be impossible for us. We are inclined to think of it as some mighty power, outside of ourselves that is given to us from some higher source. Nor would we be wrong in so interpreting the word. If, however, we believe that this was all that the Apostle meant we will fail to grasp the full significance of it, and lose the mighty source of inspiration that flowed into the life of the Man of Tarsus.

If we open our Greek-English dictionary we will find that the word "grace" or *xagis* in the Greek means, "pleasantness, charm"; graciousness, that spiritual condition which God has bestowed, as a perfectly free gift, on those that are His, to enable

them to do His Will and keep His Commandments, the power of a holy life; it means a complete change in our attitude to life. Instead of being like the spider sitting at the centre of his web, and drawing all things to himself, that we alter the whole course of our life and seek to give ourselves to others. We seek not to be ministered but to minister and to give our life a ransom for others. It is like the river Rhine: instead of flowing towards the sea, its course is completely turned round, and it flows the other way up to the mountain of God. It is the way of the Cross. It means giving ourselves for others. That was the way of Jesus. That was what was meant when they said of Him in the synagogue that all wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of His mouth. It means graciousness, and pleasantness and charm. It means that a new spiritual condition takes possession of our lives, a power that comes down from above and fills men with His Spirit. It is not something that we can do for ourselves. It is the gift of God from above.

In a book called "The Healing Touch," by Harley Williams, we have given to us in non-technical language the history of medicine. He tells us of the life of Charles Edward Séguard, who was born in Mauritius and practised medicine recently in Paris, New York and London. He became a pioneer in Bacteriology, and discovered that by injecting fluids from one human body into another new energy could be produced, and disease eradicated. He used his own body for experimenting upon, and one half of it was the patient and the other half the doctor studying the sufferer. His body became a mass of sores, and on more than one occasion he was brought near to death. All this he did for humanity's sake. It is the Way of the Cross, the way of Grace. That was what Paul saw in the life and in the death of Christ, One who showed us the ideal of righteousness, and the ideal of bearing the sins of humanity in His own body on the tree.

Such, then, was what Paul understood when he said, "By grace are ye saved, through faith, and that, not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." One thought more on this greatest of all themes of the Apostle. For Paul, God was not some Mighty Force that had made the world. That was certainly true, as he would have acknowledged. But God, in the eyes of the missionary to the Gentiles, was far more than that. To imagine that God was simply some kind of immeasurable Power would have been to degrade God. It would have been to make God lower than a human being, less important than a man. God, for Paul, was Personal, Gracious, Loving, a Father. God was like Jesus: "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." Not until we had learnt that, had we seen the full glory of God. In our scientific world with its emphasis on law,

and power, and force, we are in great danger of forgetting to look on the full glory of God as it is in Jesus as our Father.

I was visiting Mearnskirk Hospital this week. It was visiting day, and, being the Sunday before Christmas, the beds of the children were laden with parcels. One seemed to be especially so, and I went up and said to the mother and father, that it looked like a toy shop. They explained that a parcel had come from Canada with a large number of gifts. While I was speaking to the mother I saw the father literally "burying" his face in that of his sick child. It moved me deeply. It seemed to me an illustration of the anguish and the love of a father for his child. This was what Jesus meant when He said, "And when he was yet a great way off his father saw him, and ran, and fell on his neck and kissed him." That was what Paul meant when he said, "By grace are ye saved through faith, and that, not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." If we go into the New Year with such a faith then we shall do so with filial confidence as children in their Heavenly Father, and worship Him more joyfully, and serve Him more devotedly.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

The Woman's Guild re-opens on Monday, 16th January, with a Social Evening. It has been decided to ask those who attend to bring their own eatables, in view of the difficulty of catering.

On January 30th an address will be given by Miss Muir on "The Syrian Christ." On February 13th a Demonstration of Cookery by a representative of the South West Scotland Electricity Board, and on February 27th an address on "The Value of Social Adjustments" by Miss J. W. Herd.

THE GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The G.A. meets every Monday at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. The meetings are opened with Bible Reading and Prayer. We had a visit from Mr. Mackay at our opening meeting in October. It was decided that we should study Girls' Own Missionaries and Special Schemes.

On 7th November we ran a Whist Drive which was enjoyed by all who attended.

The girls have been working very hard for the Sale of Work which was held on our Special Evening.

On 21st November two members of the G.A. Study Group visited us and made some very helpful suggestions for our Special Evening.

The Special Evening was held on 12th December and the President opened it with Bible Reading and Prayer. The first item on the programme was

a Girls' own Missionary Broadcast in which the girls took part. After the Broadcast, the Sale of Work was opened and tea served. Then our speaker, Miss Calder, spoke on the Aim and Work of the G.A. Mr. Mackay proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker and the evening closed with prayer.

The syllabus for next session will be compiled when the G.A. re-opens this month.

The G.A. wishes to express its thanks to all those who gave donations toward the Special Evening.

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY ELDER.

Glasgow Churches' Campaign—1950.

BULLETIN No. 1.

A campaign to carry the Gospel to the people of the city is being promoted under the auspices of the Glasgow Churches' Council and will be developed in the Spring and Autumn of 1950.

It is proposed the campaign should be launched in every Church throughout the City on Campaign Sunday, 19th February, 1950, at the morning service.

After Easter, a period of training for the campaign in the Autumn and special training facilities will be offered for both ministers and lay speakers in the open-air and for team of parochial visitors in groups.

The campaign will take place in the Autumn. First a preliminary house to house visitation, possibly by young people, in September, and giving information about coming events in October. The campaign in October from 3rd to 13th October, 1950 will carry the Gospel to the people wherever they are at work or at play, with imagination and making use of drama and films. Then, finally, the mission by congregations through house to house visitation at end of October or the beginning of November.

A great opportunity of rejuvenating the life of our Churches and of winning men for Christ is opening up and it is hoped every Church will share in its benefits and contribute to its success to the full.

BULLETIN No. 2.

A Meeting of Office-Bearers was held on Thursday, 17th November, when the Rev. R. Leonard Small, M.A., team leader, addressed the assembled company. A brief and comprehensive account of the aims and plans was given by the Rev. Kenneth G. Ogilvie, M.A., and a resolution pledging the support of the meeting for the campaign was moved by Major McFarlane, seconded by Mr. C. A. Packer and carried unanimously.

This meeting packed the area of Renfield Street Church and overflowed into the gallery. The general principle is that a team of 1,250 commandos was desirable, comprising both visitors and people

outwith Glasgow; each Church was asked to submit the names of three lay people who will be prepared to serve in addition to the minister in the commando teams next October.

In the congregation it is hoped that all members will take an active interest in this campaign and do what they can to assist. The main emphasis of the campaign is to be settled on the congregational missions and details will be communicated to a separate meeting of Ministers on Wednesday, 4th January. The general aim of the congregational missions in the Spring should be to awaken the Churches again to the message of total salvation to which they witness and, secondly, to raise them to a lively sense of their power and obligations to pass on that message to the community in word and act.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE, 79th (Glas.) Company.

For two years the progress of the Company has been slowed up through lack of staff, but it is pleasing to report that some of the "old boys" are rallying round and show promise of becoming sound officers. Since the beginning of the session, Mr. Wm. Blackstock and Mr. Robert Cowan have rendered valuable and much appreciated service and now, on his demobilisation from the Air Force, Mr. Arthur Stubbs has joined the staff. This has enabled the programme to be expanded and it is hoped the other activities will be revived shortly.

Unavoidably deferred from last session the prize giving took place recently and the following awards made:—

"Young Cup" for the Best Drilled Boy—
L/Cpl. Robin Blue.

Recruit Medal for the Best Recruit of the year—
Pte. Ritchie Robertson.

Squad Medal—Best Squad of year—
Sgt. Jas. Gardiner.

In addition nine boys received prizes for perfect attendance at Bible Class and Drill Parade.

Once again the question of a Summer Camp is being considered and if circumstances permit, definite plans will be made. Here again the question of adequate staff must be considered and every effort will be made to satisfy the unanimous desire of the boys. Will parents please note that boys will be advised as early as possible so that holiday arrangements will not be upset. To the mothers of the boys who have not previously had the experience, we would say that the Camp is run on excellent lines and the interest and welfare of the boys well catered for. If it is found possible to hold a camp, please don't deny your boy the privilege of attending and don't be surprised if, on his return, he tells you he has had "the best holiday ever."

CHURCH GOLF CLUB.

The Annual Social Evening of the Club was held in the Church Hall on Tuesday, 6th December, commencing at 7.30 p.m. There was an attendance of 52, composed of members and friends, and the first part of the evening was devoted to a military whist drive.

At 9 o'clock tea was served, and after tea, the President, Rev. W. M. Mackay, assisted by the Club Captain, Mr. John Russell, presented prizes to the finalists of the Annual Mixed Foursomes Competition. The winners, Mrs. D. Fiddes and Mr. J. A. Davidson, received the Templeton Cup (which they retain jointly for one year) and suitably engraved mementos. The runners-up were Mrs. J. A. Davidson and Mr. S. Jarvie. Mr. Mackay congratulated Mr. Davidson on becoming joint-winner of the Cup for the third year in succession, and all four finalists for their success in the preceding rounds.

The whist prizes were then presented, after which Mr. Mackay asked the members to appoint office-bearers and committee for season 1949-50. The following were unanimously appointed:—

President—Rev. W. M. Mackay; *Captain*—Mr. D. Fiddes; *Secretary/Treasurer*—Mrs. W. Williams; *Committee*—Miss M. Hunter and Messrs. S. Jarvie and J. Russell.

Mr. Mackay expressed the thanks of the members to the retiring Captain and Secretary, Messrs. J. Russell and W. W. Blue, for their services to the Club during the past three years.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to games and dancing, suitable music being provided by Mr. C. Stanners. At 11 p.m. the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem concluded a very enjoyable evening.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

We have now reached the end of the first term of this session, a term in which we have heard many interesting papers and enjoyed much fruitful discussion. It would be wrong to single out any one paper for special comment because each and every one has borne the hallmark of unstinted effort and unselfish sacrifice of leisure time, factors which bring to each meeting a challenging call to sincere thought and discussion and we pray that such service may long continue to be our inspiration.

Our members, gradually increasing in number, attend most faithfully, and we are ready to welcome any young people who can be encouraged to come along on the Sunday evenings at the close of the evening service.

We all feel, from time to time, that there is little connection between our week-day and our Sabbath lives, but it is a characteristic of a meeting such as ours that the contributions from young and old alike, coming as they do from individual ex-

perience and thought, widen our knowledge and increase our perception of the true balance of temporal and eternal things.

To all young people we say, "Do, please, accept our invitation."

SEAT LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews or any others requiring Sittings 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 or any of the Elders 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.

VARIA.

Our thanks are given to the G.A. for the happy evening we spent on 12th December. The sale of their own work realised about £12, and the address by Miss Sheila Calder, B.Sc., Ed.B. was an inspiration to all who heard it.

Mr. Maurice Anderson has most kindly agreed to repeat his Cinematograph Entertainment given to the Woman's Guild on the 19th December at a date to be arranged in March. The original date proved to be one of the worst nights of wind and rain that we have ever experienced, and no more than 50 persons could battle their way to the hall. The programme is such an magnificent one that we felt that a further opportunity of seeing it should be provided. To this Mr. Anderson has most graciously agreed.

Missionary Sunday in our congregation will be 22nd January. We are to have a prominent missionary from the Gold Coast.

Our congratulations are given to Rev. and Mrs. W. B. Maclaren, of Bothkennar, on the birth of a son. The Minister was privileged to perform the Baptismal Ceremony.

It was a pleasure for the congregation to have the forenoon service on 11th December conducted by Rev. Gilbert George, of Oldhall. His father and mother have joined our fellowship recently, and have already enriched us with their presence.

GENERAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Treasurers of the various Church Organizations are requested to prepare a statement of their intromissions with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1949, and to hand them to the Session-Clerk, Mr. Thom, not later than 15th January, 1950, for submission to the Auditors.