

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1951

REGISTER.

Baptism.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

David Falconer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rae, Glamis Avenue.

Marriages.

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

John O. C. Hunter and Elvira W. Le Page.

Frederick G. Ogilvie and Margaret R. Henderson.
Alexander S. Henderson and Frances E. C. Foster.

Deaths.

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

Mr. William N. Baxter, Craigiehill, Gilmourton Crescent.

Mrs. Dorward, 5 Moorhill Road.

Mrs. Dunn, Ravenshill, Deramore Avenue.

Mrs. Frances Foster, Hazelmere, Rysland Ave.

Miss Margaret Mann, Whitecraigs.

Mr. Neil McNiven, 3 Ashview Terrace.

Mr. Robert McLean, 2 Moorhill Road.

Mrs. Stewart, Abershiel, Beech Avenue.

Mrs. Souter, c/o Mrs. Kerr, Whitecraigs.

Mr. J. Walker, Main Street

Miss Euphemia Watt, Edzell Drive.

Mr. Michael Wilson, 34 Beech Ave.

New Members.

By Certificate from other Congregations.

✓ Mr. and Mrs. William S. Stewart, North Craigton.

✓ Mr. and Mrs. James H. Frost, 37 Beech Avenue.

✓ Mrs. Henrietta L. Kennedy, 33 Larchfield Avenue.

✓ Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Wilmont, Beech Ave.

✓ Miss Lily H. Wallace, Garvie House, Eaglesham Rd.

✓ Mrs. Robert Sinclair, 59 Hazelwood Avenue.

✓ Mrs. B. Gordon, 39 Hazelwood Avenue.

Correction.—Mrs. A. C. Yorston, 21 Glamis Av., entered in last issue of the Supplement should read Mrs. S. V. Yorston of the same address. The error is regretted.

IN MEMORIAM.

Mr. William Napier Baxter died at his residence, Craigiehill, Gilmourton Crescent, on Sunday, 24th December, in his 65th year. In early life he entered the firm of Thomson, Jackson, Gourlay and Taylor, with which he was associated for 40 years. When he moved to Shawlands he and his wife joined the congregation of Shawlands Cross, on which he was appointed an Elder and became also the Treasurer of the Church. In 1932 he removed to this district and was elected an Elder. A man of intellectual ability and kindly disposition he had soon made many friends in the parish, taking a keen interest in the Bowling Club and the local football team.

One of the last letters he received was from a young man whom he had encouraged in the latter.

In the Sanctuary he was a regular attendee at both morning and evening worship. We shall miss him greatly in the Courts of the Church, in which he was a wise counsellor. To his sister-in-law we extend our deepest sympathy in a loss in which we also share.

THE ELECTRONIC BELLS.

The new Electronic Bells gifted to the congregation by Mr. and Mrs. James S. Young, Endrick, Larchfield Avenue, were dedicated at the forenoon service on Easter Sunday. Widespread appreciation has been expressed of their beautiful and melodious tones. To the donors we would like to express once again our thanks for this fresh expression of the great kindness they have shown to our Church.

VARIA.

The Anniversary Services will be held on Sunday, 20th May, and will be conducted by Rev. John R. Gray. B.D., Cambridge-Buccleuch Church.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1951.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Church Hall on 14th March, 1951, and was attended by over 100 members.

The Rev. M. Murray Mackay occupied the Chair and opened the meeting with prayer.

Excerpts from the Minutes of Board Meetings, 1950/51, were read by the Clerk to the Congregational Board.

Mr. Walter Rodger, the Congregational Treasurer, presented the accounts for 1950 and compared the figures with those of the previous year. Mr. G. S. McVean, C.A., followed with his report and complimented all the treasurers on their accounts. Thereafter the Congregational Accounts were approved.

Mr. J. W. Jarvie, C.A. and Mr. G. S. McVean, C.A. were re-elected Auditors for 1951 and thanked for their services during the past year.

Reports were submitted from the following organisations:—Sabbath School; Woman's Guild; Young Peoples' Union; Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club; Boys' Brigade; Life Boys; Girl Guides; Brownies and the Golf Club.

On the motion of the Chairman, the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Mr. Walter Rodger, Congregational Treasurer; Mr. A. S. McCance, Systematic Giving Treasurer; Mr. P. R. Wood, Registrar and the Assistant Treasurers, Messrs. Andrew M. McCance, John Russell and Ian Wood; also Mr. C. J. Thom, Session-Clerk; Mr. W. T. Davidson, Clerk to the Congregational Board; Mr.

J. Nimmo, Superintendent of the Sabbath School ; Mr. A. M. R. Russell, Convener of the Year Book ; Members of the Session, Congregational Board and the Office-bearers in all the Organisations. The thanks of the congregation were conveyed to Miss Margaret Osborne and the other Flower Providers, including Messrs. John Russell and J. McCallum ; the Organist, Members of the Choirs and the Church Officer.

Election of members to the Congregational Board :—The following were re-elected for three years—Mrs. W. Rodger, Mrs. Thom, Miss M. Hay, Messrs. J. Cromar, A. Edmond and A. Morton. Mrs. Ferns was elected in place of Miss A. Wilson, who did not wish her name considered for re-election, and Mr. James Asher was elected in place of the late Mr. Keir. Miss Wilson was thanked by the Chairman for her services during her period of membership of the Board.

Mr. Andrew Russell, Senior, moved a vote of thanks to the Minister for his chairmanship of the meeting and for all his work during 1950.

After the business part of the meeting was completed, tea was served followed by a musical programme rendered by members of the Junior and Senior Choirs, and an address by the Rev. James Johnston, B.D., Mossbank Church. Votes of thanks to the Rev. Johnston and the artistes, proposed by Mr. A. S. McCance, the singing of the Doxology and the Benediction, brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

Sunday School.—The Sunday School meets in the Church Hall at 10.15 a.m. for Seniors, Juniors and Primary. A class for beginners is held during the morning service. We have 110 scholars on the roll and a teaching staff of 16 with Mr. Nimmo as Superintendent.

Mr. Nimmo holds two examinations during the session which are well attended and prizes are presented at the end of the session.

Mr. Pollock left a legacy to the Sunday School to encourage the children to memorise Psalms and Hymns. Suitable passages are selected, according to age, and prizes are given.

The Sunday School picnic was held at Mid-Borland Farm, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Carswell, on Saturday, 24th June, 1950, and every one had a most enjoyable time.

The new session commenced on Sunday, 17th September, 1950.

A Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church on Sunday, 1st October, and the gifts were sent to Mearns Kirk Hospital and the Victoria Infirmary.

The Party was held on Saturday, 16th December, 1950, and, as usual, every one enjoyed themselves very much. A visit from Santa Claus with gifts of sweets thrilled children, especially the younger ones.

On Sunday, 24th December, 1950, we held a Gift Service in the Church, the gifts being sent to Mearns Kirk Hospital.

We have had some very interesting films this session, the "Life of Dr. Grenfell of Labrador," and the "Pilgrim's Progress." This is made possible through the generosity of a member of our congregation.

Woman's Guild.—The Woman's Guild had a shorter session than usual this year. The opening meeting was postponed until November 7th, so that we might not interfere in any way with the work of the Churches Campaign. The weather seemed to be always at its worst on Monday evenings and consequently there were small attendances at some of the meetings. We were greatly indebted to our speakers, who braved the elements and kept their engagements in spite of all the wintry conditions.

Our Syllabus was a varied one, but required a little re-adjustment, owing to illness, etc., but every evening had its own interest. Besides having and greatly appreciating a Chopin musical night, we travelled far distances with our lecturers—to Nigeria to hear how Domestic Science is taught under the greatest difficulties ; then back to the 1914-18 War to hear about nursing experiences in France and then off on a holiday to Finland. Besides these we had a talk on The Scottish Kirk and Education and a talk on Medicine and its relation to the Church. The closing meeting on Monday next is to be a Film Show about work in China.

We only had a few meetings of the Work Party this winter, but we were able to send 36 pairs of socks to augment the supplies for Korea. These were knitted by our members with wool supplied by the Women's Voluntary Services.

The different schemes of the Guild were supported and we sent our usual Christmas donation to the Eventide Home at Inglewood, Alloa.

The Guild was happy to provide tea for the two choirs—our own and Whitehill Church Choir—who gave us such a beautiful rendering of Handel's Messiah.

We had a joint meeting in our own church on 9th February with Mearns Kirk Parish Church Guild, in connection with the Women's World Day of Prayer. Miss Muir gave us a very inspiring and reverent address and all those present felt it had been so much worth while to share in this World Fellowship. We'd like to emphasise this yearly meeting, and we feel that surely out of two congregations like our own and Mearns Kirk we should get more members sufficiently interested to attend the service.

We commend the Guild to all women members of the Church, particularly the younger members, and we extend a cordial invitation to all to join us next Winter. We are the only woman's organisation in the Church and our aim is to have a real *live* fellowship, embracing all the work and interests of the Church and pulling our weight in the things that matter, thus uniting the women of the Church in the dedication of their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ in the service of His Kingdom.

Young Peoples' Union.—Towards the end of last session the attendance at the Young Peoples' Union began to drop away badly.

To offset this and in an attempt to increase membership and attendance, about one hundred letters were sent to the young people of our congregation. Two or three new members came for a while, but, with the normal loss of the older members, attendance at our meetings has now dropped away to only ten or twelve people, including one or two senior people who enjoy our meetings and who are indeed very welcome at them.

This position shows either an appalling lack of interest by the young people of our Church in the work of the Y.P.U. or that something is seriously wrong with the conduct or content of our meetings. Both are problems which deserve much thought, and if this trend is being experienced by any other organisations represented here (I know the Choir to be in this position), I would welcome an exchange of views between the leaders. In this connection I would like to make this personal recommendation, that these reports be omitted at future meetings of the congregation, and that a special meeting be called annually of the leaders of all the Church organisations with their respective visiting members of Session, with the main object of receiving and considering these reports and developing a bond of purpose between all the organisations.

Almost to answer the second explanation of the decline in membership, I would report that the papers delivered during the session have maintained their usual high standard and often lively and constructive discussion has been enjoyed by our staunch supporters. There has been a gradual and welcome tendency for the discussions to point the way to Christian Action in our daily life, and much thought will be given by our committee this summer towards the development of this tendency. In addition to this, our Y.P.U. has been greatly honoured this year by having two of its members invited to take an active part in the Scottish Christian Youth Assembly, which was held in February of this year, and has left in its wake a positive craving for living Christianity.

We seem to have therefore in our midst, apathy, and a definite sense of purpose which is common to the leaders of youth in Scotland. One will swallow up the other, and I think I know which is going to swallow which, and I hope that we can rely on those present to-night to help the forces of purpose in some way or other before the next General Meeting.—ANDREW M. McCANCE.

Social, Badminton and Dramatic Club.

Badminton Section.—The Badminton Club meets on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10.30 p.m. and Saturday evenings from

7.30 to 10 p.m. Juniors meet on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 to 7 and Saturday evenings from 5 to 7.30. A ladies' afternoon section meets on Tuesdays from 2 to 5.

The Club have had a successful season in the sense that they have enjoyed many good games though from a competitive view the first team have found the going heavy. The reserve team maintained their sound position in their division and both teams reached the quarter finals in the Swan Trophy Competition. At the beginning of the season a number of junior members came up to the senior club and are showing good promise. This would indicate the start of a steady flow of new members. The afternoon ladies have had a most enjoyable season.

It was with regret that the Committee accepted the resignation of the Secretary, Mr. Robert Stirling, owing to pressure of work, and Mrs. Williams agreed to be Interim Secretary.

Dramatic Section.—The Dramatic Club had to postpone their production owing to the illness of the producer, Mr. McNaughton. The cast have all worked hard and it is hoped to produce the play in November.

Social Section.—Six socials have been run, including an excellent Burns' Supper. These socials have been most enjoyable and thanks is due to the Committee for the hard work they have put in.

There is a body of opinion in the Club which feels that these socials would have a wider appeal to the congregation as a whole if they were organised by a committee drawn from the congregation as a whole.

New Members will be welcomed to all sections.

79th Glasgow Coy. The Boys' Brigade.—

The session for 1950/51 commenced 13th October. Parades are held each Friday at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall.

Three Life Boys have been transferred to the Boys' Brigade Company and four members received their discharge certificates, making the present strength of the Company 17.

Mr. Robertson, who inaugurated the Company and has given so much of his time to its service, has, unfortunately, found it necessary to relinquish the captaincy. We are, however, happy to be able to add that Mr. Robertson's valuable guidance and assistance will still be available.

We are delighted to welcome Mr. H. A. M. Peden back into the Company after serving in the forces during the war.

Two officers attended an Initial Training Course this year and have been "Gazetted."

Certificates and Badges were gained in the following subjects:—Ambulance, Swimming, Semaphore, Morse and N.C.O.'s Proficiency.

The Company visited the Pantomime with the Life Boys and had a most enjoyable evening.

A Whist Drive was held recently and proved to be an outstanding success, both socially and financially. The Camp Fund benefits to the extent of £14.

The site for the Annual Camp is Colmonell, near Ballantrae, and the preliminary arrangements have been made.

The Company has recently been fortunate enough to procure the small British Legion Hall for use as a Club Room on Saturday evenings. The Club and Canteen are run by the boys themselves and are proving a popular attraction. The activities consist of games, film shows, etc.

We would like to thank the Session for the interest they show in our activities and for the visits of Messrs. Meiklejohn and McClure.

A. F. STUBBS, *Captain*.

79th Life Boy Team.—The Lifeboys meet in the Church Hall every Friday evening at 6 o'clock.

There are 23 boys on the roll and we have a regular attendance of approximately 20. At the end of last session six boys were transferred to the Boys' Brigade and another six are eligible for transfer at the end of May.

The boys have been working hard this past two months and will be sitting small tests soon for different seals, which comprise, singing, physical training, signalling, books of the Bible, Bible Heroes, Missionaries, handicrafts and marching.

The Team had their Christmas Party again this year and, as usual, the Fathers turned out in force. A jolly evening was had by boys and fathers and the excitement was great when Santa paid us a visit bringing a parcel for every one.

Also in January we spent a Saturday afternoon at the Kelvin Hall Carnival. Each boy was allowed 5/- to spend and three very pleasant hours were had by all.

A fortnight ago the Lifeboys accompanied the B.B. to the pantomime. A most enjoyable session has been had by boys and leaders alike.

2nd Mearns Guide Company.—Since last spring the Guide Company has increased in a most encouraging manner, and at the moment there are

35 names on the roll. Apart from the usual periods of the year when examinations claim the girls' time, the Church Hall is very well filled with a most enthusiastic band every Thursday evening.

As usual, the Guides have been working their way through the various tests, and during the session 10 Guides have gained Tenderfoot badges, four have passed 2nd class and 4 Laundress badges have been awarded. We hope to add some 1st class Guides in the very near future.

In a lighter vein . . . the Guides enjoyed several visits en masse to the baths in the autumn, they organised a most successful party at Christmas time and early in the new year, thirty-five of us spent a happy evening at the pantomime.

MARGUERITE M. CAMPBELL, *Captain*.

The Brownies.—The Brownie session commenced on 21st September and meetings have been held each Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Church Hall.

We welcomed 8 new recruits to the Pack, bringing our membership up to 23.

During the session two parties were held in the hall and we visited the Alhambra Pantomime.

This year, 6 Brownies achieved their 1st Class Badge, 3 of whom have set a new standard by gaining a proficiency badge.

The weekly subscription of 2d. goes towards badges, etc., and over and above this subscription each Brownie is being asked to contribute 1/6d. in aid of the Headquarters Development Fund. We also have a Ship Halfpenny Fund, the proceeds of this year's collection having been given to the Extension Pack at Phillipshill Hospital.

A Percussion Band was introduced into the Pack this year and good headway is being made.

We have also been very industrious knitting squares to make a large blanket which will be given to a drive to help needy families. So far we are proud to tell you that we have knitted 52 squares.

We were very pleased to welcome Miss Irene Foster as Tawny Owl. The high standard of work from the Brownies has continued this year and together with the splendid leadership from the Tawny Owls and Pack Leaders, we feel that the Brownie Pack here in Newton Mearns is progressing very satisfactorily. The meetings have been very well attended and under the aforementioned leaders, keen interest has been shown in all sections.

JEAN M. STUBBS, *Brown Owl*.

The Golf Club report will appear in next Supplement.