

# Newton Mearns Church Supplement

JANUARY, 1955

## THE REGISTER.

### Baptism.

John Pollok, North Malletsheugh.

### Marriage.

Donald MacLean and Helen May Hood.

## THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE.

The Editor has suggested that I write this letter in a more personal vein. I do not know exactly what he means by this unless it be that instead of seeking to teach anything I say a few pertinent things. I suppose that I must begin on the subject of church attendance. I do not suppose that as a congregation we are any worse or any better than others, but I do feel that some of you could take a little more care over something that I am old-fashioned enough to believe is fundamental in the Christian life of the community. You think it does not matter whether you miss an occasional Sunday or not. I think it does matter. It matters first to yourself. It is a sign (special circumstances excepted) that you have failed in your duty, your duty to Christ. When we start slipping duties here and there we are soon indistinguishable from the pagan world. Secondly it does make a difference to the rest of the congregation. Your fellowship and witness is just not there. Each one adds up to a corporate impact that has an effect on the congregation and still further the community. See how these Christians love their Church and their Christ, the rest of the parish may well say. What I have said applies both to the morning and the evening worship. Some of the congregation do not seem to know that we have an evening service. Am I too hard? I don't think so.

Let me close by wishing you all a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year and hope that the Church we all love will be enabled to be a blessing to many in this district, and that we will be privileged to have a share in it.

Very sincerely yours,

W. MURRAY MACKAY.

## SEAT LETTING.

Members whose names are not on their pews or any who require Seats 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.

## GENERAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Treasurers of the various Church Organisations are requested to prepare a statement of their intramissions with relative vouchers for the year ending 31st December, 1954, and to hand them to the Session-Clerk, Mr. Thom, not later than 16th January, 1955, for submission to the Auditors.

## THE LATE Miss MARGARET OSBORNE.

It was the intention of Miss Osborne to acknowledge through the pages of the Supplement the presentation made to her by the congregation. Unfortunately, her illness took a serious turn and she was unable to do so. Her sisters would like to say how deeply touched she was and how much she appreciated the kindness which prompted the gift and to acknowledge on their own behalf the sympathy shown to them by members of the congregation.

## SOMETHING TO KEEP IN MIND.

The last Sunday evening of 1954 was very inclement indeed, which probably accounted for the meagre attendance, coupled with the fact that it immediately followed Christmas day.

So that knowledge of Mr. Mackay's sermon can be kept in mind, an outline is printed here and also the quotation with which the discourse concluded. His life of Christ fulfils all the requirements of good writing with the use only of simple words and it is exquisite in every respect.

## The Gift to the Poor in Jerusalem—2 Corinthians, Chapter 8.

Christmas is the time of the giving and receiving of presents, and that makes us think of the offering for the poor at Jerusalem that Paul is gathering in Macedonia as he writes this letter in the same vein to the Church in Corinth.

The first fact that interests us is in verse 2 of the 8th chapter. There we find that although the Church in Macedonia has been suffering affliction and is in some poverty, it still desires to take part in the gift to the Saints at Jerusalem. Is it not true that taken as a class the poor are the most generous, especially when we estimate giving not by what we give but by what we have left? Certainly it is the poor who know what poverty means. But these Macedonians are not merely poor, they have just received the Gospel of Christ, and they know themselves to be rich toward God. They are more concerned with treasures in heaven than those on the earth. We are often more concerned with whether our bank account is overdrawn in earth than in heaven. These Macedonians were interested in treasures in Heaven.

The next point we notice is in verse 8 where Paul, continuing his letter to the Corinthian Church, reminds them that, while they have often professed great love for Christ, he wants them to show the sincerity of their faith by taking part in this project. A person sent me this week an anonymous letter enclosing £2 to be distributed as he suggested. That showed a love that was more than a mere profession and issued in action. The Word was made flesh.

The third point to which I draw your attention is that Paul goes on to say to the Corinthian Church that if they are coming in on this scheme then he wants them to do so willingly. The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. I know that there is work on which we often engage against our will, and later become intensely interested in what we do. It is also true, however, that we hate to receive a gift that has been given grudgingly. So we may suppose God is distressed when we do the same. The gift without the giver is bare. With all that He has given us, God has given us Himself. That is the wonder of the Incarnation. During the first War the Americans had a practice of each house that had given a son to the war putting a star in the window. A little boy with his father was counting all the stars as he walked along the road. Then he looked up into the sky. "God has a star," he said, "in His window. He must have given His Son." "He has indeed," said his father. "He has indeed." Rather do nothing for the Church than do it unwillingly.

Lastly, Paul in verse 23 tells us that the delegation he is sending to Corinth consists of Titus and two others. It is to prepare the way before the Macedonian contingent arrives. They are official messengers of the Church, and



also manifest the glory of Christ. Now it is a wonderful experience to represent a congregation, a presbytery, in the Assembly, but it is a more glorious thing to show the glory of Christ. That is why the Church so often fails to make an impact on the community, that while it comes in the name of the Church it fails to manifest in its life His Glory. May it not be so with you.

### ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

Here is a young man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held public office. He never owned a house. He never had a family. He never went to school. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth, and that was his coat. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and to-day he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that One Solitary Life.

### CHRISTMAS PRAISE.

On the evening of 19th December the Choir gave their customary Christmas Praise Service consisting of Carols, Anthems, Solos and Quartets. The singing was of high quality and the choice of music most appropriate and won praise on all sides. There was a fair turn out of the congregation but many more might have been present to encourage the Organist and the singers. There must be some singers in our fellowship who could help on these occasions, but it is "regulars" who are most desired.

### THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Throughout December the children have been in the centre of things and the height was reached when on December 18th the Christmas Parties were held. The beginners were entertained in the afternoon and the older boys and girls in the evening. As usual, Santa Claus made his appearance on both occasions to the enjoyment of every one.

The fun was fast and furious and, indeed, some energy was carried over until the following morning when assembling for the gift service in Church.

Practice of Christmas Music occupied Sunday the 12th when also Mr. Nimmo rehearsed the Scripture passage which was to be read at the Children's Service the following Sunday.

It was a very wet morning on December 19th when the children gathered in the hall at 11 a.m., but very few boys and girls were missing and all provided with parcels.

So that none of the children should get wet, entrance to Church was made through the Session-House and down the north aisle into the vestibule and then along the centre aisle to deposit the parcels at the chancel steps, and an imposing pile they made.

It is very gratifying that the parents are encouraging their children to give and not always to be expecting to receive and it must be true to assume that the youngsters are giving toys and books which are treasures to them.

Immediately after the service the gifts were taken to the Mearnskirck Hospital to be used to gladden the hearts of at least some of the many sick boys and girls who are being cared for in that House of Healing. Dr. Dale has acknowledged this gift and Mr. Mackay has been present at the Hospital when Christmas Parties were being enjoyed.

### THE PRESENT ONLY IS OURS !

The year 1954 has passed into the "has beens" with its joys and its sorrows.

The membership has suffered losses, many of whom will be sorely missed because they had become almost synonymous with the Church. To compensate, others have joined the fellowship and it is hoped they will not be "just attenders" but active in the life of the Church.

Quite a number of the young people who have grown up in the congregation have made themselves full members and this is always very welcome to the Minister and the Session.

The total membership does not show much change from a year ago. This indicates that more or less it has been a period of marking time.

What then is the objective of 1955? Are we to leave it to Dr. Billy Graham or are we to use his visit as a stimulus to us to bring home to the people in our immediate neighbourhood the urgency of a personal strengthening of the Christian Life and showing it by a much closer attention and by observing regularly the means of Grace.

There is a large increase in the "young life" of Newton Mearns and never was there a greater need for parents to watch well the progress in Christian principles especially in the teenagers—boys particularly—for when they become eighteen years of age they are taken from the care of the home by the secular power totally for two years and partially for a further five years, and unless the principles of Christ are firmly fixed the risk of losing faith in the religious life and their grip of themselves is very great. Parenthood is a glorious thing but it is a tremendous responsibility.

### NEWTON MEARN'S SCHOOL.

The staff and pupils of Newton Mearns School assembled in the Church for their Annual Service before closing for the Christmas holiday.

There were some 350 present when Mr. Mackay opened the Service. The lesson was read in a good clear voice by one of the older pupils and he was complimented for his reading.

It is a difficult matter to address an audience of such a range of age groups, but it was noticed when Mr. Mackay referred to the Christmas Carol and the Dickens characters of Bob Cratchet and Tiny Tim the older boys were all attention immediately.

Mr. Telfer officiated at the organ.