

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

SEPTEMBER, 1955

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

Roy Mathison Anderson, 108 Beech Avenue.
Fiona Catherine Kinnear, 57 Beech Avenue.
Ann Waddell, c/o 1 Moorhill Crescent.
Carole Anne Marr, 308 Ayr Road.
Andrew Macdonald Thomson, Darvel.

Marriages.

Daisy Chapman Owen to Morris F. Erskine.
Jean Ross to Ian Wood.

Deaths.

Mrs. Paterson, Ravenshaw, Glebe Road.
Mrs. Williamson, Sypland, Westbrae Road.
Miss Anna B. Mather, Lindores, Westbrae Road.
Mr. John Crawford, The Bungalow, Ayr Road.
Mr. John Crocker, Mirjana, Atholl Drive, Giffnock.
Mr. Henry Forsyth, Sonas, Ayr Road.
Mr. Peter Boyle, 36 Hazelwood Avenue.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Paterson.

Mrs. Paterson of Ravenshaw, Glebe Road, died at her home in Glebe Road on the 23rd June aged 85 years. Her life was devoted to her home and her family. It is quite customary to-day for a woman to go out to business but such was not the life that she would have desired. To look after her husband and daughters was the task that she believed to have been allotted to her in life, and most faithfully did she seek to accomplish it. She had a sweet and loving nature, and her influence was such in the home. She loved the Church, and was a diligent attender of the Sanctuary as long as she was able. To her two sorrowing daughters we offer our deep sympathy in the loss of one whose gracious presence has been a lasting influence in their lives.

Miss Anna B. Mather.

Miss Anna B. Mather died at her residence, Lindores, Westbrae Road, on Monday, 22nd August. The family of which she was the last surviving member is one that has had a long and happy association with our congregation. Her father and mother joined it when they came to live at Kirkhill—the home originally of the Boyd family after which she was named. It was a familiar sight to see the household arriving on a Sunday at the Church in their carriage and pair. Her brother, the late Mr. John B. Mather, was an honoured elder in the congregation and for many years the presses of the Board of Management. The Communion Table that adorns this chancel was the gift of Miss Anna and Miss Elizabeth Mather. We as a Church owe a great debt to the love and loyalty of a family of which Miss Anna was a prominent member. It is sad to think that there is not a descendant of it. She was the last of her race. We pray that God will raise up other families to take the place of one which has served the Church so well. To Mrs. Mather of Windyhaugh, to Miss Waddell, and to all her friends we extend to-day our deepest sympathy.

Mrs. Williamson.

Mrs. Williamson died on the 30th June at her home, Sypland, Westbrae Road. She was known to me personally before I came to be minister in this Church and therefore I can speak of an acquaintance with the family over many years. Her husband has always had a great love of flowers, and has taken many prizes in Glasgow and elsewhere. All who have had the privilege of knowing him have a deep affection for him. Mrs. Williamson proved herself a devoted wife to him, and their love for each other was an example to all. In the garden of the soul one can seek to grow many flowers but as the Apostle says—the greatest of these is love. To her husband, daughter, and son-in-law we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. John Crocker.

Mr. John Crocker of Mirjana, 18 Atholl Drive, Giffnock passed away at a city infirmary on Friday, 5th August. He was employed in the Corporation of Glasgow as an inspector of weights and measures, and also as an overseer of the fuel supplies of petrol and oil, etc. for the municipality. It was in the latter capacity that recently he had acted. He was the son of the late Captain and Mrs. Crocker of Whitecraigs, who, before they retired to Strone, were also members of our congregation. He was married in 1930 to Miss Maisie Storry, and their wedding was about the last at which the late Rev. Godfrey Macfadyen officiated. During the last war he served in the police force, and the presence at his funeral of a large representation from it testified to the esteem in which he was held. As a man he was considerate in all his dealings with his fellow men. During his illness, which was protracted over many months he maintained a brightness of spirit that made the task of nursing easier for all. To his widow, his sister, and all his kith and kin we offer our sincere sympathy in the great loss that they have sustained.

Mr. Henry Forsyth.

Henry Forsyth of Sonas, Ayr Road, died on Thursday, 18th August, in his 67th year. He had been confined to bed for some time, and all that many saw of him was the cheery wave that they received through the window from him. His work as an Inspector of Schools and a member of the Career's Council brought him into constant touch with youth, and it would be a true estimate of his character that he not only retained a youthful spirit all his days, but that in his heart there was a deep love for the young. When I first knew him he was in the midst of the Social Club in Stonelaw Church, Rutherglen. I was assistant minister there and, therefore, we were thrown into close contact. As people grow older they often fail to understand the point of view of youth, but that could never be said of him. His work in the Church was always centred in the youth organisations. He was nominated and elected an elder in the congregation but at that time he realised that his strength was failing, and most reluctantly had to decline the office. To his widow and son and all his kith and kin we offer our sincere sympathy in the passing of one who was greatly beloved by all.

Mr. John Crawford.

When I was on vacation in July there passed away Mr. John Crawford, of the Bungalow, Ayr Road. His house was no doubt named thus because it was the first of its type known in the district. At that time it was a tea-room and social functions in the village were often held there. The first marriage I conducted as a minister in the district was in it. His wife was a woman of a very fine character and many a talk I had with her in the early days of my ministry. John Crawford was a figure well-known in the district, and every one on the bowling green spoke highly of him. He was a good and upright man, and a good neighbour. To his daughters we extend our sympathy in the loss of one upon whom they look back with the deepest affection.

Mr. Peter Boyle.

In intimating the death of Miss Anna B. Mather, Mr. Mackay asked the sympathy of the congregation to be given to Mrs. Boyle of 36 Hazelwood Avenue, on the death of her husband, Mr. Peter Boyle. Their certificates of Church membership had been handed to him and would have come before the Session at the forthcoming Communion. Mr. Boyle was the Scottish representative of Gaskell & Co. and served in the Home Guard in this district during the war.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Outing and Prize-Giving.

Mr. Nimmo and his staff take this opportunity of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Rodger and family for the kind hospitality shown to all who were privileged to be at Netherplace Farm for the annual "trip" on Saturday, 25th June.

The weather was very good for such an occasion and the pupils, in addition to seeing all the interesting items of the farm, were able to enjoy a full programme of sporting activities.

As a congregation we are fortunate in having so many farmers who take such a practical interest in the young folks of our Church.

On Sunday, 26th June, the morning service was mainly for the children and, at the close, Mr. Mackay handed over the Attendance and James Pollock Memorial prizes to those who had earned them.

As is well known, the Pollock Memorial prizes were for the memorising of hymns, psalms and Scripture passages and many pupils took part. As usual, the Senior Sunday School was divided into three sections—those under nine years of age, those from nine to eleven and those over eleven. Those in the youngest group were asked to memorise Hymn 77 and Matthew ix, 1 to 13; the middle group Hymn 483 and Luke xviii, 1 to 16 and the oldest group Hymn 365 and Matthew xx, 1 to 16.

To the Primary and Beginners was offered a selection of suitable hymns from which they could make a choice.

Five of the oldest girls each earned a prize in a competition which demanded a very close reading of the four Gospels. The test was to find out the names of all the people who had met Jesus while he was on earth and, when the names were not recorded, the chapter and verse had to be supplied. The five girls had each found over a hundred of such meetings and their work was highly creditable.

The new session commences on the first Sunday after the September Communion and pupils are asked to enrol as soon as possible.

EVENTIDE HOMES.

At the last meeting of the Congregational Board the Treasurer reported receipt of an anonymous gift of £20 in aid of the Eventide Homes. As no particular Home was mentioned this gift has been forwarded to Edinburgh for the General Fund. The Board take the opportunity to thank the Donor for drawing attention in this way to the Eventide Homes of the Church.

The problem of Old Age gets progressively more pressing and is, perhaps, most severe when in advanced age the man is left to fend for himself having always previously had his meals prepared for him.

There is something to be said that all youths should be taught some plain cooking and it would be infinitely better doing this than wasting time loafing at street corners. It is difficult, though, to put old heads on young shoulders.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY.

The news that Mr. Nimmo has resigned the position of Superintendent of the Sunday School for reasons of health will be received with sorrow by the congregation. Mr. Nimmo had outstanding ability for such a position and his facility for acquiring and retaining the names of the children was unique and very valuable when the whole school was assembled and individuals were called for Scripture reading.

When the matter was reported to the Session they decided that a small committee should consider a successor and were given authority to make the appointment.

This has now been done and when the new session commences on 18th September, Mr. Menzies will be in charge. Already Mr. Menzies has given valuable service as a teacher and is thoroughly familiar with the affairs of the Sunday School and is assured of the goodwill of the Staff.

VARIA.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held on Sunday, 18th September. In the forenoon the children are asked to bring gifts to the service at 11.30 a.m. and these will be taken thereafter to Mearnskirk Hospital.

The Anniversary Services will be held on Sunday, 16th October, and will be conducted by the Rev. Hugh Anderson, M.A., of Trinity Church, Pollokshields.

Our congratulations go to Mr. Ian Wood and his wife on their marriage in Cape Town on Saturday the 27th August. Many of us were thinking of them on this great day in their life.

Our congratulations also are offered to George Robertson of Calvine, Glebe Road, on being chosen as one of the Scouts from Scotland to attend a World Jamboree near Niagara Falls. We note also that he was second in the Bursars' Competition open to all Scotland. Well done!

The Bible Class (ages 12-18) will be resumed on the first Sabbath in October at 10.15 a.m. in the Session House.

The Young People's Union will resume on the second Sunday of October at 5.15 p.m. in the Upper Hall.

THE CHOIR.

Practice will be resumed on Thursday the 15th September at 8 p.m.

Recruits to all the parts are urgently required and parents are urged to influence their young people who could help in this way to join and so assist in the important task of leading the praise of the Church.

We are indebted to the senior members for their loyalty and devotion and we trust that there are younger people, no less ready to serve, about to come forward.

During the Summer months certain members of the Choir have given a solo and we rejoice to think that talent of such a high order lies within the membership of our Church Choir.

HOLIDAY SEASON SERVICES.

The first preacher to serve us during Mr. Mackay's absence was Mr. Alexander Cochrane of Stewarton—a candidate for the Ministry and at present attending Trinity College.

Due to holidays the Choir was few in number but before entering the pulpit Mr. Cochrane met them and offered prayer.

A slight change was made in procedure, for after the opening psalm Mr. Cochrane addressed the children, after which the young folk all girls, briskly left the Church, looking very sweet in their summer frocks, to spend a quiet hour with Miss Irene Davidson.

The first Lesson was from The Epistle General of James, and immediately came to mind that tremendous sentence: "pure religion and undefiled before God the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." The passage selected, however, came from the third chapter. The Old Testament lesson was one section of the twenty-two which compose Psalm 119.

It is recorded that David Livingstone as a boy of nine won a copy of the New Testament from his Sunday School teacher for repeating by heart the whole of psalm cxix. Indeed, throughout Livingstone's life the psalms played an important part.

Psalm cxix is an alphabetical poem consisting of twenty-two divisions, which are severally headed in the English Bible by the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Its one simple theme is *the excellence of the Word of God* which is presented in every variety of form.

Luther's heading of the psalm is "The Christian's golden A B C of the praise, love, strength and use of God's Word."

Mr. Cochrane impressed upon his hearers the importance of observing the testimonies, commandments and precepts of the Lord and minimising the rush and hurry of our modern life which leaves us little time for consideration and meditation of the things that really are important.

The visiting Minister on 17th July was the Rev. Robert Davidson, who is in charge of the Extension Church in Ruchazie—one of Glasgow's Housing Schemes.

The need to bring the idea of a ministry of reconciliation down to the level of our social life and our Christian fellowship was stressed by Mr. Davidson.

His text was Second Corinthians v., 18. . . . "And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation."

St. Paul, he said, had much to say about becoming a new creature. "Here he gives us the way of effecting this transformation by reconciliation."

Often when we thought about the idea of becoming a new creature we made either too little or too much of it. On the one hand we think, "but people don't change, not really, so why talk about it." For practical purposes, therefore, we were inclined to dismiss the idea. On the other hand we sometimes thought of the idea of "a new creation" as being something very far from everyday reality, something perhaps at the level of the angels rather than the level of men and women. In either case we got a distorted view.

"Let us think of simple things. Think of a milliner's stand. The heart of a woman leaps up when she sees some little confection there. But this hat has first of all been imagined by the milliner and then brought to reality by the milliner's art. In its finished form it has an effect on the mind, on the emotions and on the senses. Here in effect is a very human "new creation."

It was not only in the world at the level of the milliner that changes could be wrought. Many an uncouth lad as a result of his studies and his contact with life was refined down in manhood. The smart girl in business was not to be compared with the gawky lass who started her job all these years ago. Both the boy and the girl had been moulded and made suitable. The influences at work were education and society. New creations, then, did happen.

Why, therefore, should not the influence of Jesus Christ have a transforming effect?

"WE CAN BE MADE NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH THIS IS ACHIEVED IS THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION. All things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation."

"At one time I found it hard to grasp the idea of reconciliation. 'If there is any movement' I thought, 'it must be from our own side.' How wrong I was. God's righteousness is not in question. Reconciliation is the right word. Our God is a God who is looking for us and the supreme transforming is an encounter with him in the middle of life. We are on the way to our life's Damascus and then we stop and we meet the Lord. Yes, it is reconciliation. We meet the Lord who is looking for us and it is in this encounter that we find a new life."

He made a habit, he said, of telling his new communicants to hold the idea that we are God's men and God's women. God has to come naturally into our calculations. That, he said, was the way to harmony with the Highest. If you took God into your calculations then, like all the great things that happen to us, this *made us do something about it*.

If we had an encounter with God we were called to a ministry of reconciliation.

"I need say little about the need for this in the international sphere—how much we ought to pray for God's harmony at the present time. What scope there is now for the statesmen; the men of goodwill."

There was, however, scope for us, too, at ordinary life levels. We could deflect the malicious tongue of slander, we could choose to reflect only those things which showed the *harmony* of things.

"We truly have a ministry of reconciliation in doing this kind of work. All congregations have scope for individual ministries of reconciliation. Let us remember that we are new creatures through our encounter with Jesus Christ and that we are engaged in a ministry of reconciliation in our social contacts and in our Christian fellowship. Knowing Him, we commend Him to others. It is as simple, or as difficult as that.

Another visiting Minister, on 24th July, was the Rev. J. J. L. Philp, of Busby East, who expressed pleasure at being again in Newton Mearns Church. The weather was very warm and the ladies reflected this in the bright colourful light dresses they wore and contrasting with the men in their darker and heavier suitings.

The present spell of really warm weather inspired the children's address, which he said must be topical. Feeling the heat? What are you doing to keep cool? Conjuring up the idea of children with stockings off paddling in the water and eating ice-cream. Then the advice "Don't get over excited; keep a cool mind as well as a cool body."

How comforting it was to have a shade, especially to a person like himself whose hair was getting thin. This brought to mind a line in the 121st Psalm: "The Lord is thy shade." In the old days they knew something of a heat wave.

The service opened with the 121st Psalm to the familiar tune "French."

The lesson was St. John, chapter 21, and the text was from the fourth verse: "But when the morning was come Jesus stood on the shore." Jesus found pleasure in the place where land and water met. His friends were out fishing and He was there to welcome them back.

With the disappointment of their hopes through the death on the Cross, Peter and the others had gone back to the old employment of fishing.

While Jesus was with them they were fishers of men. Without Him they found it more easy to be fishers of fish. But that night they caught nothing and to the call from the shore, "Children, have ye any meat?" they had to answer "No." "Cast on the right side and you will find." When they did get on shore they found a fire and food and Jesus waiting for them.

It is the same for us, we are all fishing one way or another. When we meet with Jesus we are then on a firm footing. Something you can grasp and hold. There is something tremendously real in this experience of meeting Jesus.

When the blind man was asked who had made him able to see, he said he did not know who it was. What he did know was that before he was blind but now he could see. St. Paul said, "I know whom I believe."

When we meet Jesus there is a right royal welcome—Jesus is on the shore with a fire kindled, ready for the one needing encouragement and hope. Meeting Jesus means a searching of soul. We want to be with Him and to express our thanks for the benefits we have enjoyed and failed to acknowledge. It should become a point of honour to be in Church every Sunday.

We remember the testing Peter had after his three-fold denial.

When we meet Jesus are we His friend every day afterwards?

The Rev. James Harrison, of Glasgow, conducted the service on 31st July with great acceptance. He introduced a unique figure in his children's address to illustrate the point he was making: that Christians should be possessed of the same heart and mind, by the story of the New Testament torn in half and the one half being complementary to the other. The great ideal of all combining to make one harmonious whole.

The selection of the passages from Scripture and his sermon were correlated in a very admirable way. The Old Testament reading was Isaiah, chapter 35, telling of the holy way promised to pilgrims, and the New Testament from Philippians, chapter 2, giving consolation and encouragement to Christians and making for unity of mind. His text was chosen from Romans, chapter 14, verses 17 and 18, and his theme, the ministry of service, the free rendering of all gifts, graces and endowments to our religious duty, as being acceptable to God and approved of men. The contagion of "righteousness," the "joy" of achieving some project and satisfaction of accomplishing some piece of Christian work. "Peace" and serenity of mind as a consequence.

We must mention, too, his prayer with the Choir before entering the Sanctuary, though naturally brief, contained some sublime, uplifting thoughts, expressed in well-chosen words.

A MESSAGE FROM JAMAICA.

It may not be known to many in the congregation that there has grown up a close attachment between Newton Mearns and Lucea, Jamaica, largely through the interest taken by Mr. and Mrs. Menzies and Mr. Telfer. The former, with encouraging letters and magazines sent to the Minister, the Rev. D. A. Rothnie, and Mr. Telfer by his assiduous collection of the used Sunday School Teacher Magazines, both from our own School and also from the Schools in the South Suburban Union. These are then sent to Jamaica for re-use in the Island.

Recently a small gift was sent to Mr. Rothnie from our Sunday School and in an acknowledgement it is described as a handsome gift—"It is most welcome as all our accounts for youth work stands at debit."

Mr. Rothnie says:—

We have launched out with a company of the Boys' Brigade, with Life Boys and a new company of the Girls' Guildry and Speedwells. We have now three companies of the G.G. and Speedwells. The new companies have required very considerable help to get them supplied with equipment, uniforms, etc. The children are very poor and while we insist on their doing all they can for themselves there are cases of a deserving nature which we must help. The B.B. has taken a new lease of life in Jamaica as an organiser has been sent out from England. I wonder if you have heard of the part the B.B. took in the Celebrations of the Tercentenary under British rule. It was a most imaginative plan and it worked out most impressively. A silver baton with a message from the H.Q. in Westminster was run to the Airport, London, and was flown to Jamaica and was taken charge of here. There were relay runners arranged to go round the Island, a run of over 400 miles. Our boys were in it and carried the baton from Savannalamar to Montego Bay, a distance of 47 miles. There was a crowd at every stage where the baton was transferred from one set of runners to the other. The best scene was in Lucea where the runners arrived at mid-night. The whole populace turned out and there was a great welcome for them in the square. The message from Lord McLay was read and speeches made. The runners set off at 12.30 for Montego Bay. They were

escorted all the way by police cars and ourselves. My wife and I were out 12 hours without a break and enjoyed it. The boys were tremendously proud of their feat. The last relay were received in Kingston by the Governor and the Chief Minister and other notables. It created a tremendous interest and set the B.B. on the map in the Island. Every stage was timed and in no case was there a hitch. Crowds turned out everywhere to cheer them on.

The G.G. had a rally and Pageant in Montego Bay in celebration of the 300th Anniversary of British occupation. It was a magnificent thing. There were 500 girls in the pageant and the camp lasted a week. My wife led the march through the principal streets of Montego Bay in a blazing sun but it was worth it all.

We are trying to put a new emphasis on Youth work but with all the stations we have to work it is impossible to give it all the attention it deserves. We are very short of men in the ministry. We are in charge of ten stations with fully organised congregations at present. We are getting a Probationer to help us. We cherish the memory of our meeting with you when we were home. We cherish your friendship and we are grateful for the magazines you send for our Sunday Schools."

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

An interesting question was introduced for discussion at a recent meeting of the Presbytery regarding an experiment in Evangelism directed to non-Church elements in the Gorbals area by a team of three probationers under the supervision of the Iona Community Board. The Home Mission Committee submitted a report indicating their unanimous decision against the experiment on the grounds of its being a setting up of a separate organisation within the parish of Gorbals—John Knox Church, and the uncertainty of its financial proposals, contending that this work could be better done by providing extra assistants to the minister and session in co-operation with the lay witness of the congregation. The Rev. T. Ralph Morton replying said the Board supported the scheme because they recognised that sections of the population in that area could only be touched by a special approach. Though the Presbytery recommended departing from the proposed experiment, it was difficult not to come to the conclusion that both from a religious and dialectical point of view the Board had presented the better case.

Speaking on the results and effects of the recent All Scotland Crusade, the Convener of the Evangelism Committee, the Rev. Thomas Crombie, said that it had been a wonderful experience and a stimulating and challenging effort which had benefited the Church tremendously. Though it had not reached directly such a large number of outsiders as could have been looked for, still it had provided a stimulus to Bible Study and prayer groups on a scale not previously known in the history of the Church. He was confident that efforts made through this medium were bound to reach and influence many "without the pale." The fact, that, by far the greatest proportion of people who made decisions were already attached to the Church in some way or another, gave rise to some questioning, whether we in the Church were satisfied as to the adequacy of our preparation for first communicants towards a more public profession of their faith. It might be noted, *anent* this, that the Teaching Missions conducted by the Rev. William Barclay of Trinity College and the Rev. Tom Allan during May, could be perpetuated with profit.

A unique contingency concerning Woodside Church was brought before the Presbytery at its last meeting. This Church was allowed to call a minister on condition of that same being a terminable appointment. The position being that, at the end of three years the Presbytery would review the appointment, in the event of a readjustment with another congregation being necessary. The vacancy had existed for two years, and this called for some settlement or other. The Rev. J. C. Lough of Wanlockhead and Leadhills was appointed for the term. This must be regarded as a somewhat unusual case.