

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1956

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Audrey Stewart Scott Black, 102 Eastwoodmains Road.
Shirley Allison Haddow, Witchwood, Patterton.
Susan Patricia Jean Watson, 29 Sunningdale Avenue. **3**

Marriage.

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

Thomas Carvel and Elizabeth Cameron.

Deaths.

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

Mr. J. P. Robertson, Liberton, Ayr Road.
Mr. W. Kirkpatrick, 17 Lochbroom Drive. **2**

New Members admitted in October, 1956.

By Profession of Faith.

Judith Helen Bain, 29 Larchfield Avenue.
William Blackstock, Killellen, Glebe Lane.
Catherine Baxter McCormick, Chaurnley, Larchfield Ave.
Joan Marion MacPhail, Hightrees, Gilmourton Crescent.
J. George N. McI. Robertson, Calvine, Glebe Road.
Jessie Rodger Pettigrew, The Moorings, Newtonlea Ave.
William Paterson Sutherland, 12 Beech Crescent.
Douglas Fleming Todd, 4 Beech Avenue.
Lesley Williams, 65 Larchfield Avenue.

By Certificates.

Mrs. William Blackstock, Killellen, Glebe Lane.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brodie, 20 Edzell Drive.
Mr. and Mrs. William Dawson, 37 Larchfield Avenue.
Mrs. James H. Davie, 42 Eaglesham Road.
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Fraser, 77 Ayr Road.
Mr. and Mrs. William Grant, 20 Davieland Road, Whitecraigs.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hillhouse, 56 Hazelwood Avenue.
Mr. Russell Hillhouse, 56 Hazelwood Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. James Paton, 69 Dorian Drive, Giffnock.
Mrs. J. G. Thom, 77 Ayr Road.

OBITUARY.

Mr. James P. Robertson.

Mr. James P. Robertson, Liberton, Ayr Road, died at a city infirmary on Saturday, 20th October. He came to this district from the Langside area where he had been a member of Langside Hill Church and the Captain in it of the Boys' Brigade. It was not long before he had persuaded the Session of this congregation to allow him to start a Company within it. Those who remember it will acknowledge what a splendid one it was. He was a born leader of youth. The love of the boy was in his heart. The "germ" of the Boys' Brigade had got under his skin. He devoted himself wholeheartedly to the work. At that time he owned a shop at the Cross. Certainly he was always available, but the boys were never out of his presence day and night. He gave himself unstintingly to them. As a leader he not only had each night a full programme of things that appealed to them, but, if he ever asked them to do any physical exercise he could always do it better than they could. Without showing off in any way he quietly demonstrated what he wanted them to do, and it was always accomplished to perfection. As a speaker he was fluent to the point of brilliance. It seemed no difficulty for him to address the Company on religious subjects. He would take some incident from everyday life and show the moral of the Christian life on it. It was my privilege to go to more than one B.B. camp in the summer at Tighnabruaich or Grantly or Barrhill, and I was always impressed not only with the efficiency with which it was run, but the way in which he gave himself unsparingly to

the boys. Nothing was a trouble to him if it concerned their welfare. Some of the displays which the Company gave will long live in our memory, not forgetting the pantomimes.

There came a time in his life when he felt that he had reached an age when he was unable to be a leader of youth, and reluctantly relinquished his task. At that time he sold the shop and became the Secretary of East Dunbartonshire Unionist Association. This was work peculiarly to his liking and he served the constituency faithfully. He was elected an Elder of the congregation in Newton Mearns and was greatly beloved by many.

To his widow and sons and all his kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy in this time, for them, of sore bereavement.

Mr. William Kirkpatrick

Mr. William Kirkpatrick, managing director of the Clutha Stevedoring Company, Princes Dock, Glasgow, died suddenly while attending a meeting of the Glasgow Port Employers' Association. Mr. Kirkpatrick, who resided at 17 Lochbroom Drive, had had a serious illness some months ago and had not long returned to his business. The large company that attended his funeral service at Paisley bore testimony to the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow men. To his widow and all his kith and kin we extend our deepest sympathy.

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH.

The following members have kindly offered to supply flowers for the ensuing weeks:—

Dec. 2—Mr. J. McCallum.
" 9—Mrs. T. Craig.
" 16—Mrs. Bain.
" 23—Mrs. Macdonald.
" 30—Mr. J. Russell.
1957.
Jan. 6—Mrs. C. J. Thom.
" 13—Mrs. Kinnear.
" 20—Mr. J. McCallum.
" 27—Mr. J. Russell.

REGARD FOR HUNGARIANS.

The retiring collection for the relief of distressed Hungarians realised £50. Belated gifts can still be dealt with by the Treasurer—if so earmarked.

OCTOBER COMMUNION SEASON.

The Session were due to assemble at 7.30 on the Friday evening in order that the new Communicants could be introduced and received by them. Just at the time a violent gale broke and torrential rain fell, but in spite of this there was a surprisingly good attendance of Elders who had braved the storm.

To the membership of the Church there were added five young ladies and four upstanding young men. The Session earnestly hope that as the years pass, these, now full members, will be found taking an active part in the ordinary day to day interests of the Newton Mearns Church and the young men equipping themselves so that they can contribute from their experience to the wider interests of the Church generally in Presbytery and Assembly.

The new members having left the Session House, cases of sickness were reported and noted.

The Session-Clerk intimated the duties to be undertaken on the Sunday and the Elders went into the Church for the Service of Preparation.

It was a pity that the inclement weather had very much affected the attendance.

The Rev. J. L. J. Philp, Minister of Busby, conducted the service, which he opened by quoting several appropriate passages of Scripture and then leading in prayer.

Opening the Bible at the Revelation of St. John, he read a lesson from the second chapter. This seemed rather difficult at first but when it came to the sermon it proved a basis for a discourse of real worth.

There had been a falling away on the part of members of the Church at Ephesus. The text was, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee; because thou hast left thy first love."

Mr. Philp disclaimed that what he had to say was a learned discourse, but when his homely talk concluded there was a consensus of opinion that it had been most valuable.

He would have no doubt, he said, about our not leaving our first love if we continued to love the Bible and studied its teachings; were regular in attendance at the Church services and continued the practice of prayer!

The story of a formative incident in the early life of Lionel B. Fletcher—a noted Missioner of an earlier day—was effectively told. In Fletcher's youth his father apprenticed him for training in a maritime capacity. On one occasion as they were entering a port the cadets had arranged a "ploy" of some kind but just as they were about to leave the ship Fletcher rushed down to his cabin for something he had forgotten. Facing him as he approached his bunk, on the rail of which was a portrait of his father, and at once he was pulled up and the ploy in which he was to have a part was challenged, "I will not do it," and, looking at the portrait of his father, he said, "For your sake I will not do it."

The lesson of this story is obvious. If we keep in mind a portrait of Christ we shall have a great resource for resisting temptation when we are tested.

Happily there was no rain on Sunday morning, 21st October, and when the Session assembled at 11 a.m. it was almost at full strength, except for one or two cases of indisposition. When the essential duties were accomplished the members took their places in the Chancel and really the Newton Mearns Church has a fine body of men who are possessed with a warm regard for the cause for which it stands.

The opening praise was the twenty-third Psalm sung to the tune *Martyrdom* and it was rendered with deep feeling befitting the occasion. The lesson was taken from St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 22, which dealt with the events leading up to the Last Supper. Mr. Mackay in his discourse made clear, as he always does, the significance of the Act of Communion.

Taking his place among the Elders in the Chancel, the whole company joined in singing the Hymn "Rock of Ages" in a really devotional spirit, which prepared us for the re-enactment of what had passed in the upper room so long ago. In this the Elders took the honoured part in distributing the Elements in the usual quiet, decorous way.

The service concluded with the singing of a hymn and the blessing.

Owing to the "open" Communion in the evening, the Meeting of the Session was concluded at this point.

The evening service did not follow the usual practice, owing to the start of the fortnight's Evangelical Campaign, which started that evening and an "Open Communion," to which friends from the Mearns Kirk, the Broom and the Christian Brethren had been invited. Dr. Fawcett—Minister of the Johnstone High Church—conducted the service and preached a telling sermon on Naomi and her daughters-in-law, particularly when on the journey to Canaan when they reached the point when the final decision had to be made. Naomi advised that the two daughters-in-law should go back to their own country and seek a full life there. Orpah decided to go back although the decision was taken with tears. She is not heard of again.

Ruth was firm in her decision to abide with her mother-in-law. The story shows how wonderfully the future opened out for Ruth and the effect her action still has upon us to-day; she being an ancestor of Jesus Christ. Dr. Fawcett's point was that of decision and the importance it has for each person. A fitting discourse for the beginning of an Evangelical Campaign.

The Rev. W. Murray Mackay presided at the "Open Communion" supported by the Rev. J. O'Hara Thompson, the Rev. J. Reid Christie, Dr. Fawcett and Mr. James Rodger.

Elders of the Churches in the district dispensed the elements to the congregation.

It was good to see the leaders in the religious life of the Mearns and the Broom taking part together in this important act of devotion.

There was a fair attendance and surely there is a case for a much more close working together. There is a large portion of the inhabitants of the Mearns who have no active participation in the Church life of the district.

MEARNS EVANGELICAL CAMPAIGN.

A short time before the Campaign officially opened a meeting was held in Mearns Parish Church Hall to which the Campaign Committee invited Office-bearers of the religious bodies and interested people.

This meeting was addressed by the Rev. Geo. A. Young, Minister of the Hillhead Baptist Church. Mr. Young spent many years in China and Tibet as a missionary and was expelled from China when the Communists got control in that country.

In his brief remarks on his experiences he made one wish to hear more.

On returning home he was appointed to minister in Hillhead Baptist Church—a Church which had been a Mecca among the Baptists but whose congregation had declined.

His main business, however, was to inform the company present what befell when he and his congregation organised an evangelical campaign in Hillhead. If I remember correctly his active membership was a hundred and in the area served by the Church there were about seven thousand people. Teams were arranged, every house visited and records made. The community was very mixed and not a great many were connected with the Baptist Church. The visitation had not added much to their strength. In the last two years, seven visits had been carried through without winning many to their membership but the effect on their congregation had been remarkable for the enthusiasm and loyalty it had engendered.

It was a clear indication of what should be done in such an endeavour.

The Mearns Campaign was opened on Sunday, 21st October, with a service in Mearnskirk in the forenoon and an open Communion in the Newton Mearns Church in the evening (a reference to which will be found under the heading "October Communion Season").

The Campaign came to a close on Sunday evening 4th November, with a rally and there was a fair attendance but the Church was not by any means full.

Mr. Mackay was taking the Thanksgiving Service in Johnstone High Church, whilst Dr. Fawcett was in Mearns.

During the prior fortnight, Dr. Fawcett conducted no less than twelve services and a wonderfully high standard was maintained throughout. Indeed it is with a sense of inadequacy to do justice to the discourses that I apply myself to the task; but, having accepted the responsibility of producing the Church Supplement an effort must be made.

In next issue a list of the subjects with the texts will be given to enable readers to turn them up and reconstruct the ones they had heard and find the lesson that the other passages suggest.

Throughout the whole series one point was not lost sight of, viz., the necessity of coming to a decision! The importance of this cannot be over emphasised, unless it be the strictness and continuity in carrying out the decision when that had been made.

In another place mention has been made on "Ruth's Vow," which was the subject dealt with on Sunday evening, 21st October.

The discourse on "First-hand Faith," based on St. John, chapter 4, verse 42 was so true to life and the lesson indicated with such aptness that many who heard would be pricked in conscience. The way the woman at the well

in Samaria tried to side-track Jesus by introducing irrelevant subjects to save her from accepting the offer of "Living water."

How remarkable it was that Christ should be sitting at the well alone and thirsty yet without being able to get the water to quench his thirst; the woman coming to the well at mid-day (when the usual thing was for the women to come early before the heat of the day). The reason being her ill-repute among the people. Christ doesn't upbraid or condemn her, but persists until she is brought to a decision and then she goes back to the village to tell the good news and invites her hearers to "come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" And many of the Samaritans believed and said unto the woman, "Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

How like the thing it is in our own day. We are faced with the question yet shirk to answer it and put off for another time. It comes again. Still not ready to throw in our lot with Him we might miss something if we do. Troubled a bit in mind, decision is put off for another time. Forgetting that time is being lost when we might be working with Him!

At the closing rally the text was Matt. 27 and 22nd verse. Pilate had had Christ before him and after considering the matter arrived at the conclusion, "I find no fault in Him," conveys this judgment to the leaders of the Jews, but they reject his finding. Pilate is faced with the question, "What shall I do with Jesus?"

None of us can evade that question now. Jesus has entered into every phase of life in these days and an answer must be given either to accept or reject Him and the answer given will affect the whole future. The importance of the decision cannot be minimised.

However, there isn't space to deal with each subject he dealt with and it is a pity that more of the residents in Mearns didn't take advantage of hearing the Doctor, who could put this important matter before us with such clearness and wealth of illustration which did not cloud his erudition and depth of understanding of the Bible and human nature as well.

One evening, Dr Fawcett was not able to be present when a pre-Communion Service, at which new communicants were to be received, and the Rev. Kenneth Turnbull took his place, and although the approach was quite different, a telling discourse was delivered and the importance of decision lost nothing in the appeal.

A REALLY SOCIAL EVENING.

Another of the congregational "get-together" evenings was held on Wednesday, 14th November, when Church members from a number of Elder's districts had been invited to meet socially.

There was a good company present and as soon as each had received a disc on which was the person's name, and also a jumble of letters naming something in the Church, every one got busy setting the letters into the proper order. Ultimately, Mrs. Ferns and Mr. Walker came out top for having elucidated the largest number of Jumbles.

The proceedings concluded with the Doxology and the Benediction and every one went away in a happy frame of mind.

SILVER WEDDING CELEBRATION.

The Complimentary Dinner and Social to Rev. W. Murray and Mrs. Mackay, held in the Marlborough on Friday, 26th October, was a happy affair.

This function had been arranged by the Congregational Board and the attendance reflected this in that there was a preponderance of the "not so old" among the members of the Church.

The menu having been disposed of, the Chairman—Mr. Walter T. Davidson—proposed the toast "The Queen," to which a full response was given.

The next toast was for the chief guests of the evening,

the "Reverend and Mrs. W. Murray Mackay," which was in the capable hands of Mr. John S. Anderson, who delighted every one with the appositeness of his speech.

When Mr. Mackay visited the Church to preach for the vacant charge he was met at the conclusion of the service by another young man who was to see him entertained to a meal.

—But let Mr. Anderson speak for himself—"Come back with me for 25 years. Two young men are walking up the Kilmarnock Road as it was then. One of them is tired. It is Sunday and he has just preached for the 'vacancy,' as it is called. The other is simply a guide to show him the house where his lunch has been prepared. A purely neutral house. No one from the congregation must entertain him lest the table manners of the young minister should influence the choice."

"A wise congregation called the young minister to his first charge and so he began his ministry. What of the other? He also was on the threshold of his career, but his work took him elsewhere soon after."

At subsequent services the minister was puzzled, for the other young man never appeared in Church. Was it possible that besides a neutral house a neutral young man had been used that Sunday! It was only when a short holiday brought the young man back to his native heath that the two again met."

"Little did I think when your Minister and I walked up to Susie Wright's at the Red House that Sunday 25 years ago, that tonight I should be honoured in being allowed, as one of his Elders, to propose this toast on the occasion of his Semi-Jubilee and Silver Wedding Anniversary."

Mr. Anderson mentioned the tributes that had been paid already to Mr. Mackay for his pulpit work, and referred to the Mr. Walter Rodger speech made at a previous gathering in the Church.

"This function," Mr. Anderson said, "is of a much more intimate nature. It is not intended to be formal, and so I would like to refer to an aspect of Mr. Mackay's ministry among us which is much more personal. I refer to his *pastoral work*. I am of the opinion that it is in this sphere that he excels."

"I had begun to paint you a picture of our Minister, a well-loved figure against a background of his Church and people and community, and I must continue."

"On part the canvas is blank up to now, but on to it a splash of colour and with the addition of this figure the picture is complete. A figure smaller in stature, I admit, than the one already there, but radiant and lovely."

"She has been in the background of the landscape all the time, of course, for her wise counsel and guidance and restraint have also played their part."

"I shall try to treat her kindly and save her embarrassment, but some things must needs be said about our gracious lady of the manse."

"After all, she has heard the innermost secrets of the manse domestic arrangements laid bare from the pulpit, mainly to the children, but there were eavesdroppers: the cake that didn't rise; the once unsatisfactory plumbing; the lost pen! Couldn't you picture the upset until it was found!"

"How delightful, and how close it brings the Minister and his wife to the congregation. I must mention again her work for the Church; firstly as the wife of the Minister, constantly at his side with her counsel; and, secondly, in the affairs of the Church itself and in the Woman's Guild."

"Do you remember the delightful play by the Dramatic Society? I do believe Mr. MacNaughton was responsible for its production when the old ladies wrought havoc, our Minister's wife among them!"

"Her influence is felt very strongly in the Church, and we are very grateful for it. She is a very gracious, charming lady. A truly Christian woman."

"A sense of humour, too. I remember her coming into Church one morning about her usual time, 'You can close the door now,' she said, 'I am here.'"

"Now we come to the much more intimate celebration. The Silver Wedding Anniversary. Twenty-five years, a

life sentence; and as the old tag observed—'no remission for good conduct.'

"I wonder what Mrs. Mackay received from her husband to mark the occasion. Something Silver. Husbands are notorious for forgetting anniversaries and being careless about presents. A lost article of jewellery was claimed by a lady, and to establish ownership she was asked by the police what value she would place on it. She confessed she was unaware of its value. It was a present from her husband. And did you not ask its value? she was asked, 'No,' she replied, 'I was too dumbfounded at getting it.' We owe a debt to Mrs. Mackay for depriving herself of the companionship of her husband so much to permit him to devote himself so fully to our benefit."

"'Guid gear in sma' bulk'. An apt expression, but the small stature is no indication of a lack of control over her household. I know that from personal experience."

"Seriously, though, I should like on behalf of all of us here to offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Mackay on attaining their Silver Wedding Anniversary."

"I convey to them our good wishes for the years to come and that these years may be many and fuller and richer."

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have finished my canvas, and the picture is complete. I give you the toast—'Rev. and Mrs. William Murray Mackay.'

It was responded to enthusiastically. Mr. Mackay acknowledged the toast in appropriate words and the Rev. John Hamilton also spoke, bringing in the wider implication of the Church.

The hall was then cleared and the Glasgow team of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society gave a display of dances which was a delight to watch.

Songs were sung by Mr. James Taylor Anderson and the company took part in a fox-trot and waltz. Tea was then served, after which there was more dancing and a further exhibition of Scottish Country Dances which won much appreciation. Miss Hunter sang several songs among which was "Love's Old Sweet Song," in which all joined. Mrs. Fernes accompanied the singing.

There was a vote of thanks and the happy proceedings terminated with "Auld Lang Syne."

REMEMBRANCE DAY.

There was a full church when the Minister ascended the pulpit on the day set apart for remembering those who gave their lives or who were wounded in body or mind in the great wars of the first half of the century. Two vases of white Chrysanthemums graced the Communion Table.

The uniformed organisations were impressive and indicative of the healthy state of the young life of the Church.

The flags of the sections were brought to the Chancel during the playing of a slow march and were then given to the custody of the Church during the period of the service.

After the Silence the wreath of laurel and poppies was taken from the Church by a "Guide" and a "B.B." to be deposited at the War Memorial.

The service opened with the singing of the Metrical Psalm, "Now Israel may say" and the Hymns chosen were all suitable and were sung with feeling. The Choir rendered the Anthem, "What are these that are arrayed in white robes?" than which nothing could be more suitable for the occasion.

For text Mr. Mackay chose "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

While the congregation stood the flags were handed back to the colour party and the National Anthem was sung after which the Colours were taken from the Church at a slow march.

The congregation then dispersed.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

A report, which was submitted recently to the Presbytery by the Clerk, Dr. Sinclair, was heard with particular pleasure by the Presbytery. It was that which gave an account of the Moderator of the General Assembly's tour

of the Church Extension areas round Glasgow. He had visited some twenty-four of the churches established there, which involved the carrying through of a heavy programme of engagements, taking Sunday Services, speaking at Rallies, visits to schools, and taking time to speak intimately to groups of representative people, words of encouragement to ministers, office-bearers, and members. Thereby he had brought the cause of Church Extension prominently before the whole Church and in so doing had merited the cordial gratitude of all who are directly concerned, and those otherwise interested, in this important work. In all he has brought a most genial personality, radiating vitality, to the task he set himself, which was bound to infect all who came into contact with him with renewed zeal and energy.

The introduction of the highly contentious matter of international politics (as, too, of domestic politics) into the Presbytery's deliberations had a rather dramatic outcome. Dr. Pitt-Watson, in order to put a resolution on Britain's action in the "Middle East," condemning such as being a breach of our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, that our moral authority within that organisation had been seriously compromised thereby, etc., etc., moved that the Standing Orders be suspended. This with the intention of securing the concurrence of the Presbytery in a proposal to send such proposal to the Prime Minister, and the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and Scotland. The Rev. Mr. Roy Sanderson of the Barony Church said in moving an amendment opposing the suspension of the Standing Orders on the ground that they were not being asked to discuss the resolution, but just to pass it. He said a very sensible thing when he added that there was a deep division on these issues, and that they had been further confused by political partisanship, holding that a very considerable body of people with Christian convictions had an entirely opposite view to those opinions voiced by Dr. Pitt-Watson. On a vote being taken the resolution was defeated by 199 votes to 123, and the finding was made the occasion of a "walk-out" on the part of a small section of the Presbytery. It was a significant result in that the question of Church and politics again is raised, for the minority by asking the Presbytery to make a pronouncement on an issue of this kind, is, in effect, associating the New Testament with a particular viewpoint. This is an inescapable deduction, whereas the New Testament is wholly concerned with the regeneration of the human heart, and all that that implies. "My kingdom is not of this world" should be a "vade mecum" to all Christians, sufficient to be a guide to the individual's conduct to his fellow-creatures in all cases. To take the view of the extreme pacifist for instance would mean a "trusting of the untrustworthy" with all its attendant, hideous, consequences. No doubt every phase of Christian thinking looks for the sanction of the New Testament, but there was just that suggestion of intolerance in this move to suspend the standing orders to secure official imprimatur on what was, after all, personal opinion.

An important disclosure, incidental to all work of an evangelising nature, as for instance open-air work, was made by the Rev. Thos. Crombie, Convener of the Home Mission Committee, at a recent meeting of the Presbytery calling attention to an extract from the Home Board's regulations anent Parochial Evangelism to the effect that:—

"Grants may be given to congregations undertaking work of a specific character in parishes where no Agent is required, and where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Committee that there is a definite need, because of non-church-going and the moral and social conditions of the people."

Enlarging on that he went on to say that these grants should be used specifically for Home Mission work in the parish, and shall not be applied towards supplementing stipend or for running expenses of the congregation. It may be well for all church people to be made aware of the existence of such funds.