

Bathgate EU United Reformed Church

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

Newsletter February 2012

Vi and Eddie Adair, mentioned in Part 2 of this series, played a huge part in our Church, not only in the Dramatic Club but Vi in the Ladies Work Party and Eddie as Sunday School Superintendent, taking up the gauntlet when Jim Samuel retired.

Billy Millan, mentioned in Part 2 of the series, commented on the articles written about the Dramatic Club and he suggested to me that he had stories to tell and I eagerly await the publication of his 'Yesterdays with the Dramatic Club,' noting also that he, like others involved in the Dramatic Club, was, during this time, a member of the Choir and President of our Church.

I also posed the question of the scenery which lies under the stage in the hall and last painted in 2001 – will it ever be painted again? – I hope so!

In those days our Church seemed like one big family and you would invariably find that each family had a connection to one or more of the Church activities i.e. Choir, Ladies Work Party, Young Wives, Youth Fellowship, Sunday School, Youth Group, Keep Fit, Badminton Club and Dramatic Club.

Those of the past **were** "the salt of the earth", they attended, supported and maintained their Church just as we the members today **are** "the salt of the earth" and will ensure that our Church will "plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land."

Stuart Learmonth

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The funny side of life

### UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, my dear," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.



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## Letter from the Minister – February 2012

**“You are wrong,” said Jesus, “because you know neither the scriptures, nor the power of God!”** Matthew 22 verse 29.

Dear friends,

The words of Jesus, quoted above, come in response to a long question posed by the Sadducees, concerning the resurrection of the dead. The question itself need not concern us now; what, to me, is important for us here today is *why* the Sadducees were wrong. Although the Sadducees were highly cultured people, up in all the latest ideas, able to debate the issues of the day along with the best of what the Roman Empire had to offer, Jesus says that their question was founded on two fundamental and interconnected errors: “You know neither the scriptures nor the power of God”.

As regulars on a Sunday morning will know, I often ask members of the congregation questions about Bible stories and characters. Sometimes an answer to a question comes quickly, and sometimes not. Some of you may feel that I assume you know things when you don't (even though, perhaps, you once did!) Some of you confess to me that you feel that you don't know your Bibles as well as you ought to do (which of us does?), but as those who come to the Bible Study evenings will happily testify, even the best known of Bible stories can surprise us with how much more there is to discover among the familiar words. We never finish getting to know the Bible. But knowing that we will never come to the end of a task is no excuse for never starting it. For it is only as we explore the pages of the Bible that we can learn about God and understand how his power is working in our lives and in the world.

So, not for the first time, I ask you to take up your Bibles and read them. And if you find the old family Authorised Version difficult, buy a more modern translation which follows in its footsteps, such as the New Revised Standard Version, the English Standard Version or the New International Version. The Christian Bookshop, open Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings in the old St. David's building, is there for you and will help you find whatever you need.

Knowing the scriptures will not make us right about everything. But it will help us to understand much more about our world, ourselves and our relationship with God. Through reading its pages we will be

challenged, comforted, made joyful and, at times, sad. We will be given words which will sustain us in our journey both through this life and beyond this life (the subject of the Sadducees' question). The Bible has been given to us by God. It is his written word. So let us read it!

Yours friend,

*John S. Bremner*

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The EU Church Dramatic Club 1953 – 2001: Part 4 **(All our yesterdays – some more of them)**

I was prompted to write Part 4 of the Dramatic Club series when reading the January 2012 newsletter. Our minister used “the salt of the earth” as the text in his letter to the members and Aileen Baird during Christmas visits to members found that she and those whom she was visiting cast their memories back to friends and members of the church who are no longer with us.

First mentioned in Aileen's piece were Jimmy and Rachel Speedie – both members of our Church choir – but Jimmy, who was a joiner to trade, also helped to build and erect the scenery for the Dramatic Club plays for over 20 years and for a similar period of time he attended every performance of the Dramatic Club and ushered the audience to their seats as they entered the hall. Also mentioned were Mr. & Mrs. Samuel and Mr. & Mrs. Barton – both Jim Samuel and Alex Barton were written about in Part 1 of this series and were Dramatic Club stalwarts for almost 20 years. Also of note, Jim Samuel, for a while President of our Church, was also for many years Sunday School Superintendent.

Alex Barton, who was fiercely loyal to his Church, made his mark on many a business meeting, making sure that things were done in a proper manner. Both Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Samuel were stalwarts in the Ladies Work Party (as it was then known).