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MILL STREET

## Rev. John M. Smith Preaches Farewell Sermon at St. John's

J. D. G.  
Six years in our busy lives pass very quickly and so have they, in the pleasant and profitable pastorate of the Rev. John M. Smith at St. John's United Church. On Sunday morning, Mr. Smith gave his farewell message and challenge — "Holding the high moments," based on the experience of Peter, James and John, taken by Jesus into a high mountain apart, and there seeking Jesus transfigured, and Moses and Elias appearing and talking with Him; then a voice out of a cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him." Truly a high moment in their lives, which called from Peter "Lord it is good for us to be here — let us make here three tabernacles." It was so rich an experience, Peter would have stayed, but that was not Jesus way or wish; the high moment had to be held and remembered, but it also had to be shared with those down on earth and in need.

Mr. Smith cited the occupation of the office charwoman in our big cities as often a lonely one, entering some large office building as the others were leaving for home, working from then until late at night. He knew of one such working alone, many stories high, very lonely and often afraid but she could at times look to another lighted window, and see there the caretaker of the building and could sense his presence always near, one on whom she could rely. So should our high Christian moments be to us, as we go about our daily work, maybe lonely, often discouraged, yet with the light of soul-satisfying Christian experiences to look to, and know there is a presence to comfort, guide and inspire. The experience of Peter, James and John on the mountain top was a very high moment, something very different, beyond their brightest dreams, something they would never forget, always be able to bring back in memory to bid them persevere, and strive ever for the highest and the best. And though we cannot have their experience, we have our own.

Maybe just the remembrance of a kindly earnest Sunday School teacher in a Sunday School class behind the piano, telling us the stories of Jesus in such a way at our impressionable age, that we can never forget them, or something from our parents, our minister as we joined the church under his guidance; or when we counted the cost of taking a Sunday class or other church work and decided it was worth it. These are some of our high moments and we should hold on to them, they are as a cheering light when we come down to earth again as come down we must, to do as Jesus wishes. Peter, James and John wanted to keep their great experience and stay there but Jesus had some earthly work for them to do. We cannot be selfish and try and live to ourselves, even in our high moments, or they will turn empty and fade away. We need to live them in our daily lives so that others can be lifted and helped by them. And the Christian Communion service of which we were about to partake should always be a high moment of consecration to our Master, and to His task of bringing boys and girls to a saving working knowledge of Him, and older ones to a renewed forgiveness of their sins and a turning back to Him, or an increased effort to live the Jesus way and bring others into it.

Mr. Smith told the boys and girls of the two seas in Palestine, the one, the beautiful sea of Galilee with its life of trees and flowers, fish and water ever sweet and fresh; and the other, the Dead Sea, no life, few if any trees, no fish always unpleasant. Why the difference? The one, the Sea of Galilee, has water flowing in and flowing out, refreshing and life giving, always giving as well as receiving. The other, the Dead Sea, with water flowing in, but none flowing out, just evaporating, giving no life, nobody benefitting. The happy life, the Jesus way of life, is to constantly receive His Blessings, but just as constantly give and use them for others and for Him.

The members of the town council were present; thus to pay their tribute to the good work done by Mr. Smith in and for the community as well as for his Church and Master. The choir's anthem was "Send forth Thy light and Thy Truth."

After the benediction the report of the Pastoral Relations Committee was submitted and on motion was unanimously adopted, extending a unanimous call to the Rev. Morgan G. McFarlane, B.A., of Hespeler, Ont. to the ministry of St. John's United Church, Georgetown.

Rev. John Smith and Mrs. Smith were called to the front of the church where on behalf of the congregation, E. Forgrave read an address of deep appreciation of the work of both Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Howard Kentner presented them with a purse.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Bless Be The Tie That Binds."

At a spot in Nova Scotia, and

## Will Compile History of McLaughlin Family

A history of the McLaughlin family, commencing with Claudius Stewart McLaughlin, born in Scotland in 1782, who emigrated to Canada in 1830, has been written by Cecil McLaughlin of Austin College, Sherman, Texas, and he plans to print this and the family tree later this year.

On July 1st, the 26th annual reunion of the family was held in Victoria Park, Kitchener with over fifty members present from Toronto, Hamilton, Norval, Georgetown, Kitchener, Stratford, Listowel, Palmerston, and Harrison. There was a picnic dinner at noon arranged by Mrs. Thomas Giffen, Georgetown, and her committee. Hamilton McLaughlin, Norval, the president conducted a business meeting. Officers are: Hamilton McLaughlin, president; Murray McLaughlin, London, vice president; Mrs. Milton Bird, Georgetown, secretary-treasurer; Cecil McLaughlin, Waterloo, sports convener; Mrs. Cokely McLaughlin, Listowel, lunch convener. During the afternoon there was a program of sports.

## HALLINAFAD

### YOUNG PEOPLE PICNIC AT GUELPH'S OLD MILL

The Young People's group enjoyed a picnic outing to the Old Mill park in Guelph on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Cotton and Mr. and Mrs. T. Gibson spent the weekend in Buffalo.

Mrs. Cam McEnery is at present confined to her bed. We all join in wishing her a speedy return to good health.

A sacred concert by local talent was held in the church Sunday evening, under the auspices of the Mission Circle.

Mr. Dan Campbell has sold his farm property and will be moving in the near future.

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