

What's On This Week at  
Whitehead and Islandmagee Methodist Churches

February 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 2015

**SUSTAINING FELLOWSHIP- COMMUNION MEDITATION**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian who was an enemy of the Nazis because he refused to go along with their state idea of a church that practiced the anti-Semitism of the Nazis. In fact, he was a hunted man who upheld authentic Christian principles.

As a part of the German underground he was not safe to worship openly. Bonhoeffer knew there was no other community and fellowship like that experienced within the Body of Christ. He said: "*Baptism incorporates us into the unity of the Body of Christ, and the Lord's Supper fosters and sustains our fellowship and communion ... in that Body*". During the Nazi reign, Bonhoeffer was cut off from other believers, and it took a toll on him.

Bonhoeffer's painful discovery is instructive for us. Cut off from the nurturing fellowship of other Christians, he felt a deeper hunger for the fellowship that was no longer available to him. Like a hungry man who knows the taste of bread though he can no longer reach and break from the loaf, he knew the power of fellowship when it was painfully absent.

When we come to communion, we have the chance to experience a fellowship, a deep union that only comes when we realize the saving grace that must cover each of us.

SOURCE: Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Collier Books

**Please contact me if you have anything you would like  
to put in this announcement sheet.  
Deadline is Wednesday evening.**

**Society Stewards**

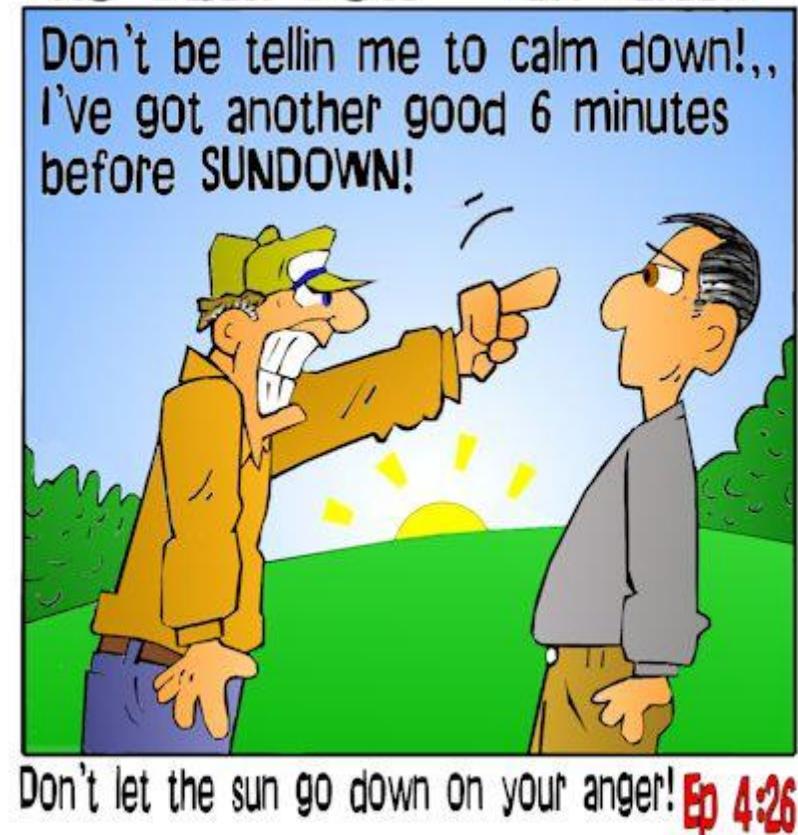
Islandmagee Methodist Church	Mr Brian Connor	93353041
Whitehead Methodist Church	Mr Ken Stewart	93378812

**Minister**

**Rev Gary D Millar**

W: [www.wimethodist.com](http://www.wimethodist.com) E: [gary.millar@irishmethodist.org](mailto:gary.millar@irishmethodist.org) T: 93373327

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Sacrament of Holy Communion

- 10.30am Whitehead worship with Rev Gary Millar WMC
- 12.00pm Islandmagee worship with Rev Gary Millar IMC

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

- 7.30pm Whitehead MWI - Ken Stewart on Painting Dobson Room

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

- 8.00pm Whitehead Bible Study Dobson Room

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

- 7.30pm Islandmagee Bible Study 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Manse

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

- 10.30am Whitehead worship with Rev Gary Millar WMC
- 12.00pm Islandmagee worship with Rev Gary Millar IMC

2<sup>nd</sup> Islandmagee PW

Invite ladies of the MWI for Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00pm in 2<sup>nd</sup> Islandmagee PC hall. Sam McAllister will speak on his recent trip to India. Contact Helen Smith if you would like to go - 93382234

It is said that Andrew Bonar, a great man of prayer, had three rules: (1) Not to speak to any man before speaking to Jesus; (2) Not to do anything with his hands until he had been on his knees; (3) Not to read the papers until he had read his Bible.

A number of years ago the Douglas Aircraft company was competing with Boeing to sell Eastern Airlines its first big jets. War hero Eddie Rickenbacker, the head of Eastern Airlines, reportedly told Donald Douglas that the specifications and claims made by Douglas's company for the DC-8 were close to Boeing's on everything except noise suppression. Rickenbacker then gave Douglas one last chance to out-promise Boeing on this feature. After consulting with his engineers, Douglas reported that he didn't feel he could make that promise. Rickenbacker replied, "I know you can't, I just wanted to see if you were still honest."

(Today in the Word, MBI, October, 1991, p. 22.)

Sometimes it gets to be a real burden just coping with the day-to-day temptations that never seem to go away. "If God really loves me, why am I tempted so much?" Christian character is not a result of leading a life free of temptation. Temptation is a part of every Christian's life. Just ask Christ. When He was in the desert for 40 days He was not free of temptation. The Bible tells us that He was "tempted by Satan" and "attended by angels." The test of Christian character is not that you are tempted but that you stand up under temptation. Christians of good character are tempted and will always be tempted. True character depends upon resisting the devil's advances, not being free of them. Character is a product of reacting to sin, not facing it. When we react to sin by fleeing from it we will be attended by angels and be given the strength to stay the course.

There's a story of the Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who was deeply immersed in meditation during a church service, and he failed to kneel at the appropriate moment. His enemies hurried to the bishop and demanded that Dante be punished for his sacrilege. Dante defended himself by saying, "If those who accuse me had had their eyes and minds on God, as I had, they too would have failed to notice events around them, and they most certainly would not have noticed what I was doing."

Church mice

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Palm Sunday Praise

Singers needed! Everyone invited to join the choir at Whitehead Presbyterian Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm as they journey through the Easter story in song. Practices will be held in the Bradley Room (upstairs in WPC) from 8.00pm - 9.15pm on the following Wednesdays: 11<sup>th</sup> February; 25<sup>th</sup> February; 11<sup>th</sup> March; 25<sup>th</sup> March. If possible please text June Carton on 075 17941300 if you intend coming along so that sheet music may be prepared.