

WARNING ... WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS !!!!

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions.

This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- *A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.*
- *An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.*
- *A loss of interest in judging other people.*
- *A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.*
 - *A loss of interest in conflict.*
- *A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)*
 - *Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.*
- *Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.*
 - *Frequent attacks of smiling.*
- *An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.*
- *An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.*

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

Rev Gary D Millar

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Society Stewards

Mr Ken Stewart (WMC) [REDACTED]
Mr Brian Connor (IMC) [REDACTED]

Whitehead & Islandmagee Methodist Churches Announcements for Week Beginning

Sunday 6th December 2015 Advent 2

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The sensible see danger and take cover; the foolish keep going and are punished. Pr 27:12 and.. my dog chewed our Christmas Tree lights.

Sunday 6 December - Toy Sunday - 2nd Sunday of Advent

HOLY COMMUNIONL

10:30am WMC Worship

Rev G Millar
Followed by Flower Garden Planting at WMC

12:00pm IMC Worship

Rev G Millar

Tuesday 8 December

8.00pm Dobson Room

WMC Bible Study

Wednesday 9 December

10:15am WMC House Group

Ken Stewart's House

7.30pm IMC Bible Study

2nd Islandmagee PC Manse (*Last of 2015*)

7.30pm WMC M&M's Meeting

Rev Gary will talk about his recent sabbatical

Thursday 10 December

7.00pm Dobson Room

WMC Choir Practice

Sunday 13 December – Advent 3

10:30am WMC Worship

Family Service - Rev G Millar

12:00pm IMC Worship

Rev G Millar

Islandmagee Community Development Association invite you to their Community Carol Service on Tuesday 15 December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Islandmagee Community Centre. All welcome.

Ist Presbyterian Church, Islandmagee are running a Christmas Event called Love Came Down. This is billed as a relaxed / informal Christmas event with refreshments / carols / united choir / Christmas readings / Children's craft and a presentation of the Christmas story. This is an opportunity to invite family / friends along to hear the Christmas Story.

Sunday 13 December at 4:00pm in Islandmagee Community Centre

Everyone and anyone are more than welcome

The WMC morning House Group is up and running. If you might be interested in a similar group meeting on an evening during the week, then briefly wait behind after the service in Whitehead this morning (6th Dec)

Please do remember that the Bible Study Fellowship continues to meet in WMC on a Tuesday night and would be most welcoming to you.

The WMC Craft Class are taking a break until the New Year

How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts!

O! 'tis easier to keep holidays than Commandments.

Benjamin Franklin

Church Mice

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Max Lucado in his book, The Applause of Heaven:

"A small cathedral outside Bethlehem marks the supposed birthplace of Jesus. Behind a high altar in the church is a cave, a little cavern lit by sliver lamps. You can enter the main edifice and admire the ancient church. You can also enter the quiet cave where a star embedded in the floor recognizes the birth of the King. There is one stipulation, however. You have to stoop. The door is so low you can't go in standing up. The same is true of the Christ. You can see the world standing tall, but to witness the Saviour, you have to get on your knees. So {out there in Bethlehem, the night when Jesus was born} while the theologians were sleeping, and the elite were dreaming, and the successful were snoring, the meek shepherds were kneeling. They were kneeling before the One only the meek will see. They were kneeling in front of Jesus."



A heartfelt thank you to those who have given of their time and talents to decorate our places of worship for the Advent and Christmas Season – your efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated!

LEAVE IT UP ALL YEAR LONG

Not too many years ago newspapers carried the story of Al Johnson, a Kansas man who repented, who came to faith in Jesus Christ. What made his story so remarkable was not his conversion, but the fact that as a result of his newfound faith in Christ, he confessed to a bank robbery he had participated in when he was nineteen years old. Because the statute of limitations on the case had run out, Johnson could not be prosecuted for the offence. But because of his complete and total change of heart, he not only confessed his crime, he voluntarily repaid his share of the stolen money! That's repentance – radical reconstruction of the heart.

Of all the decorations you have, this one is the most important of them all. It's invisible, because it first takes place in your heart. The Holy Spirit changes you through the Word, and through baptism. It's visible, because you become empowered to show your repentance in your life – just like that former bank robber. And unlike other Christmas decorations, repentance is something that you and I will leave up all year round.

SOURCE: Today in the Word, April, 1989, p. 13.