

LOCAL APPEAL - WHITEHEAD

Earlier this year Leah Goss was a happy, healthy and very active child. Now a rare brain condition means she hasn't left her home in three months. The eight-year-old from Whitehead was struck with a common bacterial (streptococcal) infection last year. It caused inflammation in her brain and, as a result, she was diagnosed with pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) in July. The condition causes obsessive compulsive disorder, chronic anxiety, severe separation disorder, tics and Tourette's-like behaviour, and if left untreated can lead to permanent brain damage.

The condition can be managed through long-term antibiotics and an IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) transfusion of antibodies, but there is no treatment available for the condition in Northern Ireland. Therapy is available in America, and her family are investigating if they may be able to pay for it privately in Dublin or at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. They are hoping to raise £15,000 to pay for the treatment as well as travel and accommodation expenses. In just under a week they have raised almost £12,000, but are hoping that they can get enough money to pay for ongoing care for their daughter.

Leah's Mum, Debbie, added: "That is our initial fundraiser to cover her first consultation, but after that we will have to keep going as her treatment will be ongoing. We've been shocked by how quickly people have helped. There has been so much support within the community and we're so grateful. It's so nice to see that people are so caring." If they raise the money, they hope they will be able to get treatment for Leah within the next month.

Please pass cash/cheques directly to Leah's family via John MacQuarrie or Rev Gary Millar.

Rev Gary D Millar

T: 028 93373327 E: gary.millar@irishmethodist.org

W: www.wimethodist.com

Society Stewards

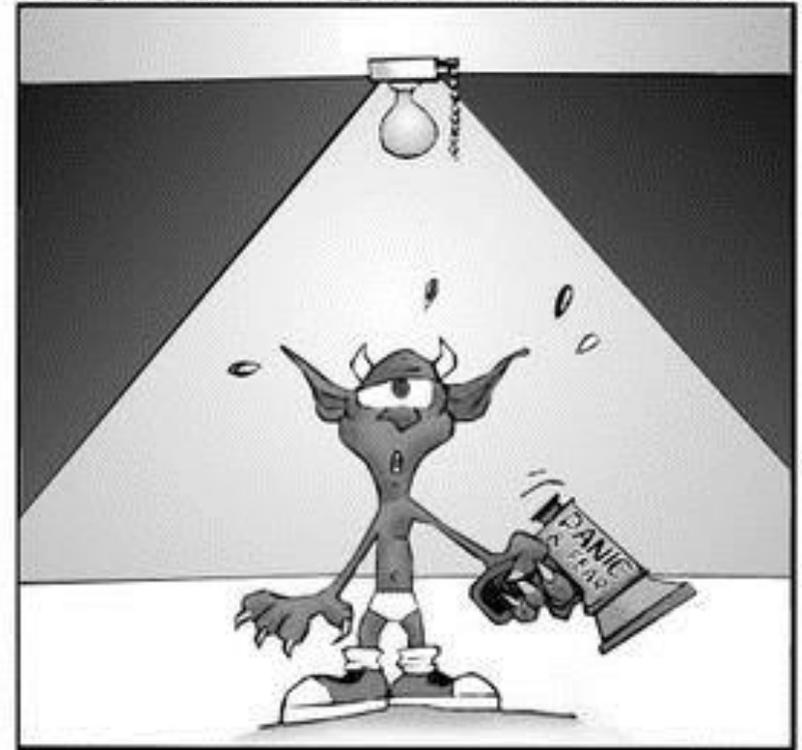
Mr Ken Stewart (WMC) 93378812

Mr Brian Connor (IMC) 93353041

Whitehead & Islandmagee Methodist Churches Announcements for Week Beginning

Sunday 1st November 2015

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The voice of panic & fear coming from the shadows can make life feel hopeless BUT are pathetic and weak when revealed in God's light. John 12:46

Sunday 1 November Holy Communion

10:30am WMC Worship Rev Gary Millar
12:00pm IMC Worship Rev Gary Millar

Monday 2 November

7.30pm WMC MWI
50 years of Corrymeela with Mrs Sheila Livingstone. Anyone with Mission Boxes, please bring them tonight.

Tuesday 3 November

8.00pm Dobson Room WMC Bible Study

Wednesday 4 October

7.30pm Dobson Room WMC Church Council
NO Craft Class till next week
7.30pm IMC Bible Study 2nd Islandmagee PC Manse

Thursday 5 November

10:00am Dobson Room Craft Class
7:00pm Dobson Room WMC Choir Practice

Sunday 8 November

10:30am WMC Worship Rev Gary Millar
12:00pm IMC Worship Rev Gary Millar

Following on from a suggestion made at two recent Church Council meetings in Whitehead, we will be holding **Prayers for Healing** during worship in WMC on Sunday 29 November at 10:30am. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have of Rev Gary, or Mr Ken Stewart, and also pass on the Christian name of anyone who may value prayer during the intercessions that morning. Rev Gary will be talking more about this early in November.



Would all those folks who expressed an interest in attending a House Group in Whitehead (as well as any of you who didn't get the chance last week), please wait behind after worship **NEXT SUNDAY 8th November** for no more than 15 minutes to discuss plans for the group.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



MEMBERSHIP CLASS

We are in the planning stages of a membership class to be held on Sunday afternoons from 3.00pm-4.00pm. This class is intended for those who are of senior school age (Yr 8) and above who would like to explore full membership of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The course will cover topics such as the meaning of membership within the World-wide Methodist Church (over 70 million members globally), the meaning and place of faith in the world today, and why we talk about God in the way that we do. The Sundays involved will be announced nearer the time, and will hopefully not clash with school exams! In the meantime, please do talk about the subject of membership and address any questions to Rev Gary by phone or email (details on back).

Women In Faith - Half Day Conference

Going Forward With Courage

14 November 2015 from 10:00am in Cavehill Methodist Church Hall

Speakers:

Dr Cathy Higgins, *Adjunct Assistant Professor, Irish School of Ecumenics*
Rev Margaret Ferguson, *Superintendent Minister, East Belfast Mission*

A man stood on the side of the road hitch hiking on a very dark night in the middle of a storm. The night was rolling and no cars passed. The storm was so strong; he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly he saw a car come towards him and stop. The guy, without thinking about it, got in the car and closed the door only to realize that nobody was behind the wheel! The car started moving slowly. The guy looked at the road and saw a curve coming his way. Scared, he started praying, and begged for his life. He hadn't come out of shock when, just before he hit the curve, a hand appeared through the window and moved the wheel. The guy, paralyzed in terror, watched how the hand appeared just in time before a curve.

The guy gathered strength, jumped out of the car, and ran to the nearest town. Wet and in shock, he ran into a cantina and asked for two shots of tequila, and started telling everybody about the horrible experience he went through. A silence enveloped everybody when they realized the guy was crying and wasn't drunk. About half an hour later, two very tired, wet men walked into the same cantina. One said to the other. "Look, that's the character who climbed into the car while we were pushing!" **Are we going to allow our fears and wild imaginations of Halloween control us?**