



A special welcome to visitors to West, a place of shelter, faith and laughter. We are an all-age, all-stage community where everyone is included.

We especially love having kids involved in the whole service on Sundays, in all their wriggling, noisy glory, so please don't worry if you or anyone with you makes a bit of a racket – we're glad to have you with us!

Morning tea is part of our time together, so you're warmly invited to stick around for a fairtrade tea or coffee after the sitting-down part of the service.

2011 is the year we at West will *Step out of the Boat*. See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS		JUNE 2011	
5 JUNE	WHEN PAIN SURROUNDS: TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOB Upset with God? Allan and Val West curating Gary Bedford preaching	12 JUNE	WHEN PAIN SURROUNDS: TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOB When life is at a dead end Alan and Gwen Berryman curating Gary Bedford preaching
19 JUNE	WHEN PAIN SURROUNDS: TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOB Finding God in the midst of pain Brian Manning curating Gary Bedford preaching	26 JUNE	MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH Being Human Gary Bedford curating Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching
3 JULY	LIFE IN ETHIOPIA WITH: Serving in Mission Lyn Broderick curating Meryl Ashworth speaking	10 JULY	MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH Abortion and Adoption Will Mills curating Gary Bedford preaching



west:pastor

An excerpt from one of this year's books in the jar, *Irresistible Revolution* by Shane Claiborne
"Whenever someone tells me they have rejected God, I say "tell me about the God you've rejected." And as they describe a God of condemnation, of laws and lightning bolts, of frowning people and boring meetings, I usually confess, "I too have rejected that God."

I've met a lot of Christians who say, "If people knew about all my struggles and weaknesses, they would never want to be a Christian." I think just the opposite is true. If people really knew what idiots we are, in all our brokenness and vulnerability, they would know that they can give it a shot too. Christianity is for sick people. Rich Mullins used to say, "whenever people say, 'Christians are hypocrites', I say 'Duh, every time we come together we are confessing that we are hypocrites, weaklings

in need of God and each other'. We know that we cannot do life alone, and the good news is that we don't have to. We are created for Community"

Ian Grant had a saying that "We are just one beggar telling another beggar where to find food" This is based on the story in Kings 7:3 – 20, look it up, it is a great story.

Reflecting on the story (now you have to read it), I think that we have lost the sense of being a beggar, for the safety of the city walls, walls of social acceptability and independence. But every now and then, we hear the echo of the words of Jesus, "blessed are the poor, theirs is the Kingdom of heaven"..... have you had a glimpse of heaven lately?

west:making a difference

We have a portfolio of people and communities we support around New Plymouth and the world. The basics:

Meryl Ashworth works in education in Ethiopia with SIM. **Graeme and Christine T** work in business and medicine in South Asia. **Paul and Sarah B** have begun a year's language study in Bangladesh to prepare for running a fairtrade business in South Asia. **Tipan** is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh. **Meryl** will be our speaker on Sunday July 3rd. **Graeme and Christine T** are planning to return to New Zealand at the end of this year.

Closer to home, **Kingdom Resources West** provides budgeting help and interest-free loans to people in New Plymouth, and we have a special relationship with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road and are working on providing a full-time Family Mentor for the school community.

west:groups

Tracey W is starting a new group to study our Book in the Jar, *If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat*. The group meets on Wednesday evenings at Hester and Will's.

Our new women's study group, **Te Ahuru**, is dependent on offers of babysitting for some of the members. If you can help please speak to Cathy G.

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every second Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westbar. See Brian M or Will M.

If anyone is interested in joining the music team please see **Gary B**. New musicians and especially singers most welcome.

Seedpods is a weekly themed play and friendship group for parents with young children. **Carol and James McK** host a fortnightly Bible study group on Thursday nights; the **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at Heather H's home. Our new **Knitting Group** meets every second Wednesday, 9.30-12pm at Church (see Jocelyn D.)

The **Movie Group** meets weekly at Grant and Megan C's place on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series.

Get Real is for all young people from year 7 up, their friends, families and mentors; speak to Alison D (751 1005) to get on the contact list.

Everyone in the church is in one of four **Family Groups**, who meet for social and service activities throughout the year and help out in practical ways in tricky times. If you are new to West and would like to join a Family Group please speak to Thalia or Alison.

The **NADM** group is having a Pot Luck Tea on Saturday 18 June. Details to follow.

The **Connectables** are having a Mid Winter Christmas Dinner on 18 June. Keep it free. Details to follow.

The **Coasters** will be discovering West's Yummiest Home Bakers on Saturday 11 June at 3pm at the Mills' residence.

west:people

Soup Lunches

5 June	No Soup Lunch – Holiday
12 June	Tracey and Stuart
19 June	Alison and Chris
26 June	Murray L
3 July	Hester and Will

Welcome to **Sam Gibson** who has recently come to Taranaki and has been worshipping with us here.

Congratulations to **Amy W** on the birth of her first grandchild on 24 May, a little boy named Mason Logan Rex Fabish.

Matt and Thalia KR are away in the UK visiting Matt's family. Others are away too, like **Lyn**, who is dodging tornadoes in Texas.

Heather H's mum is not at all well, please remember her.

Mickey is having feeding problems with the twins, and is very grateful to have her parents here to help out.

Please continue to pray for and support those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays, **Lyn S, Grace and Lloyd D**, and **George and Elizabeth L**.

Please enter these changes into your new **Directory**:

Angela & Glenn A, 25 Essex St, Stratford
Danny and Vicky M-K, 8 Herekawe Drive
Judy W, 751 3288
Margaret O, 751 1319
Lisa A is at 9 Sardinha Place
Sam G, 1/127 St Aubyn St, 027 8267574.

west:events

23 May-23 June Thalia and Matt on annual leave; Board available for anything you need
5 June Queen's Birthday weekend
13 June Blokes and Cokes, 7.30pm at WestBar
16 June "Watoto", Tear Fund Concert of Hope at Central Baptist, 7pm.
8 June Knitting Group, 9.30am-12pm at church, all welcome
9 June Music Practice
22 June Knitting Group, 9.30am-12pm at church, all welcome
23 June Music Practice
27 June Blokes and Cokes, 7.30pm at WestBar
29 June Meryl Ashworth speaking at "Missh & Chips", Central Baptist

On Thursday 16 June at 7pm in the Baptist Church auditorium (cnr Liardet and Lemon Sts) the '**Watoto Children's Choir**' from Uganda is performing a concert. Admission is free, though there will be a collection taken towards their costs, for anyone who wants to contribute. The children are either orphans, abandoned children or ex-street kids. You could pay \$79+ to go and hear the Soweto Choir at the Opera House on 30 June, or you could come to this free "Concert of Hope." (or you could do both!)

west:pitching in

At February's AGM we agreed on a significantly reduced budget but are hoping to exceed it as the year progresses. Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$7,667 per month in offerings; in April offerings were \$7,602.

Eric and Cath P will be coordinating the **Prayer Chain** during June and July. Call them on 758 3546 if you'd like the chain to pray about anything.

Gwen and Alan B manage the **use of the church building** during the week, so please check with them (751 2095) if you'd like to use it. We'd also like to have a few more groups using the building, so feel free to let people know about us.

Donations for our **food cupboard**, particularly of canned vegetables and food suitable for dinners, are much appreciated.

If you'd like to set up an automatic payment or coded envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church, please see our treasurer, **Lynda C** (753 3641). The government will rebate a full third of what you give, so you can arrange your affairs accordingly.

Margaret S collects information for this **newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month, so please contact her (7536621, mjsewell@actrix.co.nz) with any info by the previous Wednesday.

	5 JUNE	12 JUNE	19 JUNE	26 JUNE	3 JULY
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Lynda C	Gary B	Tracey W	Toni S	James M
Lawnmowing	Cathy G	Heather B	Stuart W	Marcel S	Carol M
	Roi M		Alison D		Wayne L

New Plymouth West Baptist Church, 144 South Rd, 06 751 2089, www.westbaptist.org.nz

west:board

It's the board's intention to give an update most months on what we've been discussing and hearing from God about West. We met last over fish and chips on Wednesday 18 May. Here are some of the things we spent time on:

- We began with a devotional reading of a children's book, *Oliver's Fruit Salad*, which helped us to think about the value of participation and practice in following Jesus (you may get to see this book on a Sunday one week).
- We thanked God for the progress in employing our Family Mentor. The search committee (Chris D, Thalia KR and Carol Mck) interviewed some excellent applicants last week and is having further discussions with one of them. If all goes well, we hope the person will start work at the end of June. We reflected on God's faithfulness in bringing us from the initial idea a year and a half ago, to having funding for an 18-month Pilot.
- We were also very thankful for the great success of the Mothers' Day Barbecue Brunch. Thirty non-West families, 161 people in total, very smooth organisation, especially with the wonderful behind-the-scenes teams, and several contacts with school parents since that weekend.
We made some notes and plans for improving things next year and are keen to hear your thoughts, so please speak to Alison or a Board member if you have an idea to make for an even better brunch in 2012.
- We thanked God for financial provision, and expressed appreciation to all those at West who are contributing to our improved income as they are able. Thank you! With your help, we are meeting our reduced budget and are in a position to repay some money we 'borrowed' from our term deposit to cover essential expenses in December. This is good news.
- It is also very helpful that 80 per cent of our offering income comes in the form of automatic payments, which makes things more predictable for us all. If you are thinking of switching from cash or cheque to APs, please go right ahead. Our bank details are:
TSB City Branch
West Baptist Church
153942-0680103-00.
- We discussed progress in planning for Thalia's maternity leave. She and Matt have not made final decisions about things yet, but we will work together on plans as they become clearer. Carey Baptist College is keen to send us a Pastoral Leadership student (like Robyn Mellar-Smith in 2007), and may be able to subsidise the cost. This would cover much of the initial 14-week period of parental leave that Thalia will take (the baby is due on 1 December) – very convenient!
- We discussed the smooth running of the church while Thalia and Matt are taking their annual leave. Each week a board member will be 'on duty' for any enquiries you might have, and Alison will monitor the church voicemail and email. Other Baptist ministers are on hand if needed. Board member on duty (but all are available):
Week beginning Sunday 22 May: **Brian**; week beginning Sunday 29 May: **Carol**;
week beginning Sunday 5 June: **Roi**; week beginning Sunday 12 June: **Lynda**;
week beginning Sunday 19 June, **Brian**; **Thalia** back 24 June.

west:prayer

At West, we pray about and support a number of things around the region, country and world. Because we are just about the only people in the world who will pray for the health and effectiveness of our church, here are some prayer ideas specifically about us.

- Give thanks to God for the provision of funding to begin the Family Mentor Pilot project. Pray that the Trust will employ the right person for the role and that this person will have a smooth transition into it.
- Pray for our relationship with Spotswood Primary School, that we would continue to be helpful and effective in our contributions.
- Pray for God's guidance for several people at West considering a possible new initiative to support the school's pupils.
- Thank God for the 39 people who have joined us at West over the last eight months, and pray that they would make friends quickly and feel part of the community. Pray that more established members of the church would continue to be particularly welcoming and inclusive as we help newcomers feel at home.
- Pray for the members of the West Baptist Community Trust, who are working hard to implement plans for the Family Mentor Pilot and continuing to apply for further funding. Pray that they would be encouraged in their work for the Trust, and that funders would read our applications carefully and receptively.
- Pray also for the Trust to hear God's guidance for future initiatives to help transform our community.
- Ask for God's provision for our food cupboard, which is in high demand.
- Pray for the upcoming Budget Adviser training that we are running for churches all over New Plymouth. Pray that this will be the beginning of important partnerships.
- Pray that children and caregivers at Seedpods would continue to be encouraged and enjoy their time together.
- Thank God for the Knitting Group and Blokes and Cokes, and ask that people who would enjoy the groups would be prompted to come along.
- Pray for people who live alone. Pray that they would be surrounded by loving social contact, and supported in practical ways as appropriate.
- Pray for each of the study groups (see west:groups); ask that God would stretch, mould and encourage each person who sets aside time to grow in this way.
- Pray that Family Groups (see west:groups) would be strengthened this year and continue to be great places for family members who don't come on Sundays to be part of the West community.
- Pray for those at West who struggle with chronic illness or frailty. Ask that God would be especially present to them and that they would not feel isolated from the community. Pray that those who are well would be aware of their needs.
- Pray that Thalia and Matt would return from their annual leave refreshed and excited about the challenges ahead.
- Pray for the babies and children in our church, and for their parents and caregivers.
- Pray that all of us would be aware of our 7 Day Faith as we go about our work, play and home life. Ask that God would help us to see our daily activities as part of God's mission in Taranaki.
- Ask God to prepare us all for the possibility of becoming mentors to school families.
- Thank God for a committed and wise Board, and pray that they would continue to listen well to God and each other, as they look at the path ahead.