



**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*, particularly in the direction of connecting with our local community. See inside for more....

## A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

## AUGUST 2011

**7 AUG** **MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH #4**  
**Disability**  
Jacob Manning curating  
Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

**14 AUG** **MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH #5**  
**Dementia and Frailty**  
Brian Manning curating  
Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

**21 AUG** **MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH #6**  
**Euthanasia**  
Allan and Val West curating  
Thalia Kehoe Rowden preaching

**28 AUG** **SUNDAY STORYTELLING**  
**Testimony**  
Lyn Broderick curating  
Jocelyn tells her story



## west:pastor

Winter can be a good time for some serious thinking (as well as huddling up with hot water bottles).

This year we're taking advantage of the cold weather to warm ourselves by wrestling with some big issues: *Matters of Life and Death*.

From what Prime Minister John Key said recently, it seems likely that the question of legalising euthanasia will come before Parliament in the next term. How can Christians respond to this kind of big question? What do we think and what will we do?

You'll have picked up from the series so far that we're not going for easy, black-and-white answers to complex questions, but looking at the big picture. We

want to cultivate wise thinking and compassionate acting.

It seems to me that matters of life and death that raise ethical dilemmas come down to people having a sense of community – or not. If a woman feels trapped in a crisis pregnancy or a family is exhausted by caring for an elderly relative, a strong, supportive community is the first port of call.

So this winter, while we wrestle with ethical questions in the face of accelerating technological

advances, let's also keep nurturing our own place of shelter, faith and laughter.

☺Thalia  
pastor@westbaptist.org.nz

## 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.

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 provide a **Family Mentor**, Dee Weir, for families in the area.

**Meryl** is continuing her studies to gain the qualification she needs to return to Ethiopia.

**Jessica T** is returning to Hebron School after a long break at home. Pray for safe travel and a smooth adjustment back into school and for the smooth implementation of the changes at the business.

Jocelyn has great gift ideas that will help to make a difference in the developing world. To buy a \$5 peanut farm starter or a bunch of other practical gifts administered by **Tear Fund** or **Leprosy Mission**, see her for a pamphlet.

## west:groups

We are very keen to offer a new discipleship group for women interested in exploring questions of faith in a safe environment. Cathy G is available to lead this group, **Te Ahuru**, but a couple of the women who are interested will only be able to attend if some kind person is able to provide some babysitting. Could this be you? You'd be making a huge difference in someone's life! Speak to Cathy if you can help.

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, and the events section over the page for dates.

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 **Knitting Group** meets every second Wednesday, 9.30-12pm at Church (see Jocelyn D and the 'events' section for dates this month.)

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 **Connectables**: Please keep Sunday 28 August free. Val and Allan are organising the next event and will be in touch.

## west:people

Take a moment to admire the new addition to our Foyer. **Liane L** made the gorgeous quilt hanging there as West's contribution to the Baptist National Gathering last year, inspired by the song "Jesus be the Centre." If you have any art you'd like to contribute to the church, we would love to hear from you!

**Brian M's** father is not at all well and the family would value your prayers.

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**.

Three lovely welcomes this month: welcome back to **Kath Stott**, who has returned to New Plymouth to live, after 9 years in Hamilton. It is great to have you back worshipping with us. A warm welcome to **Judy Whiting** who is joining our community. And another to **Murray and Marilyn Elliot**; Murray is the new Hospital Chaplain.

Watch out for **Les M** on his new electric scooter – you might have seen him on *Fair Go*.

Lots of impressive achievements among our young people: **Michael McK** came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1500m race at the Division 2 National Swimming Meet in Rotorua in July gaining a Bronze Medal. **Rachael McK** will be Head Girl of Devon Intermediate for the second half of this year. **Matt C** made the Central Districts 15-and-under Indoor Cricket team for the provincial tournament in Wellington. **Nathaniel M** got Distinction in his Grade 5 theory exam. Well done, all!

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

**Dee W and Dillon**: 16B Dorset Ave  
757 2232, 022 527 2944

familymentor@westbaptist.org.nz

**Kerry McC**: kerry1957@clear.net.nz  
751 1492, 027 892 3002

**Lynda and Matt C**: 4 Kelvin Place  
lcurrill@ihug.co.nz

**Sam G**: samgibson86@gmail.com

**Graeme and Christine T**: gandctaylor@gmail.com

## west:events

- 3, 17, 31 Aug Knitting Group, 9.30am-12pm at Church, all welcome  
6, 13 August Fresh Perspective Family Mentoring training day, 9.30-4.00pm  
7 August West's turn for Bed Pushing at Taranaki Base Hospital; contact Grant C to offer assistance  
8, 22 August Blokes and Cokes, 7.30pm at WestBar  
12 August 7.30pm: West is hosting a city-wide **Prayer and Worship Evening** focusing on transforming our local communities through family mentoring. St James are our special guests and will provide the music, and there will be people attending from around the city.  
14 August Alpha Marriage and Relationships Course begins, combined with Northpoint. See Jude S-M.  
21 August Newcomers' Lunch at Thalia and Matt's  
24 August Board Meeting at 7pm at Lynda C's  
28 August Quarterly Church Meeting, after the service

### Soup Lunches at homes after church – all welcome!

- 7 August James and Carol McK  
14 August Margaret S and friend  
21 August Thalia and Matt KR: the last one for the year.

## west:pitching in

**Financial update from the Board:** You may remember that we had cash flow problems last year and borrowed \$3,000 from our term deposit to tide us over. We have now paid it all back thanks to the church's steadier offering income this year. Thank you to all who are able to contribute in this way, and thank you to Lynda C our Treasurer, for overseeing this.

We have budgeted for **\$7,667** per month in offerings; in June offerings were **\$6,114**.

Would you like to be part of opening the church to show Rugby World Cup games on the big screen? Maybe we can even find a grandstand? If you are interested in being part of a team to offer this kind of hospitality to our neighbours, please speak to Alison.

Eric and Cath P will be coordinating the **Prayer Chain** during 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](mailto:mjsewell@actrix.co.nz)) with any info by the previous Wednesday.

**Cleaning &  
Morning Tea  
Lawnmowing**

### 7 AUGUST

Danny M  
Vicky K

### 14 AUGUST

Kevin F  
Sue F  
Alan B

### 21 AUGUST

Erin R  
Chrissy H

### 28 AUGUST

Brent G  
Murray L  
Stuart W

### 4 SEPT

Val W  
Allan W