



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.

Look out for people wearing blue **"Prayer Team"** tags – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

MARCH 2014

2 MAR MALACHI #4
Malachi 2:17 – 3:5
Topic: Provoking the Justice of God

9 MAR MALACHI #5
Malachi 3:6 - 12
Topic: Shunning the Blessing of God

16 MAR MALACHI #6
Malachi 3:12 – 4:6
Topic: Defying the Glory of God

23 MAR SELF DENIAL #1
Matthew 6:10
Topic: The Kingdom of God – What's that?

30 MAR SELF DENIAL #2
Luke 4:18 & 19
Topic: Good News for the Poor

6 APR SELF DENIAL #3
Luke 4:18 & 19
Topic: Freedom for Prisoners



A loving challenge can be the spring-board, or the nutrition, or the next small step to keep growing in our walk with Jesus.

A loving challenge can fend off the accruing apathy that accumulates around us. Apathy breeds disrespect for God and his ways. We're in the middle of a six week series working our way through Malachi – and we're looking at and some tough apathy busting topics...

- # 1 How has God loved me? (1:2)
- # 2 Do I have to give my best in worship for God? (1:6)
- # 3 Does commitment to God really need to affect who I marry and how I treat my spouse? (2:10-16)
- # 4 I'm a good person God, but look at them – why don't you care about justice? (2:17)
- # 5 I know what I need more than you God, so can you stay out of my finances please? (3:8)
- # 6 What is the point of serving God? (3:14)

The prophecy of Malachi is all about busting our apathy. My hope as we continue to travel through Malachi is that we will be captured afresh by yes God's grace, love, closeness, and mercy – but also by God's "otherness," his bigness, his power, his holiness, and his call on our lives.

Closely related to this loving challenge to live 24-7 for God is how we pass on this faith to our children and grand-children. This is a crucial part of us being

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A Meryl sends her thanks to those who have been supporting her with prayers, financial support and encouragement.

Paul and Sarah B Pray that God leads Paul and Sarah to the right women as they begin recruiting their first intake. Pray for courage amongst these girls to step into a new life. Give

an "all age-all stage" faith community. Deuteronomy 6 sums it up well for us:

4 Listen, Israel! The LORD our God is the only true God! 5 So love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. 6 Memorize his laws 7 and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. 8 Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. 9 Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your town gates.

Helping pass on the baton of faith means we need to take seriously how we do this in our worship together on Sunday mornings.

Robbie Castleman in "Parenting in the Pew" writes: "Worship can be one of the times when we parents would like to **pay attention** to something other than our children... it's hard to pay attention to God and children at the same time." However, **training children** to pay attention to God (ie. worship) enables us to focus on both our children **and God**. It's like us adults have this priestly role – to bring our children and God together, and there's lots of things we can do to help this.

Over the next few months we're going to start having "**all age, all stage tips**" during our worship gatherings. So... if you have "a tip" (an idea, a resource, a story of what's worked for you, etc), please let me know... we'd love to share it for the benefit and faith development of all.

Andrew 😊

thanks for the new building Paul and Sarah have been able to secure.

Tipan is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh.

Peter Pray that Peter's involvement at the Community Centre during the first 2 weeks of March is productive. Pray particularly that work on the website design goes well.

Closer to home:

Kingdom Resources West provides budgeting to people in New Plymouth.

We love & partner with **Spotswood Primary School**, across the road. We're involved with

HPP Reading, KickStart Breakfast Club, Pastoral Care, Mother's Day Brunch, Morning Tea for staff at the start of each term, Citizenship Award, and other areas individuals volunteer in. There are many ways you can serve our school community if you're interested.

west: groups

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.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home.

Carol and James Mck host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study group on the first and third Thursday of the month.

Get Real is for all young people from year 7 students and upwards. We meet on the first Sunday of each month to hang out, study bible and eat. See 'events' section. Speak to Kathy M (753 2604) for more information.

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.

The **Music Group** If you would like to be part of the music group, we practice on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, meeting at the Church at 7pm. If you are interested, you are very welcome to just come along or talk to Gary B, (751 3113.) Practices for March are on the 6th and 20th, not our normal weeks.

Family Groups

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 Alison.

west: people

Welcome to **Ross and Raewyn**, who have been worshipping with us lately.

Here is a photo taken on the happy Wedding Day of Romy Wood and Michael Kerr, in Paarl, 50 minutes drive north of Cape Town, South Africa. Note the proud parents!!

Congratulations to Gary B and Kathy M on their recent big 0 birthdays 😊

... and another one held in January – Lauren C & Stephen D, and proud parents Maureen and Jim.



Deb-Lyn is starting her NPGH Gateway programme this month. She's going to be

involved in a range of things to serve and get an idea of what pastoral leadership looks like.

See ya later Tertiary Students! Especially Nil and Kimberly, it's been great having you with us over summer! We'll miss you, think of you, pray for you, and look forward to seeing you again soon. (Tertiary students only study a small part of the year anyway!!)

Regular 'West Weekly' communication happens online & by e-mail. If you're not receiving this,

west: events

Camping at Oakura: Taranaki Anniversary Weekend - **7-10 March**. Contact Alison if interested.

Combined Family Group BBQ Tea (BYO) at Oakura Holiday Park. on Sunday 9th March, at 5pm. ALL WELCOME!! Contact Alison for further details.

"Beach on Sunday @ 5" Anybody and everybody welcome to come and hang out. Great chance to invite others along, build friendships and have some fun. Bring your own picnic to the city centre end of Ngamotu Beach. Last one – it's been fun!

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| 2 Mar | Get Real, at Beach@5, then Church for Bible Study. | 10,24 Mar | Blokes & Cokes, 7.30pm WestBar |
| 6,20 Mar | Music Practice, 7pm at Church | 11,25 Mar | Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm |
| 6,20 Mar | Chocolate Fish Group, James & Carol's | 11,18,25 Mar | Movies night at Cannell's |
| 9 Mar | Family Group BBQ at Oakura, 5pm | | |

west: pitching in

The **Working Bee** in February saw lots of us sprucing up the outside of our property – the car park and fence look great!

Thanks Mouse and Kathy for sorting our John D memorial DVD collection downstairs. If you'd like to borrow something, please take it, record it in the notebook, and return it to correct place on shelves.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$8,375 per month in offerings; in December our offerings were \$7,879.00. In January, the budget was \$9,000, offerings were \$11,860.00

Alison D is co-ordinating our building bookings, and Andrea M is checking the Hall before use. Please contact Alison (751 1005) if you wish to make bookings.

If you'd like to set up an automatic payment or use envelopes to contribute financially to the work of the church, please see our treasurer, Brent G. (751 0010) The government will rebate a full third of what you give.

Maureen C now collects information for the **Newsletter**, which comes out on the last Sunday of the month, so please contact her (753 9258, coopers_nz@hotmail.com) with any info by the previous Tuesday.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	2 MAR	9 MAR	16 MAR	23 MAR	30 MAR	6 APR
	James McK	Erin R	Lynda C	Alison D	Val W	Sue W
	Carol McK	Tania S-A	Andy L	Lisa A	Allan W	Steve J
	Stuart W		James McK		Jude S-M	