



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 assembled in the area near the side exit door – they will be happy to pray with you after the service.

See inside for more....

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

FEBRUARY 2015

1 FEB **Changing Worlds**
1 Cor 9:19-23

8 FEB **One**
Ephesians 3

15 FEB **Why am I a Christian?**
Farewell Jacob, Michael, Matt

22 FEB **2015**
Potpourri Faith Community



My Pastors Blurb bit...

Potpourri.

Yes, potpourri – the nice smelling stuff people sometimes use in their homes. Possibly quite unfamiliar to Gen X, and Gen Y. Possibly hand-made and regularly enjoyed by others!

Yes, I'm going to try to make connections between sweet smelling potpourri and church!

Potpourri is a collection of various types of plant matter. There are up to 300 types used in potpourri. Together it is one.

Church too is a collection of various types of humans in relationship with Jesus. There is no end to the possibilities of who can be a part of the church! We are one - In Christ!

Potpourri is good and useful for the things around it. It hides bad smells, refreshes rooms, and is oddly attractive.

Church too is good and useful for the things around it. We don't hide bad bits, but we do bring a refreshing, pleasing presence to our community, we help society to not rot – and – we're oddly attractive!

Potpourri is a natural product – predominantly made of herbs and flowers.

Church too is natural. Church is to be authentic. We too are made by God – in God's very image in fact!

Potpourri comes as it is – not attractive, not particularly popular (we don't hear about potpourri on Oprah or through Twitter feeds)

Church too comes as it is. We do not aim to be relevant, but rather, we offer ourselves in our weakness / 'stinkyness' – aiming to exist for the benefit of others, and the glory of God.

Potpourri is made by these herbs and flowers dying, then being layered with salt, it's mixed all around, and has a natural preservative added.

Church too is focussed on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We too have died to our own selves, and become alive again in Christ who sustains/preserves us by his Spirit.

Potpourri has a wide range of individual items contributing to its purpose.

Church too has a wide range of individuals contributing and making the church what it is – both on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. We each live our faith out in our own individual way – whilst still being a part of the "one." If we were all the same type of rose petal, we would stink!

Potpourri has non-plant matter added to it too.

Church too has people in it who belong and who contribute without necessarily believing the same core stuff. All people can be a part of the church.

If you love making or just enjoying potpourri, I'd like to hear from you!

In 2015 we will be focussed on the topic "Potpourri Faith Community."

We will be exploring:

- what it means to be God's community of faith,
- how to live out our faith in the contexts we live in.

More details coming soon!

Andrew

west: making a difference

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

Meryl A has enjoyed her summer in New Zealand, and has returned to Korea to temperatures of -3 to -10 degrees. 30 students have enrolled for the Course, which started on January 12, and that number may increase. Four of the students on the course, from Bangladesh, Cambodia and Ukraine are having their fees paid by a Church in the U.S. There will be a Dutch couple assisting the staff for 5 weeks, and Meryl is looking forward to welcoming them.

Paul and Sarah B Please pray that God will be hard at work at the Loyal Workshop and will do great things in the lives of the women there in 2015.

Jo R February is a busy month with many visitors. Please pray that Jo will find a good work/life balance and enjoy the people she meets on these visits. Pray that Jo will feel less like a novelty and will be increasingly accepted and embraced by the local community.

Alton Chakma is a student whose education and board we sponsor in Feni Baptist Hostel in Bangladesh. Our sponsorship enables Alton to live in the Feni Boy's Hostel which provides food, education, clothes, medical care and spiritual development in a sound Christian environment.

Information and updates on Alton will be on the notice board at the back of the Church. Please pray for Alton and his family and please write to him. Paper and envelopes are on the board also. He will no doubt be finding it hard to be away from his family at such a young age.

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, Gifted and Talented Kids, 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.

Just letting us all know, there are children and teens in our Spotswood community that we have had a fair amount of contact with, who would love to have, and need to have an adult spend regular time with them.

Christmas Hampers were sent out on Christmas Eve with love (and a funny hat wearing lady – ask Lisa ☺)

Children are back to kindy and school, uni students are getting things ready for their flats or hostels, workers are back into it, Mum's continue being awesome every day – whatever we are doing at the start of 2015 – may we know God's presence with us, and God's deep care for the people we interact with and the work we do. Just as Jesus was sent by his Father, so we too are sent into the places we go – as God's people, God's church.

west: groups

Play and Parent Support Group. Exists to build friendships with local families, encourage them, It exists to build friendships with local families, demonstrate God's love, and provide stimulating learning and development for babies and toddlers. Thursday's 10 – 11.30am at Naomi's, for parents of children aged 0 – 3 years. We are re-starting at 10am Thursday February 5 at Naomi's. All (aiming for local) parents with children under 3 are welcome.

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.

Lasses & Lattés. A chance for the women of our church (and friends) to get together, every second Monday, at 7.30pm at the Treehouse on Devon St West. All women welcome. We start for the year on Monday 2 February.

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 at their home.

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 Andrew S for more information. Get Real are not meeting this month.

The **Movie Group** will meet weekly at Grant & Megan's home on Tuesday nights to watch and discuss movies on the themes of our sermon series. On the first Tuesday of the month members take part in a Quiz Night at Westbar, at 6.30pm.

The **Music Group** practices will be on February 5 and 19. If anyone is interested in being part of the Music Group, we practice every 2nd Thursday night, at 7pm at 69 Barrett Road. Curators are also welcome to join us. Practices usually concentrate on learning new songs.

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.

The **Connectables** - We will be meeting at Val & Allan's on Saturday night 7 February from 5.30pm for a Barbeque to farewell Jacob & Matt.

west: people

Mickey Z has requested prayer for her parents who are currently applying for their New Zealand Residency. Thank you.

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

west: events

1,8,15,22 Feb **Beach @ 5.** Bring own picnic dinner to town end of Ngamotu Beach – good times!

Over 60s get together – Before you rush off for that post school-holiday holiday, do come and join us –

Where: 68 Fernleigh St, Frankleigh Park

When: Sunday 1 February at 12 noon

With: Finger food to share.

We look forward to seeing you then. Cela & Syd B.

1 Feb Over 60's Luncheon at Cela & Syd's, 12 noon

1,8,15,22 Feb Beach @ 5.

2,16 Feb Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood

3,10,17,24 Feb Movies night at Grant & Megan's

5,12,19,26 Feb Play and Parent Support Group, 10am at Naomi's

5,19 Feb Music Practice, Gary & Heather's

7 Feb Connectables meet at Val & Allan's for BBQ, 5.30pm

9,23 Feb Blokes & Cokes at Westbar, 7pm

10,24 Feb Rainbow Group at Heather H's home, 1.00pm

12,26 Feb Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol's home

22 Feb West AGM after service

west: pitching in

We'd love some new people on the cleaning and morning tea roster! See Alison or Roi.

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.

Prayer If you have a prayer request, please see Andrew. If you'd like to join the e-mail prayer chain as a pray-er, please talk to Andrew.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,000 per month in offerings; in October our offerings were \$10,787.52; November's offerings were \$9,957.84; December's offerings were \$9,889.30.

We have 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 the correct place on the shelves.

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 with any info by the previous Tuesday.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing

7 FEB
Brian M
Kathy M

14 FEB
Tracey W
Andrea M
Allan W

21 FEB
Judy W
Brian W

28 FEB
Roi M
Jude SM
Stuart W