



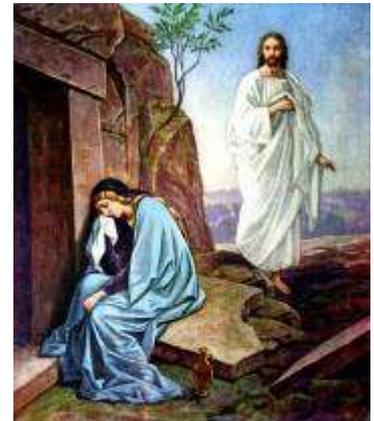
shelter



faith



laughter



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

MARCH 2018

4 MAR Introduction to Lent & Self-Denial

11 MAR A New Spirit
1 John 4

18 MAR A New Perspective
Ephesians 4

25 MAR A New Generation
Psalm 78
Collecting our Self-Denial Offering

29 MAR Thursday 7pm
Service of the Shadows

30 MAR Good Friday Service
9.30am

1 APR Resurrection Sunday
10 am

8 APR What is the Gospel
Part 3



We are almost in Lent – the time of year leading up to remembering Jesus' betrayal, arrest, execution and most importantly, resurrection.

During Lent the church through the ages has focused on giving up something for the purposes of prayer and growing as a learner (disciple) of Jesus. It's fitting that we participate in Self-Denial during Lent. Of course, the idea is that we would deny ourselves of something in order to let our hearts be re-orientated to God's mission in the world, and that we would give as we can, to our overseas mission work.

In the newsletter this month, I thought I'd let NZ Baptist Missionary Society (NZBMS) leader Rachel Murray introduce some of the ideas and reasons. I'll unpack this on March 4.

Rachel writes:

Our theme for 2018 is HE AUAHA HOU, Made New. This draws from the Thai New Year festival known as 'Songkran' and is a time of renewal, cleansing and honouring. It's also a traditional festival that has been contextualised by the Church, symbolising forgiveness and renewal through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. So we focus along these lines specifically concentrated on 'A New Spirit', 'A New Perspective' and 'A New Generation'.

We believe that mission is central to the heart of God and as followers of Jesus we have a responsibility to be involved, as He has called us to in Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20. That mandate is equally important to the places in which we live and work, and 'beyond borders' and 'to the ends of the earth'. For the NZ Baptist Missionary Society (NZBMS) it's the latter that is our heartbeat, specifically through Asia and the Pacific, and this has been the case for 133 years. We pray that together, each with a part to play, that God will be glorified through this appeal and the Kingdom of God will be evident to many around His world.

On behalf of the NZ Baptists who are serving throughout Asia, sent and commissioned on your behalf, we thank you for your support. Nga Mihi Nui. **Rachel Murray**

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl When recently back in New Zealand I noticed many cars were white, black or grey, rather than one of the many other colours. In Korea, I saw the same. In a car park and nearby roads, I counted 142 cars, with only one of them being a different colour - blue. It stood out from all the others. Then my mind wandered from cars, and I thought about us as Christians. Do we stand out? Are our lives so different from everyone else that people notice the difference and wonder why, or do we blend in with the world? It's a challenge for each one of us, me included.

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia): ; We have a newly formed Advisory Board for the Loyal Workshop. Our first meeting with the Board will take place from today and will continue until 17th March. We long for guidance and wisdom as we

seek to grow the Loyal Family really well, and pray we hear his voice through our discussions.

Carley (S Asia): Please pray for safety while driving around NZ, and a great quality time with my family and supporting Churches I will be staying with along the way. Pray for unity in Gems. There has been some setbacks recently, please pray for our teachers to work together to solve problems instead of blaming each other, as it is so easy to do.

Jo R: Please pray for the Gateway cleaning team, that they will find harmony within the team and will experience joy in their work. Pray also for Charlie and I as we continue to juggle our busy work lives and also to find time to spend together. Give praise for a wonderful group of friends, especially the men who are doing community work with Charlie as he settles into life here.

Closer to home:

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.

Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy. Andrew is a part of the school's pastoral care team which meets weekly to collaboratively support children and their families. He also spends time with staff and children.

Hospital Chapel Service support. Hospital Chapel Service Support: West helps with the hospital chapel service occasionally. If you'd like to find out more, please contact Ian & Jill M.

west: growing

All men are welcome to share a drink and good conversation every fourth Monday at **Blokes and Cokes**, 7.30pm at Westside Grill (formerly known as WestBar.) See Brian 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.

The **Rainbow group** meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons, at 1pm at Heather H's home. See events section for dates.

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 Westside Grill at 6.30pm.

Carol and James McK host a fortnightly 'Chocolate Fish' Bible study at their home. See 'events' section for dates. Anyone looking for a fortnightly home group is welcome to check us out.

Music & Play For parents and children under 5 years. We meet every Friday at 10am. Koha. Contact Shirley P on 751 0711

Youth Group Fortnightly Saturday events for young people who are school year 7 through to

year 13 (Form 1-7). There are also fortnightly Sunday faith discussions for year 9-13. Contact James M to be put on the text message group to find out about the events, or any other info. Put a facebook request to the Transit Youth facebook page for updates, and Andrew will give you access to the closed group.

The Music Group This month's practice will be on the 8th and 22nd March, at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

If anyone is interested in joining the Music Group, we would love to have you come along and join us. We would especially love to have some new musicians and singers. Most practices concentrate on learning new songs. See Gary B if you are interested.

Music lessons with our youth and children An idea being talked about by a few people, is whether we might be able to help teach some of our children and young people to play some instruments? This is with a view to building relationships, passing on skills, and perhaps having them join our music team one day! Would anybody (or group of people) be interested in getting heads together to explore this more?

west: in our community

Food Together is about connecting people together, eating healthily and affordably. Fresh fruit and vegetables delivered to West's building on Thursday afternoons. For more info see Food Together New Plymouth on Facebook. To order, go to www.foodtogether.co.nz Order by Tuesday 12pm. Pick up Thursday 2.30 – 3.15pm or 5.00 – 5.45pm. Volunteers are on every six weeks. Please see Jill M if you can help.

If people purchase a "Gift Bag" online and have the pick up as '144 South Road' i.e. at West, we'll pass it to a family that could do with a hand.

Taranaki Retreat is our fantastic local place of rest and support for people really struggling, led by Suzy and Jamie. Taranaki Retreat has people baking for them each week and they will be leaving this baking in the foyer on Sunday mornings for it to be picked up by the Retreat on Monday mornings. This is just to let you know 😊

west: people

Most of our notices, as well as brief Sunday reflections are sent via an e-mail called the “**West Weekly.**” If you’d like to receive this, please contact Andrew or Alison.

Please continue to **pray for and support** those who are struggling with ongoing health difficulties, and those unable to meet on Sundays **Eric P, Ruth S, Lyn S, Marlinka R, Kathe M, Jocelyn D.**

west: events

Camping on Taranaki Anniversary Weekend. Some people are thinking of re-starting this fun, non-West event that is open to all people. We’re thinking Saturday and Sunday nights camping, either at Oakura or out close to Urenui. Please tell Alison if you’re interested so we can get an idea if this is worth exploring more.

CALENDAR:

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| 1,15,29 Mar | Chocolate Fish Group, at James & Carol’s home | 10,24 Mar | Youth Group 7 – 9 pm |
| 2,9,16,23,30 Mar. | Music & Play, at West.10am | 12,26 Mar | Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at Treehouse, Spotswood |
| 5 Mar | Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm | 13,20,27 Mar | Movie Group at Grant & Megan’s |
| 6,20 Mar | Rainbow Group at Heather H’s,1pm | | |

west: pitching in

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,600 per month in offerings; in January our offerings were \$10,503.

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.

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

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	3 MAR Brent G Murray L James McK	10 MAR Liane L Wayne L	17 MAR Bedford Family Jude SM	24 MAR Corey & Family	31 MAR Raewyn H Ross H Murray L
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OVER 60’s OUTING TO PUKEITI

