



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 service on Sundays. So please don't worry if anyone with you makes a little bit of noise – 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

NOVEMBER 2018

4 NOV

Doing extra miles for peace

11 NOV

Not who you would have picked

18 NOV

Noticing God since July

25 NOV

How has West nurtured faith for you?



Why do we 'do church?' Why are we a part of it? Why 'go' to church? What is church!?

I'm sure most of us and many others have asked a similar question. What responses are there to these very real questions?

I think that one very helpful response is that we come together as a church community to sustain us in our following of Jesus in the world.

There are other helpful responses too:

* Reminding us of God's story, of who God is and who we are

- * To experience aspects of Kingdom life
- * To connect with God, others, the world and ourselves
- * To reset our compass to true North (the Kingdom of God)
- * To have an intentional time set aside to focus on God

But let's stick with my initial reason for 'why church?'... we come together as a church community to sustain us in our following of Jesus in the world.

In 2018, how has the life of our church helped sustain you in your following of Jesus in the world?

"The life of West" includes not just Sunday morning of course, but also our groups, our ministries, our conversations together, in fact anything connected with West Baptist Community Church.

On November 25 we will be having numerous people sharing their experiences (small or big) on how West has helped sustain them in their following of Jesus in the world. It might be just one sentence.

For example; a line in a song we've sung, a point of a sermon, a conversation over coffee, a conversation in a small group, a scripture read, a book read, a new thought, a new way of seeing God, a new way of seeing scripture, an encouraging word, a challenging challenge, a prayer we've prayed, a story of somebody's life, the sharing of communion, the sharing of laughter, the sharing of hugs, the sharing of space without touch, the sharing of cleaning bathrooms, the silence we've sat with, the benedictions we've stood for, the bread we've given, the breakfast we've served - and how this has influenced how we follow Jesus in the world.

Here's a bit of a summary of what we've been up to on Sundays this year. Perhaps there's something in here that is a reminder of what might have sustained you in your following of Jesus in the world...

- * We spent many weeks thinking about "what is the Gospel?" The gospel is the good news that God's Kingdom (God's ways) are here and near – able to be experienced. Because of this we can change our thinking and ways to believe and act with faith in new ways.
- * Liane's Good Friday service where we heard from different characters like Peter & Judas
- * Baptist thinking – how Christ is our authority from whom we discern his mind when we gather together in his name. We also explored local church autonomy and the priesthood of all believers. We contributed to the Baptist Listening Hui, seeking to hear from God and contribute to our movement's review.
- * Mark Pierson spent time with our curators and led us in a different kind of service
- * Titus, the little New Testament letter was explored. How we communicate God's good news in ways people can hear and see, and not seeing or addressing people as sinners were key ideas.
- * We heard stories from Carley B, Jamie A, Jo & Charlie, Joe G, Sio & Kathleen, Khon & Nang, Margaret E, Mark F.
- * We had sermons from Jacob M, Colin P, Mouse, Chris G, Carley B, James M, Judy W, Jamie A, Jo R (now K), Mark P, Julia P, Andy L, Gary B, Mark F, Joe G, and soon to be Liane L.

There will be more information on “noticing God since July” in my pastor’s report which will be available on Sunday 18 November.

In 2018, how has the life of our church helped sustain you in your following of Jesus in the world?

Andrew ☺

west: making a difference

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

Meryl: In 1996, Meryl left NZ and first went to Africa to work on the mission field in Ethiopia. Then God led her to South Korea 6 years ago where she has been teaching, helping, encouraging and training Koreans and students of other nationalities how to be effective missionaries overseas.

Since working in Korea, almost 250 students have taken the Course provided by SIM, Korea. Meryl expresses her thanks for all our love, support and prayers over these past years. Meryl is making plans to return to New Zealand permanently by Christmas, and would appreciate our prayers over the next few months.

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia):

Continue to pray for Sarah in Thailand resting to regain her health, and for Paul, for strength, wisdom, and peace as he does Sarah’s workload as well as his own at the Workshop. Pray too for the children that they would know God’s peace and security at this time.

Carley (S Asia): Carley recently returned from her UK holiday. The children at GEMS have had a football tournament played inside the Library, for both primary and High School students. Carley has been spending a lot of time with the students doing their O-Level exams. GEMS still need your pr.r as we struggle to retain teachers in the High School.

We need the right people with the right character to fit into the school.

Jo and Charlie (N.Z. and S. Asia.): We will be starting our support raising in the next few weeks and would value prayers for travel, speaking at meetings etc. Pray too for our health during this time.

Closer to home:

We love and 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 co-leading a group for older boys focusing on anger. We’ve been thinking together about; how anger is an emotion, anger is normal, and that it helps to be able to say “I feel angry when...” Andrew is a part of the school’s pastoral care team which meets weekly to collaboratively support children and their families.

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 **Impact 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 15th November at 69 Barrett Road, starting at 7pm.

THE MUSIC GROUP: We would really love to have some more singers as part of the music group. If

you can sing and would like to join us we would love to have you come on board with us.

We practice, usually fortnightly, on a Thursday from 7-8.30pm at 69 Barrett Road.

If you would like to know more please talk to one of the singers or talk to Gary B.

A team of West people started a journey together in a "**Learning Community**" to strengthen a missional discipleship culture here at West.

Key things we're working on are (1) helping us shift from doing things for people, to doing things with people. We want to help create community, and this means enabling our wider community to contribute, belong and own. We also want to (2) develop how we disciple and mentor our young people.

west: in our community

Great work by two of our bakers at the start of this school term meant Spotswood Primary School staff were treated to deliciousness at morning tea!

west: people

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.**

Much love to Andy L and his family on the death of his step-dad.

It's been so good having Alison & Chris back around!

west: events

Newcomers lunch: November 4. Anybody who is new or new-ish to West is warmly invited to lunch at James and Carol's. This is an opportunity to meet other newcomers, some not so new people, and our leaders. It's an opportunity to hear more about what West is about, how we operate and ask any questions (though you can do this at any other time too of course!)

National Baptist Assembly and its other connected events are on during the week starting Monday 5 November. Carol, Lyn, and Andrew are attending.

Nov 18th NEXT Church Meeting

Advance Notice: Over 60's Group Our Christmas meeting will be at Marbles, on Devon St East, on Thursday 6th December at 6pm. The cost is \$32.90 per person for seniors. Please confirm numbers with Carolyn F by 2nd December.

CALLING THE WOMEN OF TARANAKI TO PRAY FOR WOMEN OF THE WORLD.

Saturday 17th November, at 2pm. Meeting held at Northpoint Baptist Church, 116 Mangati Road, Bell Block.
More information will be on the Church Notice Board -

CALENDAR:

2,9,16,23,30 Nov Music & Play, at West, 10am

4 Nov Newcomers Lunch at James McK's

5,19 Nov Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at
Treehouse, Spotswood

5 Nov Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm

8,22 Nov Chocolate Fish Group, at James &
Carol's home

10,24 Nov Impact Group 7 – 9 pm

13, 27 Nov Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm

13,20,27 Nov Movie Group at Grant & Megan's

15 Nov Music Practice

18 Nov Next Church Meeting

west: pitching in

Prayer: If you have a prayer request, please contact Andrew who would be delighted to pray with you and/or put your request on the prayer chain.

We have an e-mail prayer chain where a dozen people are committed to praying for any request, as they are able. All West people are encouraged to be a part of this. If you'd like to join the prayer chain as a pray-er, please contact Andrew.

Each month we will keep the church informed of our progress. We have budgeted for \$9,500 per month in offerings; in September our offerings were \$9,166.

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.

Cleaning & Morning Tea Lawnmowing	3 NOV	10 NOV	17 NOV	24 NOV	1 DEC
	Brian M Kathy M	Andrea M Tracey W Brian W	Judy W Brian W	Val W Allan W Stuart W	Lynda L Andy L James McK

*Procrastination is my sin
It brings me naught but sorrow
I know that I should stop it,
In fact I will... tomorrow!*