



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

MARCH 2019

3 MAR Covenanting Together
Membership

10 MAR Ashes & Crosses
Take up your old burnt palms
Luke 9:23

17 MAR Prayer & Self Denial 1
Prepare for Take Off!
Isaiah 6:8

24 MAR Prayer & Self Denial 2
Expect & Attempt Great Things
Rachel Murray. Ephesians 3:20

31 MAR Prayer & Self Denial 3
Making a Difference
Matthew 5:16

7 APR Prayer & Self Denial 4
Does God Care for these People?
Isaiah 65:1



Have you ever asked one of these questions?:

- * How does our church grow in the future?
- * How do we share with people who don't know Jesus?
- * How do we change things for the better in our society?
- * How do we bring the Good News (Jesus) to dark places marked by oppression and terror?

I propose (along with Mike Breen in his book "Building a Discipling Culture") that the best response to this is that it's all about making disciples of Jesus.

"Most of us [myself included] have been trained and educated for a world that no longer exists because of the seismic shifts that ripple through culture more and more frequently. However, the call to make disciples still remains. It never waivers and never changes. Make disciples. Here's the thing that can be difficult to wrap our minds around: If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples." (Pages 4,5)

That's a big statement isn't it?! This was a statement our "Discipleship Culture Working Party" (Judy Wo, Ian M, Tracey W, Naomi and I) threw around over dinner a couple of weeks ago. More specifically, and wanting to be positive and appreciative inquiry focused, we asked ourselves, "in what ways do our Sunday worship gatherings help disciple people?"

Here's some of what we came up with:

- * Hearing testimonies of various people
- * Serving morning tea –in that we meet many people doing this
- * Cleaning – in that we are serving our and the wider community – outworking our faith
- * We experience others being vulnerable and have the opportunity to be vulnerable ourselves
- * We experience how people pray
- * Thinking is encouraged and thinking is challenged
- * A journey of faith is encouraged, and so (1) mistakes are ok, (2) participation is more important than perfection, (3) children are involved, (4) as are those young in faith.
- * We learn to be gracious by accepting that not everything in the service is for everyone
- * We have lots of opportunities to grow and use gifts

Personally, I found this hugely encouraging! Our service is like a good foundation for discipleship to flourish!

What else would you add that you find helps grow you in your discipleship (learner of Jesus' ways)? I'd love to hear from you!

Andrew 😊

west: making a difference

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

Paul and Sarah, Mikayla and Malachi (S Asia): Please pray for continued rest and healing for us, especially for Sarah. Also we're grateful for the kids settling quickly into a new school here.

Carley (S Asia): We need prayers to help us retain teachers, especially at the high school level, with the right character to fit into the school atmosphere.

Jo and Charlie (N.Z. and S. Asia.): Please pray for us as we speak at Churches and supporters groups in the UK, for good times of sharing and building support networks and for valuable time connecting with family and friends.

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.

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. Music & Play has started 2019 really well! We have a great team working well together and lots of families participating in a programme, and more importantly participating in community and friendships. We meet every Friday at 10am.

Family Faith night To help our children grow in the ways of God's Kingdom, young families are getting together on the first Sunday of each month to eat and learn together. Michael and Elizabeth

Spotswood Primary Chaplaincy. Andrew spends Wednesday mornings at the school. He is a part of regular pastoral care team meetings which seek to collaboratively support children and families, and he spends time listening to and supporting children. Andrew is also working on developing a partnership between West, School and Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring.

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.

are leading this. 5p,m Sunday 3 March, with shared kai to start.

Impact Youth (West Baptist and St James combined youth group for students in years 7 to 13) are meeting every second Friday for mainly social activities. For example, we had fun creating sand castle sculptures and a bonfire at Tapuae beach last Friday (1st of March). Upcoming events will be on March 15th and 29th.

Also on the Sunday night of the same weekends (3rd, 17th, 31st) the senior high school group are meeting with a greater focus on bible study (as well as lots of fun).

Coming up at Easter, Andrew will be taking a group of year 7 & 8's to eCamp in the Waikato, whilst James and Carol will take a group of high schoolers to Easter camp in Feilding.

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 14th and 28th March, 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.

Discipleship Culture Working Party

A team of West people started a journey together in a "Learning Community" to strengthen a 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. We are making steady progress. The journey has been encouraging! We had our second block course (Learning Community) last Thursday - Saturday. The new "Family Faith Night" is another key thing we're delighted to see start!

Learning stories of our local land:

We've been learning more about being people of the Treaty (Ngā tangata ō te Tiriti ō Waitangi). To do this we must learn how we can honour the Treaty. One way to honour the Treaty is to learn stories of the land through a Māori lens. Shane Cassidy has been helping us with this. There is a link to his Tuesday night presentation. A marae for

all of New Plymouth is being built at Ngāmotu Beach. We will be invited to contribute in friendship and partnership!

Carey Baptist College: Focus Webinar Series. For everybody, live on your own device!

Carey lecturers, live: First Wednesday of the month, March-October, 7.30pm. Bringing into focus: bible, theology and mission. Teaching by high calibre, research active, practitioner-experienced, Carey lecturers. Gain a better understanding of the world you live in. A stimulating training resource for the ongoing development of leaders, practitioners, volunteers, and active followers of Jesus. Each month a new topic will be brought into focus from the areas of: Culture, Old Testament, Pastoral Care, New Testament, Youth, Mission, History, and Theology. Watch on your own, or create a group to join together for this 8-month series. A short reading list will be included with each webinar. \$25 per webinar (individual or a group), or subscribe to them all for \$150 (25% discount: get two free webinars). More details online: <http://www.lifelonglearning.nz/focus>

west: people

Welcome home **Keith!** It's great you're back on your feet (sometimes at least!) after your big operation. May God's strength and grace continue to be close to you and Judy.

We said farewell to **Rachael** last Sunday. It's great to have students back around town and worshipping with us over the summer!

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, Jocelyn D.**

west: events

CALENDAR:

1,8,15,22,29 Mar. Music & Play, at West, 10am
1,15,29 Mar. Impact Group 7 – 9 pm
3 March AGM after service
3 March Last Picnic at Ngāmotu Beach,
5.30pm by playground
3 March Family Faith Night, 5pm
3,17,31 Mar. Impact Youth Seniors

11,25 Mar Lasses & Lattés, 7.30pm at
Treehouse, Spotswood
12,26 March Rainbow Group at Heather H's, 1pm
12,19,26 Mar Movie Group at Grant & Megan's
14,28 March Chocolate Fish Group, at James &
Carol's home
14,28 March Music Practice
25 March Blokes & Cokes at Westbar 7.30pm

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 January our offerings were \$10,126.

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.

	2 MAR	9 MAR	16 MAR	23 MAR	30 MAR
Cleaning & Morning Tea	Judy W	Val W	Lynda L	James McK	Roi SM
Lawnmowing	Brian W	Allan W	Andy L	Carol McK	Jude SM
	Jude SM		Murray L		Roi SM

THE POWER OF A SEED

Want to see a miracle? Plant a word of love heart-deep in a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer, and watch what happens.

An employee gets a compliment. A wife receives a bouquet of flowers. A cake is baked and carried next door. A widow is hugged. A petrol-station attendant is honoured. A speaker is praised. Sowing seeds of peace is like sowing beans. You don't know why it works; you just know it does. Seeds are planted and topsoils of hurt are shoved away.

Don't forget the principle.

Never underestimate the power of a seed.