

FIRST PLYMOUTH

YOUTH NEWS

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I often have church members tell me that they read the youth news, even though they don't have any children or grandchildren in the youth group. They like to know what the youth are up to, they say. Sometimes they are inspired by what our youth are doing, or they like to think of ways they can support our youth.

This column is to you! (And to anyone else who wants to read along). If you've often found yourself wondering how you can help support the youth of First Plymouth, but haven't been sure how to go about it, then we have an answer for you! Every Sunday from now until July, we'll be offering stock certificates for sale. For \$25 (for common stock) or \$100 (for premium stock), you can "own" a piece of the High School mission trip to New Orleans.

The trip is for youth who will be in the 9th grade through college freshmen in the fall, and goes from July 5th through July 16th. We'll be working in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, rebuilding homes damaged and destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Years later, these areas are still almost completely devastated.

Your stock purchase helps to offset the cost of the trip, which is over \$1,000 per youth! For a purchase of \$25, you get a postcard from a trip participant, a photo of the mission team, and an invitation to our Stockholders' Reception on Saturday evening, July 18th. For a purchase of \$100, you get all that plus an authentic mission trip t-shirt! We need your help, so that we can help the wonderful people of New Orleans rebuild their lives. Come find us in the Narthex to buy your stock today!

See you Sunday!

Eric

SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP

The deadlines for the Senior High Mission Trip to New Orleans:

April 26th: Second payment of \$100 due
May 31st: Final payment of \$100 due
July 5th: Depart for New Orleans!

High Schoolers going on the mission trip: don't forget your fundraising obligations! Every participant needs to sign up for two Sunday morning shifts selling stock in our trip!

You can also ask friends and family if they would like to support our trip by purchasing stock. Stock is available in \$25 or \$100 denominations.

CAMPS AND RETREATS

April 17-19

Conference High School Retreat at La Foret

July 19-25

First Plymouth Community Camp

July 26-August 1

MADD Camp

FUNDRAISING

Attention youth and parents: First, thanks to all who have helped with our fundraising so far this year. We've done a great job!

We're thinking of making the childcare fundraiser that we did on Valentine's Day a monthly occurrence. To do that, we need a couple of parents and a bunch of youth to commit to specific dates. Parents: if you're interested in helping anchor one of these fundraisers, please let Eric know!

REMINDERS

—There are still some 2008-2009 Youth Group hoodie sweat-shirts available! These are available to youth for a suggested \$15 donation (don't sweat it if you don't have it), or to parents and other church folk for a \$20 donation. We currently have all sizes, but the smaller ones are going fast!

—Invite your friends to youth group!

—Seniors and families: Don't forget that May 17th is our Senior Banquet! Your job: to find one person to speak on your behalf (could be a coach, teacher, minister, parents, etc) and to send me lots of baby photos of you!

THANK YOU!

The First Plymouth youth program takes hard work from many different people! Here is a list (incomplete, of course!) of those who have lent a hand recently:

- Thanks to all the parents who have prepared dinner for the youth groups in March!
- Thanks to the youth mentors who have helped with youth group so far this year: Dave Kroll, Brian Eley, Ben Westlund, Greg Verzosa, and Julie Bennett!
- Thanks to the parents who are helping with our fundraising efforts, *especially* those who have taken on a leadership role! Your help is invaluable!

CALENDAR

Stuff coming up you won't want to miss.

April 5	Youth Group
April 12	No Youth Group (Easter)
April 17-19	Conference High School Retreat at La Foret
April 19	Youth Group
April 26	Youth Group

Other special events on the horizon...

May 10	No Youth Group (Mothers' Day)
May 17	Youth Group: Senior Banquet
May 24	No Youth Group: Memorial Day
May 31	Youth Group: Closing Youth Group Confirmation Sunday
June 6	All Church Talent Show