

# First Plymouth Youth News

AUGUST 2011



## Looking forward:

### Youth Group 2011-2012

The stores have back-to-school sales going, the pools are all closing, summer camp season is coming to an end...that can only mean one thing: time for youth group to start again!

We're starting slightly later this year than usual (on September 4th) because my wife (Jessa) and I are expecting our third child in early to mid August, and it just seemed easier to postpone starting than to start with "substitute youth directors." But

once we start, we'll be going full-bore for the fall.

This will be my 5th year as the youth director at First Plymouth, which is kind of difficult to believe. In the 4 years that I've had the chance to hang out with the youth of First Plymouth, we've had a lot of fun, had some really good and really tough conversations, done a lot of good for the world, and made lots of stories together that will still be getting told years down the line.

I know that this year will be no different. We'll have serious times, fun times, and times when we get our hands dirty. So why don't you come join us at youth group, and let's all live out the stories we'll be telling years from now?

See you Sunday,

eric.

a few highlights of:

## Summer

...final youth group meeting...madd camp...voyager camp...sunday nights off...fundraising for venezuela...being off from school...community camp...



I'm just re-using all the photos from the spring. Why? I don't have any new ones.

## Confirmation

(Various Dates)

Confirmation is a program for 8th graders (and any 9th graders who haven't gone through the program, for whatever reason). It's where you get the chance to examine your faith for yourself, to make it your own, and to claim Christianity (or not) as the faith you have chosen (or not).

Last year we tried something a little different with Confirmation: we held it in a series of weekend retreats, rather than every single. sunday. morning. all. year. long. People responded well to that (mostly because they didn't have to show up at room 107 every week). That worked great, but it ended up being really expensive. So this year we're

doing a hybrid system: some retreats, and some classroom time (although less than we used to do).

So, 8th graders and their parents, sometime in August you'll be getting a letter about Confirmation. I encourage you to take part—it's a LOT of fun, and you'll learn a lot too. There's no cost to you. If you want to be sure that I put you on the mailing list, send me an email, and I'll make certain that you're the first to know when the letter comes out.

Thanks, and see you at Confirmation!



Michael is about to get crushed.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Five questions about youth group logistics:

What time is youth group?

We usually start at 6:15, and finish at 8:30. Some special events may require different times, which will be announced ahead of time, over email.

Who is youth group for?

All youth grades 6-12 are invited, whether they and/or their families are members of First Plymouth or not.

What do we do there?

We do lots of fun stuff, some serious stuff, some spiritual stuff, and quite a bit of random stuff. We've been known to make giant messes, spend time praying, roll up our sleeves and work, and accidentally fall asleep while pretending to listen.

What does it cost?

Our goal is always to make youth group free. Occasionally, because of special events or budget limitations, we have to ask participants to bring \$5 or \$10. This is *always optional*, however, and if you don't have it, we'll cover you.

Is it true that Eric is good at foosball?

I'm in my fifth year and have been beaten 6 or 8 times. So if you want to be a hero, bring it.

## Bonus Trivia:

What rank does Eric hold for the longest-currently-tenured youth ministers in the Rocky Mountain Conference?

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 4
- D) 9

The first person to tell me the correct answer gets his or her choice of Smencils!



## More FAQ:

### Here are some more frequently asked questions about youth group:

What if I like to sing?

Then Youth Choir is for you! Details about the time and place of Youth Choir will be available soon from Frank Perko, our director of music.

How much do youth mentors get paid?

Nada. They're here because they like hanging out with you. Seriously. They didn't get sentenced to community service or anything.

Why should I participate in conference retreats?

Once upon a time, First Plymouth sent **huge** groups to these things. These days, it's more like one or two people. We can do better than that! You should go because they're a lot of fun...it's a weekend in the woods with people from all over the conference, having fun, sharing, learning some things, and eating camp food. If you want more information, ask!

I like to hang out and do cool stuff and do good things for the world, but I don't know how I feel about God/Jesus/spirituality/whatever.

That's not a question either. But don't sweat it. Youth Group is open to anyone and everyone, regardless of where you might be on your journey.

## Did you know?

It's very difficult to think of things to put in these boxes. It's true! And now you know.



## Youth Group Kickoff (September 4)

September 4th: the day it all begins.

Youth Group returns on September 4th this year, as we kick off the year. That evening at youth group, we'll:

- get an orientation to youth group
- discuss what kinds of activities we want to do in 2011-2012
- discuss what kinds of spiritual and religious experiences we want to have in 2011-2012
- discuss possible outings
- talk about important dates, like Youth Sunday
- talk about any major special events we want to do (ski trip, youth group retreat, etc)

That evening, we'll also have a parent meeting where we'll discuss some similar but different kinds of things:

- meal schedule
- drivers for outings
- ideas for all of the things above, that the youth might not have thought of
- all the forms we all have to sign
- anything else you want to talk about

Parents, we'll meet at 6:45 in the Commons Room. Please try to have at least one parent present for this important meeting!

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# Calendars

August, September, and beyond

August 3-10 2011: High School mission trip to Venezuela

August 14: Mission Trip Sunday and Reception

September 4: Youth Group Kickoff!

(and parent meeting)

September 10: 9/10/11 event (details forthcoming over email)

September 11: Youth Group

September 18: Youth Group

September 25: Youth Group

October 14-16: RMC High School Retreat

November 4-6: RMC Middle School Retreat

## Leftovers

### Grocery Cards

Don't forget about our King Soopers grocery cards. This is a major source of funding for our activities, and we need your vigilance. Reload those cards!

### Volunteers



If you are not a youth parent or grandparent, we could use your help as a youth mentor! Let Eric know if you're interested. All mentors

must be background checked and go through the First Plymouth boundary training program.

### Contact Info



You can reach this handsome fellow on the left any time day or night at the contact info below. Please don't hesitate!

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