

FIRST PLYMOUTH

YOUTH NEWS

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Wait.

It's the one thing we're getting worse at: waiting. No matter how much technology improves our lives, no matter how much progress we think we're making as a society, no matter how much self-improvement we think we're doing, we never seem to get any better at waiting.

A few weeks ago I went through the biennial ritual of getting my car emissions tested. While you're waiting, they stick you into this long hallway type room with all the other people who are waiting, and for about thirty minutes, everybody tries really hard not to acknowledge each other. Anyone with a cell phone is furiously texting or checking email or playing with it, and everybody else just stares out the window. Nobody has any sense of grace or purpose about their waiting.

Advent is about waiting. Advent is the season of the church year when we wait for Jesus' birth, just like his parents waited expectantly two millennia ago. It's the season when it seems like time slows down (especially for little kids on Christmas Eve), and everybody is just pausing to catch their breath and see what happens next.

A lot of people describe Christians as "an Easter people," but I think we'd do well to think of ourselves as "a Christmas people," or at least "an Advent people." We are people who are waiting—waiting for Jesus to be born into our world, waiting for Jesus to be made manifest in the ways of this world. We're waiting for the kingdom of God to become a reality, and not just words on a page. It's our job to wait, but it's also our job to make it happen.

Let's get started.

See you on Sunday! —Eric.

KING SOOPERS CARDS

Everyone needs groceries, so why not let a percentage of your grocery bill help fund Youth Group activities at First Plymouth?

Purchase a reloadable gift card for \$5.00!

Reload your card at your neighborhood King Soopers store and 5% of your purchases will be sent back to our First Plymouth Youth Group!!

Just think...if 50 families use these gift cards to purchase \$500 worth of groceries each month we could earn \$15,000 per year for Youth Group activities like mission work, retreats, etc.!!!!

Cards may be purchased in the church office.

LOCK-IN

Mark January 15-16 on your calendars. We're having a lock-in!

A lock-in is where we all spend the night at the church. We go out somewhere in the evening, then by midnight or so we hunker down in the church building, play games, talk 'til 4 a.m., play floor hockey, play Grog, and generally have a good time. We choose MLK Jr. weekend each year, so youth have an extra day off to recover before going back to school.

This year, drop-off will be at 7:00 p.m. Friday night and pick-up will be at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

FUNDRAISING

A major fundraiser for 2009-2010 will be the Kids' Night Out events, held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. So far we've raised about \$750 at these!

We need two sets of parents and at least 5-10 youth to come each time. Here's who's signed up so far. A "TBA" means we still need parents for that date.

December 19: TBA, TBA
January 23: Haskins, Depper
February 20: TBA, TBA
March 20: TBA, TBA
April 17: TBA, TBA
May 15: TBA, TBA

If you can help on a "TBA" night, please let me know!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

We're having a contest to see who can invite the most friends to Youth Group this year! The rules:

- A "visitor" is someone who attended Youth Group 5 or fewer times last year, whether they are a member of the church or not.
- 1 point per visitor, each time they visit. If your friend comes 25 times, you get 25 points.
- There's no limit to how many friends you can get credit for per week.
- Only one person can get credit for each visitor.

The prizes will be awarded in May 2010. They are:

- Grand Prize: 16GB iPod Nano or equivalent gift certificate.
- Anyone with 5 points or more will get to go out for a special reward dinner.

Current standings:

- 1) Nicole (8 points)
- 2) Emmy (6 points)
- 3) Paige (4 points)
- 4) Addyson (4 points)
- 5) Erin (3 points)

CALENDAR

- December 4-6:** SpiritLife Retreat
- December 6:** Youth Group
- December 13:** Youth Group
- December 19:** Kids' Night Out
- December 20:** Caroling in the afternoon
Youth Group Christmas Party!
- December 24:** 7:00 Youth-Led Christmas Eve Service
- December 27:** No Youth Group
- January 3:** Youth Group Resumes
- January 15:** Lock-In!

The *usual* Sunday evening schedule goes like this:

- 4:45 p.m.** Youth Choir
- 6:15 p.m.** Youth Group meal, followed by a mix of chapel, games, discussions, and fun
- 8:30 p.m.** Parents pick up youth

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