

# FIRST PLYMOUTH

## YOUTH NEWS

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July 5-13: Mark it down on your calendar. That's when the High School youth will take their annual mission trip. In 2008 and 2009, we've traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild and repair houses that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. While we plan to maintain our relationship with New Orleans and the Westside Mission Center, this year we'll be taking a different kind of mission trip.

We'll be traveling to Tucson, Arizona to work with BorderLinks ([www.borderlinks.org](http://www.borderlinks.org)), an organization that educates and advocates around the political and economic realities of borders. They're located on the US/Mexico border, but their mission expands to encompass economic globalization, the issues of immigration and security, and the Christian role in welcoming the "resident aliens" in the land (Deuteronomy 10:18, Leviticus 19:33, and many other passages).

The trip will be a road trip, leaving from Denver on July 5th, heading south into New Mexico and Arizona, where we'll spend four or five days with BorderLinks. We'll then head north to the Grand Canyon and some other iconic Western sites, and head back into Denver on the 13th. This trip will be eight days (instead of the 12 day trips we've taken the last couple of years), and we'll be driving (instead of flying). An important note: you'll need a passport for this trip. Go ahead and get that going!

This trip will be very different from the trips to New Orleans, but it has the potential to be even more powerful and life-changing. I hope all youth 8th grade through 12th (rising 9th graders through college freshmen) will consider coming along.

See you 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 \$15,000.00 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 Friday night and pick-up will be at 8:30 Saturday morning.

## WINTER RETREAT

*This is an article from the Rocky Mountain Conference regarding the Winter Retreat. If you'd like to register for this retreat, please grab forms from me at the church office. —Eric*

Bucking the status quo with our outdoor ministries is never easy. If you believe adults are tenacious with their traditions try massaging the traditions dearly held by youth. The word “change” is as much an anathema in these settings as it is in the “adult church.”

However, if we do not adapt we do not take full advantage of the contemporary context for youth and children’s ministry. Your Faith Nurturing Ministry Team has heard a number of voices raised around RoMoCo’s outdoor ministries. These concerns have included the need for local associations to become more involved with youth events, the carbon footprint of a centralized campsite, the cost of events, and the procedures for recruiting and training leadership.

To address these issues Faith Nurturing explored the idea of hosting a retreat within each of our six associations. Discerning when and how to add another retreat to our full schedule, it was decided (in conversation with La Foret) to move the Winter Retreat into our Associations. This allows us to plug into the rhythm of our camping calendar and to provide an event at the modest cost of \$60, to provide an event that is “local” to each Association, and to build a model of regional retreats.

All retreats will deal with the theme “Who Do You Say I Am?: Yes, even Jesus wrestled with self-identity. Figuring out who we really are is a lifelong project, but it is especially heightened during the teenage years. Exploring such terrain as how do others see me, how do I see myself, how does God see me, this overnight retreat will be short, but sweetly filled with group activities, quiet time, food and, of course, lots of socializing.

- Metro Denver Association - Lakewood UCC, January 29-30

While these Winter Association Retreats are still under the auspices of the Conference Outdoor Ministry protocols there will be some differences. 1) To curtail costs, retreats will be 24 hours instead of 42. 2) No nurse will be available on site. The directors have received training in the appropriate storage and disbursement of medications. 3) Registration/health forms are to be brought with the youth and turned into the directors at the time of check-in. 4) Payments still need to be sent to the Conference Office – check with your church youth leader.

Faith Nurturing is adapting and we trust that these changes will prove a blessing to the families and youth of RoMoCo congregations.

To register for a Winter High School Retreat, go to [rmcucc.org](http://rmcucc.org) website for forms that need to be turned into the church youth leader. To ensure proper staffing levels, youth attending retreats must always register through their church.

## CALENDAR

<b>January 3:</b>	Youth Group Resumes
<b>January 10:</b>	Youth Group
<b>January 15:</b>	Lock-In!
<b>January 24:</b>	Youth Group
<b>January 29-30:</b>	Winter High School Retreat at Lakewood UCC (see article for details)
<b>January 31:</b>	Youth Group

The *usual* Sunday evening schedule goes like this:

<b>4:45:</b>	Youth Choir
<b>6:15:</b>	Youth Group meal, followed by a mix of chapel, games, discussions, and fun
<b>8:30:</b>	Parents pick up youth

## ERIC’S CONTACT INFO:

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