

First Plymouth Youth News

MAY 2011



Looking forward:

The Pizza-Eating Habits of the American Teenager

I have been at this four years now. That's about 200 youth group meals, give or take, and at approximately 40 of those youth group meetings, we've eaten pizza. That's a lot of pizza. Here's what I've learned.

- Despite what you might expect, youth do get tired of pizza. Serve it more than twice in a row, and they get cranky.
- Don't get fancy. Expensive pizza, or pizza with nicer

ingredients like fresh tomatoes or varietal mushrooms, do not get eaten.

- By far the most common choice is cheese. 50-60% of all pizza eaten at youth group is cheese.
- Beyond cheese, by far the most common choice is pepperoni. Sausage is a distant third.
- Nobody likes supreme. I don't know that in those 40 nights of pizza, I have ever seen a complete supreme pizza eaten.
- Over the years, I've worked out a nice ratio: order one pizza for every 2.5 youth. If the group is skewed towards boys or high

schoolers, maybe go one pizza for every 2.

Parents and other adults inevitably dispute these findings. "Surely," they say, "four supreme pizzas and a pepperoni will be enough." And, "youth today love healthier ingredients like fresh tomatoes." No, they don't. They won't listen to me.

What was it Jesus said about a prophet in his own land?

See you Sunday!
Eric.

a few highlights of last month's youth group:

April

karen and justin....inclusivity....trust fall...rope walls...flying kirk...reverse scavenger hunt...easter break!



How's it hanging, Emily?

Summer Camp (Various Dates)

The Rocky Mountain Conference holds camps for youth across various weeks each summer. Voyager Camp is for youth entering grades 7 and 8, and is held July 31 - August 6. MADD Camp is for youth entering grades 9-12, and is held July 10-16. The fee for both is \$455.

Registration information is available at the conference website (<http://www.rmccucc.org/camps/campshome.htm>) or from Eric. Scholarships are available from both the conference and First Plymouth on a need basis. Don't let cost be an obstacle!

Billy Jonas Concert! (May 1)

Billy Jonas is a singer-songwriter, children's musician, environmental activist, and youth group favorite for his song "God Is In" and his rendition of "Sanctuary," both of which we've used on mission trips and at youth group.

Billy will be at First Plymouth on May 1st! That morning, he'll be performing for the entire church, following the 10 a.m. worship service. That evening, he will lead us in a workshop for the youth group, helping us learn to make music and care about our world. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS.** Mark it down.



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 fourth year and have been beaten 3 or 4 times. So if you want to be a hero, bring it.

Bonus Trivia:

We're still thinking about a camping trip. Who's in?



More FAQ:

Here are some more frequently asked questions about youth group:

What if I like to sing?

Then Youth Choir is for you! Youth Choir meets Sunday evenings just before youth group, from 5:00 to 6:00, in the Odeon. You need not be an awesome singer to join.

How much do youth mentors get paid? Nada. They're here because they like hanging out with you. Seriously.

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?

These icons that keep appearing? I'm starting to take them as a sign. A sign that we need to do a youth group camping trip sometime. Hmmm. Bonus Did you know: Somewhere, Aaron Bugh is nodding vigorously while reading his youth newsletter.



Rites of Passage (May)

Each spring, as the end of the school year approaches, we recognize several rites of passage in the youth program. This year, the dates for these are:

- 5th Grade Orientation is May 8th. This is a youth group meeting that our rising 6th graders are invited to attend—to help them become acclimated to youth group, and ready to start in earnest in the fall.
- Confirmation Sunday is May 15th. Confirmation is a process undertaken by 8th graders (and sometimes older youth), by which they claim the Christian faith as their own and become full members of the church. This year's class will culminate their Confirmation experience on May 15th, when they will become members of the church.
- Senior Sunday is May 15th as well. This is when we'll recognize the seniors in worship, and as a congregation wish them well on their way.
- The Senior Banquet is also May 15th. This is when, at the normal youth group time, we'll take time to talk about each of our seniors individually and as a group. We'll have good food (provided by the parents of the juniors) and a nice evening of honoring our seniors.
- The final youth group meeting of the year will be on May 22nd. We'll have a big cookout (a group effort by all the parents; stay tuned for details) and a lot of fun.

So be sure to stick it out to the end of May, because if you don't, you'll miss a lot of fun stuff!

Calendars

May and the Summer

May 1: Billy Jonas Concert (11:15); Billy Jonas at Youth Group

May 8: Youth Group (5th Grade Orientation)

May 15: Youth Group (Senior Banquet)

May 22: Final Youth Group meeting of the year

July 31: Commission mission trip in the morning service

July 31 - August 6: Voyager Camp

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

August 10 - 16: MADD Camp

August 14: Mission Trip Sunday and Reception

October 31-November 10, 2011: Italy trip (see Eric for details)

A note on summer newsletters

This summer we won't publish a youth newsletter in June or July. You can expect one to come out with the August newsletter, announcing kick-off dates and all the fun events. Keep your eyes on your email and the website for news and events, and have a great summer!

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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