

NOVEMBER  
2011

FIRST PLYMOUTH

# YOUTH NEWS

*news for and about the first plymouth youth program*



SERVICE FELLOWSHIP

WHOLE EARTH HIKE  
SOUTH TABLE MOUNTAIN

The youth joined Whole Earth for an autumn hike in late October.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### FAQ

#### Time

##### When do we meet?

We meet from 6:15 to 8:30 on Sunday nights, unless a special event or project means we need to start earlier. Watch email for time changes!

#### Place

##### Where do we meet?

We typically start in Plymouth Hall, and then proceed to who-knows-where.

#### Who

##### Who can come?

Anyone grades 6-12!

#### How much

##### What does it cost?

Typically, nothing. Sometimes we ask folks to bring \$5 or \$10 for a special event, but even that is negotiable.

#### What

##### What do we do there?

We have lots of different kinds of activities--service projects, discussions, films, games, random things, lectures, and the occasional outing.

## SEASONS

**T** As I write this, I'm looking out my office window, and the leaves are all yellow. It seems in Colorado, there is only a week or so where the leaves are in full color, and then they are blown off the trees. Autumn doesn't last long.

People and institutions experience seasons, just like the natural world does. I've been keenly aware of that this year, as I've watched the youth group change and evolve. It's clear that we're undergoing a change of seasons right now, and it's exciting.

When I first arrived at First Plymouth about four and a half years ago, there were a lot of high schoolers and not too many middle schoolers. This year's

seniors were in the 8th grade and in my Confirmation class. The sophomores were the big class that year--the ones that are starting their sophomore years in college this year!

A lot has changed. Now, on many nights, the middle schoolers outnumber the high schoolers. We have a huge group of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade youth, especially girls. I tell people all the time: check back in about 4 years, and these current middle school youth are going to be the core of a vibrant, energetic, and committed youth group. The energy they bring and the excitement they have at simply being here are....

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...contagious, and I think their numbers and the way they approach youth group make it more fun for everyone.



**Of course, there are also** a lot of children in the children's program, just waiting to get to youth group. That's what's fun about youth group--it's a completely different group every year, and really every Sunday night!

In church, we sometimes sing a hymn that speaks of the flower being contained in the bulb, ready to bloom, or the tree being contained in the seed, ready to sprout. Youth group is that way--there is so much potential inherent in the folks who are present, and the folks who are waiting to be present. Think of all the fun, serious, and silly times there will be down the road. It's exciting.

I, for one, am pleased to have the opportunity to watch it all unfold. It's fun to be around long enough to see someone as a middle schooler, unsure of herself, and then as a high schooler, confident and outgoing. Or, it's fun to be around long enough to see the high



The 2011 Confirmation class, in the snow at La Foret.

schoolers humbled in games by a surging group of middle schoolers. The seasons keep marching along.

Why not come be a part of it? We meet almost every Sunday night. Come join us!

See you Sunday!

eric.



Puppy love.

## Alternative Gift Market

Each year, First Plymouth hosts an Alternative Gift Market, designed to provide people an alternative to the overblown consumerism of the Christmas season and to support worthy vendors and the church's own outreach programs. Last year, the Alternative Gift Market's silent auction helped support the youth mission trip, for which we are very grateful.

This year's market is begin held on December 3rd and 4th. The youth group is running the Cafe this year--the place that provides food, for a small cost, to vendors and others at the show who can't get away to grab lunch. We will make a small amount of money on it, but it is really an opportunity to serve these people as they work.

We will need a parent or two to coordinate the kitchen and food, and a lot of volunteers to take shifts throughout the weekend. Please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for emails explaining more about it. It should be a lot of fun, for a good cause!

# The All-Important Calendar



## November

November 6: Youth Group (special guest speaker)

November 13: Youth Group

November 20: Youth Group

November 27: No Youth Group (Thanksgiving)

December 3-4: Alternative Gift Market

## Retreats

November 4-6: Rocky Mountain Conference Fall Middle School Retreat (at La Foret)

February 24-26: Rocky Mountain Conference Confirmation Retreat (at La Foret)

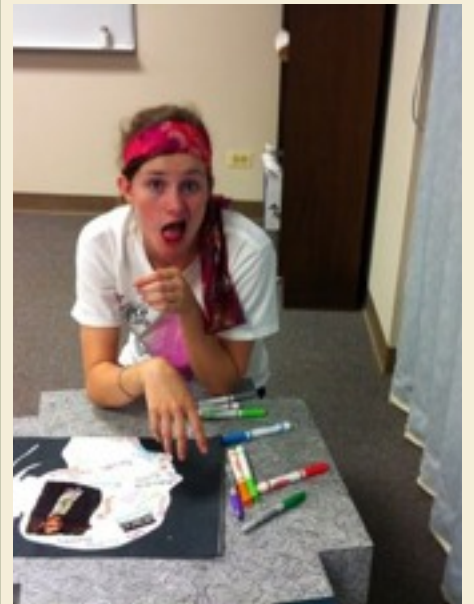


## Far-off Dates to Write Down

December 18: Last Youth Group meeting of 2011

January 13-14: LOCK-IN (tentative)

February 12: Youth Sunday



Hi Trin!



## The First Plymouth Youth Group

is led by the Rev. Eric Smith (pictured above with newborn Hazel). Invaluable assistance is also offered by our Youth Mentors, who are volunteers who show up to help out every Sunday evening because they think it's important work to do. Want to be a Youth Mentor? Contact Eric for more details!

## WHOLE EARTH SCAVENGER HUNT!

