

OCTOBER
2011

YOUTH NEWS

news for and about the first plymouth youth program



MISSION TRIP
VENEZUELA, 2011

SERVICE FELLOWSHIP

Participants in the 2011 mission trip learn to play the "quatro."

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.

WHY THIS ONE ISN'T THE BEST ONE...

This newsletter was created at 35,000 feet.

My father passed away sometime around September 12th, and when the newsletter deadline came around I happened to be on an airplane from Atlanta to Denver, returning from a week of attending his funeral and taking care of his things. It has been a hard week, and I hope you understand why this particular edition of Youth News is not very up to date or helpful.

I will say, however, that I am grateful for people of faith in a time like this. When I landed in Austin, TX to deal with my father's death, former First Plymouth intern Ken Ingram was there

to meet me and give a ride to me and to my family. When I wasn't able to be at youth group that Sunday night, Barb Hosanna and Brian Eley took over for me (and had to do some impromptu planning!). Carole Westphal took some of my adult education work. George covered for me for Confirmation. Everybody pitched in to help out.

And at my father's funeral, held in my very (very) small hometown in North Carolina, people were there from the church we had attended 15 years ago. My second-grade teacher was there, and my brother's first-grade teacher. People whose kids I grew up with, people who were friends of mine, people who were little old church....
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...ladies when I was a kid, and were littler older church ladies now, showed up. It was moving and it made for a very special time.



It's worth remembering that the relationships you are building at youth group now are permanent. You might not think of them that way—you might just think of it as a fun thing to do on a Sunday night, or a way to get out of a bit of homework, or something your folks want you to do—but this is important stuff. I didn't go to church when I was 14 thinking that these were the people who would come support me some Tuesday morning at my father's funeral, but there they were.

That's kind of the point of church, I think. It's the people who are there when you don't expect them to be, holding you up when you don't even know it. Next time you're at church or youth group, look around. The people you see will be with you for a long, long time.

Since I wasn't in my office to make this newsletter, it isn't all that complete. I apologize for that, but there isn't much



Barb and Dani in the van in Venezuela, with Anna in the background.

I could do. I hope you understand, and I hope you'll watch your emails for up-to-the-minute details on October's events. If you don't get my emails, send me one at esmith@firstplymouthchurch.org and I will add you to the list.

See you Sunday!

eric.



Members of the mission trip group speak with some Venezuelan hosts on the High School Mission Trip.

Confirmation 2011-2012

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).

If you missed our organizational meeting in September, that's ok! Send me an email, and we'll figure out how to catch you up!

The All-Important Calendar



October

October 2: Youth Group

October 9: Youth Group

October 16: Youth Group outing; come at 5:00 instead of at 6:15!

October 23: Youth Group: service project!

October 30: Youth Group



Retreats

October 14-16: Rocky Mountain Conference Fall High School Retreat (at La Foret)

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



Far-off Dates to Write Down

February 12: Youth Sunday



Members of the group speak to a crowd in Venezuela.



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!

POOL TIME!

