

SEPTEMBER
2011

FIRST PLYMOUTH

YOUTH NEWS

news for and about the first plymouth youth program



SERVICE FELLOWSHIP

MISSION TRIP
VENEZUELA, 2011

Participants in the 2011 mission trip attend a conference in Venezuela.

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.

NEW FOR 2011-2012

With challenges come opportunities. That's what the business people always say.

One of the big challenges facing the youth of this church is the continued viability of the Youth Choir. As numbers have sunk a bit recently (part of the natural ebb and flow of big and small classes, enthusiasm, etc), the church has made the decision to combine the Youth Choir with the children's choir to form a "Schoolhouse" choir, made up of both groups. This will hopefully make both groups stronger and will help them contribute more to worship at First

Plymouth. The choir will rehearse in the afternoon, rather than the evening.

This will actually provide benefits for the evening Youth Group meetings: we will be able to accommodate events that take a bit longer, since we won't have to wait for Youth Choir to finish. Service projects, sporting events, outings like mini golf and laser tag, and movies will all be a little easier to pull off with the new schedule. So keep your eyes peeled for schedule changes (communicated often by this newsletter or by email), for the times when we start a little earlier.

See you Sunday!

Eric.

Youth Group Kickoff: The Details You've Been Waiting For

Each fall, we kick off the youth group year with some sort of festivities, some getting-to-know-you stuff, some meetings, and some filling out of forms. This year is no different; on September 4th, we will begin the youth year with a bang. Or at least a loud pop.



Yes, September 4th is Labor Day weekend. It couldn't be avoided. We needed to start a little later because of the arrival of Eric's third child Hazel, but we didn't want to wait TOO long, so we decided to start on the 4th. If you're out of town, don't sweat it. You can come on the 11th, and it will be no big deal.

Here's what we'll do on September 4th:

- get an orientation to youth group
- discuss what kinds of activities we want to do in 2011-2012
- discuss what kinds of spiritual and religious experiences we would like to have in 2011-2012
- discuss possible outings
- talk about important dates like Youth Sunday



Austin and Ken in Venezuela. I really want to know what Austin just said. You never know with Austin.

We'll also have a parent meeting that same night (6:45 in the Commons Room). Parents, we'll discuss:

- the meal schedule
- drivers for outings
- ideas for all of the above

- filling out forms (yay)
- whatever else you want to talk about!

So I'll see you all on the 4th! Be there!



First Plymouth Youth Group member Michael Serio speaks 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).

So, 8th graders and their parents, sometime soon you'll be getting a letter about Confirmation. I encourage you to take part--it's a LOT of fun, and you'll learn a lot too. There's no cost to you. If you want to be sure that I put you on the mailing list, send me an email, and I'll make certain that you're the first to know when the letter comes out.

The All-Important Calendar



September

September 4: Youth Group Kick-off and Parent Meeting

September 11: Youth Group

September 18: Youth Group

September 25: Youth Group (service project; wear clothes you can get dirty and come at the regular time)



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



Isaac and other youth on the mission trip learned the "Quatro," a four-stringed instrument. Sometime this fall, we'll hear a report back from the trip.



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!

COCONUTS!

