

September 25, 2011

Dear Parents, Mentors and Confirmands,

2011 is the second year of a *Newly Revised Confirmation Program* here at All Souls. We are aware that many of our teens come to Confirmation with a need for considerable information about Christianity as well as an opportunity to reflect upon and understand the importance of this life-altering decision. To give each student the best possible foundation for deciding to be confirmed in their faith, we are establishing some guidelines that will help families and mentors work together toward this goal.

Guidelines:

- 1) During the Confirmation year, we ask that confirmands make every effort to attend church *at least* twice each month. Our reason is simply this: A person must *participate* in the worshipping community to have any idea whether he or she wants to become part of the worshipping community.
- 2) During the Confirmation year, we ask confirmands to arrange their schedules to allow their *uninterrupted* participation in the **3C Weekend** (Christian Crash Course) held on October 28,29,and 30 2011.
- 3) During the Confirmation year, we ask confirmands to arrange time to regularly meet with their mentors in order to study a gospel together, to visit a “saint”, to do service for others in a community setting, to learn about how the church “works”, and to participate in the sacraments. We know everyone has busy schedules--parents, confirmands and mentors--so be realistic in what you commit to do and then honor your commitments.
- 4) During the Confirmation year, there are extra demands. We recognize that it puts an added strain on already stretched young lives. It is important to assess whether or not this is the best time for the family and the teenager to make this commitment. We believe that a good experience for everyone requires an “eyes-wide-open” understanding of what is necessary to give God a little working space in the souls of all involved.

Suggested Timetable for completion of program material:

- Module 3 **Complete this by January 31.** This module is really covered well with the 3C Weekend and participation will be sufficient.
- Module 4 **Visit to St. John’s Episcopal Church... December 4...** Meet and sit together as a group at St. John’s for the experience of an alternate way of

worshipping God in a Protestant setting. This would be a good time to determine which “Life-Long Saint” you would like to visit.

- Module 5 **Complete this by April 30.** This will take time, so you need to plan for this as soon as you begin meeting together.
- Module 6 **Complete this by March 31.**
- Module 7 **Complete this by April 30.** Some suggestions for a ministry project include Soup Kitchen, or the Shelter Dinner or A-OK (Acts of Kindness) activities with the Senior Highs. I do not have dates just yet for the ones that coincide with school vacations.
- Module 8 **Complete this by February 28.** We’ve all seen so many baptisms that a conversation about this will be sufficient.
- Module 10 It is our hope that you will be able to attend a funeral service together should one happen to fall during this time period. We do have copies of a standard funeral service here in this office. We will notify you if there is a service that we think would be appropriate for you to attend.
- Module 12 **Complete this by April 30.** The Boards meet regularly each month. The Deacons meet on the first Tuesday, the Board of Christian Education meets the first Wednesday and the Trustees meet on the second Wednesday. You will be welcomed to any CE Board meeting without any advance notice. It would be polite to call ahead to the chairperson of the Deacons or Trustees and arrange a visit. You need only attend one of these board meetings in order to get a better feel for the organizational side of church life.

This is only a suggestion for a time frame. Please feel free to arrange and rearrange to fix your particular circumstances. If you have any questions please call me.

Sincerely,

Renee U. Garrett
Minister of Christian Nurture

Important Confirmation Group Meeting Dates Please Mark Your Calendars:

Friday	October 28	<u><i>3C Weekend</i></u>	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 29		all day
Sunday	October 30		noon on Sunday
Sunday	December 4	St. John's Episcopal Church	8:00 a.m.
Saturday	March 17	Extended Evening Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	April 5-6	Maundy Thursday and Vigil	5:30-5:30
Saturday	April 28	Extended Meeting	6:30 p.m.
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>Confirmation Breakfast</i>	<i>8:45 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>April 29</i>	<i>Confirmation</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>