

CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING – September 24, 2008

- **Teaching Team Introduction**

Beth and Matthew Bryant, Susan and Mark Conger, Sherrie and David Fain, Kathryn McKinney, Missie and Jim Vaughn, Lauren Wierman, Julie Wise

- **Class Topic Outline and Calendar**

- **Parent classes in October:** October 15 and 22 at 6:30 p.m.

- **iConfirm Service:** Saturday, April 25

The CnC program includes a special liturgy of celebration called iConfirm. During this service the youth are recognized for taking responsibility for their own spiritual lives, whether or not they choose to be confirmed in our Sunday morning Confirmation service. Class participants share the Bible passages they have memorized and teach on them. We are hoping that Bishop Curry will be present to bless the youth and affirm the value of each student's faith journey. A party traditionally follows the service, to which the youth invite their friends and families.

- **Class Covenant** (attendance requirement)

Students are expected to attend weekly church services. There will also be an attendance requirement for the class, which the youth will set with their teachers during the first class meeting, as we work on a class covenant together. Last year's class agreed that four Sundays of absences was acceptable, with options to make up five or more absences by doing special projects or meeting with clergy, teachers, or staff.

- **Diocesan Events**

We require students to attend one Diocesan event, in order to see that the Episcopal church is bigger than St. Paul's. Students may choose to attend one Happening event (either Nov 14 – 16 or March 13 – 15) or they may work together to schedule an interview with one of our Bishops and present their interview notes to the class. Register for Happening at the Diocesan website: <http://www.episdioncyouth.org/> Note the **registration deadline for the November Happening is October 23.**

- **Snack Calendar** (Julie Wise)

We ask parents to sign up to bring snacks each week. We will also be asking for help with our mentor brunch on Nov 9.

- **Choosing A Mentor** (Missie Vaughn)

Students choose their mentor with the help of parents and teachers, if needed. Mentors are St. Paul's members who support the student during the Confirmation course by attending a training session, 4 class meetings, meeting with the student outside of class, and attending the iConfirm service and Confirmation service. Mentors need to be chosen ASAP so they can attend training on Wednesday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m. in Colhoun B. They meet with students in class on Nov 9, Jan 25, Feb 1, and Apr 25 (10:10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.). **Please make sure your youth has the name of their mentor to Missie Vaughn by Sunday, October 26.** You may reach Missie at missiesuev@aol.com or 724-4579. Also, please be sure that your student's mentor has these dates on their calendar ASAP.

- **Sponsors**

Sponsors are other adults who will support the youth in their Christian faith and may stand with them during the Confirmation service. Godparents are often sponsors for the youth at Confirmation. Parents will need to communicate information about service times, seating, etc. to Sponsors.

- **Registration Form** (Lauren Wierman)

Youth can bring completed registration forms to class, you may mail to church (Attn: Stacy Holley) or email to our class logistics coordinator, Lauren Wierman at lswierman@aol.com. Lauren's phone is 659-0860.

- **Communication** – email and website

Class details are communicated to parents via email. **Please be sure to notify us if your email address changes.** Information will also be posted on the church website at www.stpauls-ws.org (look under "Children and Youth" for "Christian Education for Children and Youth")

From the Diocesan website, about Happening:

Happening is an event designed for young people in grades 9-12. It is a powerful weekend of renewal and its aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and the Teachings of Jesus Christ and His ongoing Living Body-the Church.

Through talks, skits, discussions, play, worship, prayer and song, these high school people understand the importance of love and life in Christ. The teenager who is the "Rector", "the clergy who serve as Spiritual Directors" and the "staff team" spend weeks working together in preparation. The Happening weekend is carefully planned because time is short and the subject matter is extensive. During the three (3) days, they listen to talks given by young people and clergy. In small discussion groups following the talks, the Happeners share their thoughts and ideas. This is where joy and happiness begin to grow. There is much laughter, lots of love and its just plain fun! Registration For #51 will be online Sept. 2-Oct 23. Registration For #52 will be online Jan. 5-Feb. 26. Team Applications will be online Nov. 17-Jan. 20. This event will be held at The Summit.