

June 2017

Dear Rising 9th Grade Families,

Congratulations! You're receiving this letter because you, or your child, will be in 9th grade next year and eligible to participate in the Youth Confirmation Program at St. James's Episcopal Church.

Our youth confirmation program gives 9th graders the chance to intentionally explore what it means to be Episcopalian and how God is calling each of us to live out our faith in this world. We cover a wide range of topics like scripture, sacraments, prayer, other religions, and address any of your questions too. Through special experiences outside the classroom including an overnight camp out, retreat, outreach/service project, and mentor relationships, youth are empowered to take responsibility and ownership of their faith. The world we live in has changed significantly over the years, and the same is true for our youth confirmation program. Get ready to have a lot of fun along the way!

I'm delighted to announce your all-star team of confirmation leaders this year include Mr. Pim Jager, Mrs. Fontaine Williamson, and Mr. Trey Sibley. They have already begun planning for next year and are eager to get to know each of you! While our leaders are awesome, they can't do it all by themselves. We're counting on parents to attend church services regularly with their confirmand, keep in touch with us about what's going on in your lives, and lend a helping hand by completing the enclosed Youth Ministry Volunteer Form.

If you want to participate in the youth confirmation program this year, please complete and return the enclosed "Intent to Participate Form" no later than August 15, 2017. We know how busy life can be, so to help you out, we've enclosed the confirmation schedule for the entire 2017-2018 school year so you can mark your calendars early. For the mutual benefit of you and your classmates, regular participation at confirmation class and special events is expected.

This is an exciting time in the lives of our youth and we can't wait to get started! We look forward to seeing you, youth and parents, at the Youth Ministry Kick-Off on Sunday, September 10 at 10:15 a.m. in the Michaux House basement. There you'll have the opportunity to learn more about the Youth Ministry at St. James's, meet your confirmation leaders, and learn more specifics about the youth confirmation program at St. James's. Please also mark your calendars for the very fun (and required) overnight "Confirmation Camp" at Camp Hanover on September 23-24.

All of us at St. James's are here to support you along this journey. That being said, I will be away on maternity leave for most of the summer, so if you have questions about confirmation during that time, please email Pim Jager at pjager@scottins.com. I'll be back in the office by Labor Day.

Sincerely,



Mary Beth Abplanalp,
Director of Youth & Young Adults