WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

CONFIRMATION is an important time in a student’s life – a spiritual milestone – a time when he or she “makes firm” and builds upon the foundation laid by parents and the faith community. It is a call to discipleship, a call to claim the name Christian for himself/herself. Our 6th graders will soon begin their Confirmation Journey and a mentor is an important element of this experience as students explore the basics of faith. A Confirmation Mentor should be over age 18, chosen by the Confrimand but approved by the parents, and able to attend the Confirmation training classes with the student. The mentor does not have to be a member of Lynnhaven UMC or even a United Methodist, but should have similar beliefs.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MENTOR?

You might think you need to have all the answers to be a good mentor. You don’t. You may feel inadequate in your knowledge of the Bible and understanding of the Christian faith. If you’re like most people, you have some questions, even doubts of your own. That’s okay. Healthy Christian relationships don’t happen as a result of one person knowing the correct answers and feeding them to the other person. A healthy mentor/student relationship involves two people growing to know and love each other, willing to ask honest questions and seek the answers together. The very word disciple, means “student,” or “learner.”

WHAT DOES A MENTOR DO?

Mentors will be given more detailed guidelines at our CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF MEETING on Friday, January 9th (7:00*-8:30pm), but briefly, a mentor should:

- Be a friend and guide, a companion for the journey.
- Be an example – Allow your mentee to watch you live out your faith daily.
- Be open – Your mentee will be encouraged to know you had similar struggles as a teenager and that through those struggles you learned what it means to trust God.
- Be a listener – Focus on your mentee’s relationship with God and his/her growth in faith.
- Be encouraging – All of us are more likely to grow when we receive positive affirmation. Don’t just think a compliment, say it!
- Be caring – Help your young person to become comfortable sharing with you.
- Be prayerful – It is God who ultimately does the work of transforming lives. Pray for your mentee and trust God to work through you.

So, you see, it’s not a difficult role. As a mentor, you have the opportunity to make a real and positive difference in the life of a young person.

WHAT IS MY COMMITMENT?

We ask simply that you are willing to affirm, build up and encourage your student through the Confirmation Journey and (hopefully) beyond. Confirmation classes, led by our teacher, Lisa Burris, and her assistant, Carole Sharpe, will take place at Lynnhaven United Methodist Church on Sunday mornings from 10:00am to 10:45am beginning January 11th. Classes will run through April 12th with no class on Jan. 25th or April 5th. All students who would like to do so will be confirmed as new members of the church on April 26th (with a “run-through” of the program on Apr. 19th). Most mentors choose to be present for that special ceremony as well as for our Student/Mentor luncheon on Feb. 1st (Noon-1:30pm) in the church fellowship hall.

OKAY, I’LL DO IT! NOW WHAT?

Please plan to attend our Confirmation Kick-Off Meeting on Friday, January 9th (7:00*-8:30pm) and then join your student for classes beginning on Sunday, January 11th at 10am. If you have additional questions, please contact Marlene Passarelli (mpassarelli@lumcvb.org) or Lisa Burris (lburris@lumcvb.org).

*Mentors will meet with the course teacher at 7pm on Jan. 9th. Students and parents will join us at 7:30pm.