

2nd Year Confirmation 2006-2007

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Core Content for 2nd Year Students

✧ Confirmation is a reaffirmation of baptismal vows (see BCP, pp. 416-417).

✧ During the 2nd Year, We Will Focus on the Last Two:

- a. *Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?*
- b. *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

✧ Our 2nd Year Students will Be Assigned to One of 2 Groups:

Group 1 – The Mustardseed Afterschool Program

At the Children’s Mission of St. Paul & St. James Episcopal Church, New Haven, CT

Led by Pam Blackburn, Debbie Finan, & Marcia Goodgame

OR

Group 2 – Interfaith Housing Association, Westport, CT

Led by Tom Pajolek, Greg Payne, & George Thompson

Each group will meet for the first time on Sunday, September 24. That meeting begins with worship at 9:15 and will continue through the education hour (wrapping up by ~ 11:30 am).

Thereafter, each group will meet for roughly 6 hands-on service projects and 6 reflection meetings. Each group will also meet for an initial tour of their partnering organization.

★ *Your student’s schedule will be mailed to you as soon as Andrea receives your son or daughter’s requests for which friends with whom he or she would like to be grouped.*

✧ During and after each service experience, be on the look-out for the questions that arise for the kids, things they’re wrestling with in light of their experience. Some questions you might ask in the car ride home (or during a reflection session) ...

- c. Who has treated *you* as though Christ were in you?
- d. Where was Jesus today (or during our last project)?
- e. Who did God give you as a neighbor today?
- f. How have you treated yourself lately? Have you treated yourself as though Christ were in you?
- g. What does the Gospel mean in this situation?
- h. What questions did that experience raise for me about my beliefs?
- i. What do I learn about myself and God through this experience?

Absences

Confirmation classes, especially for the 2nd year students are experiential and depend upon your child's presence and participation. Teachers, staff, and students will work very hard at creating a community. Whenever one person is missing, the community is diminished. Thank you in advance for making a family commitment to confirmation.

Teachers will take attendance and notify Andrea of absences. If your son or daughter is absent, Andrea will be in touch with a make-up assignment. If your son or daughter misses more than 2 sessions, Andrea or John Branson will be in touch to discuss further.

If your family knows ahead of time (for whatever reason) that you will miss more than 2 classes, please be in touch with Andrea as soon as possible to talk about what arrangements you might make. You may consider delaying confirmation preparation until a year when you can better focus on the confirmation experience.

Journals, Prayer Books, & River Stones

Each student will receive a Book of Common Prayer and a journal for jotting down thoughts and reflections of their experiences. We ask that they bring both to C&HT and/or their service site on class days.

Sponsors

Your child should choose a sponsor with whom he or she can maintain a relationship during the next two years. Qualities of a super sponsor include:

- Someone who is a practicing Christian and who can talk about his or her faith;
- Someone who lives within driving distance;
- Someone who is not a parent or a sibling or a C&HT staffmember.

Please be sure your child invites his or her sponsor to a Sponsors' Social, Sunday, November 5, 4 p.m., and please notify Andrea with the sponsor's name, address, and e-mail by October 15.