

July 12, 2011

Dear Students and Parents,

We're excited to invite you to this year's Confirmation Experience. **All those who are entering the 8th grade or higher who have never taken confirmation are invited to participate in this incredible and life changing experience!** In Confirmation at The Bel Air United Methodist Church, our desire is to help youth and parents to:

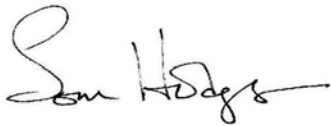
- **CONSIDER** the meaning of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and the essentials of the Christian faith – to the point where you can make an informed, personal choice to follow Christ. (For many, this means receiving for yourself the promises made when you were baptized.)
- **CONNECT** with others on a spiritual journey - your church family. And, discover how you can...
- **CONTRIBUTE** to the lives of others and your world by using your God-given talents and skills.

Beginning on September 11th, 2011, we will be meeting on Sunday mornings (except for special events) from 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Please mark your calendars for the Confirmation Retreat, October 28-30, 2011 at West River Retreat Center (www.bwccampsandretreats.com/WestRiver.html.) **The Retreat is mandatory and is not something that can be made up at a later date. If your child can not attend the retreat, I would ask that you consider delaying their participation to another year.** Classes will continue through February 19th, 2012, the date of Confirmation Sunday. All sessions are **mandatory**, since each one is an integral part of the Confirmation Experience. If you happen to miss a Sunday, it is your responsibility to contact Pastor Tom Hodges and schedule a make-up time. There is a confirmation calendar enclosed with this mailing, so please mark your calendars now to ensure that your student is able to make all meetings and special events.

On Sunday, August 14th or August 28th, at 11:00 a.m. we will hold Confirmation orientation meetings in the Youth Center (there are 2 to choose from, you don't need to attend both). At this meeting, we will provide information about the curriculum and special events and discuss the confirmation calendar. You will also have the opportunity to talk with adult and youth members of the confirmation team. There will be pictures taken of each confirmand at this meeting, individually and with parents. Should you need additional forms or calendars, please go to www.exit-412.com and click on the Confirmation button; email Pastor Tom Hodges at hodgest@baumc.com; Cheryl Firth at firthe@baumc.com; or, you can stop by the Welcome Center, church office, or the bulletin board outside of the youth center and pick them up.

We ask that each family share in the cost of confirmation and this year the cost is \$150. The majority of this cost is made-up of the Confirmation retreat, student notebook and t-shirt. Please talk to me if we can be of service in helping you meet this cost. The enclosed registration form and your check can be mailed to the church office (to the attention of Cheryl Firth) or brought with you to one of the orientation meetings on August 14th or 28th. We look forward to meeting you and your families. We're excited about this opportunity for you to discover a real relationship with God and to find your place in the Body of Christ!

In Jesus' love and service,



Tom Hodges
Student Ministries Director
Bel Air UMC