

August 20, 2008

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. We would like to invite you to join the 2009 Confirmation class. Confirmation in the United Methodist Church is a rite of passage when students make their faith their own and have an opportunity to become members of the church. The eight month class will include weekly classes during the Sunday School hour and outside activities that are explained in the enclosed pages. The class begins meeting Sunday, September 7, 2008 and runs until May 17, 2009. We meet in Room 204 in the Dale Chambers Community Youth Center. Class will begin each Sunday at 10 AM. and end by 11:15 AM. On the Sundays when we worship at the 10AM service, Confirmation class will begin at 11:15 and end at 12:30.

Our theme will be "Claim the Name." Confirmation means "to make firm." This is your opportunity to make firm the promises that were made at your baptism and to claim the name of Jesus for yourself. If you have not been baptized, you can be baptized on Confirmation Sunday, which is May 17, 2009.

Jesus wanted people to follow him in order to love and serve God. Following Jesus required commitment. However, following Jesus brought joy and purpose and love of others to people's lives. During our time together we will pray, work, study, serve, and laugh together.

Each Sunday morning we will meet to discuss various topics to help us understand what it means to be a Christian. We will study truths found in the Bible and learn about our church's history and traditions. Sometimes there will be outside work that will help you gain a better understanding of our topic.

As part of our learning about Jesus and being his disciple, we will have several events outside of our Sunday classes. We will worship with our sister church, St. Luke's UMC, on Bond Avenue. We will feed the homeless at Heart's Place in Baltimore. In January 2009, as part of ROCK 2009, we will participate in a United Methodist Youth Confirmation Day with the Bishop. In March 2009, there will be a retreat at Manidokan Camp. All of these events will help you grow in your relationship with Christ and claim His name.

At the end of the class, you will be given the opportunity to join the church. Church members promise to participate in the life of the church, pray for the church, serve the church in different ways, and support the ministries of the church with part of what they earn. The responsibility is great, but so is the reward. We hope to see you on September 7<sup>th</sup>!

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Dick Harden

Amy McNeiland, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries