

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 // Written by Rosemary Jones

On Sunday, we will celebrate the sacramental rite of Confirmation with eight of our youth. The Book of Common Prayer defines Confirmation as “the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.” Surely this is enough, but for our confirmands, their Confirmation is a culmination of so much more.

They began this journey almost 2 years ago, in January of 2022 with a team of great leaders including Dan Kniffen, Penny Nash, and Dale Smith, and the dedicated parents of the confirmands. They learned about and discussed their faith, and in doing so gained a sense of community among their cohort.

Following their classes, the confirmands were challenged to put their faith to work by planning and implementing a service project -- a taco bar and bake sale to raise funds for the World Central Kitchen’s aid to Ukraine. Thanks to much support from this congregation, the project was a huge success. They raised over \$3,000! Not only did they feel a real sense of accomplishment in working together, but the project further expanded their understanding of a faith community greater than their own Confirmation class– our church community.

Although this process doesn’t require any further involvement by the confirmands, they continue to be a cohesive group and an active part of the church. You won’t see them in the pews so often because they are busy about the church. You may not know them by their names, but you’ll recognize their faces. They are our acolytes, choir members, readers, ushers, children’s chapel helpers, nursery workers, VBS volunteers, and more!

When these youth make their mature commitment to Christ, we as a congregation also make a commitment to support them. Please remember each of them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey at All Saints.

As has been said before, they aren’t just our future, they’re our present!