

# Grace-filled Voices

November 11, 2014

## Confirmation: A Service of Commitment

by Pastor Kathleen Adams

Our Interim Bishop, Frank Lyons will be coming soon to confirm our 5 candidates (confirmands). This is always an important event in the life of the Church. Fr. Joe and I are currently preparing the confirmands for this significant event in their lives. As I went back through my files to find my confirmation lessons, I came across a wonderful DVD that Bishop William C. Frey, former Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado made some years ago. This godly bishop reminded me of the vital basic teaching of the Church. Some of the ideas that I will share in this article are taken from his DVD, as well as some the quotes I give are his words.

In Confirmation, we make promises and vows that are really an extension of the promises and vows that are made in Baptism. In Bishop Frey's words, "These vows are as serious as any vows that anyone can take...as serious as Marriage Vows - Ordination Vows - Baptismal Vows."

The service of Confirmation is the renewal of the vows and promises made in baptism. This begins by renouncing these three: 1.) Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness, 2.) the evil powers of this world and 3.) Our sinful desires; in other words, "the world, the flesh and the devil." Then the candidate promises to: 1.) to turn to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, 2.) to trust His Grace and Love and finally, 3.)

to follow and obey Christ.

These promises are followed by The Apostle's Creed or the Baptismal Creed; which is at the heart of Baptism/Confirmation. It is in effect, reflective of The Covenant God has made with His people. Unlike the Nicene Creed that we recite on Sunday mornings, it is spoken in the first person singular: "I believe." And it is preceded with the question, "Do you believe?" It is the basic statement of what every Christian believes and is spoken as a vow. As Bishop Frey said, "Sometimes we wonder what difference it makes what we say we believe. But what we do and how we act reflects what we believe."

The Bishop went on to say, "There is a difference between believing **in** God, as we state in the creed, and believing that God exists and has done certain things," Even the devil knows as much. But, by saying that we believe **in** God, we are saying that we will trust His good intentions for us. We are saying that we understand the goodness of His character and grace towards us. For we know where we are going in the end; we may not know what will happen to us on life's journey to our glorious future with Jesus, but we can trust that God means the best for us. God says it through the prophet Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you hope and

a future." *Jeremiah 29: 11* And in the New Testament St. Paul says it this way, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." *Roman 8:28*

The vows that candidates make follow immediately after the creed. In entering the Covenant with God, the confirmand makes 5 promises: 1) To follow the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers. 2) To resist evil and repent whenever you fall? 3) To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in our lives and words. 4) To seek to serve Christ in all persons and 5) to strive for justice and peace.

These promises and vows require a firm commitment to God; His Church, His people, His direction for living

a Christian Life and to one's self to be the best person that one can be: all that God intends for us to be.

Thus it is easy to understand the importance of Confirmation. It is marked by having our Bishop here to lay hands upon these confirmands, the commitment that the confirmands make and by the total support and encouragement of the Body of Christ, that is all of us. Please be praying for them as they complete their last two classes. This Sunday we will all participate with them as we will do An Instructed Eucharist service. You can show your support by coming to encourage them as they (and we all) learn the deep meaning of our worship together. See you Sunday.

In His Love,  
Pastor Kathleen+

## How Should We Then Live?

Join Donna Brayton tonight at Grace Anglican for the fifth session in the ten week series by Dr. Francis Schaeffer, outlining history from a Christian perspective.

Even if you are not a history buff, this series will offer you food for thought and spiritual growth that will continue for a long time after the series is over.

Offered Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and again on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

### Sunday Servers

November 16, 2014	Pentecost 23	
First Reader	Zephaniah 1:7-18	Robbin Gates
Psalm Reader	Psalm 90:1-12	Jim Livingston
Second Reader	1 Thessalonians 5:1-10	Ann Fox
Intercessors		Bill Laitinen
Lay Euch. Ministers		Carolyn Blumberg
Acolytes		Bill Laitinen
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke, John Gerhart
Ushers		Ray Seibold, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day		Linnie Phelps
Healing Ministers		Jr & Ann Fox, Donna Sandner, Trish Stewart
Counters		Cline Handy, Helen Reid

## **This Week at Grace**

**November 11—November 18, 2014**

### **Tues. November 11**

11:30 a.m. Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC  
7:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"

### **Wed. November 12**

10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist Service in chapel**  
2:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"  
3:30 p.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. **Soaking Prayer**

### **Thurs. November 13**

7:30 a.m. Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship at Grace  
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist—CHC  
3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
5:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

### **Fri. November 14**

Fr. Joe's Day Off  
9:30 a.m. Friday Bulletin Folders  
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer in chapel

### **Sat. November 15**

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship  
Order of St. Luke Retreat at the CHC

### **Sun. November 16**

#### **Fellowship Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Nursery opens  
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service  
9:30 a.m. Children's Church  
11:00a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

### **Mon. November 17**

### **Tues. November 18**

11:30 a.m. Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC  
7:00 p.m. "How Should We Then Live?"

#### **Coming up**

#### **Golf Tournament at Welk Resort—Nov. 22nd**

**Thanksgiving Day Service and Dinner at Grace.**

**Sign up for these events by signing the sheet on the welcome table or calling the Church Office.**

**Grace Anglican Church  
760-730-9900**

**[www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com)  
[churchoffice@graceanglicanchurch.com](mailto:churchoffice@graceanglicanchurch.com)**

#### **Bible Readings for November 16, 2014**

Zephaniah 1:7-18

Psalms 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10

Matthew 25:14-29

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year A)

### **Book Club Coming**

Beginning Monday, December 1st at 11:00 a.m. and continuing on the first Monday of the month. The first book "Killing Patton" by Bill O'Reilly. We have several copies of the book here at Grace available for purchase.

The group will decide if they want to go to lunch after the meeting.

The **7:30 a.m. Spoken Service** For those who want a quiet worship experience come to the spoken service at Grace at 7:30 a.m. on Sundays. We know there are people who are unable to come to the 9:30 service.

### **Senior Women's Bible Study**

Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Anglican. They are working their way through the entire Bible. All Senior Women are invited to join. Call the church office for more information.