



May 16, 2018

*"Always be ready to give account for the hope that is within you."*

1 Peter 3:15

This piece of advice guides my preaching. But it also reminds me that storytelling and sharing the gospel are not just the job of the preacher! Peter's letter was written to a community of early Christian churches spread across what is now Turkey. As people who love Christ, Peter tells them, they have been born anew into a living hope! And they must be ready to give an account for that hope that is in them, too.

At this year's confirmation service this coming Sunday, May 20, our confirmands will be given an opportunity to live out Peter's good advice at their confirmation service. Each confirmand will recite a substantial passage of scripture and then explain why they chose it – why it has meaning for them. In other words, they will proclaim the gospel, giving testimony of the living hope within them.

One of our church members, Bev St. Clair, has made a stole for each of them, which the congregation will have the opportunity to sign. These stoles, like the stoles presented at ordination, are a sign of the license to teach. At confirmation, these young people commit themselves to life in Christ among us, and we welcome them into our priesthood of all believers.

We will invite them to take their place alongside us in the work of sharing the good news, and we will hear their words of teaching, their revelation of the gospel, their account for the hope that is within them.

Won't you join me in hearing them?

Peace,

Rev. Katherine Blaisdell  
Acting Associate Minister  
for Youth and Families