

On Sunday, December 22 Grace Episcopal welcomed our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas for his annual visitation and confirmation. Seven youth and five adults confirmed their baptismal covenant. Bishop Bourlakas also received one adult and three adults reaffirmed their faith.

When asked, each person promised to grow in their faith, resist evil, repent, proclaim, seek, serve and respect the dignity of every human being with the answer of "I will with God's help." We as the congregation promised to help and support them in their life with Christ.

There is an old joke about a church that had a problem with bats. The rector suggested that they baptize and confirm the bats and the problem would go away. We sometimes don't see people after great initiations or celebrations like Christmas, Confirmation, Baptism or Marriage. Just because they are not in church often doesn't mean that they do not continue to be in our hearts and prayers...well maybe the bats aren't. We are all God's beloved children. God's love for us is unfailing and unchanging. Nothing can separate us from God's love. Bidden or not bidden, God is always present. That's grace.

Our hope is that we all continue to grow in our baptismal and confirmation vows. Confirmation is an opportunity for families to grow in their faith together with prayer, study and service to others and the church. As a parish, let's support our new confirmands and their families in their vows. We will, with God's help.

Sharon