

Charlie Hutchinson  
Church Confirmation

Growing up you get told different stories about who God is and what Jesus did, but it wasn't the stories that made me understand what religion means, it was the people telling me the stories that taught me what it means to be a good person. I still don't know what I believe in, but I know throughout my time at Tricon I have experienced the understanding, interest, and love of the leaders and family in the community, and for that reason I would like to continue my religious learning in the Tricon church.

Bob Brown has always led the confirmation classes with understanding and care about everyone in the class. He made us feel like each of our opinions mattered, and who we were as individuals was good enough for everyone. Bob accepts and loves anyone from any background no matter what - which is the hardest thing to do, but he makes it look easy. Bob is quick to start a conversation and ask how you are doing, and he truly does care about what you have to say.

In Sunday School <sup>Mr. and Mrs.</sup> ~~the~~ Pipers would have the most fun and interesting classes around. They could make any story interesting and make you want to learn more - not just about the story - but about what the story meant. They could always enrich any class with their own life stories and lessons. The Pipers are always ready to help out in any way they can and are ready to connect and say hi to everyone everywhere.

Finally, my uncle, Woody, will do just about anything to show that he supports and cares about you. Woody dropped everything so that he could help me through the confirmation program. He brought new and interesting ideas to the conversations and never lost a sense of positivity. He showed me how to sacrifice time to show someone that you care. I learned through Woody's perspective the benefits of being a part of a close-knit religious community like Tricon.

People like Bob Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Piper, and Woody are what make TriCon special. I don't know what I believe or when I'm going to figure it out. But I do know that I want to be more like these, understanding, interesting, and loving people, and I know this is the community where these people are.