

## Celebration Moment #7 Fellowship Groups

As Friedens began in 1911, a Women's Society with 65 members was formed. The purpose was to raise money and they did it at a Fall Festival and Ice Cream Social. Soon after, the Frauen Verein came into existence. Later it became the Ladies Aid and its purpose was to deepen spiritual life and promote Christian service. For a fundraiser, this group had a food stand at the 1925 Indiana State Fair.

Later, in 1941, the Women's Guild was formed out of the Ladies Aid. They made cancer pads for the Little Red Door and were honored for 40 years of service. They also hosted bingo parties at the Altenheim. By the way, the Women's Guild is still active and currently making small teddy bears for Community South Hospital.

In 1922 younger women in the church started the Dorcas Society. They worked to help reduce indebtedness of the church property. In 1937, the Golden Rule was formed with young women in a Sunday School class. Evening Guild was started in 1955 for those women who were unable to attend a daytime guild. Currently, the Evening Guild no longer has meetings, however, they host Bingo parties at the Altenheim and also provide poinsettias to shut-ins at Christmas time.

In 1917, Friedens Churchmen's Brotherhood was formed. The men did projects around the church and enjoyed fellowship. Years later, they became well known for their "ground hog dinners." The dinners occurred in February, because of Groundhog Day. Do you have any idea what was served at the dinners? Well, the men made the homemade smoked pork sausage and did all the cooking and serving for 400 people.

They currently have a Men's Breakfast group that meets monthly on the third Saturday. During Lent they meet every Saturday at various UCC churches.

In 1947 Mother-Daughter and Father-Son dinners were begun. The men served the meal for the Mother-Daughter dinners and the women served the meal for the Father-Son dinners. Everyone was included since everyone is a mother, or a daughter, a father, or a son.

Today, in addition, we have active groups such as the Friedens Folks for our retired and senior members, Friedens Fun for the 20-40 age group and Friedens Friends for the empty nester's segment. All the groups have a

variety of activities with fun and fellowship.

I have mentioned only some of the groups. During our history there have been these and many others that have played an important role in our church's history. Where would our church be today without the many men and women who have given of their time, treasures, and talents to serve God and Friedens Church?