

Celebration Moments #9 Christian Education

From the very beginning, Christian Education has played an important role in our church's history. It is because of our desire to help children and adults know and share God's love that we have had programs available. When the cornerstone was laid in 1912 at the new church, 85 members were listed on the rolls along with 40 members in the Youth Society.

Early recollections at the old church had us gathering in small class circles in a large room and then closing the hour with everyone gathered to sing "Bless Be the Tie that Binds." Eventually departmentalized rooms for each age bracket became common. Hundreds of faithful teachers have given their time and Biblical knowledge to teach everyone from very young children to adults.

Vacation Bible School came on the scene in the mid-1940s. Each day was highlighted with Bible stories, crafts and songs. The children brought coins to give towards a mission project such as the Heifer Project International to buy a cow or other animals for a family in a foreign country.

Confirmation instruction has been an integral part in the church for young people preparing for membership. Records show we have had 984 youth go through Confirmation classes between 1912 and 2010 to become church members.

For years and even today, the official UCC curriculum has been used in the church.

Over the years, what was called Church or Sunday School has changed with the times but not the devotion to the church. Likewise, attendance has ebbed and flowed and reached a peak in 2003 with an average attendance of 138.

All children and youth have a variety of opportunities to grow as followers of Jesus through Bible study, participating in the arts, service to others, mission projects, worship, and fellowship.

We are grateful for all the ways people of all ages support Christian Education with their time, energy, talents, and prayers.

Adults have the option of attending several different types of discussions from traditional Bible study to relevant contemporary subjects by various instructors.

So you can see, there is a place for you in our Christian Education program here at Friedens. Why not explore the various options for you and your family.

If you have ever been a teacher, been a sponsor for our youth, or served on our Christian Education committee, will you please stand so we may acknowledge you.