

Children's Message
5.18.08
Teacher Appreciation & Confirmation

Here we are- right in the middle of what might be the busiest month of the year. Choir concerts, band concerts, endless baseball games, dance recitals, final exams, field trips, end of school year projects. Sometimes when I get to the end of this month of May I wonder if it would even be possible to squeeze one more thing into this month. And May isn't that much less busy here at church- just today, in addition to our regularly scheduled worship services, we are having a congregational meeting, baptizing a baby, having 1st Café and welcoming a new class of Confirmands into church membership. Phew! That's a lot going on today. But there is one more thing. Something else that we need to do today.

Did you know that today is the last day of Sunday school for this school year? No tears- don't worry- we start right back up again with fabulous summer Sunday school lessons. But the reason I am mentioning it, the last day of Sunday school, is because we simply can not let all of those people who made Sunday school happen walk away from this school year without letting them know how much we appreciate them.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that we are all called to be teachers? We are all told to teach others about God. That's a huge responsibility. But who are those people? Who are the people that responded to God's call to teach the children, youth, adults and Friends of our church this past year?

Will all of the volunteer Christian Educators who are here today please stand up?

There are so many of them! 141 to be exact! Over 14% of our congregation. On any given Sunday 38 people are missing from the pews because they are answering God's call.

Here they are, the people who are sharing their gifts with our church family.

Sharing

- ♥ The gift of being the first person a new student meets in our church and making them feel welcome
- ♥ The gift of storytelling
- ♥ The gift of helping little hands to cook in the kitchen
- ♥ The gift of creativity
- ♥ The gift of an open mind
- ♥ The gift of time
- ♥ The gift of knowledge
- ♥ The gift of making music
- ♥ The gift of patience
- ♥ And most importantly, the gift of helping a student know the love of our Lord.

Reverend Wiley, will you please lead us in a prayer honoring the Christian Educators in our congregation?