

## News from the Discipling Council

**Adult Education:** The Adult Christian Education Committee continues coordination of four focus areas. The first two are the adult Sunday morning classes: "The Contemporary Bible Class" (studying the Bible passages identified in the New Common Lectionary) and the Seekers Class (drawing topics from current literature to address interests of the "Seeker."). The third focus is on the Wednesday evening fellowship dinner programs, arranging the topics and leadership. The Wednesday evening dinner and fellowship times are now being called -- "Wednesday Night Live." Programs this fall and winter consider the current understanding and impact of five world religions: Judaism; Islam; Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity. Committee focus number four considers Elective Course possibilities for the Sunday morning educational hour.

**Children's Education:** The youth participate in monthly FYSH activities and have sign-up during Dec. for the St. Simons' trip which will take place in Feb. There will be a canned food drive sponsored by the youth at the end of the year and a Christmas party at Tower Rd. in conjunction with missions. The Youth is planning "Souper Bowl Sunday" for January.

**Music :** Nov. 1- Dedication of new choir robes and stoles

December 11 & 12- Christmas Madrigal Dinner

Christmas Cantata at 10:55 service on December 20

Celebrate Early has the first Sunday drummers

Richard is working with Dr. Stephen Darsey, director of the Meridian Chorale in Atlanta, to commission an Appalachian style anthem which will hopefully be ready by the Christmas season.

In February, we plan to have a special concert featuring the bluegrass band, Playing on the Planet. This will be on Sunday, February 7 preceded by a pancake and sausage lunch For Fat Tuesday (except it's on Sunday!) Richard is working to finalize the contract with this fine musical group. It should be a real treat!

**Stewardship:** Pledge Campaign: Nov 1 -The quilts marked the beginning of our emphasis on stewardship. Generosity Sunday is November 1 with a potluck dinner after worship (brunch after early worship) with fun entertainment. The Elders have hosted Log Cabin meetings prior to pledge Sunday. The purpose of the cabin meetings is to get to know one another. We firmly believe that folks give to organizations that they feel good about, are passionate about and believe that the funds are used for worthy causes. Our prior cabin meetings had an agenda that promoted the idea of generosity; these meetings are simply for fellowship.

After the pledge campaign, we will meet one time to evaluate our program. We'll take December off and then start again in January, meeting the third Monday of every month.

**Labyrinth Keepers:** A "Walk of Compassion" will be held at the labyrinth on Sat. Nov. 7 at 11 am to introduce these additions to the labyrinth site: a sign that welcomes all; additional benches; and a kiosk that provides information about labyrinths, guides for walking the labyrinth and a "Book of Reflections" journal in which people may share their experiences. It will also feature these new opportunities for prayer at the labyrinth site:

- The "Prayer Tree," a common feature in the British Isles, where people hang strips of cloth or ribbons on a tree to represent their prayers
- The "Cairn of Compassion," a mound of stones that represent people's burdens and griefs.

**Worship:** The Worship Committee has begun planning for special services throughout the next few months. November 1 is All Saints Day and there will be a candle display to enhance the services. Saturday, November 28 will be decorating day for the church Advent and Christmas season. We will be helping the children's education committee and David plan and implement the Christmas Eve service for children and their families. We are in the process of ordering candles, devotional guides, and other consumables for the season ahead. Nov. 29, and Dec. 6,13,20 are the dates for Advent. December 21 is the Longest Night service.