

Christian Education Quarterly

Winter
1998

Our Vision: To build a Christian community in which biblical faith is awakened, nurtured, challenged, and lived.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As we begin 1998, many of us will set goals we refer to as "new year's resolutions." The media will be filled with suggested goals for us to consider and ways to attain them. As a Christian educator, I believe that goals can be set in our Christian lives, but that a biblical and theological reflection on this cultural phenomenon is needed.

What is a resolution? A resolution is "a course of action characterized by an element of firm determination." Several biblical leaders quickly come to mind: Noah, Moses, Joshua, and Paul. Each of these men had strong determination to respond in obedience to God's call on their lives.

Should we make resolutions? It certainly is biblical to examine our hearts and resolve to follow God's will. In setting goals, a country pastor once told me "it's better to shoot for a star and miss, than to shoot at a skunk and hit!"

What if we fail? I recall a quote by the inventor Thomas Edison who said "I know several hundred things that won't work." Yet his failures did not quench his desire and perseverance. This year some of us will make resolutions to lose weight, to exercise more, or to spend more time with family. Others, discouraged by past failures, won't set themselves up for such disappointment. Are you making any resolutions?

Should we make resolutions in our spiritual lives? One caution of setting measurable, spiritual goals such as regular Bible study, devotional reading, prayer or service is that our Christian life becomes a 'work.' Romans 3:23-24 tells us the good news that our salvation is not dependent upon our effort: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are *justified freely by his grace* through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Nonetheless, good works are commended in Scripture as fruits of the Spirit—a byproduct of our relationship with Christ. From this perspective, I hope you do set a goal for your Christian walk.

As we begin the new year, I invite you to consider how the educational ministries here at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church can help you meet your goals of growing as a Christian. **Set one goal** for your spiritual life and share it with a friend. Too often people don't really expect to learn much at church. But I am confident God is using our teachers and groups to awaken, nurture and challenge our faith. I hope to help teachers

make explicit the biblical and theological learning goals of each of our classes. By next fall, I hope you can look back and see how you have grown.

Finally, I ask you to PRAY: 1) that God would use your talents to build up the body of Christ, and 2) for the leaders and members of each of the educational ministries as you read about them on the following pages.

Doug James (682-3865)
Director, Christian Education and Youth

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CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

CONTACTS

Doug James, Director of Christian Education
(682-3865) DJTAPC@aol.com

Lisa Drummond, Sunday School Superintendent
(477-9818)

Daryn Berlin, Asst. Sunday School Superintendent
(471-5048)



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Our children's classes use curricula from CRC Publishers. Lessons are built around Bible stories and use songs, visual helps or activities to help children learn.

Nursery (infants to 2 year olds)

A nursery is provided each Sunday morning for infants during both Sunday School and church.

Preschool Class (2 - 3 year olds)

Teachers: Jo Deckard, Suzanne Freeman,
Corlis Wood

This class acquaints children with favorite Old and New Testament stories and characters.

Bible Footprints (4 - 5 year olds)

Teachers: Carol Leach, Ruth Petrea, Jane Thorn,
Sara Williams

This class seeks to foster an awareness of God as Creator, Provider, Lord and Redeemer and to shape children's responses to God.

Bible Steps (1st - 2nd Grade)

Teachers: Martha Aitken, Melannie Perez,
Judy Wooden

This class seeks to expand children's understanding of basic spiritual truths and to consider the church as the family of God.

Bible Trails (3rd - 4th Grade)

Teachers: Bill Breeze, Suzie Gilbert

This class writes and produces its own videos based on the Scripture lesson. It lays the foundation for biblical and theological themes to be learned in later years.

Bible Guide (5th - 6th Grade)

Teachers: Mark Ahrendsen, Ralph Gunderson,
Jeff Reedy

This class seeks to provide students with a broad view of God's plan of redemption. Topics include God's revelation, the Son, the Spirit and the sacraments.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Each Sunday following the Children's Sermon in the 11:00 AM service, children in grades K-2 are invited to go upstairs to Children's Church. Parents may pick up their children in the refectory downstairs. Proverbs 22:7 tells us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Doug James is leading the children in age-appropriate lessons on the Christian faith with attention to Scripture, creeds and confessions, and church liturgy. We use creative games, action songs, and other catalysts for learning. Children return to the sanctuary on communion Sundays.

Schedule of Helpers

January 4	Suzanne Freeman
January 11	Melannie Perez
January 18	Mary Gunderson
January 25	Ruth Petrea

YOUTH GROUPS

Contact: Doug James, Director of CE and Youth
682-3865 (church) or 309-1355 (home)
DJTAPC@aol.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Middle School Class

Teachers: Marion Pierce (528-1073); Duffy and
Linda McDonald (309-9961)

The Winter study, entitled *The King Comes*, uncovers the gospel of Matthew in our three-year study of the entire Bible. Lessons focus on Jesus as the king promised in the Old Testament and will examine his ancestry, miracles and ministry. We will learn that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah whose kingdom is governed by heavenly laws, and then consider what these spiritual laws mean for our daily lives today.

Senior High Class

Teachers: Bill Waddell and Teresa Roberts
(403-1921)

This dynamic lesson series is called *Making a Difference in Society*. Each week we will look at different biblical stories and challenge our youth to "Embark, Explore, and Engage" their faith with contemporary global and local issues. Lessons will challenge all to consider how to make a difference in their high schools, on soccer or basketball teams, and in church and society. We need to ask daily, "What would Jesus do?"

CONFIRMATION

Doug James and Pastor Drake are planning a confirmation class to begin in Fall 1998 which will last until the spring. This will foster better relationships between youth and adult mentors and provide an opportunity for deeper learning and true spiritual growth.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Doug James will lead our youth in several activities, service projects and biblical lessons. We will begin a new series in January called *Reading the Bible with Heart and Mind* which will develop skills in biblical interpretation, increase biblical knowledge, and consider the Holy Spirit's role in the development and in our reading of Scripture.

Our Youth Council is planning a **ski retreat weekend** on February 20-22 which will offer not only skiing fun but spiritual renewal. Watch the Sunday bulletin and special flyers for more details.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Tim Ahrendsen
Caroline Elkins
Jennifer Medley
Susan Medley
Katie Vander Weide

YOUTH ADVISORS

Daryn Berlin
Marsha Hare
Marion Pierce
Valarie James
Bill Waddell

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 4 Bowling: meet at 4:30 PM
- January 11 Youth Group with guest speaker
- January 18 Youth Group "Reading the Bible with heart and mind"
- January 21 Wednesday 6:00 PM, host church pot luck dinner
- January 25 Super Bowl Sub Sale

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Covenant Life

Contacts: Dott Faulkenbury (477-4679)
Dave Patton (493-7348)

Teachers: Bob and Hildur Blake, Dott
Faulkenbury, Joanne Franke, Marie
Grauerholz, Dave Patton and Calvin
Ward

Ages: 40s-60s+

Topic: Topical studies of Scripture and current
Christian books

Recent studies have included a video series on
"Ancient Mysteries of the Bible" and reading
Jimmy Carter's *Living Faith*. Social activities
include game nights, covered dish suppers and
occasional parties.

Philia Class

Contact/Teacher: Dr. Carl Badger (493-4134)

Ages: 20s-40s

Topic: New American religions: Mormon,
Christian Science, and Christian sects

The Philia ("Friendship") Class is a fellowship
group which balances learning and discussion with
developing bonds of friendship and mutual care.
The class takes an informed, intellectual approach
to both contemporary issues (chosen by members)
as well as biblical and traditional foundations of
following Christ. We also have regular social
activities outside of class. Recent topics have
included spirituality and prayer, response to
bereavement and divorce, sexual ethics in the Bible,
and Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective
People*.

CE Committee: Bill Waddell (Moderator), Betty
Beavers, Daryn Berlin, Bob Blake, Bob Clarke,
Lisa Drummond, Suzanne Freeman, Ralph
Gunderson, Bruce Lobaugh, Dianne Moore, and
Paul Pierce.

Sunday School Superintendents:
Lisa Drummond and Daryn Berlin

Foundations of Faith

Contact: Mary Gunderson (933-5570)

Ages: 30s-60s

Topic: Topical studies of Christian living

Recent topics have included Maxie Dunham's
*That's What the Man Said: The I Am Sayings of
Jesus*. Participants discuss foundational Bible
topics and themes, as well as their application to life
situations.

George Matthis Class

Contact: Helen Hilderman (382-0682)
Julian Maness (477-4416)

Teachers: Clark Allen, Dan & Phyllis Cagle,
Frances Clement, J. T. Moore,
Louise Noel, Martha Sparks

Ages: 55-70+

Topic: Bible Discovery (Presbyterian
curriculum)

Our winter series on "God's people in a troubled
world" is a study of 1 John, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude
—some of the least read New Testament books.
These general epistles deal with both internal
dilemmas (false teaching) and external troubles
(Roman persecution) of the early Christians and
will challenge us to reexamine our own situation.

George Watts Men's Class

Contact: Steve Yova (471-8882)
Wade Johnson (471-4162)

Teachers: Travis Porter, Dick Tuthill,
Jim Vander Weide, Steve Yova

Ages: 30s -50+

Topic: Bible Discovery (Presbyterian
curriculum)

See description of curriculum under George
Matthis class above.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Presbyterian Women (PW) at TAPC is open to all women. Our current members are those women who choose to participate in or be supportive of PW in any way. At present, there are approximately 80 active members who participate in one of four women's Circles. Circles are small groups that gather monthly to provide an inclusive, caring community of women, to study God's teachings through Bible study, and to support the PW organization at TAPC. Marie Grauerholz (682-0758)

Circle Meetings for January

Circle 1 - Tuesday, January 6, at 10:00 AM in the parlor. Virginia Barrett (489-5596) and Ann Martin (477-1678)

Circle 2 - Monday, January 5, at 10:30 AM at the home of Martha Sparks, 1707 Woodburn Road. Phyllis Cagle (489-4760) & Mayme Hampton (477-6750).

Circle of Faith - Monday, January 12, at 7:00 PM at the home of Chris Berry, 3304 Sparger Road. Appetizers and fun start at 6:00 PM. Please bring your favorite snack/desert and a small item for the white elephant game. Regular meeting and lesson at 7:00 PM. Visitors are welcome! Call Chris as soon as possible if you need a babysitter so that arrangements can be made. Chris Berry (383-1180).

Circle 4 - Monday, January 5, at 7:30 PM in the parlor. Carol Van Hise (596-2051) and Flo Bivins (493-5977).

PARTNERS FOR LIFE

Contact: Bill Waddell & Teresa Roberts
(403-1921)

This group of married couples meets once a month on a Friday evening for dinner and fellowship. The goal is to encourage and support one another in their marriages and Christian walk.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Contact: Dianne Moore (477-7696)

This Bible study meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the parlor. We just completed a study of Donna Partow's *Becoming a Vessel God Can Use*. We will not meet in January but will reconvene on February 11th with a study of Romans.

PRIMETIMERS

Contact: Noel & Virginia Johnston (383-5283)

Our December gathering was filled with enthusiasm as we shared meaningful stories of Christmas past with one another. Noel Johnston shared several of the memoirs he has begun to write. Virginia Johnston and Leslie Lobaugh shared Christmas poems and songs, reminding us especially of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Everyone joined in to sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

On Thursday, January 8, at 11:00 AM the program will be presented by Professor Earl Davis who teaches a series at Duke Institute for Learning in Retirement (DIRL) on the Lost Civilization. He will present *Mesopotamia, a Return to the Garden of Eden*. Let's each start the 1998 new year by inviting a church member who has not participated in Primetimers to join us for a fine program and lunch.

LENTEN DINNER SERIES

Dr Mickey Efir, professor of biblical interpretation at Duke Divinity School, will lead our Lenten study on March 16, 23, and 30. Dr. Efir led a four-part series two years ago comparing the synoptic gospels. This year's 3-part study on prayer includes Prayer in the Psalms, The Lord's Prayer, and the Prayers of Christ. Mark these dates on your calendar and look for more details in the next *Out of the Heart* newsletter. Tentatively, dinner is at 5:30 PM and the program is from 6:15-7:15 PM.

TEACHER AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Contact: Doug James (682-3865)

As church educators and leaders we can benefit from various educational events provided by our Presbytery and our own church. If you are involved as a teacher or leader, I invite you to join me at these upcoming events.

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERY EDUCATOR'S WORKSHOP

January 20, 1998 (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

This event will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Smithfield, NC. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Our guest speaker is Rev. Neil MacQueen, a noted Presbyterian minister and educator, who will present a new Sunday School model based on rotating workshops.

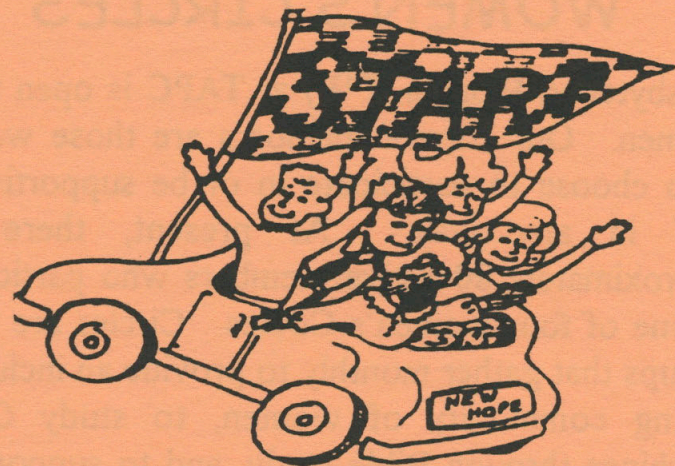
WHY NOBODY LEARNS ANYTHING AT CHURCH, AND HOW TO FIX IT

TAPC Teacher Development Day

February 7, 1998 (9:00 AM - 12:00 noon)

Doug James, our Director of Christian Education, will share key insights about teaching and learning in communities of faith. Sessions for teachers of all ages will include:

- Paradigm shifts: from teaching to learning the faith
- The Teacher's Manual—Help or hindrance
- Beyond the Bible—Using reference and study tools
- What prevents Christian adults from learning



S.T.A.R.T. — SPECIFIC TRAINING AND RESOURCING TOGETHER

January 24, 1998 (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

This event will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, NC. Courses will be offered for teachers, pastors, educators, and church officers. Brochures are available.

Doug James will offer the following two-hour workshops:

1. Congregations as Learning Organizations

“Learning organizations” not only survive and adapt in the present, they also realize the need to create their own future. Using “systems thinking,” you can identify your church’s “learning disabilities” that hinder educational ministry, learn to solve problems rather than treat symptoms, and build an effective CE program for the 21st century (for pastors, educators, officers, and lay leaders).

2. Small Group Pitfalls and Possibilities

Whether small or large, most churches rely upon small groups for Sunday School, Bible studies and care groups. You can identify pitfalls (such as “group grope”) and implement action strategies that prevent problems and foster biblical literacy, theological insight and spiritual growth (for all who teach or lead small groups).

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Contact: Doug James (682-3865)

WHAT IS A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?

Many types of small groups are necessary to meet the individual needs of believers and the diverse needs of the church body. These include fellowship, service, task, support and Bible study groups. While we at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian have many groups in place, we would like to offer this new ministry to adults. Discipleship groups are **not** therapy groups, nor are they intended to lead to factions as in the Corinthian church which Paul wrote to correct. Rather, a *discipleship group is a small group of adults who covenant to meet regularly for Bible study, sharing and prayer in order to experience God's grace, to build relationships and unity, and to encourage spiritual maturity.* Discipleship groups are not sub-ministries of the church, but are smaller units of the church. When you meet, you are participating in church—not simply attending a meeting.

BENEFITS OF DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Almost every church that is experiencing growth in the 1990s has effective discipleship groups. The benefits of discipleship groups include fostering lay leadership, increasing biblical literacy, building friendships, and stimulating spiritual growth and Christ-like character.

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Small groups are not a mere fad or new method for education. They are grounded in Scripture. To begin, small groups are reflective of the very nature of a Trinitarian God who exists in relationship. In

the Old Testament, the concept of groups is pictured in God choosing the Israelites—a nation chosen due to their small size (Deut. 7:7)—who were grouped into 12 tribes as descendants of the 12 sons of Jacob (Gen. 49). In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is pictured as the greatest small group leader. He is our main model. Jesus began his ministry by forming a small group of 12 disciples (Mt. 4:18; 10:2ff). Yet, Jesus remained active in both large and small group contexts—these were not pitted against each other.

GROUP GOALS

- To answer two key questions of Scripture: What did it mean originally? What does it mean today?
- To learn from the faith journeys of others
- To care and support one another in prayer and practical ways

FORMAT

- Meet on a weeknight (weekly or bi-monthly) for 1½ - 2 hours at church or members' homes
- Discuss the Bible study and curriculum questions, share life issues and pray

SIZE

- 8 - 12 people maximum

DURATION

- Begin in February or March 1998
- Initial commitment of 8-12 weeks (covenant with your group depending on format)
- All groups will either renew or change their covenants after this initial commitment

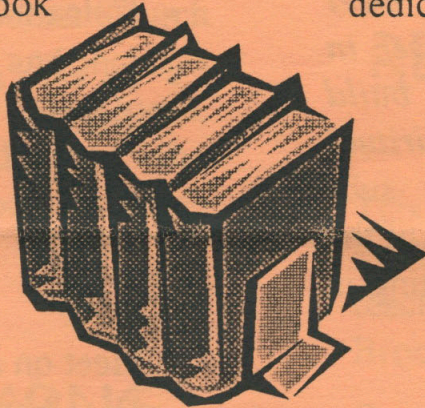
See back page for registration form.

CARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

DOT COLVIN: EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR FOR 1997

The Christian Education Committee has voted to honor Dot Colvin as our 1997 "Educator of the Year." This award commemorates the first attempt by the Christian Education Committee to implement ways to celebrate and honor the many volunteers who serve Christ and our church in various educational capacities. Martha Sparks has written a brief review of Dot's life and ministry here at Trinity Avenue:

Dorothy ("Dot") Colvin is our TAPC Educator of the Year. Dot has served for 40 years as librarian for Trinity Avenue Presbyterian. Since she took the job in 1957, she has grown our book collection from nonexistent to a splendid core collection with materials suitable for the serious Bible student, for children, for the reader of Christian fiction, or for those seeking help with life's problems.



Dot's undergraduate degree is from Duke University. She holds a graduate degree from the School of Information and Library Science of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dot worked in technical services at Duke's Perkins Library for several years. When TAPC pastor, Dr. William Bennett, now retired, wanted Dot to set up a library for the church, she brought this professional expertise to the task.

Dot is married to retired veterinarian and former TAPC elder Dr. A. Stanton Colvin. They make their home in Orange county surrounded by 20 acres, three ponies, one dog, one cat, and Stan's special hobby, a flock of 35 chickens. Dot and Stan have one son.

Thank you, Dot. We appreciate your years of dedicated service to the Carr Memorial Library.

LIBRARIANS

Dot Colvin	(383-2253)
Dianne Moore	(477-7696)
Doug James	(682-3865)

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Church Contact: Len Stockburger (471-4073)
Boy Scout Master: Jim Edgerton (477-1978)
Cub Scout Leader: Joe Pietrantonio (383-4885)
Cubs Web Page: <http://taylor.mc.duke.edu/~jgr/cutscouts/Pack412.htm>

CUB SCOUTS

Grades: 2 - 5

Boys in 2nd-5th grade are eligible for the Cub Scout Packs. They meet Monday evenings at 6.15 PM at the church and have frequent weekend outings.

BOY SCOUTS

Grades: 5 - 12

Several of our youth are members of Troop #412 which meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM at the church and takes frequent weekend trips.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 24	Pinewood Derby at the church
February 1	Scout Sunday
February 7	District Pinewood Derby
March 28	Blue and Gold Banquet

WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Contact: Judi Bishop, Director (682-3865)

The Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Weekday School (WDS) is for children ages 2 to 5. The half day program is from 9:00 AM to noon, September through May.

The Weekday School is well-known in the Durham community as a tremendous program. Church members are encouraged to consider the school for their preschool children.

PURPOSE

Those of us at TAPC Weekday School seek to provide an emotionally supportive and intellectually stimulating environment for young children who are taking that important first step into the outside world. To facilitate this goal, we maintain small classes so that each child may receive individual attention; we devote time to group endeavors and free play so that children may enjoy a relationship to their peers; we introduce basic readiness skills without pressure so that children are prepared for formal school programs. Finally, we encourage close parent-teacher relationships and parental involvement in all aspects of the preschool experience so that children understand their parents' interest in and support of life at school.

GENERAL DAILY ACTIVITIES

Activities vary in groups and according to the seasons, but a general list of activities would include art, crafts, music, sharing time, creative movement, nursery rhymes and poetry, movies, storytelling and free play indoors and out. Readiness includes individual small group work in basic mathematics and reading skills.

CHAPEL TIME

As a way to more fully integrate the WDS as a ministry of the church, our church staff, Christian Education Committee and Week Day School Committee plan to implement a Chapel Time during the WDS for Fall 1998. We expect to have a complete church staff in place, and this will allow time to clarify the specific learning objectives, methods, and a schedule which will complement teachers' schedules.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Judi Bishop, Director/Teacher

Teachers:

Valerie Brightwell (4 year class)

Lori Hardin (4 year old class)

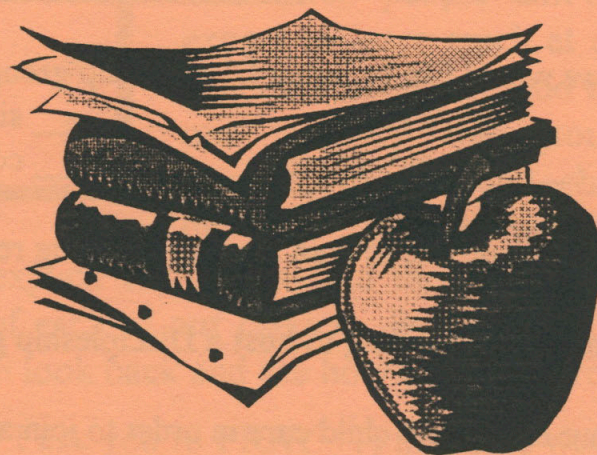
Kathy Mursten (2 and 4 year old class substitute)

Anne Pearson (2 year old class)

Linda Pence (Readiness class)

Vangie Poe (3 year old class)

Don Hicks (Music Specialist)



Christian Education Quarterly is a publication of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, 927 W. Trinity Avenue, Durham, NC 27701-1715, phone: 919-682-3865, fax: 919-682-6021, email: TrinityAve@aol.com, Internet home page: <http://members.aol.com/TrinityAve/index.html>. Rev. Donovan Drake Pastor; Doug James Christian Education & Youth; Harry Jansen Music Ministries; Renée Burnette Secretary; Tricia Truax Bookkeeper; Al Asselin Sexton.

Discipleship Groups

small group Bible study for adults

see page 7

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TO JOIN a Discipleship Group

Complete this form and return it to Doug James by mail, in the Sunday offering, or in the CE office by January 18.

NAME(s): _____

PHONE: (circle) H or W _____ AGE(s): ___ 18-34 ___ 35-49 ___ 50-64 ___ 65+

___ I/we would like to join a Discipleship group (check areas of interest)

___ men's group

___ singles group

___ mixed group (singles/couples)

___ women's group

___ couples group

___ intergenerational

___ I/we would like to lead a group (training required during Sunday School in February)

___ I am/we are willing to host a Discipleship group in my/our home

___ I/we must have child care in order to join a Discipleship group. ___ Number of children Ages _____

DISCUSSION FOCUS: All groups will study a Bible curriculum; however, discussion will focus on different areas. Please rank your preferred areas of interest (1= most important):

___ Marriage

___ Vocation/Workplace

___ Retirement

___ Family/Parenting

___ Doctrine/Theology

___ Christian/Spiritual Growth