

# Labyrinth Ministries in Christian Settings



Presented by ©The Rev. Jill K H  
Geoffrion, Ph.D.

[www.jillgeoffrion.com](http://www.jillgeoffrion.com)

[jillgeoffrion.wordpress.com](http://jillgeoffrion.wordpress.com)

[www.fhlglobal.org](http://www.fhlglobal.org)

On the way...

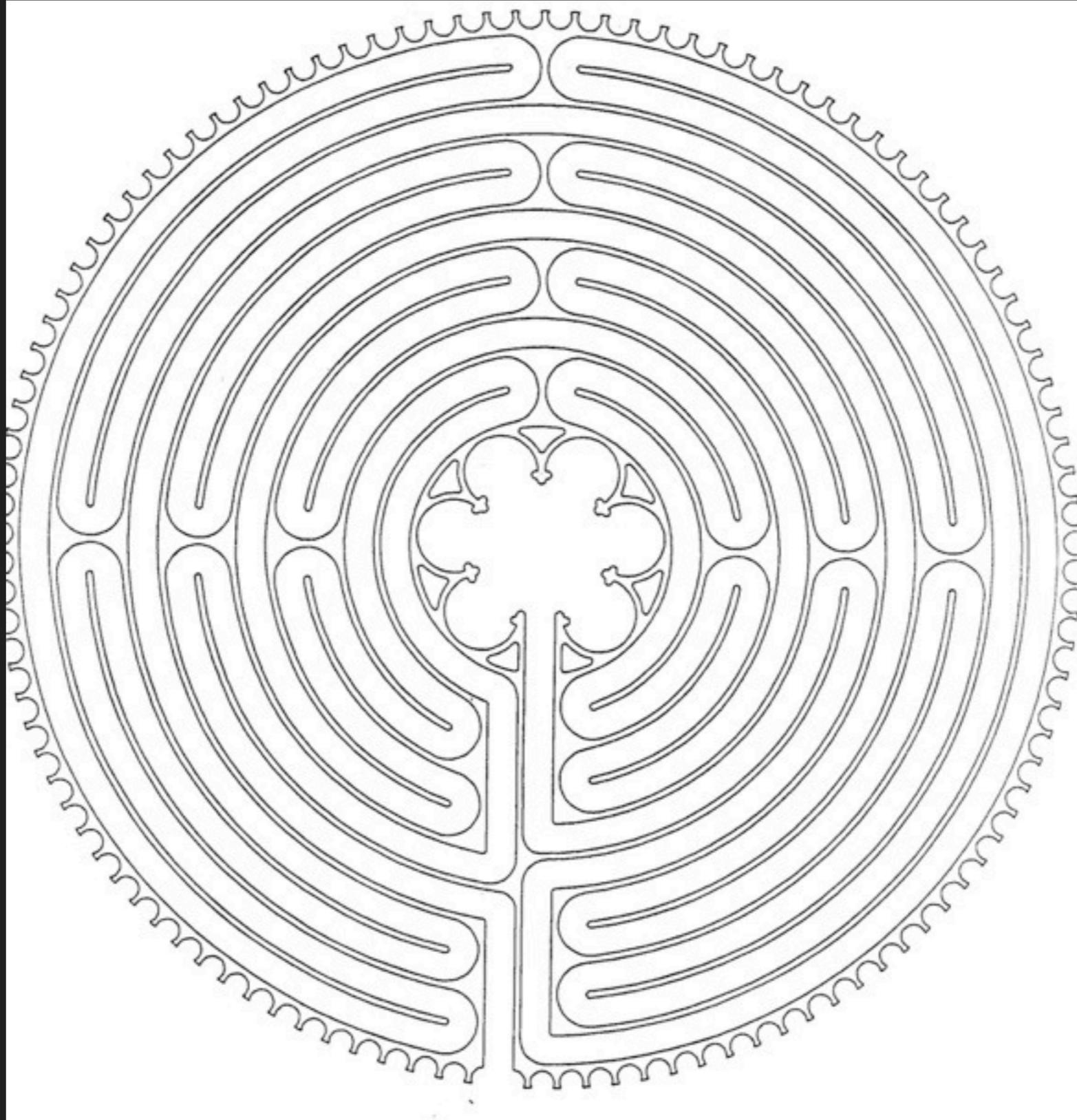




Post cards  
& photos:  
3 circuit  
labyrinth

In the Lord I'll be ever grateful, In the Lord I will rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift your voices, the Lord is near. (Taizé chant)

Prayer at the beginning...



What questions burn within me?

# Faith, Hope and Love Global Ministries



exists to teach, inspire, and encourage ministers and leaders,  
equipping them to serve Christ more effectively.

[www.fhlglobal.org](http://www.fhlglobal.org)

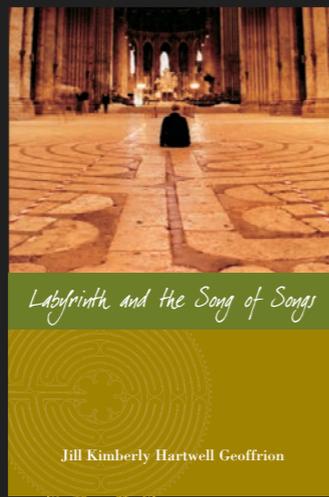
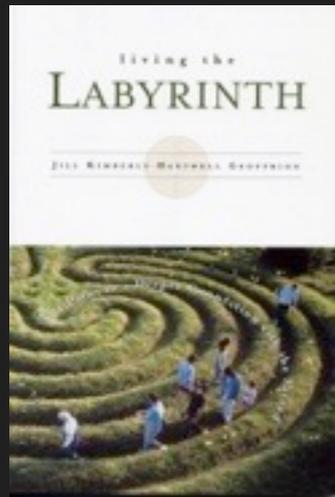
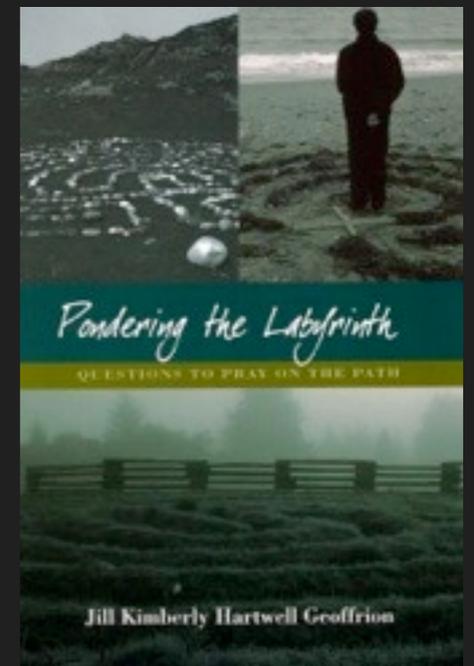
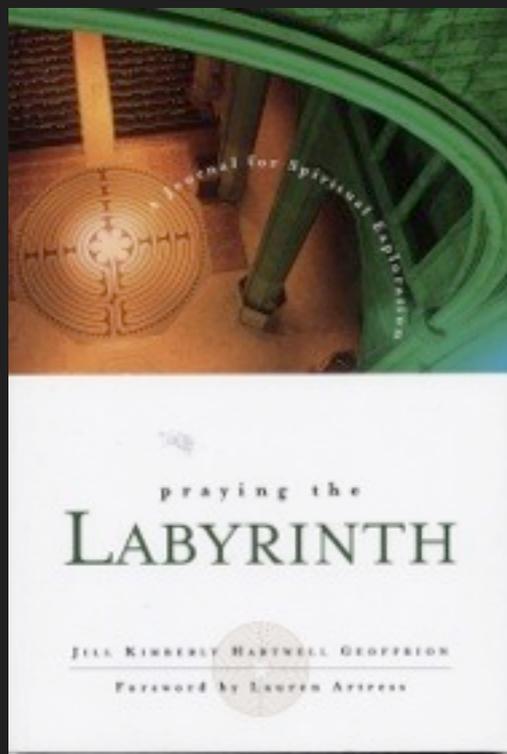


# Our Vision

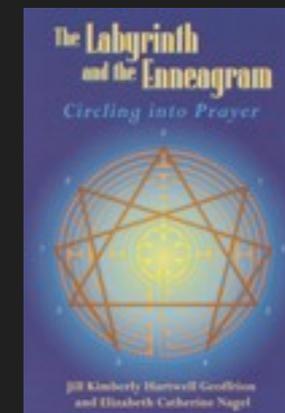
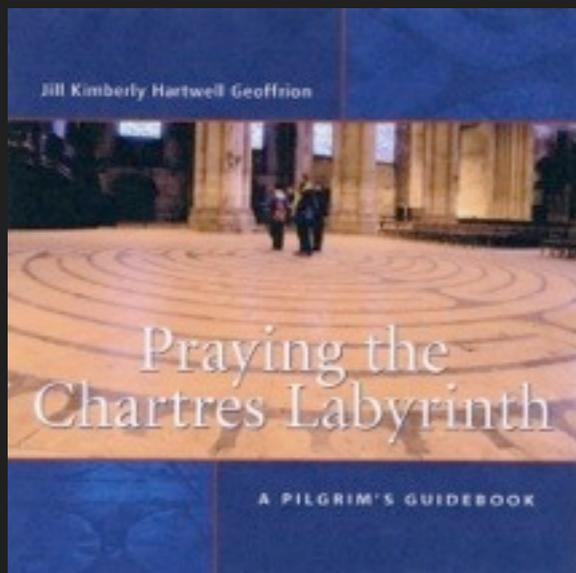
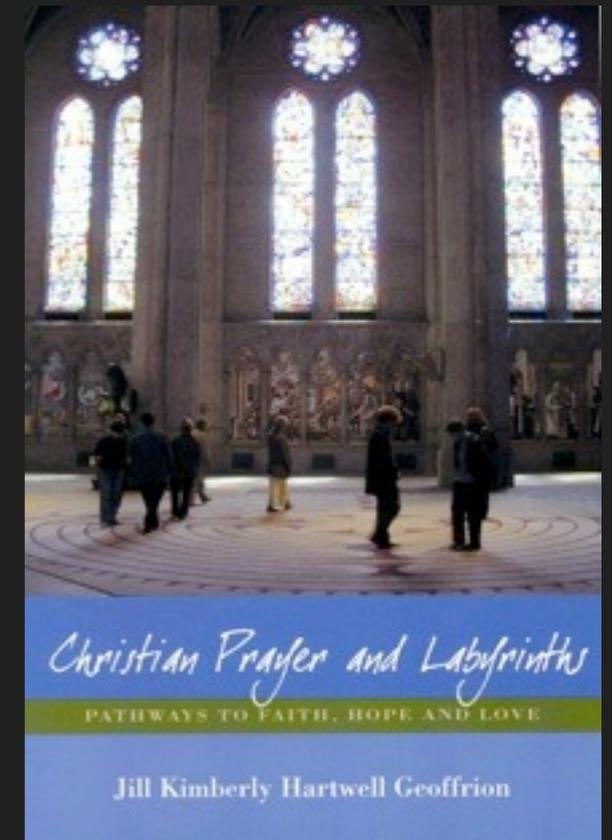
Better equipped, spiritually vitalized  
leaders serving Christ in strategic positions  
of influence throughout the world



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# BRIEF Introductions

Your name

Your interest in ministries with labyrinth (contexts, experience, themes)

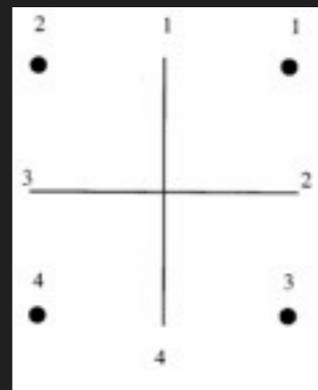
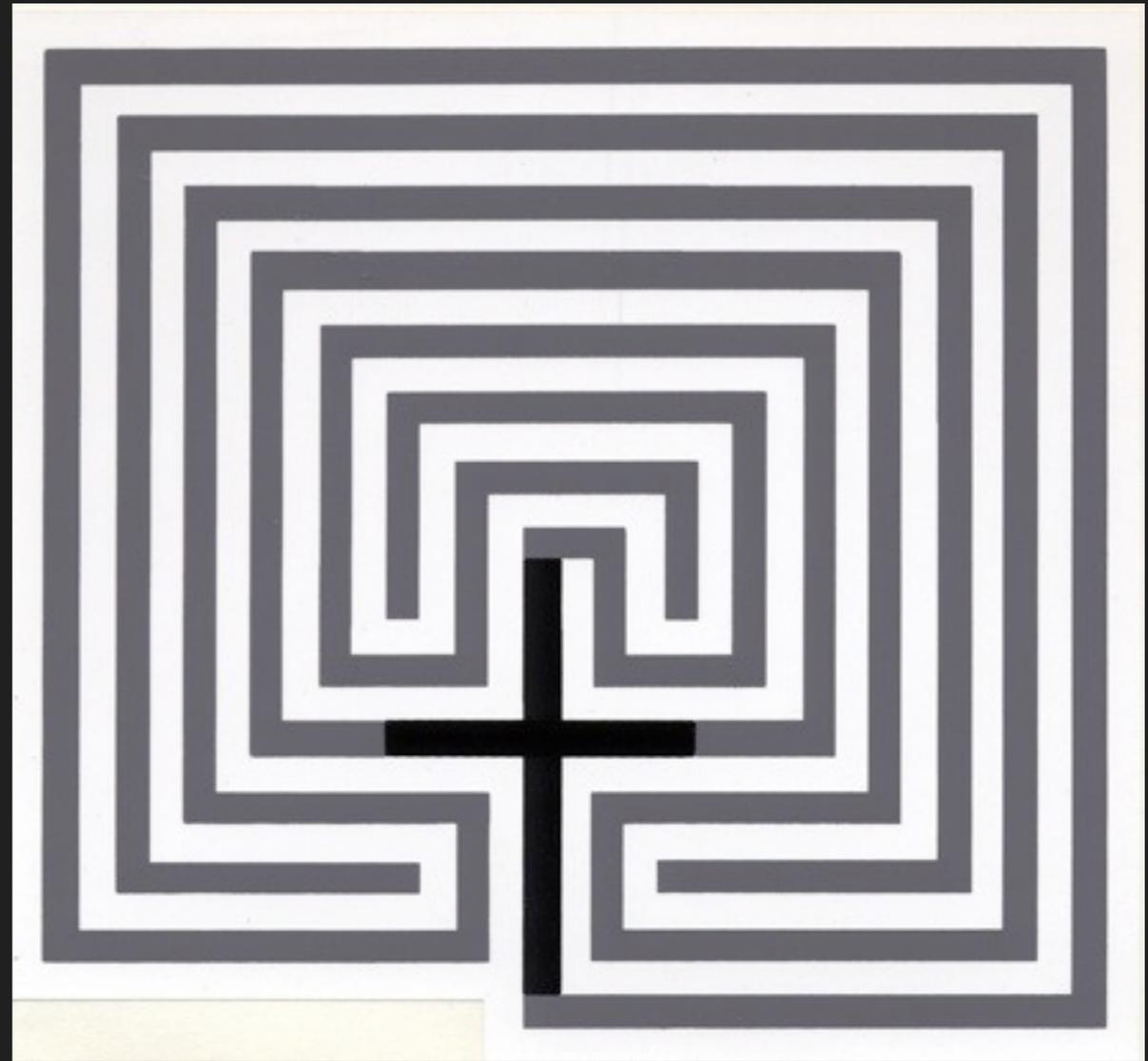
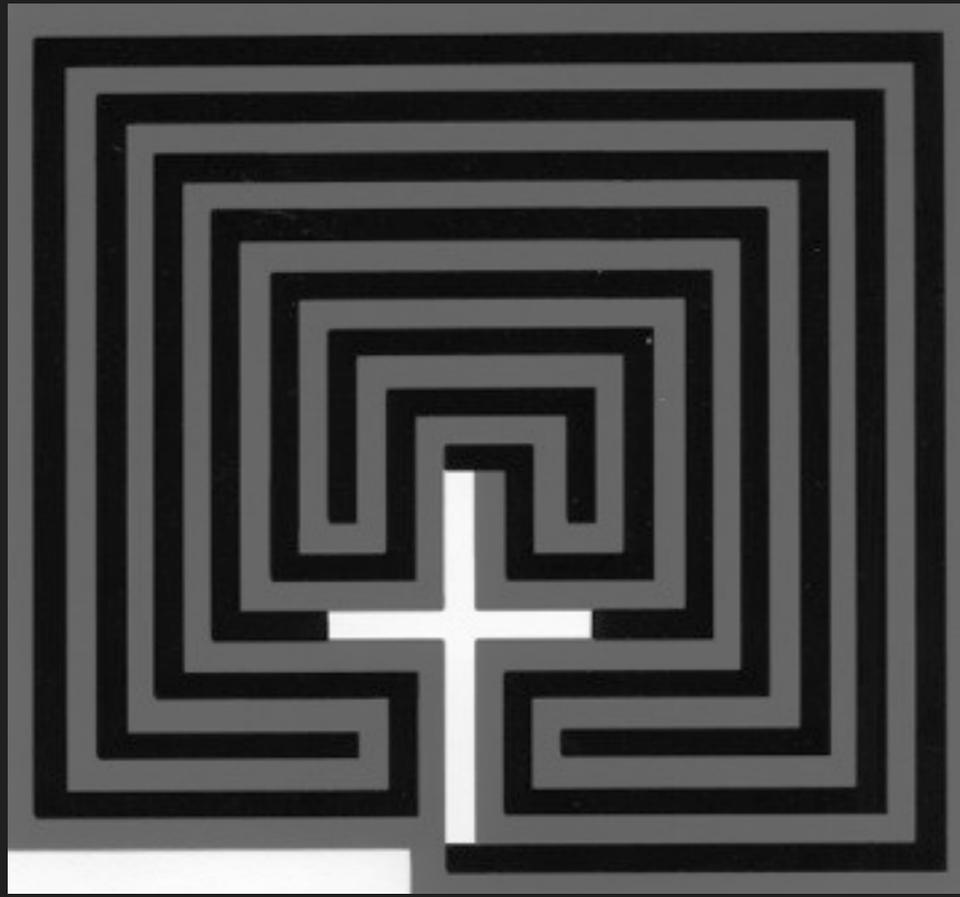
One question or topic you would like Jill to address today.



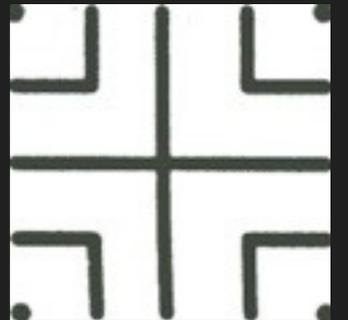
Highlands Ranch labyrinth, Colorado USA



For Christians, walking the labyrinth can be understood as walking the way of the Cross.



Hansen Art labyrinths,  
7 circuit classical squared,  
with highlighted crosses.



May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ... Galatians 6:14 NRSV

Journeying with God, the way, following God, enjoying the presence of God, these biblical concepts inform our Christian use of labyrinths



Residence Glenridge. Concrete and bricks. Atlanta Georgia (USA)



Biblical texts to explore in relation to labyrinth prayer

Abraham as a pilgrim: Genesis 12

Theme of exile as pilgrimage: Exodus

The wise men travel to meet Jesus: Matthew 2:1-12

The shepherds visit Jesus: Luke 2:8-20

Jesus on the Road to Emmaus (Jesus walking with the disciples)

Luke 24:13-53

Christians as exiles and strangers (pilgrims KJV) 1 Peter 2:11-12

We come to the labyrinth in the fullness of who we are.  
As Christians, Christ walks with us as we move on the labyrinth.



Church Garden Labyrinth, 7 circuit "heart of Chartres", Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Some describe labyrinth prayer as “the laying on of feet”



Outdoor Terrazzo Stone Labyrinth Grace Cathedral, California (USA)

# Questions about labyrinth ministries



St. Edwards Episcopal Church labyrinth designed as part of the sanctuary (chairs go on the path dividers), Long Lake, Minnesota, USA

1. How do we warm those in our own congregations to appreciate and enjoy the labyrinth? To misquote scripture, we often find that “a labyrinth is without honor in it’s own country!”
2. What types of education, training or practice might be helpful in a resistant setting?
3. From your experience, can you offer any insights into working with the tension between Christians and other faith groups when using the labyrinth?

What ideas come  
when you walk the labyrinth?



Lava labyrinth Lanaii, Hawaii



What groups have used the labyrinth so far? With what results?



Millenium Park Slate & Grass Labyrinth, Plymouth, Minnesota, USA

Walk around the labyrinth (one or more times) in honor of Mary's journey to Elizabeth.  
What programs in your church could be served by the labyrinth?



Canvas Chalice labyrinth

Offer to facilitate a labyrinth walk as part of an unrelated event.



Retreat, Colonial Church of Edina, Minnesota USA

Healing prayer services can incorporate labyrinth walks.



Dancing lady canvas labyrinth ©Lisa Moriarty, Minnesota USA [www.pathsofpeace.com](http://www.pathsofpeace.com)

How can you get more people in your church involved?  
Who is interested in other creative endeavors?



Sea shell and candle 3 circuit labyrinth

Labyrinth pilgrimages can be a way to mix things up and involve new people.



Episcopal Cathedral Phoenix, Arizona (USA) Labyrinth visits as an optional activity Opportunity Intl. Event

Build a labyrinth together. (You can figure it out together!)



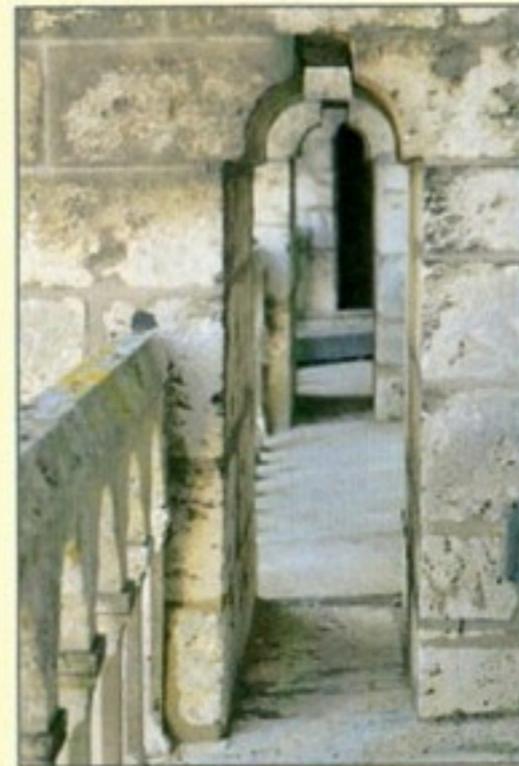
Laying out the Charism Labyrinth (to be used for racial reconciliation) Deephaven, MN (USA)

# Register Now: Sept. 26-Oct. 2, 2011 | Chartres Pilgrimage Retreat



## FLEXIBLE DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30-8:15 am	Breakfast, in silence
8:20-9:30 am	Contemplative Prayer & Sharing in the Cathedral
9:30-10:00 am	Tea & Coffee Break
10:00-Noon	Group Sessions At Retreat Center
Noon-3:00 pm	Personal Time
Afternoon	Exploration & Prayer at the Cathedral Optional Tours of Crypt, Roof Level, Stained Glass Windows, and Six Mile Walking Pilgrimage
6:15-7:00 pm	Guided Contemplative Prayer at the Cathedral & Daily Debriefing
7:00-7:30 pm	Cathedral Vespers (Sung in French)
Evening	Personal Time
Before Bed	Eventide, Self-guided Prayer in Retreat Center Chapel
10:00 pm-8:20 am	The Great Silence



Program cost: \$1695.00 includes accommodations and continental breakfast, three group meals, numerous guided cathedral visits, a half-day walking pilgrimage, and a private group labyrinth experience. Registration fee includes a \$500 tax-deductible contribution to support the work of Faith, Hope and Love Global Ministries throughout the world. Travel to and from Chartres and daily lunches and dinners are not included. Early bird special: \$1545 if full payment is received by April 15, 2011. For others, a \$500 non-refundable deposit is due June 30, and full payment is due Aug 1.

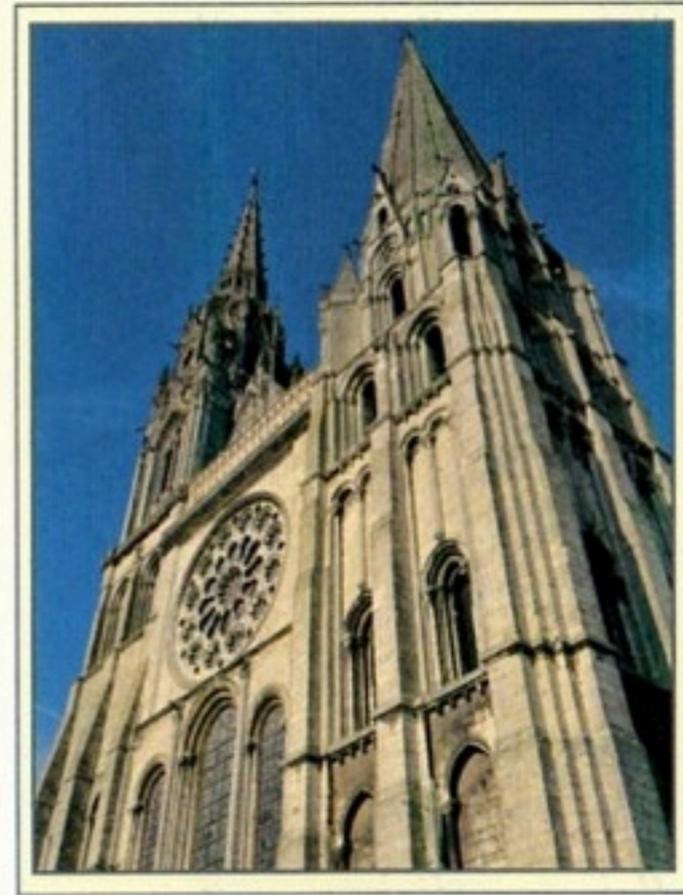
We will be staying in a monastic retreat center. Singles and double rooms with bathrooms are available on a first come, first served basis. Several rooms for couples are available. Room assignments will be made when full payment is received.

Registration is limited to 25. If the pilgrimage needs to be canceled due to insufficient registration (fewer than 15), all fees paid to date will be refunded.

To register use the enclosed form and mail to:

FAITH, HOPE & LOVE GLOBAL MINISTRIES  
1660 HWY. 100 SOUTH, SUITE 426  
ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416  
952-334-3340  
INFO@FHILGLOBAL.ORG

## CONTEMPLATIVE PILGRIMAGE SPIRITUAL RETREAT AT CHARTRES CATHEDRAL



SEPT 26-OCT 2, 2011



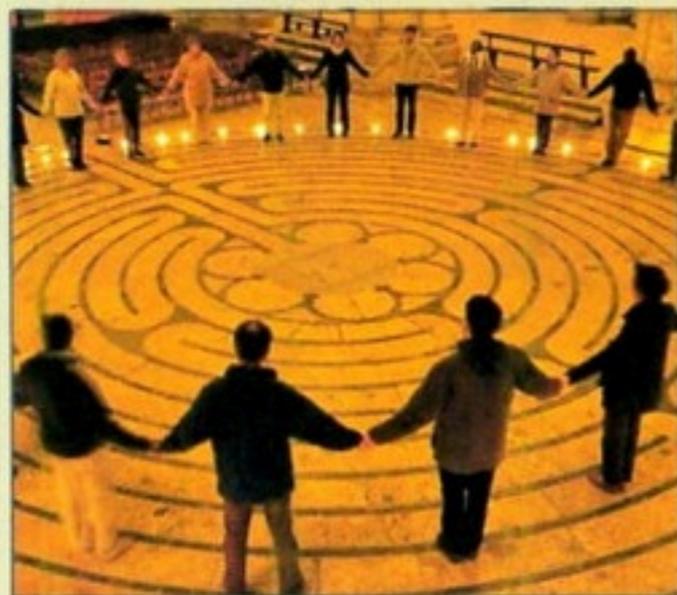
An extraordinary opportunity  
for spiritual growth.



Following in the footsteps of centuries of pilgrims, we will spend time each day at the Chartres Cathedral praying and seeking God.

"I was glad when they said to me,  
'Let us go the house of the Lord.'"

Psalm 122:1



## Are you ready to take the next step with God?

### An Extraordinary Opportunity

By utilizing the incredible resources of the UNESCO world-heritage site of the Chartres Cathedral in France, you will have the opportunity to deepen in your relationship with God.



This week-long experience is designed to support Christians who value holistic spiritual growth, are open to contemplative prayer, and want to serve others out of a fuller experience of God's love.



Group sessions will incorporate ritual, visual presentations, song, teaching, small group discussion, and prayer. Special pilgrimage experiences will include: praying on the labyrinth after hours; a worship service in the ancient crypt chapel, a six-mile walking pilgrimage, and optional cathedral window and roof tours.

### Retreat Leaders

The Rev. Jill K. H. Geoffrion, Ph.D., has published seven books on labyrinth prayer, two of which focus on praying with the labyrinth in the Chartres Cathedral.

Jill's artistic leadership style is enthusiastic, visual, devotional, and inviting. She loves guiding pilgrims to enter as deeply as possible into the beauty and love of God.

The Rev. Timothy C. Geoffrion, Ph.D., has taught on the New Testament and Christian spirituality in colleges and seminaries around the world. His two most recent books, *The Spirit-Lead Leader* and *One Step at a Time: A Pilgrim's Guide to Spirit-Lead Living*, express the heart of his teaching ministry and spiritual life coaching work.

Tim's engaging style blends thought-provoking questions, relevant input, group interaction, and guidance for personal reflection. He loves teaching and helping others grow in every dimension of their life.



Jill and Tim enjoy using their complementary gifts as they minister together. They will be joined by several other well-qualified leaders.

Closing Ceremony:  
Dedicating ourselves  
to the next step.



## Our Prayer Song:

We are walking in the love of God, we are walking in the love of God. (2x)  
We are walking, we are walking, we are walking in the love of God (2x).



# Call to Worship:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)



Pastors' leadership seminar Goma, D R Congo

# Our prayers of gratitude

After making a circle around the labyrinth anyone who would like to is invited to offer a prayer of gratitude for the gifts of the labyrinth in her/his life, the gifts of this conference, and/or the gifts of the labyrinth in her/his faith community.



Butembo labyrinth, D. R. Congo

From your place in the circle around the labyrinth.  
One at a time, walk to a specific place on the labyrinth  
(anywhere you feel drawn to).  
Say out loud, "My next step will be..."  
The group will respond, "Your next step will be..."  
Rejoin the circle.



Canvas Chartres Style Labyrinth used for an event at Princeton University, New Jersey USA

All stand (somewhere) on the labyrinth.  
Place your hands on the feet of the person next to you, saying,  
“I bless you, and the next step that you will take.”  
Then, receive the same blessing from the person you have blessed.



Labyrinth Tattoo (Dancing lady pattern) Eden Prairie, Minnesota USA



Polished stone  
and glass bead  
3 circuit  
labyrinth

In the Lord I'll be ever grateful, In the Lord I will rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift your voices, the Lord is near. (Taizé chant)

# Praying in the center

If anyone would like the group to pray for them, their ministry with the labyrinth, or their faith community's labyrinth ministries, they are invited to the center for a time of laying on of hands.



Praying in the center of the labyrinth Butembo, D R Congo

# Prayer of Dedication



Lord, I will trust you,  
help me to journey beyond the  
familiar  
and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.

Christ of the mysteries, can I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm in me?

Do I still yearn for Your glory  
to lighten on me?

I will show others the care  
You've given me.

I determine amidst all uncertainty  
always to trust.

I choose to live beyond regret,  
and let You recreate my life.

I believe You will make a way for me  
and provide for me,  
if only I trust You  
and obey.

I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times are still in Your hand.

I will believe You for my future,  
chapter by chapter,  
until all the story is written.

Focus my mind and my heart upon You,  
my attention always on You without  
alteration.

Strengthen me with Your blessings  
and appoint to me the task.

Teach me to live with eternity in view.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven.

Feed me,  
and, somehow,  
make my obedience count for You.

Brendan, in Celtic Daily Prayers from  
the Northumbria Community Harper  
2002.



one  
lead  
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In the Lord I'll be ever grateful, In the Lord I will rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift your voices, the Lord is near. (Taizé chant)

# Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort

At easy answers, half-truths,  
and superficial relationships  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger

At injustice, oppression,  
and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice,  
freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain,  
rejection, hunger, and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and  
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference  
in the world,

So that you can do what others claim  
cannot be done

To bring justice and kindness  
to all our children and the poor.

Amen.