



A Letter From Jim

McEachern Memorial United Methodist Church • 4075 Macland Road • Powder Springs, GA 30127 • (770) 943-3008

November 21, 2007

Dear McEachern Members and Friends,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, I give thanks for all the ways we are in relationship together at McEachern.

Pam and I extend the warmest of Thanksgiving wishes to you and your family. We are so thankful to be together as a family this year, and we are so thankful to be a part of the McEachern family. When we consider all the blessings we have received from God's hands we are ashamed that we ever utter a negative word or grumble about anything.

Please be reminded that the church buildings will be closed Thursday through Saturday. We want to give our staff time off to travel, be with family, and catch their breath before all of the busyness of Advent and Christmas. We will all be checking our email and voice messages in order to be able to respond to any pastoral emergencies. I'm thankful to be part of such a dedicated and talented staff team!

Wednesday, November 28th at 6:30 in the Christian Life Center we will hold an **Advent Workshop**. You will have an opportunity to make an Advent Wreath, Chrismons, a stable, and receive a nativity set. All of these items will help you celebrate the season of Advent, which begins December 5th. I encourage you to make reservations for our Wednesday Night Supper as well. This will be the final Wednesday Night Supper of the year.

Most churches do not "do" Advent well. Many congregations simply start celebrating Christmas after Thanksgiving, and stop Christmas Eve. That's what our culture does, not Christians! We will take the four Sundays of Advent and focus on preparing for the coming of Christ. We will sing Advent hymns (not Christmas Carols) and read Advent texts. We will begin the celebration of Christmas at our four Christmas Eve Services (5:00, 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00) and continue through December 30th. January 6th we'll celebrate Epiphany (the coming of the Wise Men) and on January 13th we will celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday complete with a Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. My prayer is that this Advent Season will prepare us to have the most meaningful and powerful Christmas of our lives.

God Bless,