



# A Letter From Jim

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January 30, 2008

Dear McEachern Members and Friends,

In one week we will begin the season of Lent with our 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary. Lent, like Advent, is a season of preparation and penitence. I am convinced that we Protestants do not “do” Lent nearly as well as we can. I want to encourage you to use this season wisely so that we can truly experience the power of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Try the following as a “Lenten Experiment”.

Spend time every day in **Bible Study**. Select a book that you have always meant to read and read a chapter a day. Keep a Bible in your car, on your bedside table, and in the bathroom. That way you’ll have a Bible handy when you have a few spare moments. A chapter a day could take you completely through the gospels of Matthew and Mark during Lent.

Commit to attending **worship** every Sunday, along with our special worship services. In addition to our Ash Wednesday service we will hold services on Maundy Thursday (March 20<sup>th</sup>) and Good Friday (March 21<sup>st</sup>).

Consider the spiritual discipline of **tithing**. Tithing, which is the biblical minimum for giving, is ten percent of our income. Give freely, joyfully, and without strings attached. Remember that all our resources come from, and belong to God. We are not giving ten percent - we are being allowed to keep ninety percent! I am convinced that you will receive such a blessing from this practice that you will not want to stop after this Lenten Experiment.

**Pray daily.** Use the A.C.T.S. of Prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication). Or simply close your eyes and pray “Be still, and know that I am God.” Then rest in the presence of the One who created, redeemed, and sustains you.

Find a way to be of **service** to someone in the name of Christ. Don’t forget to name the name as you do the act of service.

Finally, be involved in **Christian Conversation**. This might be in a Sunday School class, a small group, or one on one with a brother or sister Christian. When we talk about the things of faith with a fellow believer we find ourselves strengthen in faith.

My prayer for us all is that we will be intentional about our spiritual growth during this season. Remember, the stronger we are individually as disciples of Jesus Christ, the stronger we will be as McEachern Memorial.

God Bless,