



A Letter From Jim

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

February 13, 2008

Dear McEachern Members and Friends,

We started distributing the **church name tags** that you signed up for in December last Sunday. We will continue the distribution for the next two Sundays, February 17th and 24th. If your last name begins with the letters A-G you will find your name tag on the 3rd floor of the CLC near the elevators; H-O will find theirs on the 2nd floor CLC also near the elevators; last names beginning with P-Z will find them on the 1st floor CLC entry area. Remember the purpose behind these name tags – we want to be hospitable to our new friends and our visitors. Please wear the name tags whenever you are at the church. You will have the opportunity to choose either a clip or a lanyard for your name tag.

Are you looking for a way to get involved at McEachern? We are looking for 10-12 **soccer coaches**. You do not need to know much about soccer or have any coaching or playing experience – we will train you. If you are interested in volunteering to coach contact Shaun Nguyen at 770-943-3008, ext. 5014 or shaun@mceachernumc.org.

Guys, don't forget that tomorrow is Valentine's Day! There are three St. Valentines, all martyrs. The current holiday really has nothing to do with any of them; instead, it owes its founding to Chaucer's *Parliament of Foules* which deals with birds finding their mates on February 14th. To get a sense of Christian Love, and how it differs from our culture's celebration of love, read 1 Corinthians 13, Paul's great love poem.

Several weeks ago in my sermon I spoke of the formation of a Vision Forum. This group will take a look at the 12 foundational characteristics of effective churches, develop a realistic current view of McEachern, and chart our way forward for the coming three to five years. Our Steering Committee is almost in place, and before long we will be forming the full Vision Forum. If you are interested in participating, please call or email me. I cannot promise that all who show an interest will be selected, but I can promise that all who show an interest will be considered.

During the season of Lent we are looking at the spiritual disciplines. Last Sunday we took a look at the discipline of Bible study. I would like to encourage you to read at least one chapter of scripture each day. If you need particular direction on a book to read, or help with a Bible translation or a good study Bible, please contact me or one of the other clergy on staff.

There is good news on the financial front for January. Due to several large gifts we had income of \$197,277 while we held expenses to \$170,660. Praise God! This will certainly help with our deficit. Remember, I am encouraging you to practice the biblical minimum standard of giving (10% of income, or the tithe) during the season of Lent. Together we can get past this bump in the road and do great things for the kingdom of God in West Cobb.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for these forty days of Lent when we can focus on preparing ourselves for the celebration of the Resurrection. May our participation in these disciplines draw us closer to you. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

God Bless,