



A Letter From Jim

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

March 26, 2008

Dear McEachern Members and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Father God and of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

What a marvelous week we had last week! I was surprised at the number of people at our Maundy Thursday service. The Good Friday Service that Rev. Goff and Rev. Blocksidge designed was one of the most moving I have ever been a part of. The Easter Egg hunt was a huge success (my only responsibility was the weather!) Easter Sunday was tremendous with the crowds and the enthusiasm. Special thanks go to our music ministry for their wonderful cantata on Palm Sunday and for the music on Easter. Thanks also to the folks who helped our people find parking spaces.

If you would like to help our denomination develop some new worship resources this next item may be for you. The General Board of Discipleship, in cooperation with The United Methodist Publishing House, invites all United Methodists—pastors, staff, musicians and laity of all ages—to participate in a survey about the current (1989) United Methodist hymnal and some common practices related to congregational worship and singing. Responses will be used in planning future resources in the areas of congregational worship and music. The survey, which should take only 15 minutes to complete, can be accessed at www.gbod.org/hymnal, and will be available for responding March 17–30, 2008.

Now for some not so good news. The economy is taking a toll on our giving at McEachern. The Finance Committee will be meeting tonight to discuss how to address a projected \$190,000 shortfall for 2008. Carolyn Black, who works with our finances, tells me that we have members who are behind approximately \$104,000 in their giving. I would like to encourage you to do several things: first of all, pray. Secondly, if you are behind in your giving, and able to do so, please bring your pledge up to date. If you are up to date on your pledge please consider second mile giving. Remember, the biblical minimum of giving is the tithe (10% of our income) and we should all be working to meet, and exceed, the minimum. I know this congregation has been here before in our long history, and always responds well to an opportunity. We will get through this and continue to do great things together as we help build God's Kingdom. Our best years as a congregation are ahead of us.

This Sunday at 11:00 our traditional and transformation congregations will be worshipping together in the sanctuary. Rev. Richburg and I will both be sharing during the sermon. I am excited about us all being together and sharing this time with my brother and colleague, whom I love.

Almighty God, we know that apart from you we can do nothing, and that if you are for us, no one can prevail against us. We pray that you would use these times and situations to mold us into you people so we can shine forth your love and light on a hurting world. We give you thanks for Jesus, whose resurrection and continued presence we celebrate this Easter Season. Amen.

God Bless,