



A Letter From Jim

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

April 2, 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.

I would like to begin by giving you some updates about our finances. In previous letters I explained to you that we have been living on past stewardship by using our reserves for the past several years. We have nearly exhausted those reserves and will soon no longer have them available. Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has begun addressing this situation by eliminating two part-time positions. We will continue to realign our staff in order to bring our expenses in line with our giving. I am impressed with the work that our SPRC has done; they have agonized over the impact these cuts will have on individuals and families. They have been in prayer about what must be done and have acted in the best interest of our congregation. The committee is attempting to make necessary changes that will have the least impact on the mission and ministry of our congregation. Please keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers as they deal with these difficult issues.

I have also mentioned to you the fact that a number of our giving units are behind in their pledges by \$104,000. I would like for us all to enter into a time of prayer concerning our giving. If you are behind in your commitment I encourage you to do all you can to catch up. If you are current, I encourage you to consider "second mile" giving. I encourage us all to work toward the biblical minimum standard of giving: ten percent of what God has given us. I cannot express to you the changes and joy that occur in my life when I give ten percent of my income to God's work.

Our congregation has gone through difficult times in the past. We have always had visionary leaders and faithful members. We will get through this difficult time as well.

Just a reminder that there will be a spaghetti lunch to help support the 2008 Czech Mission Team on Sunday, April 20th from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Oaks Hall. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, dessert, and beverage. The only cost is your prayers and a freewill love offering. I hope you will join us after one of our worship services for this meal.

I know many of you will be traveling next week as Cobb County schools dismiss for Spring Break. Please know that we are praying for your safety. Why not take the opportunity to worship in an unfamiliar place while you are gone? Let's bring back "best practices" from the congregations we visit. We can learn much from other communities of faith who practice excellence. I will look forward to seeing you when you return.

Almighty God, we pray for your Church, both locally and globally. Enable us to be good stewards of all the gifts you give to us. Help us to move forward in mission and ministry. We ask this in the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ. Amen.

God Bless,