



A Letter From Jim

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

May 14, 2008

Dear McEachern Members and Friends,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Have you heard the bells while you have been on campus? Our carillon is active once again! The carillon was given in 1980 by Mason Varner in honor of his wife Ann and his children Melinda, Teri, and John. It sat unused until recently when we did some minor repair and reconnected it. Did you know that studies have shown that communities that play bells have lower incidents of violence, especially in schools? I love walking around the campus and hearing the bells play; it brings a real sense of community.

We are “living” into our new security system. Please remember that during business hours there are three doors you can always enter – the church office, the bottom level of the Christian Life Center, and the double doors to the right of the main sanctuary entrance. All other doors are locked and require a key card. If you need a key card for a one time use you can get one from the church office. If you need one for regular use you should talk to an appropriate staff member who will request one for you. We are limiting the number of key cards that we are distributing. We are already receiving rave reviews from parents who appreciate our taking their children’s safety seriously. We are “tweaking” the system for times and door openings. We can use our computer system to time when doors are open and closed, who can access various parts of the buildings, and the hours that cards are active. One of the great things about this is that we can immediately deactivate any lost or stolen cards. Thanks go to our Trustees who spent months in study and work making this a possibility for our congregation. Please be patient with our staff as we live into this new system.

We need some additional greeters to practice radical hospitality on Sunday mornings. Can you smile, offer a friendly “good morning!” and help our members and visitors find where they need to go? If so, then we need you! Training is available, so don’t worry about being unprepared for the job. Contact Rev. Allen Richburg at 770-943-3008, ext. 6037 or allen@mceachernumc.org for more information.

Our summer camps are always a highlight of our summer. Our Fine Arts Academy and Children's department have designed great camps for the children of our church and community. Spaces are filling fast. If you are interested in any of these camps you can access the information on our web site, where you can also register and pay. If you have any questions please call our Fine Arts Academy (ext. 5005) or our Children's Department (ext 6008).

Almighty God, we thank you for sending your Holy Spirit upon us to inspire our ministry. We pray that you would continue to work in and through us that we might be a beacon of light to our community in your name. When people hear the bells may their thoughts turn to you; when they see the care we show your children may they be reminded of the love you have for all your children; when they feel our warm hospitality may they experience the warmth of your grace. This we ask in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.