

# News from the Brick

**Nettle Creek Church of the Brethren**  
**5352 N. Brick Church Road**  
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Office Hours:

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

**Established in 1820**  
**Celebrating 190 Years**  
Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
Worship: 10 a.m.



**Continuing the Work of Jesus.**  
**Peacefully. Simply. Together.**

**June/July**  
**2010**

## **From Pastor Paula's Desk:**

*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose . . . for we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. I Corinthians 3:6-9*

Thanks to your generosity, I attended an *amazing* class and conference on church growth and church planting in May! Although it may take me awhile to process everything I learned, I know it will forever change who I am as a pastoral leader. And I'm not saying that to scare you, or to make you think that now I'm going to ask you to do all manner of uncomfortable, weird, evangelistic things! It won't be like that at all!

One of the things that kept coming up, though, whether it was during a key-note speech, workshop, or class discussion, was the power of prayer. Over and over, I heard from totally different people about the critical importance of prayer for our relationship with God and for *everything* we do together as a congregation. So instead of focusing on strategies that we might try, or programs we might begin, the focus, instead, was on something that all of us in every congregation know about and can do – if we're willing!

At a workshop, the pastor of a very small congregation in Miami, Florida, shared that he can't seem to get his congregation out to pray, no matter what he tries. But the Haitian congregation, a daughter of his own congregation, gathers regularly for huge prayer meetings every week. Amazingly, while the mother church remains at only thirty members, the daughter congregation has grown to three-hundred! And the daughter has been busy planting other congregations in the United States and in Haiti!

I know that some of you are “prayer champions” for our congregation, its members, and our community. But I want to invite us – *challenge* us! – to begin praying *together* more often. Praying together had been on my mind and heart for our congregation for some time. And while I don't believe prayer guarantees phenomenal growth like the Haitian congregation has experienced, I know that praying together will indeed bring us closer to one another *and* closer to God's heart. I hope, together, that we will begin listening more carefully to what God has to