



## Grace Covenant Community Garden

Session Elder---Amy Wiesner

Staff Support—Marcia Mount Shoop

2017 Garden Recap

Garden Team Coordinators—Wade Macfie, Jason Jordan, Beth Kissling and Barb Toth

Garden Coordinators—Rick Philipsen and Buzz Durham

**Thanks to Rick, Garden Team Coordinators and Anthony Cole, it was a banner garden year. Over 8,000 pounds of fresh vegetables were harvested and delivered to our friends and neighbor!** And—the garden continues to grow—400 cabbages at the Cole Family Farm and 200 in the Grace Garden will be harvested in November, December and January.

Formal team work days have stopped. Gardeners and church staff may continue to harvest into the late fall. The garden has kale and lettuce, radishes, turnips and carrots that are just germinating and will mature in November and December. The sweet peppers will remain until frost. As we complete closing off rows, they will be planted to a winter cover crop.

You can review the garden year on the Grace Covenant Garden Facebook and follow the garden by friending the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Grace-Covenant-Community-Garden-322946607736108/>

For the winter we are installing several fence corrals for leaves. Along with GCPC gardeners collecting leaves we have invited several neighborhood yard maintainers to add leaves to the corrals. The leaves begin to breakdown over winter and in the spring. We chop and incorporate the leaves as organic material into the soil. Soil samples are taken each fall and the soil analysis guides us as to which soil amendments and fertilizers are needed.

**The Garden is funded by donations and gardener fees.**

### Looking back

- The 2017 garden year, the 8<sup>th</sup> year, was started with a potluck kickoff and planning event February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Garden was tended by approximately 60 active gardeners from GCPC and the community. Volunteers divide into four teams and work on alternating Wednesdays and Saturdays. Looking back and counting noses—we had over 378 volunteer workers in the garden during this season on team work days; not included are the many volunteers that help plant, weed and harvest potatoes and cabbage at the Cole Family Farm.
- The church garden space was fully planted March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Spring transplants were cost shared with Green Opportunity South Side Garden and Assembly of God Community Garden—the transplants were grown by First Step Farm, a halfway house.
- The first bushel box of Red Kale was harvested on April 19<sup>th</sup> and delivered to East AVL Welcome Table at Groce UMC. Groce UMC hosts (with 6 other churches) a community meal each Thursday evening.
- Potatoes and cabbages were planted at the Cole Family Farm April 11<sup>th</sup>. More than 120 bags (15—20 pounds each) of potatoes were harvested on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The 500 cabbages were harvested in June and July and delivered as they matured to area food pantries and kitchens.
- The K-8 youth, in their World Garden, turned 4 pounds of onion bulbs into 30 pounds of mature onions for the YMCA Nutrition Program.
- We partnered with our neighboring McDonald's to compost and use their coffee grounds in the garden—a new McDonald's business practice toward sustainability and reducing waste. Mc Donald's generously purchased the large wire composting bins. We joined with them in an Earth Day Celebration, Saturday April 22. Thank you, McDonald's, for reaching out to us.
- This year we have worked with South Side and Barton Street Community Gardens helping to install drip irrigation systems. We are working with St. Eugene Church toward a garden in 2017.
- The 2017 garden year was closed on October 13<sup>th</sup> with a potluck supper, celebrating eight years of Community Gardening.

### Community organizations that receive garden vegetables

Loving Food Resources

ABCCM

Veterans Restoration Quarters

Western Rescue Mission

UMC Haywood Street Community Table

BeLoved Community Asheville

East Asheville Welcome Table, Groce UMC

Green Opportunity Southside Community Kitchen

YMCA Nutrition Program (Beaverdam)

**New garden volunteers are always welcome.**

More information can be found at <http://gcpcusa.org/#/our-community-garden>