

2015 Annual Report for the Emmanuel Community Garden

The Emmanuel Community Garden (ECG) seeks to provide an opportunity for those who need or want to grow some of their own food, and also to provide food - free in Jesus name - to those who may not otherwise be able to afford wholesome, fresh produce. Excess produce is intentionally grown to be shared - in various venues - to bless the community. Those venues include Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC), the Greene County Housing Program, the Xenia Family Violence Prevention Center, the Xenia Walter Sellers apartments, and numerous friends, neighbors, and family members of the ECG participants.

The ECG grew ~35 different fruits and vegetables in plots totaling over 12,000 square feet. There are also large plots of perennial plant, cane, bush, vine, and tree fruits, including blackberries, black raspberries, red raspberries, blueberries, grapes, strawberries, asparagus, apples, cherries, peaches, pears, and plums totaling another ~15,000 square feet. Participants share in the care and production of all of these. With no shortage of space for growth, the ECG seeks to expand as the number, interests, and energy of our participants allows.

The ECG also seeks to impart gardening knowledge and skills to our members, facilitate friendship, fellowship, and encouragement among our participants, and provide opportunities for outreach and evangelism by and through the efforts of our members.

2015 saw expansion of participation in the ECG. Approximately 15 families participated regularly, including one from outside EBC. Regular Tuesday evening and Saturday morning group work and picking times were generally well attended and enjoyed, providing opportunity for adults to learn and socialize and kids to run around and play.

The ECG produced several thousand pounds of fresh produce. Much was used by the participants and much was shared. Over 1500 lbs. of at least 25 different fruits and vegetables were shared with the community, including 20 heads of cabbage, 17 gallons of black raspberries, 111 lbs. of green beans, 143 lbs. of summer squash, 186 ears of sweet corn, 217 lbs. of tomatoes, 167 lbs. of onions, 166 lbs. of cucumbers, 234 lbs. of sweet and hot peppers, and 3 gallons of snap peas.

If the Lord tarries, 2016 will see expanded strawberry and asparagus patches and the addition of some rhubarb.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Jero
Organizer