



New Garden Park

Farm Annual Report- 2019

Lena Van Wyk, Director

Friday, 1.28.2020

Mission:

The Farm at New Garden Park is a “new creation” project—one that gives a foretaste of Christ's Kingdom to come. We want to make this abused land sing with life in the power of the Holy Spirit—and in so doing, create a place of radical hospitality for all God's created beings. We are working to pioneer uniquely Anglican ways of sustainably farming *as a parish, for a parish*. We believe that through the act of growing, harvesting, and eating food from our own land, we are participating in our Scriptural mandate to become a holy people that stewards God's gifted land well. We also aim to transform our parish's imagination of eucharistic eating, that grounds eating together as a community in our practice of Holy Communion. Finally, we are preparing our community to be resilient and resourceful in an age of economic and ecological uncertainty, not motivated by fear but by biblical wisdom.





Infrastructural Blessings in 2019:

Revelation Garden, Part 2 (Leaf Shaped Garden by the Grove)

- Removed gravel; imported compost; formed beds and pathways; installed permanent drip irrigation system.

Flower Prayer Labyrinth (At the bottom of the garden by the Poistinia)

- An Eagle Scout project built with a young man named Will Gunter, in conjunction with Tom Benson's Center for Contemplative Spirituality. The labyrinth was constructed and planted with flowers, to supply a quiet place of contemplative prayer and enjoyment of God's creation.

Hoop House #2

- Repaired and retrofitted for cultivation; imported compost; installed plastic covering and roll up side system for winter cultivation; installed drip irrigation system. This expansion allowed us to grow in two hoop houses and grow tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers with climate control in the summer and winter greens and over-wintering flowers in the hoop house in the fall/winter. Because of this, we are selling lettuce and greens in December and January!

Greenhouse

- Replaced greenhouse roof (paid for by insurance after hail storm) and rollable curtain doors and installed part of the barrier wall.

Washing and Packing Station

- We created an outdoor washing and packing area in the greenhouse, with a stainless steel sink (pawn shop find!) and drying tables.



Cultivation Blessings in 2019:

Revelation Garden & Flower Labyrinth (Leaf Shaped Garden by Greenhouse)

- We grew from seed:
 - 104 varieties of heirloom annual vegetables
 - 63 varieties of annual and perennial cut flowers for bouquets
- We planted
 - 1200 tulip, daffodil, and crocus bulbs for an Easter bloom in 2020
 - 100 'purple passion' perennial asparagus plants

Children's Garden (by the Grove Playground)

- We planted:
 - 12 apple trees and 12 redbud trees, donated by Mack Arrington

Hoop Houses

- We grew from seed:
 - 9 different varieties of heirloom tomatoes
 - 4 varieties of cucumbers
 - 4 varieties of sweet peppers
 - 9 varieties of winter greens
 - 5 varieties of early spring flowers



Harvest Blessings in 2019:

Revelation Garden, Part 1 (Leaf Shaped Garden by Greenhouse)

- We harvested vegetables/herbs every week from March 15th-December 31st (and into January 2020). We didn't weigh/count our harvest, but we produced enough vegetables to feed about 30 families every week (on average). About 80% of this was sold and 20% given away for free. We donated 1,100 lbs of produce to the Out of the Garden Project this year.
- God graced us with flowers from April-October, with enough flowers to produce many bouquets each week. We used our flowers to adorn our altar; we made bouquets for our CSA members weekly; and we sold bouquets at the farm stand.
- Harvest Share CSA Program: 15 families in our church received a share of produce a week (5-7 items) for 20 weeks, from May 5th to September 22nd.

Medicinal Garden

- We harvested herbs this year as part of our CSA and farm stand, as well as our first two batches of honey from Logan and Eloise Porter's hives, which we shared with the children during Garden and Grow.

Hoop Houses

- We harvested thousands of pounds of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers from the hoop houses this year, as well as a large harvest of fall greens and lettuce.



Ministry and Community Blessings in 2019:

Building Community in the Parish

- Workdays:** We had 12 monthly work days this year, with a range of 10-50 participants each time. I was generally amazed by the turnouts, even in poor weather, and the ways that the workdays encouraged rich community to start forming around the farm. Folks in our parish who otherwise would not interact much, due to different life stages, social groups, ethnicity, culture, etc. had an opportunity to work side by side in team building activities. I also witnessed lots of rich conversation between parish members about faith, the life of our church, current events, race, etc. In October, we combined the monthly farm workday with the parish/park for joint Umuganda Days, which include breakfast, which has been a great blessing.
- Harvest Team:** Every Saturday morning, from 7am to 12pm, (from April to November), we had a loyal team of about 5-15 harvesters that would spend the morning picking, washing, and prepping produce and flowers for the Harvest Share CSA and farm stand. On Sunday morning, from 8-10am, we have a smaller team (3-4) of floral arrangers and farm stand preparers. This team represented folks from our church from every demographic: from teenagers to 20-year-olds to 70-year-olds. It continues to be one of my favorite parts of our ministry to see the rich community across social boundaries that the farming facilitates, by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
- East African Community:** Innocent Muco, a leader in our East African community, works at the farm 6 hours a week. He has been an amazing blessing to me and to our farm, bringing farming knowledge from the Congo. He has been in charge of a

section of the garden for raising Congolese crops, along with Julia.



- **Fellows' Involvement:** Our fellow intern from 2018-2019, Julia Myhre, has stayed on staff to be our part-time Assistant Farm Manager, and has been such a blessing to the daily operations of the farm. Over the past two years, she has facilitated monthly fellows workdays at the farm, which also overlap with our Friday morning hosting of high schoolers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (which has been a great partnership and opportunity for the fellows to serve). The farm also facilitated farm job placements for two fellows in the 2019-2020 cohort who were interested in agriculture, who work at Reverence Farms and Out of the Garden Urban Teaching Farm.
- **Children's Involvement:** Throughout the summer, the children ages 3-9 had catechesis out in the garden during a "Garden and Grow" series (including many children of our refugee families). We applied scriptural lessons in the garden and taught them the basics of seeding, watering, nurturing and harvesting. Leah Wall made this possible and it was a wonderful opportunity to enrich the children's biblical and ecological imagination. We also started working on planning the July 2020 Wild Wonder Creation Care Camp that will be hosted at the farm.
- **Volunteers:** Throughout the year, we have been blessed by many volunteers from our parish and outside of the parish, who come to volunteer to work on the farm regularly during the week and during Saturday and Sunday morning harvest/distribution. We had several folks from the community out to do community service hours and a handful of interested folks from other churches who have heard about our ministry start volunteering. This is one of the largest ways we do outreach as a farm and find working alongside strangers and friends alike builds strong relationships.
- **Harvest Feast:** Our harvest feast was the crowning jewel of the year: a time to dedicate the garden to the Lord and to thank Him for his abundant provision this year. Over 300 people from our congregation attended for the second annual feast this year! As it grows into a larger event, we plan for more parish planning next year.



Missional Presence in Community

- Northwest and Northern Guilford High Schools Occupational Training Program:** Starting in September, we started a partnership with both Northwest Guilford and Northern Guilford high schools to have 12 students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities from out from 9-11am every Friday morning to the farm to learn agricultural skills and build community. It's our favorite day of the week at the farm!
- Hope Academy:** Adam Hubert brought his 5th and 6th grade science classes out on two field trips in the spring and fall, to learn about plant life stages at the farm. Hope Academy serves primarily low-income students of color in the Glenwood Neighborhood and it was wonderful to host them out at the farm! We have also started a weekly gardening and cooking class with the 3rd & 4th graders in their afterschool program.
- Out of the Garden Project:** We donated 1,100 pounds of produce this year to the local nonprofit, Out of the Garden Project, that runs an incredible Fresh Mobile Market program. As they describe it: "Fresh Mobile Markets are mobile food pantries which distribute fresh produce, bread, meat, and shelf-stable items to qualifying families on a monthly basis throughout 19 locations in the Greensboro/High Point area. Families can expect to leave a Fresh Mobile Market with at least 65 pounds of food. We currently serve over 1,500 families every month."

Partnerships and Education:

- ACNA Matthew 25 Grant:** In July 2019, we were awarded a \$25,000 matching grant from our denomination to do works of justice and mercy at the farm. We successfully raised the full \$25,000 matching funds by Dec 31st, 2019 (praise the Lord, who is an amazing provider, and thanks to all who gave). This \$50,000 total sum will fund three ministry initiatives in the coming 2 years: 1) Expanding our East African Farming Project and starting monthly community building dinners at the farm; 2) Piloting the Boots2Roots Program, a horticultural and spiritual therapy

program for 12 disabled female combat veterans, in partnership with Combat Female Veterans Families United (a member of the Abbey); 3) Developing a sustainable financial plan for our ministry, through expanding our Community Supported Agriculture CSA program and hiring a part-time Business Manager (Gia Lineberry).

- **ECHO Missionary Agricultural Network:** We are partnering with this wonderful missionary organization to get seeds for Congolese crops for our East African community and to learn more about farming cross culturally. Julia attended their conference in Florida in November to learn more about East African farming.
- **Sowers of Hope (Rwanda):** In June we hosted Matthew Von Herbulis, director of Sowers of Hope, an Anglican farming ministry in Rwanda that empowers farmers to be preachers of the gospel through the way they farm and the way they live in community with their neighbors. The event was a wonderful way to learn about a sister ministry in our sister parish. We pray this partnership continues to bear great fruit in years to come.
- **Greensboro Fellows Program:** The farm employed one fellow (Julia Myhre) in 2019 and hosted monthly fellows workdays at the farm. (See above, under “Building Community in the Parish”). The Fellows program has been our most fruitful partnership at Redeemer.
- **Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA):** Gia and I attended the annual CFSA conference on sustainable agriculture and went to many relevant and helpful workshops and networked with other sustainable farmers in our region of NC.
- **Christian Farmers Redeeming the Dirt & Christian Agrarian Networks:** We continue to participate in these wonderful, evangelical networks of farmers seeking to listen closely to the Holy Spirit about our agricultural methods.



2019 Finances:

Income:

Our total farm income this year was \$89,159. Of that, \$47,386 was from the COTR budget (from external funding, tithes, and offerings); \$33,951 was from individual donations from parishioners/community members (for both the general farm budget and the Matthew 25 grant); and \$7,822 was from produce and flower sales. We are so humbled by the immense financial investment of our parish into the farm, as well as the staggering amount of individual donations from our parishioners and community members. **Most farms have to borrow money to get started, but we have been blessed by God with a community who believes in this ministry, participates in this ministry, and gives generously to this ministry!**

Income Source	FY 2019 Total	Percentage of FY 2019 Total Income
COTR Salary Budget	\$39,522	59.7%
COTR Program Budget	\$3,111	4.7%
Harvest Share CSA Program	\$4,100	6.2%
Sunday Farm Stand	\$3,722	5.6%
Individual Donations (to general budget)	\$8,051	12.2%
Matthew 25 Grant, Individual Donations (2019 - 2021, restricted funds)*	\$3,837*	5.8%
Matthew 25 Grant Matching Funds (2019-2021, restricted funds)**	\$3,837**	5.8%
Total	\$66,180	
*Total amount received was \$26,732.98, designated for 2019-2021. For budgetary purposes, we have put the allocated amount for the 2019 fiscal year.		
**Total amount of matching funds received was \$20,000 for 2019-2021. For budgetary purposes, we have put the allocated amount for the 2019 fiscal year.		

Expenditures:

Our total expenditures in 2019 were \$64,875. This is significantly less than our income, because we have only spent a small portion of our earmarked Matthew 25 grant (this will be implemented in 2020-2021).

Here is a breakdown of our expenditure by category:

Budget Category	FY 2018 Grand Total	FY 2018 Monthly Average
Soil Restoration (gravel removal, compost)	\$5,840	\$487
Cultivation (seeds, fertilizer, etc)	\$5,451	\$454
Irrigation	\$536	\$45
CSA/Farm Stand	\$285	\$24
Events & Education (conferences, harvest festival, classes, etc).	\$1,395	\$116
Equipment (hoop house retrofitting, farm tools, etc.)	\$7,093	\$591
Salaries (four part-time employees)	\$44,275	\$3690
Total	\$64875	\$5406



Looking ahead to 2020 Season:

Spiritual Goals:

- In January, twelve members of the farm team went to the mountains for a spiritual retreat to ask God's guidance for our ministry. This retreat was facilitated by Rev. Giovanna Meek (from the Diocese of the Great Lakes). She helped us listen intentionally to the Holy Spirit and from that listening, discern a four fold spiritual practice for the 2020 season for the farm: one theme and discipline for each season of the year. We will be practicing these disciplines as a community at the farm and invite parishioners to join us. Our hope is that these themes will ground us in Jesus' presence and mission.

Season	Theme	Scripture	Practice
Winter (Jan-Mar)	Waiting on the Lord	Romans 8:18-25	Fasting on Thursdays & Doing Lectio Divina at noon
Spring (April-June)	Hospitality	Isa. 35:1-2 Isa. 55:1-3A Luke 14:12-14	Hosting table fellowship on Saturday mornings during harvest
Summer (July-Sept)	Discipleship	1 Thess. 2:8	Memorizing Scripture while walking labyrinth
Autumn (Oct-Dec)	Healing	Psa 116:6-9 Isa. 53:4-5 Rev 22:1-3	Hosting soaking prayer in the garden weekly

Matthew 25 Goals:

- East African Farming & Feasting Program: Our goal this year is to start our East African initiative this year, expanding the amount of East African crops we grow and sell at our East African afternoon market. At some point this year, we also will be starting our monthly community dinners at 6pm on Sundays, to facilitate Holy Spirit inspired cross cultural community in our parish.
- Boots2Roots Female Veteran Farming Program: This fall, we will be piloting a 10 week spiritual and horticultural therapy program for 12 disabled, female combat veterans, in partnership with Combat Female Veteran Families United (a member of the Abbey).
- Financial Sustainability Initiative: In September 2019, we hired parishioner Gia Lineberry to be our farm business manager. Her position is funded by the grant for two years (through Sept. 2021) and in the next year she will focus on building a business plan for the farm so that we can grow to be a self-sustaining ministry. Gia will oversee the expansion of our Harvest Share community supported agriculture (CSA) program and developing the market for our produce and flowers. We pray that God will continue to guide us on how to be a ministry and a farm simultaneously, particularly when it comes to our finances.

Infrastructural Projects:

- We are expanding another 1/10th acre in the area we lease in the back property, behind the hoop houses. This will bring our total acreage to 1/3rd of an acre.
- Sam Walt will be building a rabbitry for his Eagle Scout project, to house both rabbits and composting worms, to build our on site composting ability, decrease our fertilizer costs, and work on our childrens' education about caretaking animals.

Financial Goals:

- We are aiming to significantly increase production and improve the harvesting and marketing process, as well as expanding our Harvest Share CSA program to include spring, summer, and fall shares, with the hope of increasing our sales income next year, to at least \$13,920.00 (from a 1/3rd acre of production).
- Our long term financial goal, based on extensive research on similar sustainable market farms at peak performance, is for the farm to gross about \$100,000 in fruit and vegetable sales on 1.5-1.75 acres. This sounds high given our low total this year, but in 3-7 years, once our cultivation systems and soils are greatly improved and our markets have expanded, this will be a realistic goal. It is a sum on par (or slightly below) farms of equivalent size and techniques in our area. However, at this juncture, (for tax purposes) the farm will have to be its own 501c3 or LLC, so part of



our organizational goals are to start making this legal/organizational transition within the next few years.

Donors to the Farm in 2019:

Valerie Sagero

Fred & Sharon May

Bethany & Andrew Talbert

Raleigh & Scotty Humphries

Dan & Karen Alger

Rae & Scott Augustin

John Miller

Julie Leyva

Katie Bent

Leah Wall

Ben & Jennifer Lewis

Karen Kirkman

Naomi Gagliano

Sara & Jason Dickey

Drew & Natalie Hill

Will & Laura Stanley

Tressa Crysz

David & Lee Williams

Olivia Ruck

Thomas Barker

Mikey & Laura Fissel

Cathy & Tony Storch

Deb Waldron

Geoffrey & Cecilia Gregg

Mack & Luanne Arrington

Barbara Young

Larry & Lynne Bost

Matthew & Michelle Wang

Hannah Umhau

Emma Ruth Siler

Andrea Grossman

Kyra & Reginald Hendrix

Mindy Ramsey

Kevin & Joanna Hamilton

Philip Bransford

Julia Pitkin

Ashley & Marie Leonard

Jeff & Leigh Ann Weber

Rose Connor

Rachel Yowell

Claire Boykiw

Andrew Edscorn

Benjamin & Leah Wall

Kelly Ostergren

Scott & Debbie Vosburgh

Sam Collins

Dodd & Becky Drake

Anne & Rosie Gant

Adam Donohoe

Chris & Anita Faulkner

Doug & Sarah West

Russell & Leigh Wills

Chris & Jessie Meriwether

Jim & Marsha Godfrey

Todd & Barbara Lipe

Dave & Barbara Connor

David & Sally Miller

Glenn & Robin Wise

Matthew Floding

Margot Andress

Jim & Alice Wolfe

The Gwynn Family

Taylor Schor

Ria (Rose) Fialka

Mercy Ogunjobi

Jenny & Larry Noyes

Emily & Alec Hull

Jeffery & Jen Uhlenberg

Jim & Betsy Hundley

Hunter & Stephanie Van Wagenen

Sam & Erin Cox

Kaitlyn Tromans

Prayer for the Farm:

Dear Heavenly Father, We praise you for all you have done in this farming ministry this year: for the countless created things you have brought to life, for the many people you have drawn to our land and to the farm, and for sanctifying us in the process of growing food. We pray that you would not take your Holy Spirit from us, but that we would continue to be grounded in your holiness in the coming season. Please help us to discern how to use the produce you bless us with and how to live in economic shalom with one another as a parish. We pray that each year we become more of an image of your New Creation to come and that everyone who visits the farm meets Jesus in our midst. In Christ's name, Amen +.

