

Parma Lutheran Church – Community Garden 2012 Final Report

SUMMARY:

- Celebrated the 2nd year of the PLC Community Garden
- Expanded the garden by 50% to now include 24 individual plots and 6 Hunger Center-only plots
- Added 400 gallons of water storage capacity with Bin #3 (600 gallons in Bins #1 and #2)
- Purchased a scale to accurately measure produce and a cabinet for weatherproof storage
- Harvested 1,232 pounds for the Hunger Center! (Note: this total only includes produce grown in the dedicated Hunger Center plots and the required 10% minimum from the individual plots.)
 - Tomatoes 798 pounds 65%
 - Peppers 103 pounds 8%
 - Summer squash 88 pounds 7%
 - Other crops 243 pounds 20% 29 different vegetables & herbs
- Planted 24 total plots, held by 19 separate individuals, with 7 new gardeners in 2012, and 5 non-PLC members
- Overall, the summer was very hot and mostly dry with insufficient rainfall
 - As needed, the community garden filled water storage bin #3 with a hose
 - The community garden donated \$50 to the PLC general fund to cover all water costs
- The garden is budget-neutral to PLC and is financed by plotholder registration fees, grants, and donations
- Yellow marigolds along the perimeter fence for color, to repel pests, and to attract pollinators
- Planted winter cover crops in most plots to break up clay sub-soil and boost fertility

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Complete top rail of fence along perimeter of garden
- Reconstruct foundation for water bin #3
- Redesign message board inside garden
- Collaborate with Charlie's Greenhouse in Brooklyn Heights (free transplants available)

SPECIAL THANKS:

- All our community gardeners for planting, nurturing, and donating the fruits of their labor
- Thrivent Financial for awarding a grant through their Care Abounds in Communities program
- Woodmen of the World for grants in both 2011 and 2012
- Ohio State University Extension Service for educational support, gardening workshops, and cover crop seed
- Cuyahoga Heights Senior Class of 2013 for donating vegetable seedlings
- The PLC congregation and Hunger Center staff for donating tomato stakes, harvest containers, and for continued prayer support
- Thanks be to our God for His grace and abundant blessings

**To participate in this growing ministry, please call 216-586-4186 or email
ParmaLutheranGarden@gmail.com**