

Garden Ministry The 2022 Growing Season's Wrap-Up

The Garden Ministry began on May 1st, 2022 and concluded for the season Sunday, Oct. 2nd. We began harvesting produce by mid-June. The garden petered out early this year, due to the combination of plants we were growing, and the angle of the late summer sun.

This year we harvested **68 ½ lbs.** of produce! That's a bit more than last year, with a slightly shorter growing season.

Our garden beds contained collards again, and mustard greens for the first time, which were a request from Trinity Food Pantry. The zucchini and cucumbers that were planted after the mustard greens bolted did alright, but not great. The rear beds get less sun than the ones closer to the road, and these specific plants need more sun to thrive. Our peppers flourished, and the broccoli that was supposed to be collards didn't die (I'll give it that much credit.)

Jordan and I would like to thank everyone who helped with the garden in any way, starting back with our May Day Planting Party, all the way through October. This includes: Claudia, Kellie, Joelle, Diane, Julie, Grace, Gloria, Andrew, Tim, Rebecca, Joe, Anita, Mary Ann, and Erin. If I missed anyone, I apologize. Every contribution was valued.

A special acknowledgement to Mary Ann, Anita, and Joe, who served as our harvest couriers to the Trinity Food Pantry and the Webster/Rock Hill Ministries each week. This is a key function of our Ministry -- one that is unseen, but vitally important.

Volunteer-of-the-Year Award goes to Diane Willingham, who appeared unfailingly at 6 p.m. almost every Sunday, for five months. Thank you, Diane, for your extraordinary service.

We discovered on our last Sunday that the compost bin does have some nice, rich compost at the bottom level, but we concurrently discovered that it is a home for wasps or hornets. Poor Kellie got stung twice as we were dumping our old plants in the top. We need to remember this next spring.

The Rev. Julie concluded our efforts with a prayer thanking the earth for its abundance and beauty, and for the fellowship that the garden ministry provides.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the garden again next year!

Anne Pokoski (and Jordan Houry)