

CARINGS & SHARINGS

eNews of the Lower Susquehanna Synod

October 22, 2014

From Tiny Seeds to Abundant Harvest

The crisp winds of October are ushering in cool Autumn rains and blowing the colorful leaves from the trees. Across our synod congregations are finishing up the harvest from their community gardens and putting the beds and fields to rest for the winter. Gardeners from Barren's and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches, two of the three congregations that comprise Faith United Parish in Dillsburg, once again donated hundreds of pounds of fresh produce from their "Garden of Hope" to New Hope Ministries, ensuring that local residents dealing with food insecurity have spinach, radishes, cabbage, onions, beets, beans, turnips, corn, melons, and other fresh vegetables on their plates.



"A neat thing about the Garden of Hope is that it is dependent on folks from both Emmanuel and Barren's, a truly joint effort," said Pastor Roy Stetler. The garden began when Emmanuel church member Loren Swivel was riding her horse down the farm lane and decided that there was plenty of room along the border of one of the fields to plant a garden instead of watching weeds grow.

"Since we started in 2009, we have given New Hope Ministries about 3380 pounds of fresh vegetables," said Swivel. "We received a grant of \$600.00 from our synod to get started, but since then we have donated the plants and seeds or received some donations from a local business and our high school agriculture department.

"Almost anyone can start a community garden," added Swivel. "and I'd be happy to help congregations get going with a project."