

Congregations & Early Childhood

From the Early Childhood Faith Initiative, a collaboration between Durham's Partnership for Children & End Poverty Durham

Eleventh Edition

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SECTION 1: FAITH COORDINATOR NEWS

THANKS to ALL congregations and individuals that donated to the Challenge Grant! We have met our goal of the match (\$25,000) with multiple individual donations and grants from the Walmart Foundation and the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

THANKS to Blacknall Presbyterian Church that made "new mom baskets" for the Healthy Families Durham program, Watts Street Baptist for baking cakes for moms that have never had a birthday cake and Duke Memorial's Parent Morning Out for providing a scholarship for a child in the Healthy Families program! These are all gestures that mean so much to those that have so little. Look at the outreach list and get involved in some small or large way. It will make a difference! How about starting a new mom support group for mothers and babies/toddlers in your congregation or those in poverty?

Contact me, Winnie Morgan at 732-1524 or at winniewmorgan@juno.com to speak to your congregation or to help with planning for the fall for early childhood.

SECTION 2: RESOURCES & MATERIALS: Gardening with Preschoolers

We all know that a child's early years are a crucial time of mental, physical, social, and emotional development, and that educational experiences during these first years significantly influence the rest of their lives. Although children respond differently to various teaching techniques, hands-on projects like gardening that allow children to explore at their own pace and engage in experiential learning have a high rate of success. Why is gardening a success with preschoolers?

- It keeps children active and engaged
- Gardening builds on prior learning and experiences with their environment
- The garden provides opportunities for children to develop a relationship with nature
- Gardening projects are flexible- can be as small as a container garden or as large as a plot on your church grounds
- Gardening lessons emphasize direct experience & sensory learning
- Gardening provides opportunities to stimulate discovery, asking and answering questions

For more information, go to: www.kidsgardening.org

Why do I share gardening info now? Start planning for next summer! Visit a congregation with a garden program & ask what would they do or not next time, prepare space on your grounds, recruit volunteers to create the program. Get set, get ready and GROW ! Call me for resources.

SECTION 3: QUOTES - Gardening

Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden. **Robert Brault**

Gardening has a magical quality when you are a child. **Barbara Damrosch**

There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colors are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again. **Elizabeth Lawrence**

One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth. **Dorothy Frances**

As a gardener, I'm among those who believe that much of the evidence of God's existence has been planted. **Robert Brault**

SECTION 4: SHARING IDEAS – Congregations with Gardens

Westminster Presbyterian has an intergenerational community garden, where they grow vegetables, herbs, & flowers for the Westminster congregation. The plants harvested from the garden are sold on a goodwill donation basis and the proceeds are donated to the [Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina](#). The harvest table is available throughout the week. For more information, please contact Nancy Rozak at nancy@wpcdurham.org

Immaculate Conception Church partnered with the **Inter-Faith Food Shuttle** and neighboring organizations to develop a community garden near the church in the West End neighborhood. In March, parishioners built raised beds and a month later, began harvesting organic produce. Through May, they harvested 140 pounds of kale, lettuce, spinach, swiss chard, onions, radishes, beets, cilantro and carrots. A portion of the harvest is shared with those who work the garden each Saturday morning. Fresh produce is also delivered to ICC and distributed to families in need. Contact Maryann Crea at CreaM@icdurham.org for more information.

St. John's Presbyterian received a DCIA seed grant for their gardening project. Their donations go Iglesia Emanuel food bank. All are invited to a community-wide garden party on Saturday, July 30th from 6-8pm at the St. John's garden (5471 N. Roxboro Road). There will be games, free food, tours of the garden, and opportunities to get involved. A great inter-generational event! Contact: amanda.diekman@gmail.com

OUTREACH: Consider getting involved with **St. Philip's Episcopal** Community Garden Summer Programs.

Cooking with Kids – Tuesdays 5:45 – 7:30 June 21 – July 26. Cooking program with children living in the Urban Ministries Shelter to join us for cooking, gardening and sharing a meal. The focus of this program will be on healthy eating and having fun making our own meals. For more information contact Elizabeth Newman enewman@nc.rr.com.

Kids Garden Club – Thursdays 5:45 – 7:30 June 23 – July 28. An evening in the garden with children living at the Urban Ministries shelter. We'll learn about caring for the garden and do fun crafts. For more information contact Leslie McClellan at leslieadam@mindspring.com.

Garden Work Days – Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 and Saturdays 9:00 – 11:30 every week through July. For more information contact Leslie McClellan leslieadam@mindspring.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

www.dpfc.net/EarlyChildhoodFaithInitiative.aspx; www.endpovertydurham.org;
[Sign-up for e-news from Durham's Partnership for Children and join us on facebook!](#)

To **unsubscribe**, for **more information** or to **provide feedback**, contact Winnie Morgan at winniewmorgan@juno.com.

Please forward this newsletter to appropriate persons on your staff or submit their e-mail.