

Transfiguration Community Garden 2011

The Church of the Transfiguration started a Community Garden in 2010. It is located on the seven acres of church-owned land next to the parish.

This garden is divided into two areas:

- ❖ **A gift garden.** This is truly a community effort to plant a variety of vegetables that we tend as a community and upon harvest, will be given to feed those in need in our own community.
- ❖ **Family patch.** Individuals or families can rent a 10' x 10' patch for a \$20 donation to grow vegetables or flowers



The Transfiguration Community Garden's (TCG) mission statement is to provide parishioners with an opportunity to grow organic vegetables, flowers and herbs both for those in need in our area and for their own consumption. The Garden supports organic gardening, building healthy soil, use of new and old plant varieties, composting, food sustainability, community involvement, crop sharing, sharing knowledge and intergenerational activities.

The labor is provided by parishioners, various plants and seeds are donated by the organic farmer who grows produce for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) here at Transfiguration, and we get free mulch from the town. We have other expenses such as seeds for cover crops and organic soil amendments. This year we're hoping to develop a rain water collection system and build a compost bin.

If you would like to support the community efforts, consider becoming a garden "angel." The Garden Committee is a collaborative group of Transfiguration Parishioners who worked together to establish, plan, fund and implement the garden. Contact any one of us (listed alphabetically) to volunteer, get on the email distribution list, reserve a family patch or just ask us a question.

Cathy Bussey, crbussey@rochester.rr.com, 704-9632
Charlotte Cornell-Simmons, charcs@rochester.rr.com, 244-7808
Don Cushing, doncush22kurt@juno.com, 248-2225
Diana Hamann, jwhamann@aol.com or 248-2952
Sally Howard, sal423@rochester.rr.com, 359-0782
Jeanette Zavislan, jdztchw@rochester.rr.com, 314-6966

Two quips from 2010 the first year

- ❖ Last year, members ranged in age from 7 – 83. We were a motley crew... there were bad backs, bad shoulders, and bad elbows (only a few attributable to gardening). Despite the ailments, too much rain early on, not enough mid season and soil that hadn't been planted in for many years, we still produced 253 carrots, 151 ears of corn, almost 80 lbs of potatoes, about 34 lbs of onions, 52 squash, over 18 qts of green beans, over 2 qts of peas, and one cucumber. (*Can you sing that to the "Twelve Days of Christmas" tune?*)
- ❖ One community garden member felt the mud and the bugs and the months of physical labor were all worthwhile when she delivered 5 bins of freshly-picked produce to a group of men at a soup kitchen. When she was asked why she brought such a bounty to them she replied, "Because we want to help." They thanked her and exclaimed "God bless you!" She's remembered this all winter and can't wait to get digging again so she can just help some more.

Transfiguration Community Garden 2011 - Family Garden Patch Guidelines

The family garden patches are intended to provide parishioners with an opportunity to grow organic vegetables, flowers and herbs for both local soup kitchen and/or personal consumption. The guidelines below will facilitate a cooperative, collaborative and chemical-free gardening experience for all members.

1. I will donate at least \$20 for each 10' x 10' family garden patch. The Church will hold and manage the garden funds.
2. I will agree to follow the garden guidelines and sign a waiver for the church before I begin working on my family patch.
3. I will be friendly and introduce myself to others (and reintroduce myself). Family patch renter's and gift gardener's names, emails and phone numbers will be shared to facilitate communication, cooperation and a community experience.
4. I will help with the gift garden tasks such as assisting with preparing the garden, spreading mulch, planting, maintaining the fence, harvesting, or cleaning up in the fall.
5. I will post a sign to identify my patch by last name.
6. I will respect the garden and other gardeners and adhere to practices established for the garden (see Gardening Practices).
7. I will maintain my patch by weeding, harvesting, watering and cleaning up all debris after the growing season. I will arrange for another gardener to tend my patch when I am away.
8. I will keep the paths around my patch weed-free.
9. I will bring my own tools, labeled with my name, each time I visit. Neither the church nor the garden committee is responsible for items left in the garden.
10. I will supervise young children I bring to the garden.
11. I will not bring pets to the garden.
12. I will not use the church's bathroom facilities when I am at the garden.
13. I will not abandon my patch. I will give it to another member or inform a garden committee member of this change.

The garden is accessible from dawn until dusk seven days a week. Please respect church functions (masses, funerals, weddings, etc.).

Transfiguration Community Garden 2011 – Gardening Practices

Notes on Community Gardening & Organic Gardening practices discussed by the Transfiguration Community Garden Committee.

Gardening Blog: Pat Gallant set this up for us. See <http://tegarden.wordpress.com>. If you want to post a comment, e-mail it to seta850yora@post.wordpress.com.

- If in doubt about any garden question, ask a garden committee member.
- Prayer, smiles, laughter & cooperation in and for the garden are highly encouraged.
- Plant good quality plants from a reputable seller. In 2009 tomato plants from some large, national home & garden outlets were infected with and spread blight throughout the northeast. Plants from locally owned garden stores are usually more carefully monitored, hardier and safer to plant locally. If you grow your own transplants from seed, use sterile plant medium and organic fertilizers.
- Preferably plant certified organic seeds and plants, but at minimum, use “untreated” seeds and plants with no residue of synthetic fungicides or pesticides. Hybrid varieties are okay, but do not plant genetically modified plants or seeds.
- Do not use chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides or weed repellents or any substance that would be incompatible with organic growing practices. Examples of substances NOT TO USE include Roundup, Miracle Grow and aphid spray. If in doubt, ask.
- Add your extra plant material to the community compost pile at the garden, but do not add diseased plants or seeds to the compost pile. Take diseased plants home to your trash. When the community compost is sufficient quantity and ready for use, you may use the community compost. Information will be shared when appropriate.
- If your planting is delayed after early June, cover all exposed soil in your patch with either a mulch not treated with pesticides, or plant an annual cover crop.
- Do not use plastic sheeting in your patch as a weed deterrent for annual plantings.
- Design your family patch to avoid shading your neighbor’s (or your own) plants. For example: put tall crops on north end (towards the parking lot) and shorter crops on south end of your patch.
- Help your calcium-loving plants by adding eggshells or a whole OsCal tablet in the bottom of transplant pot’s hole when planting.
- Before planting perennials (rhubarb, asparagus, etc.), discuss your ideas with a garden committee member. We may designate a perennial area that isn’t included in the crop rotation plan.
- Take all trash home (plastic pots, snack wrappers, etc).
- Leave stakes in the ground where they were set.

The majority of the Gift Garden harvest will be donated to local soup kitchens (Blessed Sacrament, St. Martin’s, House of Mercy) and those in need. In 2010 The Open Door Mission was also a recipient of the produce. Some produce may be used for the Transfiguration community at the Annual Social Ministry Thank You Dinner.

Transfiguration Community Garden (TCG) 2011 Garden Form

I want to be a garden angel.

Print Name(s) _____

Amount donated \$ _____ Date _____

Email _____ Phone(s) _____

I want to rent a family patch.

Print Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone(s) _____

of Patches _____ Amount \$ _____

1) I have read the Garden Guidelines and Gardening Practices and will comply with them.
Initials _____

2) Sign the garden waiver below.

3) Send Garden Form and \$ as noted below.

Transfiguration Community Garden (TCG) 2011 Garden Waiver

The undersigned agrees to hold harmless and indemnify Church of the Transfiguration, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester and The Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, Bishop of Rochester from any and all claims or actions for damages or loss of property, including the loss of use thereof, and from any and all claims or actions for personal injury, sickness or disease, resulting from participation in the community garden sponsored by Church of the Transfiguration.

Signature _____

Date _____

Other _____

Return form to:

Transfiguration Community Garden c/o Cathy Bussey, 4 Chelsea Park, Pittsford, NY 14534.

Questions? Cathy.Bussey@gmail.com or 704-9632