

# SI Moravian Community Garden Fact Sheet

## 2017

- The Staten Island Moravian Community Garden is an Active Mission project of the four SI Moravian churches. It is funded by the United Brethren's Church Central Elders Active Mission Project Fund. The project is planned and hosted by Castleton Hill Moravian Church.
- The garden is located on the grounds of Castleton Hill Moravian Church behind 1646 Victory Blvd. The garden has forty-one four by four foot squares plus additional space near the house, behind the garage, along a fence and one large bed. Fifteen of these squares are set aside for volunteer gardeners and the rest grow food for Project Hospitality's food pantry and soup kitchen. The front part of the garden is handicap accessible and there are two large raised beds which are wheel-chair accessible.
- Project goals:
  - Provide garden space for people who cannot garden at home
  - Provide organic vegetables and herbs for the Project Hospitality Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. On average, we contribute about 900 pounds a year and grow over 1,000 pounds.
  - Provide Staten Islanders a chance to enjoy God's good creation together and enjoy community as they work together
  - Provide educational opportunities for children and adults to learn about composting and growing healthy food.
- Volunteer Gardeners with all levels of experience are welcome to participate. Volunteers can simply assist and help care for the plots that grow food for PH or they can also take a personal plot in return for helping to care for PH plots. We typically have 4 Saturday work parties in the spring to prepare the garden for planting and follow up with a monthly work party for the remainder of the season. Starting in mid-May, we meet on Monday nights to harvest produce and care for the garden. While we like to be in the garden together, volunteers are free to come and work in the garden whenever their personal schedules allow.
- Every year since 2007, we have hosted various preschool and elementary classes in the garden. These classes have come from the Todt Hill Public Library, P.S. 29, Castleton Hill Moravian Preschool, and CHMC Vacation Bible School. We have introduced our visitors to wonder of worms, different methods of composting, different kinds of fruits and vegetables in the garden, and the square foot garden method.
- Cindi Garner was a member of the task force at Castleton Hill Moravian that planned and then started the garden project in 2004. She was the person who suggested the square foot gardening method. Her contacts with various Staten Island businesses and agencies were extremely important in helping get the garden underway. She helped recruit many of our first gardeners and functioned as the Garden Coordinator during the '04, '05, and '06 growing seasons. Improvements to the garden including irrigation and making the front section handicap accessible were done in 2008 in memory of Cindi, who passed away in 2007. In 2014, the garden was completely renovated. The wooden garden beds were replaced with beds made of Trex, a non-toxic wood and plastic composite material which should last for 25 years.
- A Garden Executive Committee helps organize and run the garden effort with the help of many other volunteers who assist throughout the season. Members of the committee for 2017 are: Darline Woodhouse, Joyce Wright, Barbara Tanzosh, Joy Alessi and Kathy Nealand
- The church is located at 1657 Victory Blvd. Staten Island, NY 10314. **Please call the church office, 718-442-5215, or [office@castletonhill.org](mailto:office@castletonhill.org) for more information.**