



The Philippians 2.0

St. Philip Lutheran Church

September 2025

Service : Serving our neighbors

PUBLIC INTEREST

Pastor's Message:

Mark a follower of Jesus Christ, and my brother Paul. To the ministries of the church, you continue to reach the long-suffering, the sick and tired, the underfed and the weak.

To walk in the permissive will of our storied church. I thank you for your hospitality shown me. I set my face towards the sun. To our loving God for a reasonable portion of health and strength renewing hope in Him.

Paul sends his love. May your days be gentle and your week be easy. Furthermore, "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Mark

Enhanced Water Meter Installation Raises Concerns

As many of you know, the city began installing Enhanced Water Meters in 2023 with the goal of improving efficiency and increasing meter accuracy. These new meters are designed to detect leaks early and provide quicker notification and resolution of power outages.

However, the installation process has not gone as smoothly as planned. A number of customers have reported serious issues immediately after installation, including flooding, burst pipes, and damaged dry-wall.

The problems appear to stem from the contractor hired by the city. Reports suggest that the company's hiring practices are questionable—some installers have felony records—and its training program is inadequate, leading to frequent mistakes on the job. To make matters worse, residents who have tried to report problems say they've been met with unhelpful or rude customer service, with both the city and the contractor shifting blame rather than taking responsibility.

You can learn more about this project and the resulting complaints by visiting:

<https://share.google/FC5Y9MO0D7TCQCVVO>

CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Outdoor Worship and picnic—August 17, 2025

Wednesday, September 10th, 4:50 PM

At ten-thirty AM on August 17th, 2025, St Philip had their 81st anniversary at Alum Creek Park. It was also a day to mark a year since Pastor Mark joined the church and took his position as Pastor. According to congregation member Josslyn Bennet, Alum Creek Park was chosen because they had taken a trip there the year before and everyone who joined enjoyed it. The environment and atmosphere was very lively, with everyone looking excited and showing up in good spirits.

The sermon, in some way, was connected to the outdoors. When asked, Carolyn believed that yes, it was connected to the outdoors through the way we appreciated God's nature. There were multiple activities like one where we had to unscramble the names of women from the Bible, one where we were shown a tray with multiple items on it and had to memorize them and write it down. There was also bingo and a walk up to the hill. Everyone participated in these activities, and were very enthusiastic when interacting and playing along.

This particular service was very different from the ones we typically have indoors on Sunday's. We did not just stay in one fixed spot, given the chance to stretch our legs and enjoy delicious snacks while interacting with the others.

By De'ajea (Dee Dee) Matthews



Sisters *(in Christ)* of event planning, decorating, organizing and catering.



Madam President Josselyn Bennett & daughter Kai Peters



4 of our song birds, choir members Carolyn Hancock (Treasurer), Ed & Peggy Crimes & Annette Neal, together with *new member* Stephanie Garland (2nd left)



007 Wellington



Pictured in the center, long-serving Food Pantry service couple Charlene & Frank Diggs together with guest Terry Miles,



A Woman always On The Move, Lavinia Warner

Altar Guild & Membership Liaison Virginia Mitchell, sister Janie Hostin & niece Deneen



Next gen Hancocks: Blair & Jasmine

Family Tree

Ms. Alma Garland



Nina Jackson



Carolyn & Stephanie

Worship Committee Prof. Freddie Jordan





- ♦ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) is **Saturday, September 27th, 2025**. Please see the bulletin boards; your emails; this newsletter, and/or the website for the agenda and complete details of this event.
- ♦ Items are still need for the Food Pantry. Please see the attached flyer and bulletin boards throughout the church.
- ♦ ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING—mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, from 10:30 a.m.—noon. Officer Hannah of the CPD will conduct an onsite active shooter training
- COMMUNITY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – the movie *Soul* is the featured film for our Movie Night on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH AT 5:30 P.M. This event is open to the community. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP by Tues, Oct. 21st.
- **INVITATION.** Everyone is invited to join The Tabernacle Baptist Church on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. for a Music and Praise Celebration

St. Philip Lutheran Church invites you to...



**A Day of Bible Study & Empowerment for
Children & Youth**

Pre-K to K | Grades 1-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

1506 EAST LONG STREET, COLUMBUS, OH, 43203

RSVP DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 22

RSVP BY CALLING 614-253-8745 OR
EMAILING SPLCOUTREACH@GMAIL.COM

***PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF
PRE-K & K CHILDREN MUST STAY***



The following pages contain articles penned by our interns. Take a moment to read these informative articles and perhaps offer them a congratulatory remark.

We are impressed by the insight offered in these pieces and look forward seeing all that they accomplish during this year and on into the future.



Carolyn Hancock, Janie Hostin, Frank Diggs,



ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH INTERN ARTICLE

THE ROLE OF ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE FIGHT FOR HUNGER RELIEF

BY ALESAUNDRA CURRY

St. Philip Lutheran Church (SPLC) has been dedicated to shaping our communities through various mission projects and outreach efforts for decades. By being an image of the Lord through consistent volunteerism, the Church has made undeniable progress in the area of hunger relief in the surrounding communities.

The anchor ministry has been and continues to be the St. Philip Lutheran Food Pantry, with current volunteers including Charlene Diggs, Peggy Crimes, Thelia Grady, and Lavonia Warner, among many others.

This work has grown over the years, and the Church uses the help of everyone to successfully meet its goal of putting food on everyone's plates.

The Impact of the Growing and Growth Collective

In June of 2020, a lifelong member of SPLC, Jera Oliver, along with other neighbors on the Near East Side, were provided with the opportunity to uplift and, in return, inform their community on the necessity surrounding hunger relief. Since then, Oliver and several volunteers have built the successful Growing and Growth Collective (GGC) that has fostered a community of urban gardeners and has taught a "multigenerational way of life for BIPOC in Columbus, Ohio, and beyond" (Vision Statement, GGC Linktree) in urban agriculture. They have done this by maintaining community gardens throughout the Near East Side in Columbus, Ohio. According to Oliver, SPLC has always been

part of the Collective through continuous support by providing volunteerism, event space, and financial sponsorships.

What should supporters expect in the future? Well, Oliver says that there will be a “fifth pillar – rural and urban interconnectedness, while maintaining less of a barrier between the two. We hope to play a role in fostering land access, which is an extremely prominent issue at this time. This would in return increase sales diversification.” GGC celebrates its fifth anniversary and is excited to introduce this new pillar in honor of it.

Across the Way: How East High School is Partnering with SPLC

Another longtime member, Marie Grady, has used her knowledge to unite the church and the community. For her, it was important to continue the connection between the Church and East High School. “For over 20 years, East High School has partnered with SPLC in a shared mission to uplift, educate, and empower,” wrote Grady. Since 2023, the relationship has centered around SPLC’s provision of nutritional snacks for East High’s student-athletes and wrap-around programs.

How have the students been impacted? According to Grady, “Through various service projects, educational programs, and advocacy initiatives, we’ve created opportunities for students and volunteers to step into leadership roles while directly addressing the needs of our neighborhood. Each project has been rooted in the belief that real change starts with us.”

There is no denying that there has been an increase in community leadership through the inspiration of these programs. Students are frequently seen helping with the SPLC food pantry or with the Growing Growth Collective. “We hope more people will feel inspired to join us, because real change happens when everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.” concludes Grady.

The Bottomline

SPLC continuously supports the community through partnerships and its food pantry. However, it is not a one person or one program task. To end food injustice, everyone must contribute to the cause.

There are many ways to show your support. Some of these ways include: donating to the food pantry, attending Growing and Growth Collective events, volunteering at the many gardens, and joining the many volunteer opportunities hosted by both SPLC and East High School. Always remember, *hunger relief starts and ends with us.*



About the Author
Alesaundra Curry is a new member of St. Philip Lutheran Church and a 10th grader. She

plans to study Biomedical Engineering in college.



With support from the ELCA Domestic Hunger grant, SPLC hosted interns who supported the Outreach, Health, Education, and Justice Committee. Questions? Email splcoutreach@gmail.com

Influential Black People in Environmentalism

BY NIA DUBOSE



African Americans, often known for their social justice activism, are most especially associated with racism and mistreatment in the corporate workplace. However, the activism of many African Americans expands far beyond that. There are many leaders that push through with cutting edge research and developments that transform how we see our environment. This article explores the Black faces that are pioneers in environmental activism and who played key roles in the caretaking of Earth and green spaces in our communities.

George Washington Carver is often known for his role in the development of Tuskegee Institute, a historically Black college and university (HBCU), and for his promotion of peanuts. He was an essential conservationist, and he assisted farmers freed from slavery. He overcame many race-related obstacles from colleges and became the first Black student at Iowa State University. He noticed how damaged the soil was in the South after a history of growing cotton, and he experimented to find a way to put nutrients back into the land. He advanced an idea known as regenerative agriculture, which boosted the land's productivity and helped Black farmers to be free from a sharecropping system that kept them dependent on white landlords.

MyVynee Betsch, also known as “The Beach Lady,” was the great granddaughter of Florida's first Black billionaire. She gave up a career in the Opera, and devoted herself to preserving the environment. One of her passions included an

African American beach, known as American Beach on Amelia Island, Florida, which her great-grandfather created to provide a safe place for African Americans who were not permitted to enter other beaches. She traveled on stage to places like Germany and France, but she gave up her inheritance for environmental causes. She later gave tours for children to inform them on American Beach. While she was still alive, she outwardly expressed her dedication to social and racial justice, ecological causes, and vegetarianism.

Alexis Nikole Nelson is an American forager, cook, and internet personality who lives in Columbus, Ohio. The main platforms where she is active frequently are TikTok and Instagram. She actively informs her audience of the historical perspectives behind her foraged finds and the wisdom of the people that have paved the way in environmentalism. She also posts recipes and cooking techniques. Nelson perceives foraging as a way to connect with her African-American roots and indigenous food traditions, which many were forbidden from accessing.

While there are so many pioneers in environmental activism and environmentalism as a whole, it's still important that we do our part in our own communities. It is essential to be active in our communities and in informing others of the inherent value and uniqueness of nature. These people truly demonstrate the value of preserving history and of making history.

About the Author



Nia DuBose is a born and raised Ohioan that is passionate about serving my community. Nia will begin college in the fall and plans to major in Psychology and Premedical Studies with a minor in Spanish. She is excited to work on innovative solutions and better the community.

With support from the ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant, St. Philip Lutheran Church engaged youth in community leadership experiences that advance the work of the SPLC Outreach, Health, Education, and Justice Committee throughout 2025. Questions? Email splcoutreach@gmail.com



ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN CHURCH INTERN ARTICLE

REGIONAL & STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP IN FOOD JUSTICE & HUNGER RELIEF

BY NIA DUBOSE

In Columbus, one might see someone holding up a sign on the highway that proclaims “Please, I need to feed my kids”, or see someone outside of a popular fast food chain asking someone to buy them a meal. Unfortunately, hunger and food insecurity are distinct realities in the society we live in today, with one in five kids not knowing where they will get their next meal. On the other hand, there are many organizations that work persistently at reducing food insecurity and feeding the hungry in Ohio.

The Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Food Pantries provide food to communities, serving over 60,000 people per year at over 10 locations across Ohio. According to the LSS website, one woman shared that although she lives on a

fixed income, when she came to LSS Food Pantries, she was able to maintain her health and afford her medications.

Another leader in the fight against food insecurity is the Children’s Hunger Alliance (CHA), which is a statewide organization that partners with entities across Ohio such as in-home childcare providers, childcare centers, and schools to provide healthy meals to at-risk children. The CHA gave out over 30,000 shelf-stable afterschool meals to children across 60 sites in the pilot year. After the success of the pilot, the Walmart Foundation funding allowed for an expansion of the shelf stable initiative to rural areas.

Hunger Network in Ohio (HNO) is a team of

faith based leaders who advocate for policy reform in order to reduce poverty. The HNO allows for individuals and congregations to connect to their state officials in Columbus or to contact their district representatives to talk about issues in the community. This organization provides resources and lessons on poverty, hunger, and advocacy.

Last but not least, the Mid-Ohio Food Collective has had a large impact on poverty and hunger in Ohio as a major food bank, but also as a think tank on how to better reduce poverty and health in the community. Through supplying food to 600+ food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school programs, senior housing sites, and produce markets in 20 counties, the Mid-Ohio Food Collective served over 1,000,000 families in 2023.

The fight against hunger and food insecurity is far from over, but these organizations have played essential roles in supporting Ohioans through securing nutritious meals, advocating for policy reform, and working toward long-term solutions for poverty.

However, the fight against hunger and food insecurity begins with us, through our collective effort. By supporting these organizations through volunteer work, advocacy, and raising awareness, every person is able to create a meaningful impact. Together, we can build a future where no parent has to stand on a highway or outside a restaurant, wondering how they will feed their children or themselves.

References

- *Children's Hunger Alliance*,
www.childrenshungeralliance.org/about.
- *Hunger Network in Ohio*,
www.hungernetohio.com.
- *LSS Food Pantries*,
www.lssnetworkofhope.org/foodpantries.
- *Mid-Ohio Food Collective*,
www.mofc.org/who-we-are.
- "Our Stories | Lutheran Social Services Network of Hope." *Lutheran Social Services Network of Hope*, 11 July 2024,
lssnetworkofhope.org/about-us/our-stories/#lss-food-pantries-story.



About the Author

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Growing and Growth Collective

c/o Partners Achieving Community Transformation
211 Taylor Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43203
614-247-8037 office

GROWING AND GROWTH COLLECTIVE EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

The Growing and Growth Collective (GGC) was founded in June 2020 by a small group of Columbus, Ohio residents who care deeply about the Near East Side, which is a neighborhood of significant wealth inequality and food insecurity. The initial goal was to leverage one community garden on Greenway Avenue to help amplify the number of local Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) in urban agriculture, but quickly after forming, GGC transformed into a network of six greenspaces and a team of volunteers that receives fiscal support from PACT (Partners Achieving Community Transformation).

The 43203-zip code, and the Near East Side as a whole, is what some refer to as a food desert. Since deserts are naturally occurring ecosystems -- and in contrast, lack of access to fresh, healthy food is not naturally occurring -- GGC recognizes this community as one that is experiencing a food apartheid. Food apartheid is the "systematic destruction of black self-determination to control one's food, hyper-saturation of destructive foods and predatory marketing, and blatantly discriminatory corporate controlled food system that results in [communities of color] suffering from some of the highest rates of heart disease and diabetes of all time," according to food justice advocate Dara Cooper.

One way to remedy this history of destruction is to educate people on ways to engage independently and communally in urban agriculture, but first, it is important to recognize the legacy of trauma that exists between Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and the land. The U.S. has a long history of violent land theft, slavery, exploitive labor practices like sharecropping, and many other forms of structural oppression. GGC believes that it is both possible and necessary to build a healthy relationship between BIPOC and the land. We are committed to fostering an empowering narrative around BIPOC engagement in agriculture and we are confident that agriculture can become a multigenerational way of life again for BIPOC, but in a manner that honors heritage and promotes dignity.

As a collective, we bring together novices, experts and anyone in between who wishes to build and strengthen land-based skills; acquire and maintain property for personal sustenance and food-oriented entrepreneurial endeavors; learn about the benefits of specific foods for good health; and make fresh produce available to community members in a convenient and affordable way.

GGC responds to these needs and goals by facilitating culturally-relevant and evidence-based programming under the umbrella of four impact pillars: Agricultural Education in Cities; Food Access & Affordability; Comprehensive Health & Wellness; and Equitable Community Development. With additional administrative support and dedicated personnel, GGC will seed and grow a fifth impact pillar before 2029 that will focus on the Rural-Urban Interface.

[Learn about GGC's five-year impact by reviewing the slides](#) that were shown during the annual friend-raiser event, Sow the Seeds for GGC.

See back for position description and application instructions.

**GROWING AND GROWTH COLLECTIVE
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT JOB DESCRIPTION, CONT.**

The Executive Consultant position will assist with the following milestone objectives (rank ordered):

40% - Organizational Structure and Operations: Facilitate the transition of GGC from being fiscally overseen by Partners Achieving Community Transformation (aka PACT) to becoming a standalone nonprofit organization with federal tax exempt status and all pertinent administrative systems.

30% - Volunteer Pipeline Development and Management: Assess GGC's garden operations, yield productivity, and programmatic needs, and develop a volunteer recruitment, training, and management plan that supports the observed needs.

20% - Donor Stewardship and Impact Sharing: Build rapport with existing, past, and potential funders. Chronicle GGC's impact and share updates with key supporters as required by grant agreements and more broadly for effective donor relations.

5% - Land Management and Ownership Infrastructure: Keep a pulse on factors and possibilities pertaining to land acquisition, retention, and environmental stewardship, especially in terms of necessary documentation that is required by the City of Columbus Land Bank.

5% - Other Duties as Assigned

Qualifications necessary:

- Seasoned nonprofit administration professional who can demonstrate experience with implementation of a strategic plan and fiscal management systems.
- Capacity to build a collaborative culture across partners to ensure effective communication and continuity across systems.
- Qualities of self-motivation, time management, flexibility and cooperation, and the ability to be effective in a dynamic, multicultural work environment.
- Passionate about Social Justice, especially Food Justice and Land Access.
- Ability to work a flexible schedule, including some evenings and weekends.
- Reliable transportation.
- Minimum of an Associate's Degree in a relevant area; Bachelor's degree or higher preferred.

Compensation and Description of Contract: This is a grant funded contract. The selected individual will be paid as a 1099 contractor. No benefits will be provided. The range of compensation is \$28 - \$32 per hour based on experience. Estimated hours per year available for compensation is 520 (10-12 hours per week). The contract term(s) will be reviewed annually based on key performance indicators.

Location: Columbus, Ohio area; Hybrid - Mostly remote role.

Target Start Date: October 1, 2025

Reports to volunteer board; Fiscally overseen by PACT; Will work closely with co-founders for day-to-day tasks. No direct reports, but must work collaboratively with GGC's part-time administrator (also a 1099 contractor).

To apply, email ggca.role1@gmail.com with a 1-page cover letter along with your resume by August 31, 2025 as a single PDF.



Visit linktr.ee/growingandgrowthcollective

- Donate
- Join the newsletter email list
- Register for events & explore ways to engage
- Access educational resources on urban ag & food justice
- Questions? ✉ growingandgrowthcollective@gmail.com

What is the Growing & Growth Collective All About?

GGC is a grassroots initiative that encourages participation in urban agriculture as a means of improving health outcomes, deepening civic engagement, and promoting economic empowerment especially for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) across ages and generations on the Near East Side, along side allies.

Do you Live/Work/Socialize near a GGC Garden? Get Involved!

Help Maintain Community Raised Beds

To promote "Food Access and Affordability," GGC maintains community raised beds in several gardens that are used to grow produce for volunteers and residents of the Near East Side.

From June - October, there are weekly and monthly service days during which YOU can help ensure that the plants watered and harvested.

Reserve a Raised Bed for Independent Growing

GGC administers an annual reservation process each spring for numbered raised bed plots in the Hildreth and Greenway gardens. To be learn about the process and to sign up, join GGC's e-newsletter.

GGC's Impact Pillars

Agricultural Education
in Cities

Food Access
& Affordability

Comprehensive
Health & Wellness

Equitable Community
Development

GGC's Garden Locations

Community Raised Beds

21st: 156 North 21st Street

BSPC: 760 East Broad Street

MMCG: 456 North Garfield Avenue

KAC: 835 Mount Vernon Avenue

Community & Reserved Raised Beds

Greenway: 1652 Greenway Avenue

Hildreth: 1201 Hildreth Avenue





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GREENWAY VOLUNTEER
COMMUNITY
GARDEN



GGC'S NETWORK OF GREENSPACES AND COMMUNITY GARDENS:

21st Community Garden (156 N. 21st St.)

Mamie Mack Community Garden on Garfield (456 N. Garfield Ave.)

Hildreth Community Garden (1201 Hildreth Ave.)

Greenway Community Garden (1652 Greenway Ave.)

Julialynne Walker Gateway Learning Garden @ King Arts Complex (835 Mount Vernon Ave.)

Broad Street Presbyterian Church Community Garden (760 E. Broad St.)