

**Piedmont Region 2015
Come To The Table Conference
Elon Community Church, NC
May 28th, 2015**

Session Descriptions

★ = newly added session

10:00-11:15 » Session One

You Feed Them: Models of Local Faith Communities Relieving Hunger

When the disciples petitioned Jesus to send the crowds away to find food, Jesus responded “You give them something to eat!” How can this Bible passage, Luke 9:13, motivate and inspire us to feed the multitudes in our communities? Join us to hear about two innovative projects that are using local food to help relieve hunger. You will hear what they do, how they do it, and how they got started. You will also hear about Partners in Health and Wholeness and opportunities faith communities have to receive funding and resources to support projects such as these.

- **Shannon Axtell Martin** - NC Council of Churches
- **Linda Anderson** - Guilford County Share the Harvest
- **Jeff Moran** - House Gardens Greening Project



Agriculture in the South: A History Lesson and Implications for the Food Movement ★

Agriculture has changed significantly over the past 50 years, from the average size of a farm, the type of crops, the way they are marketed and who's working the land. Hear stories and learn trends in agriculture including the farm crisis of the 1980's, discrimination and land loss among minority farmers, current demographics of farms in North Carolina, and what these trends mean for the food movement. Plus, hear stories from a multi-generational farm in Caswell County, NC!

- **Scott Marlow** - RAFI-USA
- **Justin Walker** - Double J Farm
- **Annette Hiatt** - Land Loss Prevention Project



Farmers vs. Food Security: Why are hungry people and food producers often pitted against each other? ★

Whether it's a school system choosing between buying apples from Sysco vs. the farm down the road, or Congress deciding how to divide the pie between farm supports and the SNAP program, advocates for hunger relief and advocates for sustainable agriculture often find themselves on opposing sides. In this

session, you'll hear from a Child Nutrition Director about their considerations when making decisions about sourcing produce and from agriculture advocates about the cost of production for common fruits and vegetables. Plus, learn about projects that are building bridges between these groups and from a farmer that is participating!

- **Viola Glenn** - RAFI-USA
- **Gini Bell** - Farmer Foodshare
- **Helen Eure** - Hertford County Public Schools
- **Jane Saiers** - RambleRill Farm



Housing the Homeless and Feeding The Hungry in Alamance County

This workshop will feature Allied Churches of Alamance County and provide context and content for what hunger looks like in Alamance County. The workshop will focus not just on the challenges of the homeless and those who face food insecurity, but will share with participants how collaboration between Alamance County's faith, nonprofit, and other community stakeholders comes together to address hunger and homelessness.

- **Kim Crawford** - Allied Churches of Alamance County
- **Shannon Smith** - Allied Churches of Alamance County



Organizing a Church-Supported, Sliding Scale CSA

Anathoth's HarvestShare program is an income-inclusive Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Participants receive weekly boxes of fresh vegetables and fruit, and often bread. Through donations from churches and other HarvestShare participants, the program offers half of all CSA shares for no cost. Produce is raised with help from Open Hands high school employees and from adult summer interns, who learn the skills to start and sustain agrarian ministries in their own communities. Julia Sendor, HarvestShare Coordinator, will discuss growing practices; how they engage HarvestShare participants and identify households that need free boxes; how they hire, pay, and teach employees and interns; and how HarvestShare has evolved as a way to sustain the garden while living out Anathoth's mission to cultivate peace.

- **Julia Sendor** - Anathoth Community Garden and Farm



1:15 - 2:30 » Session Two

Fertile Partnerships: Faith Communities and Local Food Councils

Hear from local food councils representing three distinct communities within the Piedmont region and how the formation of fertile partnerships among faith communities, county health departments, nonprofits, and concerned citizens are addressing social problems related to broken food systems. The session's panelists will provide participants with insights based on the real world experiences of addressing local food policy through local food councils.

- **Marcus Hill** - Forsyth Community Food Consortium
- **Cary Kanoy** - Davidson County Local Food Network
- **Grace Kanoy** - Davidson County Local Food Network
- **Marianne LeGreco** - Guilford County Food Council



Gardening in Community and in Faith

The Garden of Concord, an organic community garden, was planted on the land of Concord United Methodist Church in Eli Whitney, Southern Alamance County, NC in May 2009. As an extension ministry of the church, the garden seeks to nurture and empower all in need through the sharing of food, fellowship, and garden stewardship. The connection of the church and community is celebrated as they work, learn, and care for God's creation together while experiencing Christian love, joy, and unity. Be inspired by the passion of members from the Garden of Concord as you listen to their personal reflections including the history of the garden, its challenges and future "sowings," "finding God in the garden," and a tour of the garden and its "plantings." It WILL be good!

- **Donna Poe** - Garden of Concord
- **Cindy Shetter** - Garden of Concord



Beyond Hunger Relief: Barriers and Opportunities in Farm Based Food Access Initiatives

RAFI-USA and the Resourceful Communities Program have partnered on a multi-year participatory research project to better understand barriers, opportunities and trends in food access initiatives that prioritize fresh, local food. In this session participants will hear about current state and national efforts to connect low income consumers with farmers, as well as learn about community-based projects in NC that use innovative approaches to alleviate food insecurity in their communities, including the story of the Chopped Produce Initiative. CPI supplies area school systems with ready to use farm fresh produce.

- **Francesca Hyatt** - RAFI-USA
- **Jesalyn Keziah** - Resourceful Communities
- **Tim Williams** - Chopped Produce Initiative



Funding that builds community engagement and program longevity ★

What is the role of funding in faith and community based projects? Why do many funders encourage their grantees to strive to become self-sustaining, and what does that mean? In this session, participants will hear the perspective of a foundation program officer, along with stories of unique funding models including a worker-owned grocery cooperative in Raleigh and a culinary skills training program housed at Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston Salem.

- **Kristen Richardson-Frick** - The Duke Endowment
- **Zulayka Santiago** - Fertile Ground Food Cooperative
- **Jeff Bacon** - Triad Community Kitchen



Congregations and Communities: Making Change that Lasts ★

In this session, seasoned change-makers will share principles of community organizing and strategies for building partnerships with diverse groups. You'll hear an old favorite story of organizing farmers to bring their tractors to Washington DC to stop farm foreclosures, along with hearing how a congregation and a community came together after a tragedy. Participants will have a chance to raise questions and discuss issues from their communities.

- **Rev. Grace Hackney** - Life Around the Table
- **Scott Marlow** - RAFI-USA



3:00-4:15 » Session Three

In-Depth Discussion With Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson

A more in-depth conversation and interaction with Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson, following her keynote address: *"Well, the answer is...we all need to grow our own food: Race, Class and the Fine Line Between Food Instruction and Food Policing."* Dr. Williams-Forson will explore in more depth her work and research into the role that culture, race, class, and historical experience play in food accessibility and the local food movement.

- **Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson** - Univ. of Maryland College Park



Embodying Shalom: Framing Food Discussions in Faith Communities

This workshop explores how faith community leaders can introduce and frame conversations around food ministries in language and images that resonate with their faith communities' culture, vision, and mission. Participants will share resources and ideas for teaching, preaching, and ministry initiatives.



- **Mark Jensen** - Wake Forest School of Divinity

Fermentation and Sacred Transformation

In this workshop, we'll learn how to preserve and sanctify the garden's bounty through the miracle of fermentation. As you cut and massage the cabbage and other vegetables, there will be a brief introduction to the fermentation process, the benefits of fermentation and a step-by-step guide to making sauerkraut. The conversation will then open into a discussion of religious perspectives on fermentation, and we'll try and think through the theological implications of probiotic versus antibiotic approaches to microbes. We'll finish with a prayer for sacred transformation and a sampling of a couple different ferments.

- **Jacob Levin** - Pickards Mountain Eco-institute
- **Rachael Graber** - Pickards Mountain Eco-institute



Local Food Access and SNAP/EBT at Farmers' Markets

Learn about local food access initiatives at farmers markets in North Carolina, including SNAP/EBT acceptance and Double Bucks programs and how you can support your local farmers market's efforts. Hear from the Carrboro Farmers' Market and the Durham Farmers' Market about their market programming and their community partnerships that range from the public health sector to refugee assistance organizations.

- **Salem Neff** - Beyond Hunger Relief Program, RAFI-USA
- **Jenny Elander** - Durham Farmers' Market
- **Margaret Krome-Lukens** - Carrboro Farmers' Market
- **Kelly Warnock** - Durham County Department of Public Health



Feed the People With Love, then Food

So often we forget that all people are hungry for love, acceptance, and food. Hear how an Episcopal Minister and a local celebrity chef/restaurateur approach access to food for all people as a human right and demonstrate commitment to food produced with fairness to those who produce and prepare it. Karen and Vimala are both practicing Christians whose faith has propelled them to open their hearts, apply their hands, and use their heads strategically to minister and serve others through food. Come be inspired by these two foodies whose love for Christ inspires them to Feed the People With Love, then Food.

- **Karen Ladd** - St. Barts Episcopal Church
- **Vimala Rajendran** - Curryblossom Café

