JCMGA Community Project

The Church at Cahaba Bend (CCB) Community Garden in Helena began as an idea in early 2025 and quickly gained support due to its mission of providing produce to church partner Oak Mountain Missions in Pelham, AL. The Church emphasizes service as one of our three pillars of ministry and has partnered with Oak Mountain Missions for many years in various capacities. With this new opportunity in mind, our garden “took root” and has hosted 6 community workdays so far in 2026.

From installing our raised beds to planting spring and summer crops, more than 110 volunteers have put in over 298 hours. To date the following plants have been nurtured in our garden: 68 tomato plants, 50 peppers, 25 green onions, 22 basil, 18 collard greens, 18 rainbow chard, 18 cabbages, 18 kale, 17 broccoli, 16 eggplant, 14 corn, 10 cucumber, 8 pole beans, 7 squash, 4 rattlesnake beans, and 3 coriander plants. All 16 raised beds purchased by Cawaco RC&D have been utilized, as well as a few planters for excess tomato plants.

During this time, volunteers have established a 10x20 pollinator garden onsite near the raised beds and contributed efforts to CCB's Prayer and Medication Garden located near the front of the church, which will also host native pollinators.

On May 20, 2026, CCB Community Garden hosted its first harvest and donated 11.25 pounds of produce to Oak Mountain Missions. This first harvest helped an estimated 20 individuals in the community and is only the starting point for our garden. The garden stewards (5 groups that prepare, plant, water, and harvest on a rotating basis) will harvest weekly beginning in June and as often as twice per week through the end of August. Total pounds of produce donated exceeds 33 pounds as of June 21. With our surplus of summer crops, we expect to help provide fresh organic produce to help 380 additional individuals through August totaling 400 in our first harvesting season. CCB Community Gardens has already signed up for the Seedling Project through Jones Valley Teaching Farm to receive our fall crop of another 288 seedlings on August 28 . With three harvests annually (Spring, Summer, and Fall) we hope to continue to build our project to help 4,000 people annually. Produce will be donated to Oak Mountain Missions' Food Pantry and any surplus will be distributed to other area non-profits, as able.

This project would not be possible without support from the Jefferson County Master Gardeners through church member and trustee, Katherine Ennis. Katherine’s years of gardening expertise and participation in Jefferson County Master Gardeners brings invaluable knowledge and resources to our team. Additionally, Shelby County Master Gardeners, Scouts Troop 532, Manna Farms, Seed to Table, The University of Montevallo, Cedar Creek Nursery and the above mentioned garden stewards have assisted in providing materials, planning, planting, harvesting and every step in-between.

If you would like to join our vision and efforts to provide joy, dignity, and wellness through nutritious, fresh produce please contact us at thegardensatccb@gmail.com.

Amanda Fowler
Coordinator, Church at Cahaba Bend Community Garden



Lee Gladden, Pastor Patrick Friday, Sam Friday, Clint Friday, Al Young, Daniel Barron, Philip Ryle, Ali White, Ainsley Ryle, Declan Ryle, Amanda Fowler, Eliza Fowler



Master Gardener Katherine Ennis, Scott Mitchell, Taylor Peterson, Philip Ryle, Shawn Menke, Julie Ryle, Amanda Morris, Rachel Mitchell, Harper Ross, Emily Corum
Amelia Mitchell, Amanda Fowler, Ainsley Ryle, Declan Ryle, Eliza Fowler



Greg Risch, Al Young, Hewy Woodham, Emily Brown



Brenda Rimmer, John Mark Massey, Eliza Fowler, Lily Langford