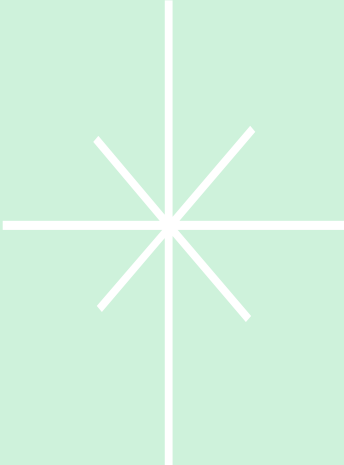


June 2, 2008



We have a garden!

It was not an easy undertaking, considering the tangle of tree roots and long established vines that made the ground almost impenetrable. But with the help of a number of friends from Good Shepherd who knew a lot more about gardening and sport well developed muscles from years of digging or being yanked around by their roto-tillers, the ground has been tamed and delicate little tomato plants, peppers and lettuce now sit in rows.

Growing a garden is an act of faith. We hope that, some weeks from now, the fragile little twigs that we planted will develop into sturdy plants that will yield vegetables as bountiful and beautiful as advertised in the seed catalogues. Growing a garden also gives us an appreciation about the intricacy and interconnectedness of God's creation.

To begin with, we enriched the soil with horse and cow manure and other organic matter (I say we, but my part mostly was to look on in amazement while others moved huge rocks with levers or jumped up and down on the shovel to make a dent in the root system.) Next we'll buy some worms destined for a fisherman's hook and give them back to the earth so they can do their thing and aerate and enrich our soil.

Our back yards occupy merely a micro-dot in the big picture of our world. But this is a good place where we can begin to care for our earth – and for each other, as it turns out. Come harvest time, we hope to be able to share, to bring some fresh produce to the Food Shelf.

God is good!

