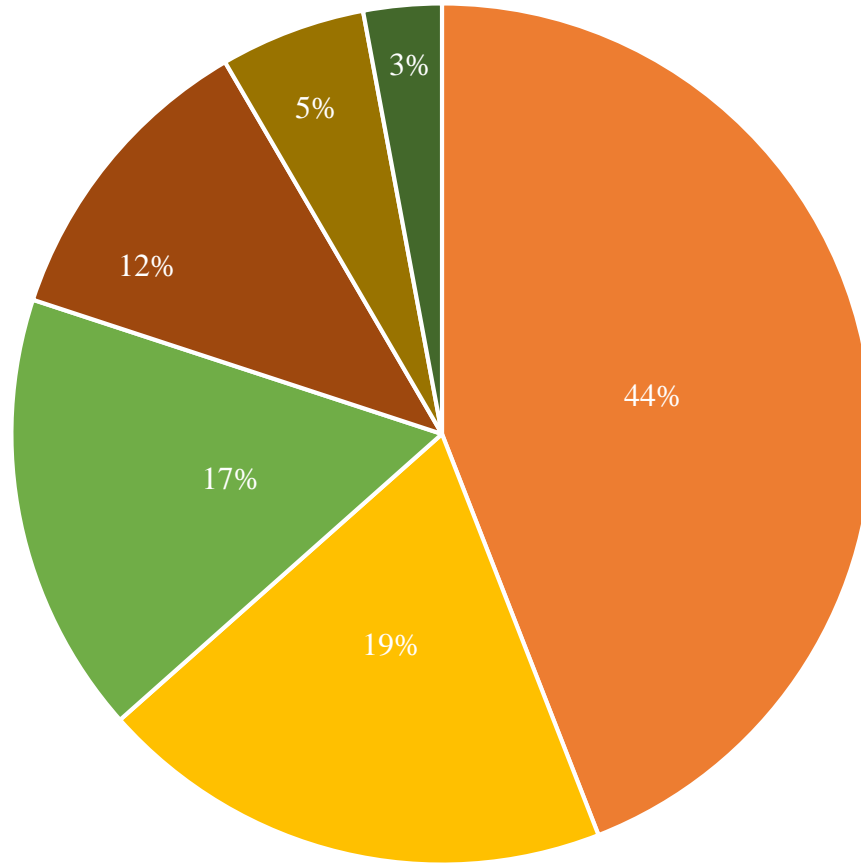


# **Doing Religion and Ecology in the Bible Belt**

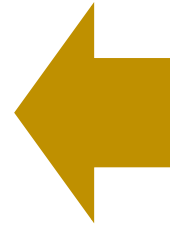
Dr. Edwin Bagley (Moderator), Dr. Catherine Wright, Dr. Christy Cobb, Dr. David Evans (Respondent)

# N.C. POPULATION & RELIGION



- Southern Baptist Convention
- United Methodist Church
- non-denominational Christian
- Catholic
- Presbyterian
- African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church

UNC Carolina Demography



## Christian

77%

▶ Evangelical Protestant

35%

▶ Mainline Protestant

19%

▶ Historically Black Protestant

12%

## Catholic

9%

▶ Mormon

1%

▶ Orthodox Christian

1%

## Jehovah's Witness

1%

▶ Other Christian

< 1%

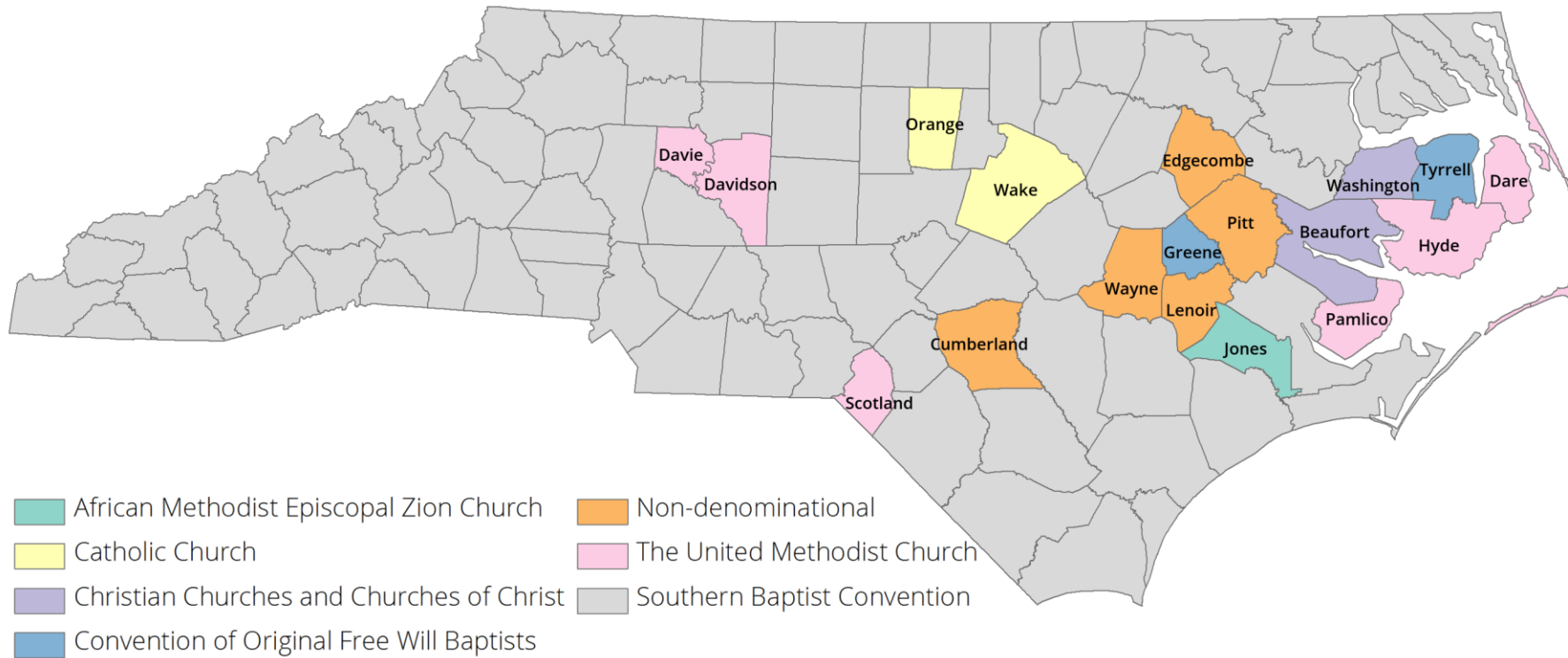
**UNAFFILIATED: 20%**

**NON-CHRISTIAN FAITHS: 3%**

PEW U.S. Religious Landscape Survey

# Baptists are the majority in 82 of 100 counties

**Largest Denomination by Number of Adherents by County, 2010 RCMS**



Source: 2010 U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study

# THOUSANDS OF BAPTISTS CHURCHES



Midway Baptist Church in Wingate, NC

- Several Baptist denominations
- Independence from authorities has led to congregations splitting over contentious issues and starting in new locations
- Some congregations are “family chapels”
- Widespread focus on conversion - “getting saved”
- Defensive about insistence on immersion

# PRIMARY CHARACTERISTICS



Philadelphia Baptist Church Marshville, NC

- Biblical narratives emphasized more than classical theological themes (Thus the “Bible-Belt” label)
- Supportive stance toward in-group, especially in bereavement and illness
- Many Baptist churches will not employ female ministers or appoint women as deacons
- Progressive theological and social policies are found in a small percentage of Baptist churches.

# EXTERNAL FOCAL POINTS



First Baptist Church in Wadesboro, NC

- Missions are defined by denominational programs of domestic and international mission boards—primarily proselytization, church planting, and ministry training.
- Congregational funds are budgeted to maintain state and national offices stocked with specialists who can advise on practical matters.



# DEFICIENCIES = OPPORTUNITIES



Elevation Church in Charlotte, NC

- Transcending barriers of denomination, race, and social class
- Cooperation with other congregations
- Meeting a broad range of material needs in the community



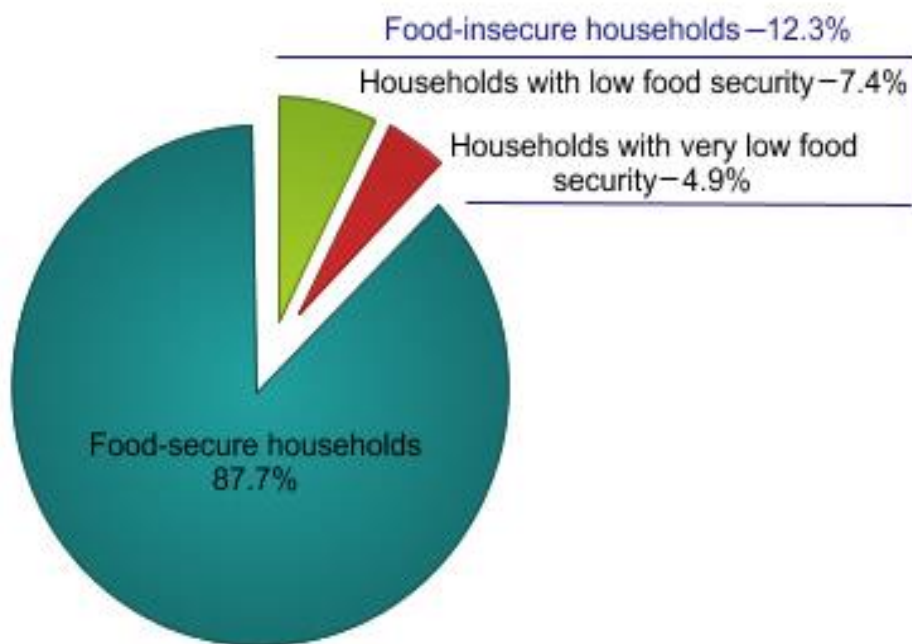
## **Some Facts on Food Insecurity That Moved Us to Action**

**We all eat – this fact connects us.**



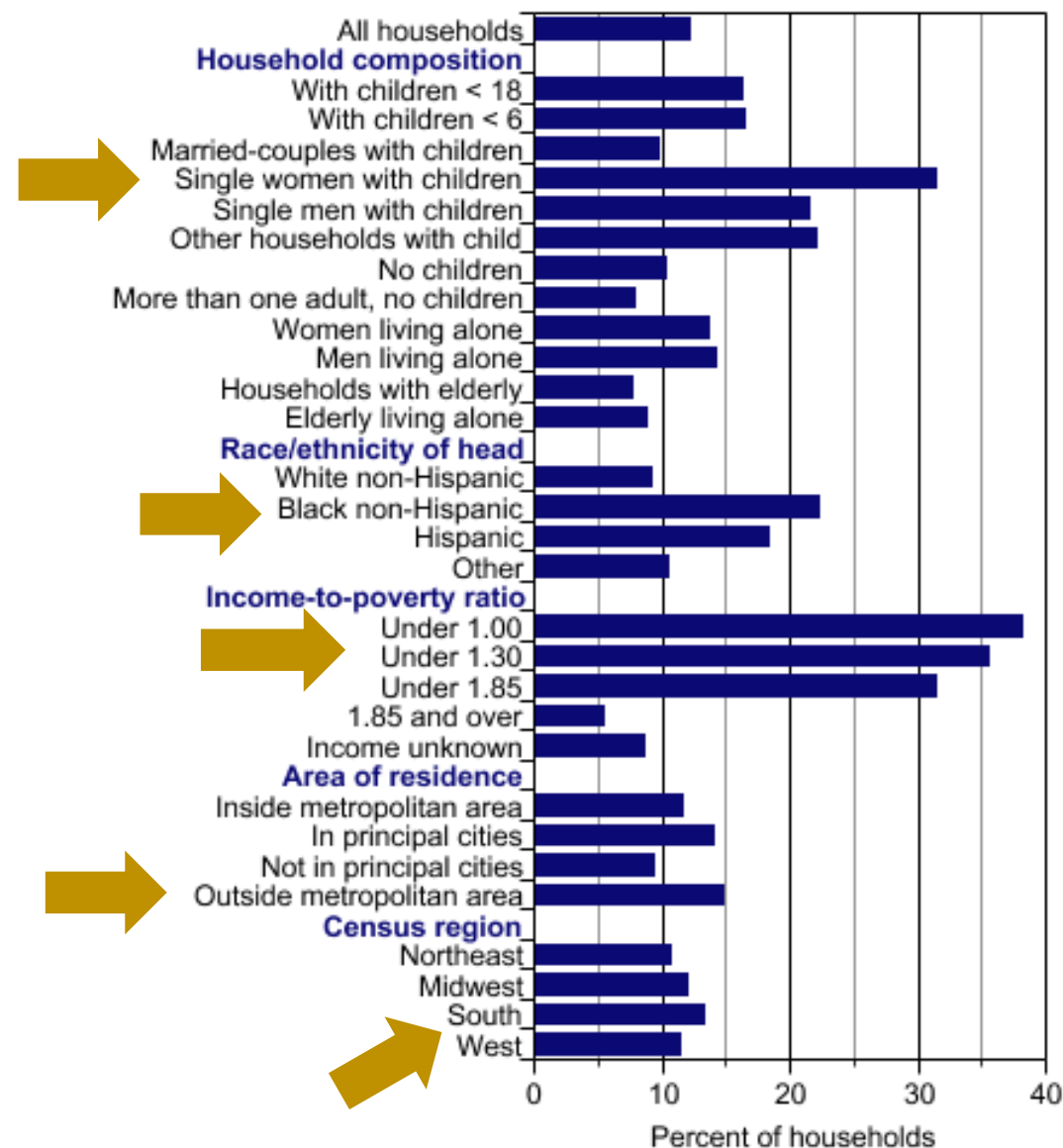
# 15.6 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS!

U.S. households by food security status, 2016



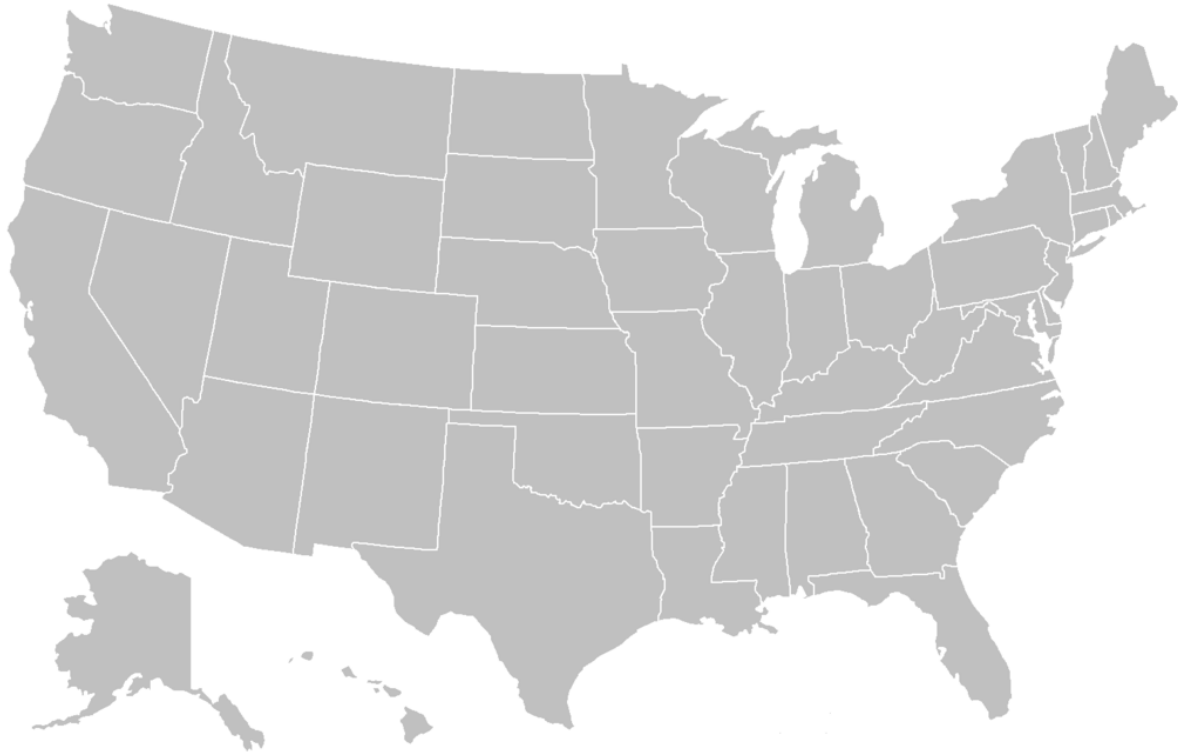
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2016 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Prevalence of food insecurity, 2016



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the December 2016 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.





# THE GEOGRAPHY OF POVERTY AND NUTRITION

Food Deserts and Food Choices Across  
the United States

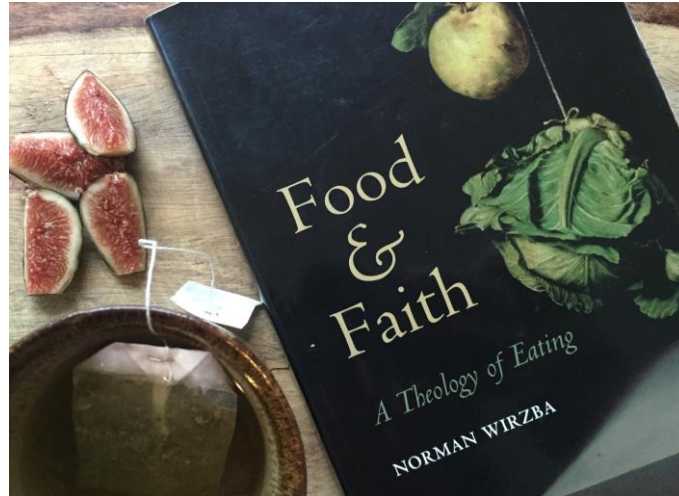
Hunt Allcott, Rebecca Diamond & Jean-Pierre Dube

# FOOD & FAITH



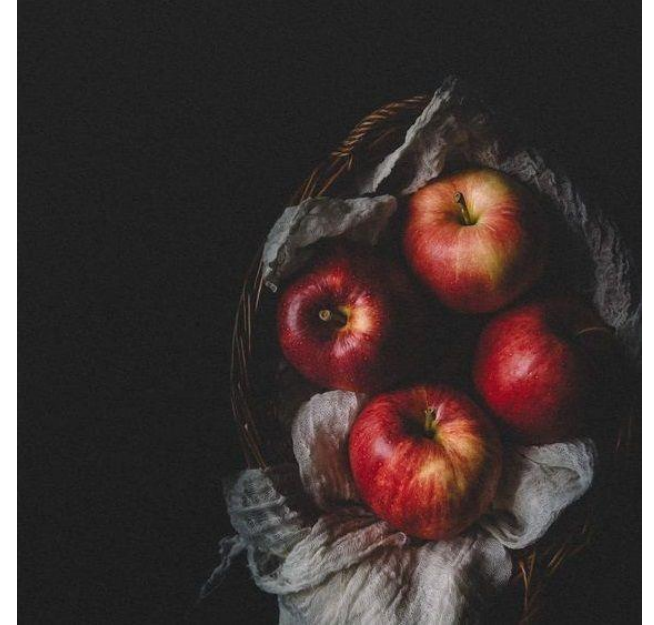
## JEREMIAH 29

There are even prophets in Scripture that summon the planting of gardens



## TEACHINGS AND TRADITION

Unearthing gems within the imaginations of local Christians



## GOD'S CREATION

“We think of food chiefly as a commodity to be bought and sold rather than grown and harvested.”



# FOOD & SCHOOLS

Institutions of Higher Education - like Wingate - can play a crucial role in cultivating planetary citizens who desire to alleviate food insecurity...and find creative ways to do this!



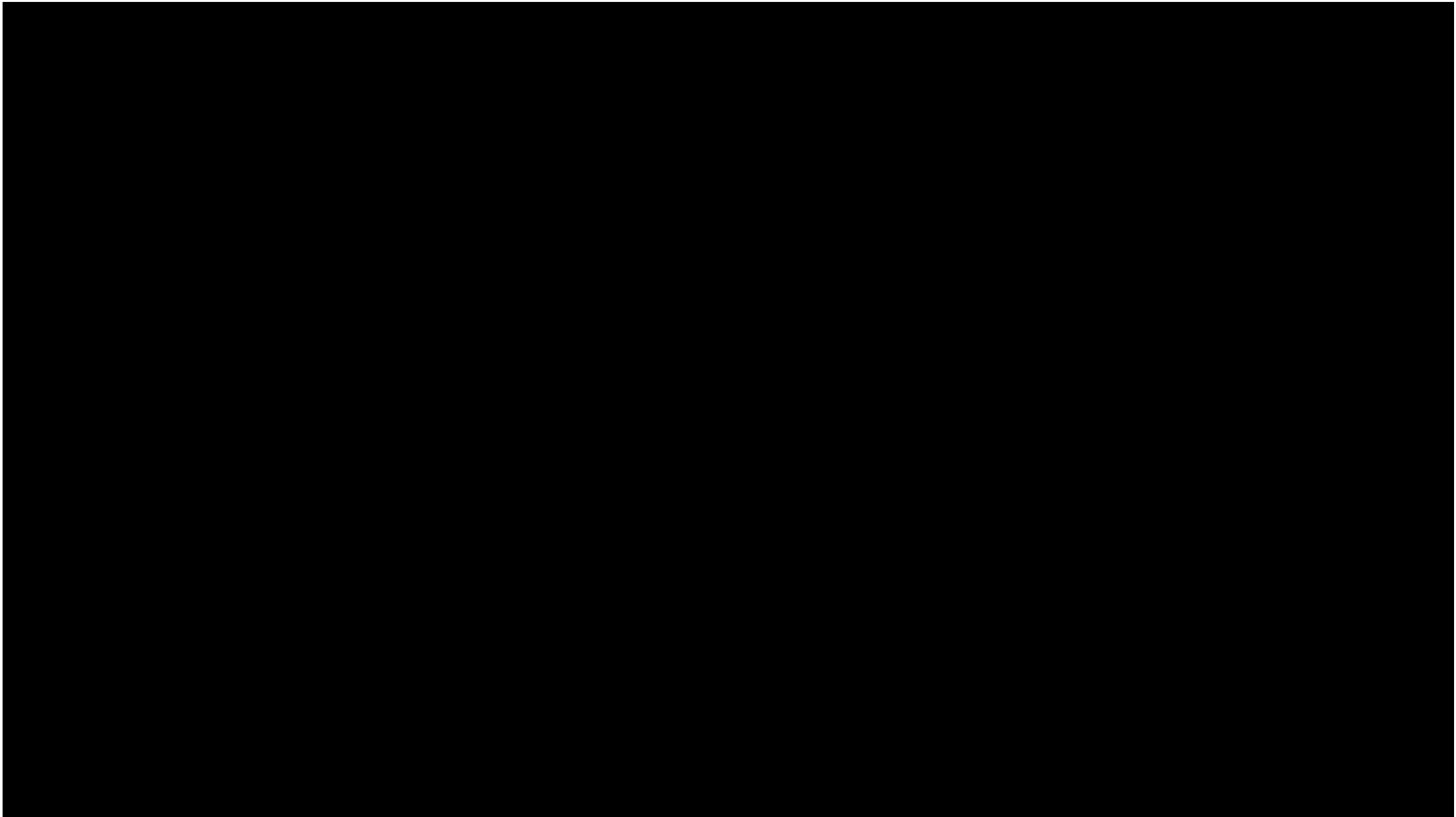




# GARDEN

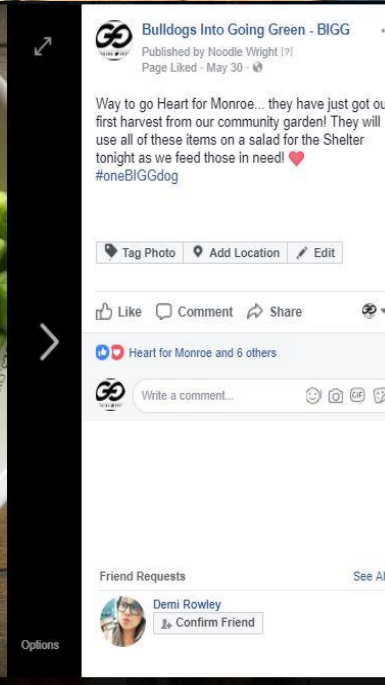




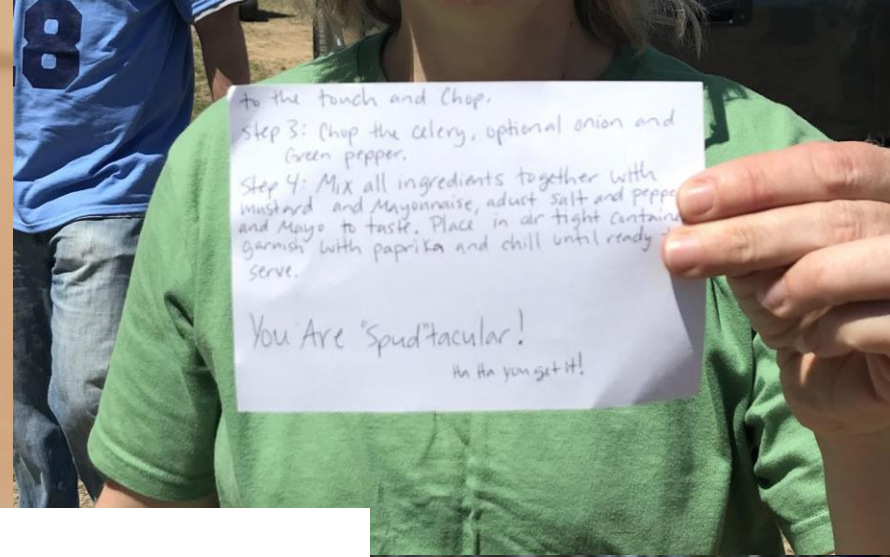




# FRUITS OF THE GARDEN







# ODOD: Potato Drop

Heart4Monroe loves  
POTATOES





# GARDEN OF W'EDEN

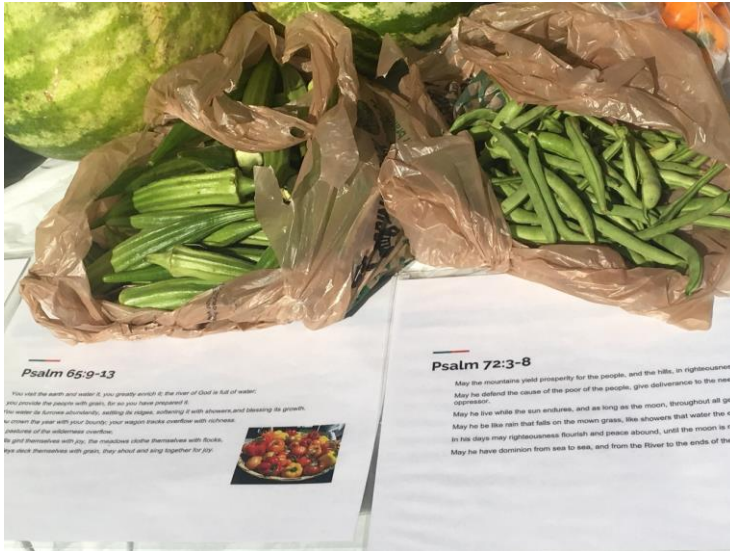


# AQUAPONICS



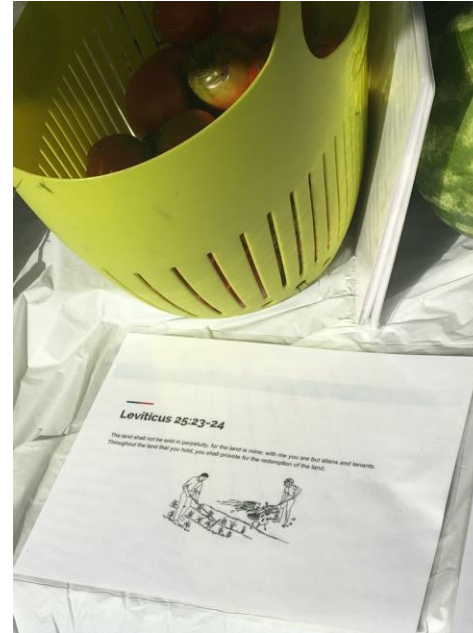


# USE OF THE BIBLE



## PSALM 65:9-13 & 73:3-8

Verses printed and laminated on pages and placed by the vegetables that were placed out for the community.



## LEVITICUS 25:33-34

The biblical verses presented were available to be read if desired, but they were not forced upon anyone.



## BACKYARD BIBLE EVENT

Indian Trail Baptist Church, who helped with this event, presented a Backyard Bible Event for the children who were in attendance.

# PEDOGOGY



## DAY OF SERVICE

Classes and students volunteered together at the garden.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Multiple opportunities for students to take leadership positions.



## RESEARCH

Both faculty and students had the ability to use the garden as part of their research.







# WHOSE AGRICULTURE IS IT, ANYWAYS?

Dr. David Evans - Respondent





To everything there is a season....a time to plant and a time to harvest: **a time to weep and a time to laugh....and a time to discuss!**