Become a Covenant Church

BY REV. JENNIFER VESTAL MOORE, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS

96 billion pounds of fresh food is wasted in this country every year. 35.5 million Americans don’t get enough to eat. This is something that God can’t be happy about. With the Society of St. Andrew’s Covenant Church program, your church can close the gap on hunger in America. Below are some questions to help answer what it means to be a covenant church and how your church can get involved.

Q: Why does SoSA think it’s the responsibility of the church as well as of individuals to help feed those who are hungry?
A: Throughout the Bible, Jesus tells us that, as a people of God, we are called to help those who are hungry. In Matthew 14:16, Jesus commands us to feed the hungry.

Q: What does becoming a Covenant Church require?
A: Just three simple and meaningful steps are required to be a Covenant Church: Prayer, Support, Outreach.
- Prayer – We ask each Covenant Church to pray for the Society of St. Andrew ministries and for our brothers and sisters who are hungry.
- Support & Outreach – Each Covenant Church should participate in at least one program from each category in our Mission Statement:
  - Food for the body
  - God’s Word for the spirit
  - Community of love for the heart
  - Opportunity for those who desire action

Q: What kinds of programs are offered as part of the Covenant Church program?
A: There are a variety of ways Covenant Churches can participate with SoSA in working to end hunger in America:
- Go gleaning
- Lead a Hunger Awareness Meal
- Offer our Bible study about hunger – “The Fast I Choose” – to your Sunday School or study groups
- Contribute to our Meals for Millions program
- Participate in our seasonal devotion programs – Advent and Lent
- Include our VBS Mission Project in your Vacation Bible School
- Share in our alternative Christmas Card program
- Collect a Mile of Pennies to feed the hungry
- Attend a Harvest of Hope mission retreat
- Ask what other programs and activities are available

Q: Does my church have to be a Covenant Church in order to support the Society of St. Andrew?
A: No. We greatly appreciate and accept all of the prayers and

From the Sheep Shed

BY KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS

The word covenant has many meanings in common usage, legal usage and religious usage as well. In the religious sense a covenant is a one-sided promise, where one party (the covenant maker) promises another party or parties to do (or refrain from doing) certain things. God’s covenant with Abraham, for instance, was a promise God made to Abraham that he would make Abraham’s offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky, and that they would be a blessing to all mankind.

Society of St. Andrew has made a covenant with the poor of our land and with the God that loves them all. That covenant simply states that we will continue to feed our hungry brothers and sisters wherever and whenever we see them. We will do this by salvaging fresh produce that is in danger of being needlessly wasted whenever and wherever we find it. These things we will continue to do until there are no more hungry people to be fed.

Very soon now we will be sending materials to thousands of church congregations across the country asking them to join us in this covenant. We will be asking them to join us by being in prayer for the poor and our ministry, by gleaning with us where possible, and by making a financial commitment where appropriate.

I expect that many congregations will join us in this great covenant. I want to take this opportunity to ask you to join them. Show this newsletter to your pastor if your place of worship doesn’t already work with us. Join us personally in prayer, service and financial support. Read through this newsletter, visit our website (www.endhunger.org) or place a call to our national office (800-333-4597). We’ll get you started — and the end of hunger in the United States will be that much closer if you will join us today. ♦
and peaches. They also carried some hefty-sized watermelons such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, of starting a gleaning network in the state of Arkansas. So far budgets were spared because they didn’t have to purchase and boxes full of squash, corn, apples, and tomatoes. The to be of service to those in need by picking delicate fruits salvaged across both those states. 5,000 volunteers came out the governor’s mansion. SoSA was highlighted for its work Mississippi Gleaning Network recently with a breakfast at Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and his wife honored SoSA’s Praises and Successes Across the Country Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and his wife honored SoSA’s Western Headquarters has moved more than 116,242 pounds the potatoes planted! This community project resulted in 20,280 too much to mow their yards and donated the land instead to have living in the area had gotten together and decided that it was costing about SoSA’s Seed Potato Project and Pastor Eric asked if George could get his hands on some of those seed potatoes because he had recentartin about and discussed hunger and poverty in America and students and intergenerational groups worked, learned, and worshiped together. Overall, groups have gleaning over 120,000 lbs. of fresh produce for the hungry, but by the time you are reading this it will be much more. We also learned about and discussed hunger and poverty in America and abroad, putting our heads together to figure out ways we can help fight hunger in our individual communities. For several teams and individual youth, Harvest of Hope was their first mission trip ever. One eighth-grader on her first trip described her experience as “one of the best I’ve ever had.” For many of our younger participants, this summer was their first trip to a produce farm. From potatoes to peaches to corn to peppers to watermelons, the youth put much needed food into the hands of those who need it most. A great experience was had by all, and many are anticipating a return trip next summer. But first, fall has arrived! As another summer has quickly come and quickly gone, Harvest of Hope looks ahead to fall events. Apples, apples, and more apples are in our future as we prepare to salvage the leftover fall harvests to feed Christ’s hungry children. Don’t forget about the upcoming Harvest of Hope Alternative Spring Break! Come glean with us and learn about the hunger crisis in America, all in the warmth of the Florida sun! We’ll work hard and play hard during the week, doing something about hunger together! And hey, how does a day at the beach sound? • Where: March 8-14, 2009 • Where: The Mission Place, Jacksonville, FL • Who: College Students, Chaplains, Club Advisors • Cost: $150/person (scholarships available as needed) • Contact: Sarah Nagy for more info (800-333-4597 or sosahof@endhunger.org) Muchas Gracias, Merci Beaucoup, and Thank You! SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-September 2008 Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry: • Potato Project Gleaned Produce Total Pounds Total Servings

8,900,000 lbs. 8,240,078 lbs. 22,733 20,750 11,440,078 52,320,234 **Praises and Successes Across the Country**

Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and his wife honored SoSA’s Mississippi Gleaning Network recently with a breakfast at the governor’s mansion. SoSA was highlighted for its work of starting a gleaning network in the state of Arkansas. So far budgets were spared because they didn’t have to purchase and boxes full of squash, corn, apples, and tomatoes. The to be of service to those in need by picking delicate fruits salvaged across both those states. 5,000 volunteers came out the governor’s mansion. SoSA was highlighted for its work Mississippi Gleaning Network recently with a breakfast at Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and his wife honored SoSA’s Praises and Successes Across the Country Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and his wife honored SoSA’s Western Headquarters has moved more than 116,242 pounds the potatoes planted! This community project resulted in 20,280 too much to mow their yards and donated the land instead to have living in the area had gotten together and decided that it was costing about SoSA’s Seed Potato Project and Pastor Eric asked if George could get his hands on some of those seed potatoes because he had recentartin about and discussed hunger and poverty in America and students and intergenerational groups worked, learned, and worshiped together. Overall, groups have gleaning over 120,000 lbs. of fresh produce for the hungry, but by the time you are reading this it will be much more. We also learned about and discussed hunger and poverty in America and abroad, putting our heads together to figure out ways we can help fight hunger in our individual communities. For several teams and individual youth, Harvest of Hope was their first mission trip ever. One eighth-grader on her first trip described her experience as “one of the best I’ve ever had.” For many of our younger participants, this summer was their first trip to a produce farm. From potatoes to peaches to corn to peppers to watermelons, the youth put much needed food into the hands of those who need it most. A great experience was had by all, and many are anticipating a return trip next summer. But first, fall has arrived! As another summer has quickly come and quickly gone, Harvest of Hope looks ahead to fall events. Apples, apples, and more apples are in our future as we prepare to salvage the leftover fall harvests to feed Christ’s hungry children. Don’t forget about the upcoming Harvest of Hope Alternative Spring Break! Come glean with us and learn about the hunger crisis in America, all in the warmth of the Florida sun! We’ll work hard and play hard during the week, doing something about hunger together! And hey, how does a day at the beach sound? • Where: March 8-14, 2009 • Where: The Mission Place, Jacksonville, FL • Who: College Students, Chaplains, Club Advisors • Cost: $150/person (scholarships available as needed) • Contact: Sarah Nagy for more info (800-333-4597 or sosahof@endhunger.org) Muchas Gracias, Merci Beaucoup, and Thank You! SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-September 2008 Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry: • Potato Project Gleaned Produce Total Pounds Total Servings

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**Get Your Charitable Donation in Before it’s Too Late for Tax Deduction**

If you itemize deductions, your 2008 year-end gift can significantly reduce your taxes while helping to feed countless Americans who otherwise might not get enough to eat. Receiving a charitable deduction for 2008 is as easy as writing a check to our ministry with the envelope postmarked by December 31. Or you can make a credit card donation. Cash gifts are fully deductible for federal income tax purposes up to half your adjusted gross income. You can also make gifts of stock, life insurance, or a life income gift. Call us for details.

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**“Souper” Bowl of Caring Challenge**

**By Rev. Jennifer Vestal Moore, Director of Church Relations**

There are so many ways to share your blessings with others while having fun at the BIG Super Bowl game. Why not consider one of the events listed below and get your entire congregation to join in the celebration and make a difference at the same time.

- Host a chili cook off.
- Use two large soup pots, one for each team in the Super Bowl, and invite your congregation to place their dollars in the soup pot of the team they want to win.
- Use the children’s moments at church to inform the congregation about the work of SoSA’s ministry. Have the children take up a noisy offering using soup pots to collect the donation.
- Host a potato luncheon and encourage the congregation to make a donation to SoSA for their lunch.

**Be creative. Inform. Invite. Publicize. Share.**

After the big game, total up your collection. Send a check to SoSA along with a short note on how your congregation celebrated “Souper” Bowl Sunday.

Each church that participates in our “Souper” Bowl of Caring challenge, will receive a special “Souper” Bowl of Caring certificate that recognizes the effort and financial gift of the congregation.

This program is also an opportunity for United Methodist congregations to respond to the 2008 General Conference Resolution, which recognizes the Society of St. Andrew as a partner organization with the United Methodist Church in the alleviation of hunger in the United States.

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**Covenant Church**

Continued from page 1

financial support your church gives to the work of SoSA. The Covenant Church program is designed to allow churches the opportunity to grow in their faith and make a higher level of commitment to serving God’s children who are hungry.

**Q:** How do I find out more about being a Covenant Church?

**A:** Call the Society of St. Andrew at 800-333-4597 or visit our website at www.endhunger.org.

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**Potato Project — it’s not just potatoes**

**By Marian Kelly, Potato Project Director**

The “Produce Project,” formerly known as the “Potato Project” (just kidding), has been salvaging and distributing much more than potatoes in 2008. Donors have been generous with tractor trailer loads of bananas, sweet corn, watermelons, and cantaloupe this summer. Feeding agencies were surprised when we offered them something other than our old standbys of white and sweet potatoes! There was no hesitation though; the nutritious produce was a godsend for many of our clients who have deficiencies in their diets. We are most thankful whenever we get those calls for any type of produce.

Earlier in the year a church in West Virginia that had never had a Potato Drop contacted us with great interest in one as a mission opportunity for their church and community. Kanawha United Presbyterian Church was able to take a 43,000-pound sweet potato load on very short notice. The co-coordinator of the drop recently sent us a letter explaining “their youth were excited to repeat this experience and to share it with other churches in their area. Some of the churches that participated in the event even dedicated their VBS offerings to our fundraising efforts.” This drop resulted in many blessings: Kanawha was blessed to have this opportunity; their neighboring churches were blessed to be introduced to SoSA’s ministry; the hungry were blessed with nutritious produce; and SoSA is blessed to make these new friends.

Our mission is salvaging food and distributing to those in need. As we carry out this mission the blessings are passed on. We look forward to the remaining three months of 2008 to be rich with blessings for those we strive to serve.

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**New North Carolina Regional Director**

We are extremely excited to have Kristy Bradley join us as the new NC Regional Director. Kristy lives in Snow Camp with her two daughters and has most recently been working on a rural church project in the Burlington, NC District of the United Methodist Church. She also worked for 12 years with the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and in Greensboro. Kristy’s energy and talents will serve her well in this new and challenging role.

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**Donations to SoSA made in recent months to:**

**HONOR -** Stewart Childress ... Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Grant ... Mr. & Mrs. Steven L. Gray ... Rev. & Mrs. Cecil Jones ... Richard & Novella Johnson ... Frieda Morris ... Mrs. Carole Reynolds ... Carl Rhudy ... Fran Saylor ... Nathan Scott ... The Rev. James Tongue ... Mr. & Mrs. Chad Yokel

**IN MEMORY OF -** John Beach ... Rollie Burkart ... Alyn Colby ... John Cuthbert ... Marion Moore Freeman ... Lynda Hewitt ... Paul Hinzman ... Evine King ... Arnold McPeters ... Darwin Tripp
During Lent make feeding the hungry your mission

- A devotional program of spiritual reflection, prayer & giving.
- Daily readings present unique ways to see Jesus through His divine, yet human hands.
- Good Friday Fast also available.
- Reflect and pray about how you might use your hands to be more Christ-like to others.
- Take seriously scriptural injunctions to care for the poor.
- Unique opportunity to feed America's hungry people.
- $1 donation per day ($47) provides nearly 2,400 servings of fresh produce to those who don’t get enough to eat.

No obligation
Order sample packets today
- Call 800-333-4597
- Email church@endhunger.org
- ADVENT at www.endhunger.org/advent.htm
- LENT at www.endhunger.org/lent.htm

Finish gift shopping in the next 10 minutes.
We’ll send your honorees our Christmas Gift Donation Card — fourteenth in a series — designed exclusively for and donated to SoSA by artist Annis McCabe. The full-color, 7”x5” card features original art outside and inside describing the “Work of Christmas” put forth in Howard Thurman’s poem “When the Song of the Angels is Still,” the same verse used in SoSA’s very first Christmas Card! This one-of-a-kind card announces your generous gift to feed the hungry in the name of your honorees. You’ll also receive the card with confirmation of your order. No other gift can do so much for so many with so little! So finish your shopping and cards today by mail, phone, fax or online!

800-333-4597
Fax 434-299-5949
card@endhunger.org
endhunger.org/card

When the Song of the Angels is still, the Work of Christmas begins ... To Feed the Hungry

Christmas Gift Donation Card
Minimum donation gift for each card is $12
Do not send cash through mail. Donations tax deductible as allowed by law.
Make check payable to “Society of St. Andrew” or
Charge my:  VISA  MasterCard  AmEx
Account # ___________________________  Exp. Date __________ 
Signature ____________________________________________
Please Print Total enclosed or charged: $________
Your Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City________________________ State____ Zip___________
Day Phone _____________________________
Email ____________________________________________

☐ Send _______ cards TO ME for personalizing and mailing.
☐ SoSA send out the following cards on my behalf:

In honor of
Address ____________________________________________
City________________________ State____ Zip___________
Sign this card: ______________________________________
(Use separate sheet for additional names and addresses)

Orders must be received by Dec. 1 to ensure delivery before Christmas.
We will make every attempt to expedite late orders. Mail to:
Society of St. Andrew, 3383 Sweet Hollow Rd., Big Island, VA 24526
Finding Christ in the midst of Christmas

This Christmas prepare for the coming of the Christ Child with SoSA’s Advent Devotions guide using daily scriptures, reflections, and prayers. You’ll be challenged each day to deepen your walk with God and given the opportunity to help feed the hungry, as He commanded, with donations to SoSA’s hunger-relief ministry. To order your personal packet or a church starter kit mail this coupon or call 800-333-4597, email church@endhunger.org, or go online to www.endhunger.org/advent.htm. All materials are FREE.

I know the NEED is great and I want to HELP! Please use my charitable donation to feed hungry Americans.

I do care! Here’s my donation to feed the hungry.

☐ $500  ☐ $365  ☐ $250  ☐ $100  ☐ Other $ ______

(Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)

Name__________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________
City_______________________________ State_____ Zip________
Daytime Phone (____)____________________________________
Email __________________________________________________
Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx
Acct.#_________________________________ Exp.Date_________
Signature______________________________________________

Mail to:  
SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW
3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD, BIG ISLAND, VA 24526

For information about SoSA programs call 800-333-4597 • sosausa@endhunger.org • www.endhunger.org