

Society of St. Andrew REPORT

VOLUME 24

NUMBER 4

AUTUMN 2008

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



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 of 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

We ask each Covenant Church to pray for the Society of St. Andrew ministries and for our brothers and sisters who are hungry.

Continued - see COVENANT CHURCH on page 4

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. ♦

SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-September 2008

Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:	
➤ Potato Project Gleaned Produce	8,900,000 lbs.
➤ Events	2,233
➤ Volunteers	20,760
➤ Total Pounds	17,440,078
➤ Total Servings	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 this year we have saved 243,900 pounds of produce in that state. ♦ The Food Bank of Southwest Georgia in Albany recognized Society of St. Andrew at their annual appreciation banquet for donating the most produce – over 220,000 pounds! ♦ The North and South Carolina Gleaning Networks have had a busy summer with over 2.4 million pounds gleaned or salvaged across both those states. 5,000 volunteers came out to be of service to those in need by picking delicate fruits such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, strawberries, and peaches. They also carried some hefty-sized watermelons and boxes full of squash, corn, apples, and tomatoes. The nutritious food was a blessing to the feeding programs whose budgets were spared because they didn't have to purchase food for that day or days to come.

♦ Within four months of opening,



SoSA's Western Headquarters has moved more than 116,242 pounds of produce, primarily potatoes and peaches, with the help of about 20 volunteers. We have been contacting farmers, growers, packers, and other produce handlers within a 500-mile radius of Kansas City, and have received about 160 verbal commitments to give us their unmarketable produce. We have delivered produce to four food banks in four states: Colorado, Missouri, Minnesota, and North Dakota. ♦ Recently, our gleaning coordinator in Northern Virginia, Betty Heishman, experienced a very lucky happenstance. While gleaning at a farm she was asked what she could do with a truck load of lettuce. It turns out that a load of lettuce was refused by the store that had ordered it and the driver just couldn't bring himself to dump it. He called his brother-in-law, who lives in the area, has a large cooler and is a friend of the farmer where Betty was gleaning. The farmer took Betty to where the lettuce was stored and within 48 hours it was distributed to over 20 agencies! Not one head was wilted. ♦ George Jensen, West Ohio Hunger Relief Advocate, was pivotal in spearheading a very successful seed potato project in Ohio this year. Actually, it all started a few years ago when George spoke at Edon UMC in Edon, OH. He shared with them 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 a potato planter and harvester. Well, eventually, George did get his hands on 1,950 pounds of seed potatoes. Amazingly, three neighbors living in the area had gotten together and decided that it was costing too much to mow their yards and donated the land instead to have the potatoes planted! This community project resulted in 20,280 pounds of potatoes for local agencies. What a labor of love! ♦

Muchas Gracias, Merci Beaucoup, and Thank You!

The Virginia Gleaning Network has been picking corn, corn, and more corn! In fact, we picked over 183,000 pounds of sweet corn this summer, bringing our total to 977,898 pounds of fresh produce so far this year. Thank you, farmers, gleaners and coordinators, for all that you do. ♦ We often hear from people who want to glean but are not able to because of physical limitations. Luckily there are many very important ways for people to volunteer for SoSA

that do not involve actual field gleaning. Recently, the Florida Gleaning Network worked with dedicated volunteers from Winter Park Towers. The group of 25 (including the Chaplain!) cut, tied, and "fluffed" almost 700 bags for an upcoming potato

drop. They also put labels on 200 postcards for the "Citrus Harvest for the Hungry" mailing. We appreciate all our volunteers — no task is too small and no task goes unnoticed — they all help us fulfill our calling to Glean America's Fields and Feed America's Hungry! ♦ SoSA's headquarters in Big Island, Virginia also greatly appreciates the volunteers from Main Street UMC in Bedford, VA, who faithfully help to make this newsletter possible 4 times a year. ♦ The Mississippi Gleaning Network is appreciative of the more than 1,000 volunteers who have gleaned more than 2 million servings of nutritious food this year. ♦ Despite challenging weather conditions in Georgia, the Gleaning Network there had a miraculous summer. We were able to glean blueberries at a University of Georgia test plot. Blueberries are a luxury for all, but especially for those who are financially challenged; they were much appreciated! ♦ The Alabama Gleaning Network would like to thank Isaiah House, a food pantry and social service agency in Talladega, that has been receiving food from us for several years. The Director there, Thelma Dundy, works hard to make certain everyone in her community has enough to eat. Churches support this ministry and instead of housing food pantries in their own churches, they pool their resources to support Isaiah House. Thank you for combining your efforts to benefit those in need. ♦ In North Carolina, many farmers told us the reason they had excess produce was because they were experiencing fewer customers coming to their produce stands. That is a sad situation for our farmers, whom we love dearly. However, we were delighted to receive over 40 different kinds of fruits and vegetables, which were distributed directly to low income housing units, seniors housing, food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Thank you to all our farmers who keep us in their thoughts even when times are tough for them. ♦ SoSA's Western Headquarters is thankful to the Interfaith Councils of Greater Kansas City and Raytown and to the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Council for inviting us to join their important work. ♦

Upcoming Events – Opportunities to Get Involved

The Mississippi Gleaning Network will be hosting the 2nd Annual Yam Jam in November (date TBA) at a sweet potato farm near Huston, MS. Please contact the Mississippi office at 601-850-4018 or sosams@endhunger.org for more information. ♦ The Florida Gleaning Network will be gleaning corn and citrus in late October and early November. In the Orlando area and Brevard County the "Citrus Harvest for the Hungry" will be Saturday, January 31st. You can contact the Florida office at 407-650-1956 or sosafl@endhunger.org to find out more. ♦ The Georgia Gleaning Network has a need for gleaners and people willing to drive their pickups to get available produce. Contact Janet at 229-386-5800 or gleanga@endhunger.org. ♦ Help the Alabama Gleaning Network deliver all those "leftover" pumpkins during the first week of November. Call 205-838-1927 or email sosaal@endhunger.org to get involved.

Bottom l. to r.: Gleaners from New Unity Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC harvest strawberries. Young gleaners bag potatoes in Stokesdale, NC. The United Methodist Men of Edon UMC in Edon, OH prepare the seed potatoes to be planted. **Top l. to r.:** A proud gleaner in GA displays blueberries. Residents at Winter Park Towers in FL tie bags for a potato drop. 2 farmers take a break to read the Society of St. Andrew Report.

Fun in the Sun with Harvest of Hope

By SARAH NAGY, HARVEST OF HOPE DIRECTOR

Harvest of Hope had a great summer! From Virginia to Arkansas to South Carolina, junior-high and senior-high students and intergenerational groups worked, learned and worshiped together. Overall, groups have gleaned 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 peas 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 issue 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?

- ♦ **When:** 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 sosahoh@endhunger.org)



Please continue praying for *Harvest of Hope* and supporting our ministry by donating financially or by donating your time and attending an event. I hope to see you at a *Harvest of Hope* and work beside you as we do something about hunger together! ♦

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.

"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. ♦

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. ♦

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 ♦

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. ♦

... the nutritious produce was a godsend for many of our clients who have deficiencies in their diets.

New North Carolina Regional Director



Kristy Bradley

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. ♦



Advent Devotions program with a mission emphasis

- Find Christ in the chaos of Christmas.
- Daily Advent devotions, scripture and prayer focus on ways and places to find Christ as you navigate the secular world's Christmas maze.
- Reflect on and share in the work and mission of the baby in the manger who is Immanuel ... "God with us".
- Nourish your spirit and feed your hungry neighbors.
- \$1 donation per day (\$24) provides about 1,200 servings of nourishing food for hungry families.

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.

• All materials for both devotional programs are free

• Call 800-333-4597 • Email church@endhunger.org • Or order online:

• ADVENT at www.endhunger.org/advent.htm

• No obligation • Order sample packets today

• LENT at www.endhunger.org/lent.htm

Begin the work of Christmas with SoSA Christmas Gift Donation Cards. Each \$12 Gift Card in honor of someone special feeds 800 people!

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

(ACC-NL)



Society of St. Andrew
 Telephone: 1-800-333-4597
 3383 Sweet Hollow Road
 Big Island, Virginia 24526
 www.endhunger.org



NON-PROFIT
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 BEDFORD, VA
 PERMIT NO. 3

Society of St. Andrew REPORT



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.

Please send me a FREE Advent starter kit today!

Contact Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Daytime Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____
 Church Name _____
 Mail to: **SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW**
3383 SWEET HOLLOW RD, BIG ISLAND, VA 24526

(NL 10/08)

***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

(NL 10/08)