



# Society of St. Andrew REPORT



VOLUME 25

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AUTUMN 2009

## GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

### Survey shows rise in emergency food assistance

Feeding America, a large network of food banks, recently conducted a survey of their partner feeding agencies. Below are some of the results of that survey.

- ▶ Rising need for emergency food is nearly universal – 99% of all participating food banks reported increases in demand for emergency food assistance over the last year.
- ▶ The average increase in demand across the network from summer 2008 to summer 2009 was 30%.
- ▶ High unemployment across the nation – which reached 9.7% in August – is a critical factor in the rising need for emergency food. Local economic circumstances, such as plant and business closings, had a significant impact on rising need for emergency food over the last year, and 79% identified underemployment as a major contributor.

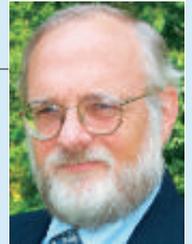
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▶ In contrast, a similar survey conducted in May 2008, only 43% of food banks cited rising unemployment as a major factor of need in their community. At that time, the cost of food and fuel were the primary concerns for more than 90% of food banks.

The Society of St. Andrew has always recognized the need for food assistance to the poor – no matter what the current economic situation may be. The reasons for poverty change but SoSA's calling remains the same. ♦

### From the Sheep Shed

**KEN HORNE, DIRECTOR EMERITUS**



Hunger is one of the most long-lived 'social' problems facing the United States today. It is also the greatest opportunity we will have to transform our world into the kind of place God wants it to be. Contrary to conventional wisdom, of all our 'social' problems, hunger is the most easily remedied.

That was the opening paragraph of a commentary written in 2004 by SoSA co-founder Rev. Ken Horne. It was written in conjunction with National Hunger Awareness Day 2004 in the hope of spurring our local and national leaders, our churches, and our citizens to rise to the need of more than 37 million of our fellow citizens who live in poverty and don't get enough to eat. Anyone reading that full article today would be hard pressed to believe it hadn't been written yesterday.

Little has changed regarding justice for the poor. Indeed, since 2004, even more people rely upon help from food banks and pantries, soup kitchens, and other critical service agencies nationwide, which, more and more, are not able to keep up with the need. In the last five years the U.S. has significantly raised the minimum wage, increased funding for food stamps, WIC and other forms of assistance to the poor among us. Yet nothing government has done in the last five years has decreased the number of hungry people in our country or much improved their chances of pulling themselves out of the cycle of poverty and hunger. Despite increased efforts by churches and charities to address the issues facing the poor, the number of hungry people remains the same. Nonprofit organizations, including faith-based charities like SoSA, are working harder than ever – and, due to present-day economic difficulties, with far less financial support – to provide basic help for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. But there is hope, yet. Again, from Horne's 2004 commentary:

Hunger will not be eliminated in our country without powerful leadership from those of us who are aware of the tragedy of hunger, and are concerned for its victims. It is in providing that leadership that our opportunity lies.

Let us be plain about the fact that the worst ravages of poverty can be overcome with relative ease in our country. We are the richest nation in the history of the planet. We have plenty of food, plenty of money, and plenty of social and administrative know-how. What we lack is the political and moral will to see to it that the hungry are fed; the naked are clothed, and so on.

There is great compassion and caring in our country. There is a great potential for people to follow Jesus' commands concerning the poor – if they are properly led and motivated.

After twenty-five (now thirty) years in ministry to the poor, we at Society of St. Andrew have come to see that it will take many of us working together (church, charity, and private citizens from all walks of life) to supply the leadership necessary to lead our country in eliminating hunger.

The role that we all can play in giving birth to a world without hunger is crucial. I believe that God has placed the responsibility for leadership squarely on our shoulders. We must come together as concerned citizens to provide mercy to, and insist on justice for the poor. If this can be done the days when hungry children cry in our world are truly numbered.

The Society of St. Andrew continues on this path, providing more and more food – tens of millions of servings every year – to those in need. We ask you to continue your leadership in ending hunger through SoSA and in whatever other ways are appropriate for you.

It is instructive to read and consider Ken's commentary and then ask ourselves "Why?" What do I need to do to address the issue of hunger in a country where there should be none? You can find the full commentary online at [www.endhunger.org/perspective](http://www.endhunger.org/perspective). ♦

## SoSA Statistics at a Glance January-September 2009

### Fresh food salvaged and donated to feed the hungry:

➤ Potato Project	8,780,818 lbs.	down 0.8%
➤ Gleaned Produce	10,901,779 lbs.	up 25%
➤ Events	2,913	up 27%
➤ Volunteers	24,544	up 14%
➤ Total Pounds	19,682,597	up 12%
➤ Total Servings	59,047,791	up 12%

### SoSA stories from around the states

Society of St. Andrew has been working hard in the first three quarters of the year to tackle the mounting challenge of keeping perfectly good food out of landfills and onto the plates of those who need it. With the economy in an ongoing recession and poverty on the rise (a recent study conducted by the US Census Bureau found that there are now 40 million American's living below the poverty line, up from 37 million) the need for food assistance is touching even more of our brothers and sisters. We have met these challenges by increasing our food salvage programs by over 12%. ♦ The North and South Carolina Gleaning Networks have saved and distributed over 3.7 million pounds of produce so far this year with the help of 87 new growers. Included in those efforts was the work of St.

John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. This church sponsored a farmers' market where members brought surplus produce from their gardens. They divided all the produce into single serving sizes so the older adults in the congregation were able to purchase just the right amount for themselves or their small families. All proceeds collected were given to the Society of St. Andrew. It was a winning situation all around: some church members were able to find a home for their excess produce; some church members were able to buy fresh locally grown produce; and all the money went to fighting hunger for the less fortunate – what an example of Christ's love. ♦ The Alabama Gleaning Network continued their work with East Lake Farmers' Market this year. Over 100 baskets were delivered most weeks to low income seniors living in the East Lake area of Birmingham. It's Pumpkin Pickin' time in Alabama! The week after Halloween, volunteers take to the pumpkin patches to pick up all those "left-over" pumpkins that didn't make it as jack-o'-lanterns! They are delivered to area agencies that can provide them to clients for cooking! Call or email our Alabama office (205-838-1927 or [sosaal@endhunger.org](mailto:sosaal@endhunger.org)) to sign up to help glean these holiday leftovers. ♦ Late summer is traditionally a slow time for produce in Georgia. However, compared to last summer, the Georgia Gleaning Network had almost 4 times the amount gleaned in July and over 5 times the amount gleaned in August. We also had four new sources! One was a quail hunting plantation. No, it was not quail that was gleaned, but blueberries picked by mothers and children from First Presbyterian Church of Moultrie, GA. Another new location was a research station that studies irrigation and we were able to glean tomatoes and sweet corn from that location. Next, the owner of Fresh Faith Farms heard Janet Sheldon, Georgia Gleaning Network Director, on the radio talking about SoSA and invited us to come out and glean. He had the most amazing variety. At this one location, the Hahira UMC

staff and youth gleaned peaches, tomatoes, sweet corn, blueberries,



**Top l. to r.:** A member of John's Baptist in Charlotte finds her "choice" eggplant at their farmers' market. Now that's a Georgia peach, tomato, cabbage, potato, - 2 girls proudly display their bounty from a GA glean. This young gleaner in MO found the apple of her eye.

**Bottom l. to r.:** Youth enjoying blueberry gleaning in AL. A very successful sweet potato in NC.

cabbages, red skinned potatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, and yellow squash. The final new source was a farmer/shipper that donated many bins of splendid cabbages to us. ♦ Central United Methodist Church in Meridian, MS raised money to help with a strawberry planting for the Mississippi Gleaning Network. Randy Mathis' strawberry and peach farm just south of Meridian, MS is planting 1,000 extra strawberry plants that will be exclusively for SoSA to harvest in the early spring and will result in hundreds of pounds. The money will help offset the cost of the plants, an irrigation system and other expenses involved in the planting. The Mississippi Gleaning Network would like to thank all of its farmers and volunteers who have made this year a great success for food salvage in the state — they have been a blessing to all those who would have gone without fresh produce. ♦ Edon UMC in Ohio, with the leadership of their pastor Eric Daily and George Jensen, SoSA Hunger Relief Advocate, planted 3,500 pounds of seed potatoes. Most were donated by the Society of St. Andrew and some were bought with money raised by the church. The church did all of the labor — their labor of love. From working the ground, to planting the seeds, to harvesting, to delivering the nutritious crop to area feeding agencies in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, this church certainly followed the command “you give them something to eat.” ♦ The Virginia Gleaning Network was blessed this summer with some volunteer help from Russia. The Virginia Conference United Methodist Church Russia Initiative committee sponsored seven Russians who traveled throughout the state for three weeks this summer doing volunteer work. The work they did included gleaning with the Virginia Gleaning Network, working at food pantries, and visiting sister churches. The hope is that they will take home some ideas they can use to help their home churches grow and thrive. Betty Heishman, gleaning coordinator in Northern Virginia, has been gleaning with SoSA for over 20 years. In that time she has seen many farms and orchards come and go but one precious farm has remained — the Marker Miller Family Farm. John and Carolyn Miller were the first farm to join the Northern Virginia gleaning effort and have always been loyal. For many years they have planted numerous rows for SoSA and donated the labor, seed, and fertilizer. This year they went the extra mile by planting and replanting rows under plastic and with irrigation. They have done so much to help and encourage SoSA's efforts to feed the hungry. ♦ The SoSA West Gleaning Network had an exciting summer, featuring several milestones. July and August saw new highs in numbers of volunteers, new farms, and pounds salvaged. With just over a year under our belts there, we salvaged nearly 600,000 pounds of zucchini, sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, cabbage, watermelon, and more with 359 volunteers at 61 events. SoSA West worked with St. Gabriel's Catholic Parish to integrate its hunger mission into the program for their 2009 confirmation class, giving presentations and leading gleanings. Congregation Beth Shalom's volunteers stepped up their gleaning efforts over the summer. Gleaning strikes a chord with Congregation Beth Shalom since many of them have gleaned fields in Israel during trips to the Holy Land. ♦

The summer *Harvest of Hope* season is over. No more living out of a suitcase going from event to event. No more making sure I am covered from head to toe in sun screen. No more spending each morning in the field getting all sweaty and grimy. Yes, the good times are over, now the hard part of the job begins. My days are now filled with paperwork, number crunching (6 events and over 300 participants so far this year), organizing and planning for fall. I assume that you, like me, find it easier to believe you are helping God's kingdom during the dramatic, intense and often chaotic moments in life. It is easy to recognize the value of my work when my muscles ache from picking up 80-pound sacks of potatoes. Its hard work and I know it, but it is doable and enjoyable because I know it will help feed those who are hungry. With sacrifice comes a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

Our lives are filled to some degree with mundane things we must do in order to earn a paycheck or run a household. Therefore, we must reach out and seize every opportunity to live the dramatic life of self-sacrifice that we can. When we sacrifice for others we know in our heart of hearts that we are doing God's will, and that brings purpose and joy to our lives. That is why *Harvest of Hope* is so important; it is often the first step for many into a life dedicated to helping others. It is my sincerest wish that everyone who attends a Harvest event will be exposed to the hunger (physical and spiritual) of those around them and be moved to action. It is in our sacrifice for our families, co-workers, neighbors and anyone that is hungry that we will find that sense of purpose we all long for. As you sacrifice your time and resources to help SoSA's *Harvest of Hope* feed the hungry I pray that you find the sense of purpose God has for you. ♦

## Potato and Produce Project News

By MARIAN KELLY, POTATO & PRODUCE PROJECT DIRECTOR

The *Potato & Produce Project* delivered a variety of produce and white and sweet potatoes to feeding agencies in St. Charles, IL, Williamsburg, KY, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, Franklin, TN, Virginia Beach, VA and other places across the country. We hope that these loads of food have helped to ease someone's burden a little. Our mission here at the Society of St. Andrew has always been about salvaging food, but first and foremost it is feeding America's hungry. The cold uncomfortable winter months will soon be upon us. The need is there for good nutritious food for the hungry no matter what the temperatures are outside. So we will continue to follow this commission that our Lord has given to us — “You give them something to eat.” A very special thank you to all who have helped us feed the hungry this year. ♦

# Milestones from the past 30 years:



This year the Society of St. Andrew is marking 30 years of hunger ministry. Throughout the year in this newsletter we have highlighted milestones from the past 30 years; here are a few more that have been made possible by our faithful supporters – donors, volunteers and farmers:

▶ 1986 – Saint Andrew Club started by William Schminky at and administered by Fairlington UMC, Alexandria, VA, to raise funds for SoSA throughout Northern Virginia. Subsequent to that, the following Saint Andrew Club chapters were started:

- 1995 – “Loaves & Fishes” chapter begins through SoSA’s North Carolina regional office;
  - 2002 – Central Virginia Chapter started at and administered by Mountain View UMC, Forest, VA;
  - 2005 – SoSA’s *Harvest of Hope* Saint Andrew Club established as a means for *Harvest of Hope* mission retreat alumni to raise money for SoSA.
  - Faithful donors through these programs have so far given more than \$1.5 million, which has provided about 4.5 million servings to the hungry.
- ▶ 1998 – SoSA co-founders Ken Horne and Ray Buchanan each received the 1998 National Caring Award presented by the Caring Institute for their long-standing commitment to ending hunger in America through the work of the Society of St. Andrew. Past recipients include Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Jane Woodall, and Mother Teresa.
- ▶ 1999 – The Society of St. Andrew’s Board of Directors transitioned from an advisory board to a governing board.
- ▶ 1999 – SoSA’s Hunger Relief Advocate Initiative created in partnership with the General Commission on United Methodist Men to encourage churches to take the lead in ending domestic hunger. Three dozen people have served as Hunger Relief Advocates (HRA) in their respective UM regional conferences. Currently there are 18 HRAs in 18 UM regional conferences.
- ▶ 2000 – The total number of volunteers helping SoSA save food for the hungry from 1983 to 2000 went over 100,000. By 2008 the number had gone over 400,000.
- ▶ 2006 – SoSA surpassed half a Billion pounds of food recovered and distributed to the nation’s hungry through the *Potato & Produce Project* and *Gleaning Network* combined, providing more than 1.5 Billion servings of nutritious food.
- ▶ 2007 – SoSA’s National Advisory Board was formed; 14 business, political and philanthropic leaders from across the nation named to the board; Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina named honorary chair.
- ▶ 2008 – SoSA co-founder Ken Horne retired and was named Director Emeritus; Board of Directors named Steven M. (Mike) Waldmann as SoSA’s Executive Director.
- ▶ 2009 – Sept. – The *Gleaning Network* surpasses 175 million pounds of fresh produce gleaned by hand from farm fields and orchards, one piece at a time, by volunteers. This food provided more than half a Billion servings.
- We at the Society of St. Andrew are extremely grateful for all who have faithfully supported our hunger-relief ministry over the years. We covet your continued involvement as we work together to end hunger. ♦**

# Two contests honor 30 years of ministry

This year, in honor of our 30th anniversary, SoSA sponsored two contests that were announced in the spring issue of this newsletter.

First, we were looking for young artists to display their talents by illustrating a thank you card. The response was overwhelming and we would like to thank the following churches and their youth for participating: Old Bridge UMC, in Woodbridge, VA, Trinity UMC in Lafayette, IN, Prince of Peace UMC in Manassas, VA, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, PA, Trinity UMC in Orange, VA, and individual entries from Hanna Hamilton, Orlando, FL, and Hollyn Pleasants, Scottsville, VA. We will be using winning designs on thank you cards to our major donors. We will also spotlight a different artist each month in our electronic newsletter. Visit our website at [www.endhunger.org/update](http://www.endhunger.org/update) to view the most recent e-newsletter.



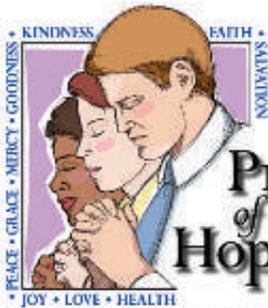
The second contest called for the nomination of families and individuals living out the “SoSA Lifestyle.” In other words, those who are living a simplified, responsible lifestyle while living out their faith by providing in some way for our sisters and brothers who are in need. We would like to recognize the Moore family of Las Cruces, NM as the winners: Reverend Jon and his wife Melani, along with their two children, Brishen and Basia, whom they home school. They are vegetarians and grow some of their own food; they compost and recycle faithfully. They have one family vehicle and practice good stewardship of creation by walking when possible, including Pastor Jon occasionally walking more than five miles round trip to work. Melani co-leads a Tuesday morning bilingual story time for children who accompany their parents to the church’s bi-weekly food and clothing pantry. Melani coordinated a church effort to support FINCA, which provides low interest micro loans to women in developing countries. The family have participated in Society of St. Andrew gleanings for the local food bank. Pastor Jon and Melani have led and participated in many mission trips. Pastor Jon leads by example and encourages the entire church family to live out the church’s mission to “change lives through gifts of service.” ♦

## Donations to SoSA:

**IN HONOR OF** - 25th Anniversary of Bacon-N-Bakin’ Farms ... Revs. Vernie & Barbara Barrow ... Ruth Bennett ... Bethlehem UMC Church Members, Swope VA ... Bertie & Candler Cooper ... Mrs. Ginny Fowler ... Nancy Graffis ... Dave & Gayle Guthridge ... Roberta Lake ... Andrew Lowy ... Virginia Robertson ... St. John UMC, Springfield VA

**IN MEMORY OF** - George Howell ... Harry N. Kanode ... Dr. Jack Kibler, III ... Evine King ... Nellie Gray Porter Logan ... Fla Anthony Marks ... J. Herbert Martin ... Mrs. Rosa Parker ... Michael Wayne Rakes ♦

# During Advent, Christmas & Lent make feeding the hungry your mission



**Prayers of Hope**  
*What do you hope for in the coming of Christ?*

- 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.

## • Advent Devotions

Daily scripture, prayer and reflection on the coming of Christ.

## • Lenten Devotions

Program of daily spiritual reflection, prayer and giving.

- Reflect and pray about how you might become more Christ-like.
- Take seriously scriptural injunctions to care for the poor.
- Unique opportunity to feed America's hungry people.
- \$1 donation per day (\$47) provides over 2,000 servings of fresh produce to those who don't have enough to eat.



## • All materials for both devotional programs are free

• Call 800-333-4597

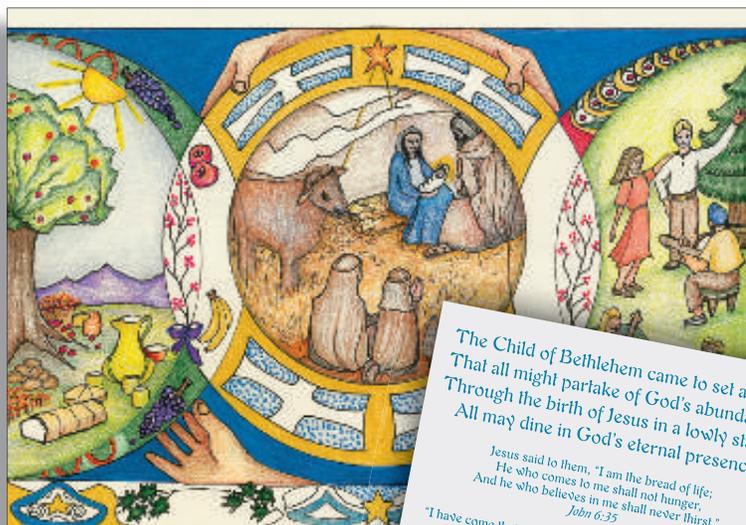
• Email church@endhunger.org

## • No obligation • Order sample packets today

• Or order online:

• ADVENT at [www.endhunger.org/advent.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/advent.htm)

• LENT at [www.endhunger.org/lent.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/lent.htm)



## The Child of Bethlehem came to set a table for all

Your \$12 gift donation in honor of special people will put 800 servings of food on the tables of the hungry!

The Child of Bethlehem came to set a table  
That all might partake of God's abundance.  
Through the birth of Jesus in a lowly stable,  
All may dine in God's eternal presence.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;  
He who comes to me shall not hunger,  
And he who believes in me shall never thirst."  
*John 6:35*

"I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly."  
*John 10:10*

Because you are special and loved,  
a gift in your honor has been made  
to share God's love to others  
by providing food to the hungry  
through the Society of St. Andrew.  
This gift, made by

will help feed the hungry by  
providing at least 800 servings  
of nutritious food to those in need.

Your honor gift to feed the hungry will be announced with SoSA's exclusive Christmas Card

### Finish your gift shopping in the next 10 minutes.

We'll send your honorees our Christmas Gift Donation Card ~ 15th in a series ~ designed exclusively for and donated to SoSA by Virginia artist Annis McCabe. The full-color, 5"x7" card features original art on front and back. Inside is an original, inspirational verse and scriptures reminding us of the abundance that God has provided to all through the birth of Jesus Christ. 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 our thanks and confirmation of your order. It's the perfect gift for the person who has everything and a super stocking stuffer. No other gift can do so much for so many with so little! So finish your gift shopping and Christmas card list today by mail, phone, fax or on line!

800-333-4597 ♦ Fax 434-299-5949  
card@endhunger.org ♦ [www.endhunger.org/card](http://www.endhunger.org/card)

## 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.

OR  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)

(ACC-NL)

Orders must be received by Dec. 4 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

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# Society of St. Andrew REPORT

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## Prayers of Hope – Advent Devotions



Be inspired by the personal stories of our creative writers as you read through their devotions and what they hope for in Christ's coming. Through the daily devotions, scriptures, and prayers, use this book to ponder what you hope for as you welcome the Christ child into your home and life this Christmas season.

**Please send me an ADVENT 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 10/09)

***“What shall I return to the  
 LORD for all his bounty  
 to me?” Psalm 116:12***

**Donate now –  
[www.endhunger.org/donate.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/donate.htm)**

\$500  \$365  \$250  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make check payable to Society of St. Andrew)

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