



THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA  
**FOOD MINISTRY**

## “FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD.”

*Matthew 25:35*

Greetings, and welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from the Diocesan Food Ministry Team. My name is Stephanie Roberts-Turner. I attend the Church of the Holy Comforter in Richmond and have been working with the Rev. Deacon Carey Chirico to connect all of the parishes in the Diocese who work in the very important mission and outreach area of food ministry.

According to the non-profit Feeding America, in 2011 the estimated number of Virginians experiencing food insecurity was 1,026,730, or 12.7 percent of our state's population.<sup>i</sup>

Churches across the Diocese of Virginia are, to quote Bishop Goff, “Doing what the Gospel calls us to do.” In fact, at least two-thirds of our congregations are involved in food ministry in some way.

We have food pantries, community gardens, community dinners; we work with Meals on Wheels, have Backpack Buddies programs, food baskets and bagged lunches. There are partnerships with other churches and community non-profits. A lot is being done and we want to hear about it so we can all benefit from the exchange of information.

One of the partnerships we want to learn about is that between churches and local farms. Some churches are purchasing fresh food and some are going to the farms to glean what is left over from the farm's sales. It would be fantastic to hear from the parishes that have this sort of partnership to learn how they selected the farm and how the relationship works. And this is just one of many ideas that can be shared!

We have been working for the last several months to electronically link up via e-mail groups the churches that are doing food ministry. **Any kind of food ministry.** We want to exchange stories, ideas, lessons learned, photos and anything that lets us share what we are doing to help meet the needs of the hungry in our Diocese.

Right now we have 28 churches linked into our Food Ministries e-mail group. We would love to hear from more of you! Please email Mary Anne Bryant [mabryant@thediocese.net](mailto:mabryant@thediocese.net) in the office mission and outreach with any stories or information of what your church is doing. The Food Ministry Team will keep in contact with Mary Anne for any updates.

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<sup>i</sup> Gunderson, C. Waxman, E., Engelhard, E., Satoh, A. & Chawla, N. “Map the Meal Gap 2013: Food insecurity at the county level.” Feeding America, 2013.