One Potato, Two Potato, Three Potato, Forty-two Thousand

On April 30, members of Glenn Memorial Baptist Church bagged and distributed about 42,000 Irish potatoes to the community of Prospect, Virginia. “This really is one of the most fun events we have had,” said Rev. John Baldwin, the church’s pastor.

This was the second time Glenn Memorial worked with the Society of St. Andrews to help curb food waste and stop hunger. The Society gleans fields throughout the country and salvages food that would otherwise be wasted. Members of Glenn Memorial had heard about the Society’s ministry and wanted to collaborate with them to help the community around the church.

Rev. Baldwin said, “As before, the potatoes arrived in 50-pound bags on pallets, and a church member used his tractor to remove them. We placed the potatoes in smaller bags, and then distributed them to local food pantries and other churches in the Appomattox Baptist Association. The churches distribute them to...
their communities. Individuals also delivered potatoes to folks who have no way of making it to the church."

The Potato Drop is not a fundraiser. There is no money gained from hosting it; funding for shipping the potatoes to the church is donated from church members. Rev. Baldwin said, “The Potato Drop is a way to distribute food to the community. Our desire is to reach out to as many people as we possibly can, by sharing potatoes and also the Gospel Message. In each bag, we include a scripture and the message of salvation, so that each family gets the opportunity to read about Christ.”

Glenn Memorial hopes to make this an annual event, but, as Rev. Baldwin explains, “The determining factor is whether or not the potatoes are available from The Society of St. Andrews. We have to be flexible with what is available and trust that the Lord is working everything out according to His plan.”

Church members and volunteers from the Baptist Campus Ministries at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney worked together to carry out the many tasks needed for the drop, which took a little over four hours to complete. The church assisted thousands of people from five different counties.

“It was a true blessing,” Rev. Baldwin said. He added, “It is an awesome event that incorporates people of all ages. We have been blessed to see God moving in the church and community through events like this.”

For more information about outreach ideas for your church, contact:

Susan McBride
Team Coordinator, Congregational Field Staff
Baptist General Association of Virginia
800.255.2428, ext. 2242
susan.mcbride@bgav.org

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