

Proposed 2019 Mission Projects

Diocesan Mission Project

Fresh Start at St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1300 Pine Street, Columbia, SC 29204

The Fresh Start Ministry is a ministry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Columbia. Open each Thursday and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 10:00 – 3:00, Fresh Start provides free laundry services, showers, a food pantry and clothing, HIV testing and blood pressure monitoring for the homeless and working poor. Fresh Start currently serves 60 – 100 people each day of operation. Funds will be given directly to the unrestricted annual fund so that Fresh Start can use them for the greatest need.

Loving God, we know that you hold all of us in the palm of your hand. Yet, we mourn for those who will be served by Fresh Start who have lost their serenity, security, and confidence. Send your healing and soothe their spirits with the balm of your tender love. Help them to feel secure and whole again, as safe as ever within the shelter of the Lord. Help them, with your grace, to move beyond their circumstances, and grant them the peace and serenity of mind and body. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

National Mission Project

SC Bishops Public Education Initiative
1115 Marion Street, Columbia, SC 29201
www.bishopseducation.com

The Fellowship of South Carolina Bishops is a special ecumenical relationship among churches led by bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal-Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal Diocese of Upper S.C., Episcopal Church in S.C., Lutheran, Roman Catholic and United Methodist churches. Bishops have been collectively advocating for public education since April 2014, when they issued a joint pastoral letter pledging “our commitment to support the full flourishing of public education in South Carolina.” They expressed concern earlier this year, after the state Supreme Court dismissed a landmark school equity lawsuit, which was filed more than two decades ago to force the General Assembly to improve educational opportunities in the state’s poorest public schools. The bishops hope that this year’s advocacy blitzes serve as a call to action for all South Carolinians to be light for our world in educating students of our state. Funds raised will be donated to EDUSC with the designation of the Bishops’ Public Education Initiative.

Loving God, we thank you for the treasure of children. Watch over them as they learn; fill them with wisdom; help their teachers and counselors to meet their needs. May the funds provided by the Episcopal Church Women of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina enrich these students’ lives so as they go to school they may have a love of reading and of learning. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Proposed 2019 Mission Projects

World Mission Project

Education Equals Hope

102 Academy Street, Fort Mill, SC 29715

www.educationequalshope.org

Education Equals Hope's mission is to provide for the education of those living in desperate and difficult situations. In 2009, Education Equals Hope was founded in the United States by members of the Upper Diocese of SC and now gives hope to children in communities around the world by providing educational support for children, teens, and adults. Education Equals Hope also works to provide educational resources for entire communities in regions of our world that have suffered greatly from poverty, crisis, and natural disaster. Last year alone, Education Equals Hope helped educate almost 3,000 students in Costa Rica, Haiti, Ecuador, Kenya, and Rwanda. Many of Education Equals Hope's volunteers work and live or have lived in the communities they serve. In Ecuador and Haiti, 48 volunteers serve approximately 1,300 hours every month. It is because of their dedication, and the dedication of so many others, that we feel called to increase the footprint of Education Equals Hope to help provide education to more students around the world. Funds donated will be designated for student scholarships.

Holy and gracious God, you cast your net of love so wide and gather us from the ends of the earth. So bless and guide Education Equals Hope as we work together with them to serve even the least of these, your most vulnerable children and young adults. Allow the scholarships that are provided by Education Equals Hope to symbolize our oneness with each other and our affection for one another in our love and service of you, through our Savior, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns now and forever. Amen.