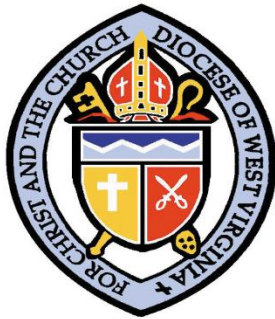


# Highland Educational Project

*A Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia*



The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, Bishop

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## Highland Educational Project

*Showing the Face of God to  
Those in Need.*



**McDowell County,  
West Virginia**

***“Christ has no body but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Discipleship is about focusing on Jesus, following in the footsteps of Jesus, becoming his hands and feet in the world.”***

**--Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**



## **Overview and History**

Look into the history of McDowell County, West Virginia, and you'll see a vibrant community — full of hope and promise. For decades, the county was the world's largest coal producer and fueled steel production used to build our country.

But today, the county is a living memorial of the impact of job loss, the advancement of technology and the cruel reality of the drug crisis.

In 1950, nearly 100,000 people called the county home; today, the population falls well below 25 percent of that number.

From the times of the robust economy to its decline, the Episcopal Church has been there. For 70 years, the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia has ministered to those living in McDowell County through the Highland Educational Project (HEP).

HEP supports various programs, including home repairs; addiction recovery; family, youth and children's programs.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Today's needs are immense, and your support is needed. Each helping hand can make a difference as we seek to enrich the lives of those who reside in the southern-most area of the state.

The Diocese this year revitalized its ministry to focus on four areas: spiritual, educational, physical/nutritional, and environmental. The goal includes various programs and projects to lift up West Virginia's poorest of poor with support through programming — and prayer.

We invite and encourage you to join us. It's easy and rewarding. Work groups are needed to conduct home repairs and to bring positive change to the county. You are invited to visit this Mountain State area for a day, weekend, week or longer to provide support.

## **McDowell County, West Virginia, Statistics**

Population in 2018	18,223
Median Household Income	\$25,595
Percentage Living in Poverty	31.7 percent
High School Graduates	65.3 percent
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	4.9 percent

**\*\*U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: McDowell County**

## **Examples of Ministry**

Spiritual – vacation bible school, prayer groups, bible studies, youth/children's programs

Educational – adult literacy, tutoring, book corners, reading camps for children, weekly story time

Physical/Nutritional/Psychological/Emotional – sports camps, mobile medicine, dental care, physical fitness programs, playground repairs/construction, counseling, recovery

Environmental – community cleanups, home repairs, weatherization, access ramps.

The Diocese of West Virginia will work with you to identify projects that fit your skillset. This coordination will include housing and other resources. Trips will be scheduled for the amount of time you have to offer and can be customized to fit your group.

## **Volunteer Registration, Gifting and Information Request**

To learn more about the Highland Educational Project or to donate to this ministry, please contact:

Mary A. Green, interim director

[mgreen@wvdiocese.org](mailto:mgreen@wvdiocese.org) or 304-344-3597.

If 2019, doesn't fit into your plans, please consider being part of the ministry for 2020 and beyond.