

Burke PC, Clifton PC and Kibwezi, Kenya



Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke, VA started building relationships in Kenya in 1988 when it took its first work camp trip to the town of Kibwezi, about half way between Nairobi and Mombasa. Since that time, the church has sent 14 separate groups made up of more than 160 people, half of which have been youth. But the work trips are only part of the story. Burke PC, along with Clifton PC (and two other churches beyond our

presbytery), have joined into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nairobi Central Presbytery. The central thrust of the work has been centered on the PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa) Educational Center, which is located in Kibwezi, and thanks to the support of Burke, has grown from one small church and one Polytechnic classroom to a bustling campus that is now home to the Imani Primary and Preschools (300 students), a Polytechnic Institute (100 students) that teaches secretarial classes, business, welding, plumbing, motor vehicle mechanics, electrical wiring, tailoring/dressmaking and cosmetics, a health clinic, the Tumaini Orphan Care Program (35 orphans, the Bethel Church(formally dedicated in July 2014) which has become the mother church to 14 smaller rural congregations.

This past year Burke applied for a grant through the Global Mission Network to provide resources that will allow local Nendeni churches (bush area congregations) to build and/or improve permanent structures to conduct preschool activities. Providing early childhood education opportunities not only benefits the children, giving them an educational head start, but helps connect the whole family with available resources.

This work has not only grown the capacity of the Education Center, but it has led to stronger and healthier congregations across the region, so much so that the presbytery there is ready to move the Kibwezi area from a hardship area to a full-fledged Parish.



To learn more: <http://www.burkepreschurch.org/kenya-partnership>