

Connecting Hope

Spring 2018

Connecting Hope Executive Board

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Enough Ministries

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Christ Community Alliance

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Roland Metevier
Washington Baptist Church

Brian Fecher
Websterville Baptist Church

Pam Burt
Christ Community Alliance

Labor of Love

Summer Mission Teams Sharing the Love of Jesus in Vermont

Every summer, mission teams from Ohio, North Carolina and other places pour into central Vermont to give of their time and energy to share the love of Jesus. In June, a mission team from Dublin, Ohio, worked to remodel a former barbershop into ministry space for Enough Ministry.

They also served hot meals at the soup kitchen. Whenever an opportunity appeared, the team was ready and willing to love tell folks about our Savior. During their brief visit, the team saw two people surrender their hearts to the Lord, and seeds of faith were planted in many others.

A returning team from North Carolina assisted Faith Community Church and Enough Ministries as they hosted Vacation Bible School reaching children and families in Barre and Plainfield. The team also did some work projects to expand storage space for Enough Ministries.



Need Hope?

Hopeline

(802) 622-4244

The Hopeline is available to anyone in need to provide help and hope in times of urgent need. Volunteers will offer prayer and encouragement while caring for the needs of the caller.



More teams are coming this summer. Some will work on the Operation Winter Hope Project, others will offer support to churches as they reach out into the communities of Central Vermont. No matter where they come from, their hearts are set on one goal—to share the love of Jesus and His Gospel offering salvation to anyone who desires to turn from sin to a life surrendered to the Lord.

More ways to volunteer !

- * Hopeline
- * Operation Winter Hope
- * Summer Missions Projects
- * Connecting Hope Board of Directors
- * Annual Event

Food Drive

1 in 10 Vermonters are unable to purchase or obtain enough food on a regular basis.

What can you do? This summer, Connecting Hope is collecting food to share with the needy throughout the year and, in particular, at our Annual Event. The Annual Event, held every fall, provides information from local organizations, warm clothing and FREE groceries to anyone who attends. Typically, 600+ people attend the event. We need to collect at least 400 of each item listed below. You can participate by collecting items yourself or by organizing a group effort with you church, at your office or with your friends and family. Contact Connecting Hope for more information and for a pdf flyer to promote the drive.

Creamy Peanut Butter

Instant Mashed Potatoes

White Rice (1 lb. bag)

Pasta or Noodles

Pasta Sauce (Cans)

Beans (Canned or Dry)

Canned Meat (Ham, Chicken, Tuna, Salmon)

Canned Green Beans

Canned Carrots

Canned Corn

Canned Fruit

Cereal



God's Love

When we feel abandoned it can make us feel rejected and unlovable. Malachi is about a group of people who feel abandoned by God. We too can feel abandoned by God in long periods of unanswered prayer, suffering, or stressful situations. There are many reasons we might think God has abandoned us or we are forsaken by His love. In Malachi, God wanted the Israelites to know that this was not true:

² "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob³ but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."⁴ If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'"⁵ Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!" **Malachi 1:2-5 (ESV)**

Anytime you feel forgotten by God: **reject the lie!** Malachi tells us in 1:2 that "I have loved you." In Christ we are sons and daughters of God. We are loved! Maybe you never heard these words from your parents, maybe you were abandoned, or you feel unwanted and more like an inconvenience. In these kinds of cases a lie speaks louder than the truth. This leads us to our second point: *remember the proof.* In 1:2-4 God lays out the proof of His love for Israel. Our proof is found in the cross. The Bible is clear that we are permanently separated from God. The famous passage John 3:16 says, "God **SENT** His son." It took the Father's intervening love to give us what we did not deserve: grace! The Father sent His Son. Grace is our proof. Third, in Malachi 1:5 God tells Israel, "You will see My love and then praise Me." Even if we do not sense His love now, we know in Christ **we will see it fully** and praise Him! In those times when the love of God seems like it is for somebody else, remember: you are loved; God sent His Son; and one day you will know God's love in full.

Pastor Craig Ray
First Baptist Church of Barre

Summer

Ah, summer! Here at last, summer is a great opportunity to spend time together with your family serving the Lord through local missions projects. Whether you have a few hours or several days, offer part of your summer to the Lord planting seeds within the hearts of your children that will grow into a lifetime of giving to the Lord first of our time, talents and blessings. Whatever you choose to do, do it in the Name of the Lord.

Need a place to start? Contact Connecting Hope or your church to find out what projects may need to be done. Or you can use the list below to get you started.



Collect trash along the road or at the park



Read stories to young children at the library



Visit a nursing home with flowers



Bake cookies for a neighbor



- away flowers to strangers and wish them a blessed day
- ⚙️ Serve at a homeless shelter
- ⚙️ Bring neighborhood children to VBS
- ⚙️ Sort your outgrown clothes and donate good, clean items
- ⚙️ Give away unused toys
- ⚙️ Make and pass out gift bags for homeless
- ⚙️ Offer to repaint a neighbor's door
- ⚙️ Babysit for a single mom
- ⚙️ Sweep the sidewalk at church
- ⚙️ Prepare a meal for someone returning from the hospital
- ⚙️ Host a lemonade stand to collect money for a cause
- ⚙️ Mow your neighbor's yard and water their flowers
- ⚙️ Send a kind note to last year's or this year's teacher

Give

Welcome New Board Member Pam Burt

Connecting Hope is delighted to welcome new Board member ,Pam Burt. Pam has been involved with Connecting Hope when it was founded under the leadership of Pastor Tom Fredrichs. She has volunteered at the Annual Event and assists in giving riders to medical appointments for folks in need. Pam regularly refers people in need to the Connecting Hope Hopeline and cares deeply for people in her community.

Pam accepted Christ as Savior at Chop Point Camp in Main in 1968. She and her husband Jim continued to minister at the camp for 27 years. She and Jim have two married children who are in Christian ministry and five grandchildren.

Pam has been a member of Christ Community Alliance Church for forty-five years. During this time she has served as a deaconess, Sunday School Teacher, youth leader, worship team member and nursery coordinator. She also is in charge of the Annual Holiday Meals Program for community members in need , and she helps with the 8th Grade Graduation Recognition Dinner for Orange Center School students and their parents.

Since 1978, Pam has worked for and volunteered with the Barre City Schools. Most recently, she has served as a coordinator for the Vermont Food Bank's Backpack Program. This program provides food that is easy for children to access over the weekend. The program provides food to approximately 180 students each week. She has been the school contact person for the Food Bank's Veggie Van Go project which provides fresh produce to families whose children attend Barre City Elementary and Middle School. On average 160 families take advantage of the program which is offered twice a month.

Pam's experience and her heart for the needy in Central Vermont will be a great asset to the Connecting Hope Board of Directors. She brings a deep understanding of hurting families and sees the vast need in our communities. She knows that to the hurting, everything seems hopeless; but in Christ, there is always HOPE.



Member Churches

Barre Evangelical Free Church

17 South Main Street, Barre, VT 05641
802 476-5344 / www.befcvt.org
Services Sunday 8:00 and 10:45 am

Crossroads Christian Church

115 Fasset Rd, E. Montpelier, VT 05651
802 476-4843 / www.crossroadschurchvt.org
Services Sunday 9:30 am

First Baptist Church

24 Washington Street, Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-2872 / www.fbcbarre.com
Services Sunday 10:00 am

Christ Community Alliance Church

43 Berlin Street, Barre, VT 05641
802 476-3221 / www.christcommunity.org
Services Sunday 10:30 am, Thurs. 6:30 pm
Meets in Orange, VT

East Barre Congregational Church

2 Church Street, East Barre, VT 05649
(802) 476-6454 / www.eastbarrechurch.org
Services Sunday 10:30 am, Wednesday 5:30

New Life Assembly

304 Hill Street, Barre, VT 05641
(802) 479-9867 / www.newlifeassemblyvt.org
Services Sunday 10:00 am, Wednesday 6:30

Corinth Bible Church

840 Center Road, Corinth, VT 05039
802 439-5060
Services Sunday 10:30 am

Enough Ministries

84 Summer Street, Barre, VT 05641
Facebook: [@enoughministriesbarre](https://www.facebook.com/enoughministriesbarre)
Services Sunday 10:00 am

Washington Baptist Church

2973 VT Rte 110, Washington, VT 05675
802 883-5509 / www.washingtonbaptistchurch.net
Services Sunday 10:00 am, Wednesday 5:30

Covenant Orthodox Presbyterian Church

249 Airport Road, Barre, VT 05641
802 479-2010 / www.copcvt.org
Services Sunday 10:30 am

Faith Community Church

30 Jones Brothers Way, Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-8288 / www.fcbarre.com
Services Sunday 10:00 am

Connecting Hope

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