

## Creating Hope Together: Reflections with Bill Davis

What do I hope for and how do my life choices embody that hope? How do I apportion my time, talents and treasure to find fulfillment, joy and peace? Jesus pointed out that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I like Frederick Buechner's definition of the optimal vocation as "the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep need." Intersections of those two I find at the Community Church of Durham include worshiping and praying together and then walking the walk by reaching out to those in need. While the deep needs in the world get overwhelming at times, it is such a gift that I can discern together with other church members where I should give my time and money.

Immigration issues have been an area I have been able to help with only because I was invited at a church service into the NH Immigration and Visitation Program, and, of course, seeing and knowing firsthand the amazing but persecuted immigrants in our midst. Praying and protesting for peace have been another area I have been looped in on at CCD, whether against gun violence or the US Government's complicity in crimes against humanity in Palestine. Remember the bumper sticker "Think Globally, Act Locally?" CCD not only supports the school in Liberia that is one of my wife's and my passions, and has letter writing campaigns to politicians, but supports the soup kitchen in Dover, childcare for foreign students at UNH, the Echo Thrift Shop in our basement, members of our own congregation, and many, many other things.

Yes, the practicalities of life mean I need to pay my bills and take care of my own spirit and loved ones to some extent. But I find, with the help of the CCD community, that when I can reach out to others in meaningful ways, and focus more on the eternal and less on the temporal, on the mundane, my spirit can soar and my hope can abound.