



## Martha Burnham

October 29, 1948 - November 24, 2015

Kingston- Martha Stebbins Burnham, 67, of Kingston passed away with peace and grace on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 with family and friends at her side.

Martha was born October 29, 1948 in LaCrosse, WI, a daughter of the late Charles D. and Louise (Perkins) Stebbins. Raised in Winchester, MA, she graduated from Winchester High School and later the University of Maine with the Class of 1970. She married her high school sweetheart, Steve and lived in Evansville, IN, Mesa, AZ, and Atlanta, GA, before settling in Kingston, where she was an active member of Bethany Church and a children's leader in Community Bible Study.

She will be always remembered as a loving mother and grandmother whose greatest passion was her family, grandchildren and church family. In addition, she was a big part of the Krempels family in support of the brain-injured. Martha faced challenges in her life with remarkable sense of humor and grace.

The family believes that when someone passes, their life does not end but rather changes. We know that Martha has reached a place of everlasting peace alongside Jesus Christ. While we grieve her passing, with our grief comes the lightness of hope.

Martha is survived by her loving husband Stephen Burnham; son James Burnham; daughter Jessica Francoeur and her husband Jason; grandson, Bourque Francoeur and granddaughter Lily Francoeur; brother Bruce Stebbins and his wife Jeannette and a sister Emily Carbonetti and her husband Richard.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, January 30, 2016 in Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Road, Greenland. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Krempels Center, 100 Campus Drive, Suite 24, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethany Church  
500 Breakfast Hill Road  
Greenland, NH 03840

# Tribute Wall



“ *Martha Burnham*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Oh God Martha, my good friend, one of my best friends of my childhood, and my neighbor. I have tears in my eyes as I write this. I just found out.*

*I love you, Martha.*

*Christine Harrison Spalding of 47 Yale Street, Winchester, MA*

**Christine Reed Harrison** - May 27, 2016 at 08:49 AM



“ *I only knew Martha through an online TBI support group, but she was one of the most thoughtful and knowledgeable people in my world when I most needed support. She had beautiful empathy and exhibited great leadership. I learned of her passing while looking for more information on her efforts with Stepping Stones. Such a loss to this earthly world. Thank you for everything, Martha. You will always be an inspiration.*

**Christina Merry** - May 13, 2016 at 10:19 AM



“ *Steve My most sincere condolences. I remember Martha like it was yesterday.  
It was a pleasure to see the two of you fall in love and it lasted.  
From my heart, I am sure she is with the lord. Bruce Erikson*

**Bruce Erikson** - January 16, 2016 at 09:03 PM

GE

“ I first met Martha at Fellowship in Christ Church in Raymond and will always remember her love of the Lord and her positive attitude, her love of people and her family. The last time I saw her was at the Whittemore Center 3 years ago for Bethany Church's Easter and with Jamie, it was like no time had passed. I was saddened to hear of her passing and extend my deepest condolences to the whole family. Be at rest in the arms of our Savior Martha.

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**Gail Gentry, Exeter** - January 08, 2016 at 07:55 PM

RB

“ Martha was a warm and lovely neighbor and we are shocked and saddened to hear of her passing at such a young age.

*Our deepest sympathies.  
Rick & Karen Bonin*

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**Rick Bonin** - December 10, 2015 at 10:01 AM

TM

“ As a volunteer musician-in-residence for 2 years at SteppingStones (now known as Krempels Center), I had the pleasure of getting to know Martha and hearing her lovely harmony singing voice at morning meetings by the fireside. She was a cheerful and strong presence and I know that her light shines on. Wishing peace and comfort to her extended family.

*Warm regards,  
Tammy B. Moeller*

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**Tammy Moeller** - December 08, 2015 at 10:17 AM

JF

“ I was very fortunate to meet Martha and her family when my son Jason dated and then married Martha and Steve's daughter Jessica. Martha was a loving and caring person who was always there for her family and friends. We always saw her at the grand kid's games, birthday parties, lake house and other events. She always had a smile no matter how she felt that day. We are blessed to have shared two wonderful grand children and daughter in law Jessica with Martha and Steve.

*Martha you will be missed by all but never forgotten. You were one special lady!*

*With all my love,*

*Jim Francoeur*

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**Jim Francoeur** - December 07, 2015 at 02:56 PM

RF

“ What an amazing person. I am so lucky to have had Martha be a part of my life. Her warmth, kindness, generosity and love for everyone she came into contact with will be cherished by all who were so privileged to know her. She loved her family so much and was one of the greatest examples of a selfless and giving human being that I have ever met. You will be truley missed Martha but I will forever remember you and savor the times I spent with you.

*With all my love*

*Ryan Francoeur*

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**Ryan Francoeur** - December 07, 2015 at 12:06 PM

PL

“ I met Martha through Krempels. She was so supportive of my husband during his stay at Krempels and when he passed away a few months ago. Rest in peace Martha, it's well deserved.



Pat Linchey - December 06, 2015 at 07:16 AM

ST

“ Martha was the best roommate anyone could hope for. She cared for me with her loving kind words . And although she was not well I will always remember her strength. I am very grateful I met Martha. Rest easy sweet lady. You're friend Shelley.



Shelley Towle - December 03, 2015 at 04:00 PM

DG

I wept as I read this. What words--"rest easy, sweet lady".

David Gibson - December 05, 2015 at 04:25 PM

LL

“ I never saw Martha without a smile on her face. I was privileged to spend time at Krempels Center with Martha. She was a mentor to me as I dealt with being in the brain injury world. She made it look so easy. Hugs to you Martha as you become our angel. Hugs to your family. You were an amazing woman. I'm so glad I had a chance to meet you and learn from you.

Laurie LeBlanc - December 02, 2015 at 10:10 PM

SY

“ So many good memories of Martha and me..... one of the best was that we rode bikes with each other's families all over the countryside of Georgia. Our best one was riding out to The Monastery one day with both families. We thought we may not make it back , but we did. Martha was one of a kind and there will never be another. Thanks Martha and Steve for moving to Georgia and being in our lives, like you were. Snellville Christian Church was blessed by having you all the time you were in Georgia.

*I will always remember Martha and I doing so many things together that I never would have done without her there. She was not afraid of anything!*

*I will look forward to seeing our dear Martha in heaven and of course I know Randy was there to greet her !*

*Martha also took so much time and effort into the children's department at Snellville Christian Church! It will always be appreciated!*

*Love to Martha and to all of the family of Martha!*

*Always,*

*Skeeter Smith Yorg*

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**Skeeter Yorg** - December 02, 2015 at 03:46 PM

DM

“ I will always remember our fun and worship together both at Eaglebrook Christian Church, Bethany Church, and on her sun porch at home, our devotions shared by phone and our many prayers together. So many memories of going to Kremple's, times with Jamie, walking Max and visiting at Jess's home with Lily and Bourque, going to Sam's club, singing in Church musical productions, riding to Hampton Beach, going to a Caretaker Conference and retreat up north, having Jamie and her over for lunch, (growing radishes in my garden for him), and numerous lunches at her home, in Brookfield and her beloved family camp in Maine! Loved every minute with you and yours and will treasure these memories forever! Sing on my dear friend!

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**Debbie Mahoney** - December 02, 2015 at 09:05 AM

DG

“ I just learned of Martha's passing as I scanned the Boston Globe obits this morning. I usually only look at one or two. The second one I looked at happened to be Martha's. What were the chances? I was stunned, and saddened. I was even more saddened to learn that she was a sister in Christ, and I was deeply moved reading all the tributes to her Christian witness--among other things. I have such fond memories of the Stebbins family (Don, Betty, Martha, Bruce & Emily) from my time as their Winchester neighbor. Bruce and I were close friends and classmates (the paper route, WHS, Boy Scouts, too many tennis games to count, girls, B-R-U-C-E!! at the top of my lungs, general shenanigans). I remember the days when Steve and Martha started dating. High school sweethearts indeed! Steve would occasionally--and mysteriously--park in front of our house on Cabot St. and sneak through our yard and scale a neighbor's fence to visit Martha on Oxford St. I never could figure all that out, but what I could figure out was that he was single-minded about seeing Martha. And who would have blamed him? God bless you-- and rest in peace, His peace, dear neighbor. And God bless and give grace to your family at this time.

David Gibson - December 02, 2015 at 07:02 AM

BS

David...so wonderful to read your comments. I wish I knew how to contact you!

Bruce Stebbins - December 02, 2015 at 09:24 PM

DG

B-R-U-C-E!! My email address is--get ready--20cabot@gmail.com

David Gibson - December 03, 2015 at 03:37 PM



*David, I too loved your comments. I lived on Yale St and grew up with Martha. Of course I knew Steve too. I giggled as the thought of Steve parking his car near your house and sneaking over to Martha's. I think perhaps one could scale the lattice on the Stebbins' screen porch and get to Martha's window....tee hee hee. Thanks for that! -Christine Harrison*

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**Christine Reed Harrison** - October 10, 2022 at 01:07 PM



*“ We at Krempels Center will miss Martha incredibly. She has been a part of our family for many years. She made many connections, brightened many people's days, and was a passionate advocate for brain injury survivors. We will miss her good humor, her energy and her smile. Wishing the family strength as they heal and many happy memories.*

*Barb Kresge  
Program Director, Krempels Center*

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**Barb Kresge** - December 02, 2015 at 06:40 AM

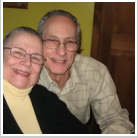
DM

“ *Martha was my dearest friend for the last 13 yrs. She was dedicated to her Lord, her family, and her church family. She faithfully served Jesus and taught many about Him. She was a powerhouse, full of life and energy and inspired and supported me as a fellow Christ follower during the darkest times of my life. Knowing and loving her, has made me a richer person and I will be forever grateful to Jesus for putting her in my life. I will miss my dear friend, our times on earth, praying and having sweet fellowship , your unstoppable spirit, (my scrabble partner), but I am overjoyed that you are in Heaven with our precious Jesus and I will join you at the appointed time when Jesus calls me home. Enjoy your reunion with your parents and everyone you have loved and lost. Until that day you remain in my heart. God bless her dear husband and adult children and extended family. My love goes to all of you.*

*Debbie Mahoney*

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**Debbie Mahoney** - December 02, 2015 at 02:56 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful woman. She was a great role model for the teens that she mentored in the Homebase program that my niece Cece attended. I'm sure she will be missed greatly.*

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**Susan Arivella Frechette** - December 01, 2015 at 11:00 PM

BE

“Wow its hard to believe that Martha is no longer with us :( . We will no longer see her sweet face of hear her sweet voice singing with the children at CBS. She was SUCH an incredible blessing to my children during their time at CBS in the children's program. I can not express how grateful I was to have such a sweet spirit, a godly woman, a kind friend teaching my little ones... My son was so sad to hear that she was no longer with us, but we've pictured her singing with Jesus. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you are missing your mother and wife, praying for God's comfort to be so real and his promises of new life to be ever present on your mind! We will cherish sweet memories of our time knowing Miss Martha! :)

*With hope,  
Betsy Mezey*

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**Betsy** - December 01, 2015 at 06:25 PM

JP

*Betsy, you have captured my sentiments so beautifully. And special love to Lily:) From Miss Jane, Tanner's mom 💜*

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**Jane Perry** - December 04, 2015 at 10:56 PM

CA

“ *Martha was a motivating force and an inspiration to all families with a TBI.*

*The first person from the TBI community to reach out to me upon our return to New Hampshire from Virginia where our son sustained a TBI. A mother who had survived with her son, Martha became my crutch, my motivator, the listening ear that allowed me my family to survive and learn to live with the never ending challenges of TBI.*

*We enjoyed many a visit with Jamie and JJ on the deck and by the Koi pond.*

*Connie Archambault and family*

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**Connie Archambault** - December 01, 2015 at 06:06 PM

GC

“ Steve, Jamie, Jessica and Family, how you will miss such a pillar of strength and hope in your lives! Such a source of joy and stability. May the compassion that Martha had for others be felt in your hearts too, as her spirit of love and care seeks to comfort you.

*Tears must flow, but laughter too. Good memories!*

*Ah, but the pain of missing someone who was such a large part of one's life! But each of you has others with whom you can share the pain. That is blessed, too.*

*3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ...*

*7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Cor 1 NIV)*

*Hugs and prayers,  
Georges and LaVerne*

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**Georges Carillet** - December 01, 2015 at 06:01 PM

DM

*Amen*

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**Debbie Mahoney** - December 02, 2015 at 09:09 AM

JB

“ Jess, you were born the day after Dena at the Winchester hospital. I can close my eyes and see your mom's smiling face as she waltzed into my room asking to borrow shampoo. We became friends instantly and have remained so for 40 years! How you must all miss her! All of us in the Birchler family are praying for strength for you and your entire family. All of our love to all of you. xxxooo

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**Joyce Birchler** - December 01, 2015 at 05:28 PM

LS

“ Martha was a motivating force of inspiration her whole life. I just know it.

*When I first met her in 7th grade she was forthcoming with her great voice and I never could resist harmonizing with her. Before I knew what hit me I was one of our trio performing in the talent show singing - of all things - "The Money Tree." We wore yellow shirt-waist dresses and worked on swaying a little bit like the Lennon Sisters.*

*We sang together again with Mr. Witherington's Double Sextette in high school.*

*The angels in heaven sound even better with Martha among them!*

*My sincere and deep sympathy to you, Steve, and your family. -  
Leslie Wild Swensen*

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**Leslie Wild Swensen** - December 01, 2015 at 04:24 PM

MW

“ Steve, Jamie, Jessica and Family. I was saddened to hear about Martha. I know the feelings you have after experiencing them with my loss of Nancy and know that God will comfort you and give you peace. I have many great memories of Martha and family at Snellville Christian Church.

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**Mike White** - November 29, 2015 at 02:34 PM

FT

“ It is with great sadness I just learned of the passing of Martha. If you are or were part of Care-TBI you felt Martha's strength and presence. Martha is one of the extended family members I never got to meet in person. She was a great source of information and compassionate support. She will be missed. My deepest sympathies to you, her family and friends.



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**Frank Tetto** - November 28, 2015 at 01:40 PM

CI

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so sorry for your loss. Your Medical Home Family



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**Cindy** - November 25, 2015 at 02:56 PM

JH

“ *il will miss you so much Martha! God Bless Steve, Jamie, Jessica and grandchildren! Martha was the best! Fun, caring and courageous. I have a lovely video of Martha singing her Jesus song on my iPhone that she sang many, many times to her children in church school and her family. I am technologically challenged! Please ask me to show it to you. It shows Martha's true strength in Jesus and God. She was a woman of God! May she rest in peace.*  
*Love, Judy Hudson*

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**Judith Hudson** - November 25, 2015 at 01:06 PM