



# THE BEACONLIGHT



Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg

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VOLUME 65

June 2021

NUMBER 06

Dear Congregation,

As we welcome in the month of June and the summer season, or as I think of it-Yard Sale season, I find excitement in the unknown treasures that may be found hidden in what others may assume is a pile of junk. Even though the Lord, and my family know I do not need anything, I cannot resist the opportunity to make small talk with a new person as I rummage through their things, giving me an insight into their situation and daily life, as well as often blessing me with a new gem of a book, or picture or what-not that I had been previously unaware that I wanted or needed in my life.

Some of these finds have brought me continual joy and others have only sat in storage until I myself held a yard sale or free sale of my own as a means of finding my stuff a better home and in-turn offer someone else an opportunity to be blessed by something that I failed to use or appreciate.

So you can imagine how the message in the Spring 2021 edition of *The Secret Place* touched my heart, but just in case you overlooked this jewel of a message, allow me to share with you the reflection of Lynn Karidis from Farmington Hills, Michigan on Monday, March 29 based on *Romans 5:6-11*:

**Thought for today:** *But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

My home is filled with old things. I'm especially fond of used furniture that has withstood the test of time. Over the years, I've discovered a variety of useful pieces at garage sales and resale shops. When something catches my eye, I check the price and consider whether the piece is right for my home-and worth the cost.

I sense the process is the same when I apply for a job and the interviewer evaluates my credentials and work history. Am I right for the position? Can I withstand the tests I will encounter? Am I worth the salary they wish to pay? It's a stressful process. When a potential employer rejects me, I may doubt my own value.

I've discovered that whenever I begin to question my own worth, it helps to consider the price Jesus paid to save me. Despite my sin, Jesus thought I was worth the highest price; indeed, His very life. He also gave me skills and invited me to work in His kingdom. So, just as I find value in discarded furniture, when I am rejected by others, I can trust that God still finds value in me. (*The Secret Place*, Spring 2021, Monday, March 29, pg. 22).

Here, Ms. Karidis offers an opportunity for us to consider our own value, not as we ourselves, or other people may estimate our worth, but as God sees us, by His assessment, that is, worth His very life in the flesh, God's Beloved Son, Jesus.

God counted the cost and found the potential of spending eternity with you, as someone who brings Him joy and will enrich His imperishable community worth the shed blood and sacrifice that Jesus experienced on the

cross in order to redeem you from sin that you may have the opportunity to recognize what He has done for you, receive Him as your Lord and Savior and be assured of your eternal salvation, that you may worship God and enjoy Him forever.

Through God's Word, itself full of rare treasures of wisdom and knowledge, God expresses that you are a unique, divinely created, precious person just as you are, even if the person you see when you look in the mirror looks broken, dirty, worn or in need of repair. Even if you at any point feel like trash, I pray that you know how much you are treasured in this, and every season of your life as a precious child of the Most High God.

Should you like a reminder of God's love, support and plans for you, you are welcome to pick up a copy of the Summer edition of *The Secret Place* or request one be mailed to you. May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Regards,  
Pastor Meredith



# Diane Hope

1949 - 2021

Diane V. (Abell) Hope, 71 of Lunenburg died on May 17, 2021 at her home surrounded by her loving family after an illness.

Diane was born on June 1, 1949 in Fitchburg, daughter of Sidney B. and Ruth (Arnold) Abell. Diane graduated from Lunenburg High School in 1967, and then graduated from Fitchburg State College in 1971 with her teaching degree. She went on to become an LPN, graduating from Montachusett Regional Technical School and later became a Registered Nurse, graduating from Mt. Wachusett Community College. She worked for more than 40 years for Health Alliance Hospital, first at the Burbank Hospital and then the Leominster Hospital.

Diane was married for nearly 43 years to James A. Hope Sr. who passed away in 2019. She is survived by her son James A. Hope Jr. and his wife Amanda of Chelmsford, her siblings; Patricia Card and her husband Dr. Rev. Malcolm of Moncton N.B. Canada, Roger Abell and his wife Louise of Fitchburg, Randolph Abell and his wife Nancy of Dover PA, Barbara Dewitt and her husband David of Gardner, Sidney (Byron) Abell Jr. and his wife Pat of Lunenburg, Virginia Needham and her husband Richard of Hooksett NH, Jennifer Abell of Fitchburg, and Matthew Abell and his wife Michelle of Fitchburg, as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.

Diane was a member of the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg, where she was a longstanding Deacon of Caring Ministry, member of the choir, and Minister of Music. In addition to her church activities and music, Diane also enjoyed reading, tea, movies, and making memories during vacations to NH, VT, FL, and other locations. She loved spending time with family and friends, whether going out to eat or hosting celebrations at the home. She was very generous and caring, with lots of energy lived each day to the fullest, and always made the people around her feel loved and special.

We appreciate the Leominster Hospital and the Health Alliance Hospice Program for their care of Diane in her last days.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 11:30am in the First Baptist Church of Fitchburg, 1400 John Fitch Highway. Burial will follow in Forest Hill Cemetery Fitchburg. A calling hour will be held Saturday morning in the church from 10:30 until 11:30.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Diane's memory may be made to the: First Baptist Church Memorial Fund, 1400 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA, 01420

## ***HOST FAMILIES NEEDED***

Open your home and heart to an International Exchange Student from a variety of 8 countries. They are 15-18 yrs. old, fully insured, bring their own spending money, all speak English and would attend your local high school for the academic year 2021-2022.

.Host Families are asked to provide a bed and meals. Host Families can be a single parent, those with very young children who would enjoy a big brother or sister, those with middle school or high school aged children, or those where the children are grown and no longer live at home.

Perfect matches are made between those of the host families and those of the student. An exchange student can share a room with another sibling. Bring the world to your doorstep, and make a friendship for a lifetime. Contact Area Coordinator Pat Darby of Northwest Services PEACE Program, Inc. at 978-632-8270 or email: [patdarby6@yahoo.com](mailto:patdarby6@yahoo.com). Visit our website: [www.nw-services.com](http://www.nw-services.com)

# Let Love Flow

## A Letter from Your World Relief Officer

*"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,  
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One  
guides them, takes them to the best springs." -Isaiah 49:10*

Dear American Baptist Leaders,

The year 2020 was unlike any year we have witnessed in our lifetime. Record-breaking fires on the west coast of the U.S. devastated communities and burned millions of acres. An extremely active hurricane season brought destruction to the Gulf Coast and Central America. A massive explosion in Beirut displaced thousands of individuals. All these events happened in the midst of the prolonged COVID-19 global pandemic. We are living in a time of uncertainty. And yet, even with so much that is unclear about the future, one thing is certain: through this ministry of One Great Hour of Sharing, you continue to Let Love Flow.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every area of our personal and communal lives. In the same way, it also touched every area of the work of One Great Hour of Sharing: sustainable development, disaster relief, and refugee support. With so many in need, your compassion is more important than ever.

We have carried into 2021 many of the same challenges. Disasters will continue to occur. Displaced populations remain vulnerable. And hundreds of millions of people around the world struggle under the weight of poverty. Thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, One Great Hour of Sharing will continue to respond.

Events of the past year have shown us that, even in times when we cannot be physically together in one place, our offerings to support One Great Hour of Sharing continue to strengthen our church's presence all over the world: providing water to the thirsty, food for the hungry, and hope for the weary. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you "Let Love Flow." Your generosity ensures that the transforming power of love continues to change the world.

Lisa Rothenberger-Winter  
World Relief  
Officer

# Local News

*Please consider signing up for...*

*Worship Leader  
Usher  
Door Greeter  
or Coffee Hour*

*We all enjoy these services!*

*When Life gets  
to hard to stand  
Kneel*

*Careful Planning Makes a Difference*

**ANTHONY V. FEROCI, JR.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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Elder and Disability Law  
Medicaid Planning  
Estate Planning

When the world comes  
crashing in  
And chaos rules my mind,  
I turn my heart to you, Lord,  
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble  
You comfort me in pain;  
You nourish, heal and cleanse  
me,  
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,  
When things are going right,  
You lift me even higher,  
And fill me with delight.  
You listen to my prayers;  
You hear my every plea;  
I'm safe because I know  
You're always there for me.

*Joanna Fuchs*

*Please consider submitting  
to the Beaconlight to Help keep  
it going.*



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Email: [restore@ncmhabitat.org](mailto:restore@ncmhabitat.org)

# Recipe of the Month

## Coke - Soaked Bacon



### Ingredients

24 ounces thick-cut bacon  
2 cans [Coca-Cola](#) 12-ounce cans

### Instructions

1. Separate the bacon strips and pile them in a baking dish. Pour the Coke over the top of the bacon. Cover, refrigerate, and allow the bacon to soak for 2 hours. Drain off the liquid in preparation for baking.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line two large rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. Lay the bacon strips on the parchment close together (but not overlapping) and bake for approximately 25 minutes, until crisp and caramelized.

A 2-ingredient wonder. **Coke Soaked Bacon** is so tender and uniquely flavored, you'll make excuses to serve it on everything!

Recently I was thinking back to something I watched my dad do in the kitchen as a little girl. He used to soak ribs in Coke or Dr. Pepper to tenderize the meat before grilling.

It made me wonder what *other* pork products might benefit from a long bath in soda. After considering pork chops and ham, I thought I'd give good ol' bacon a try.

Believe it or not, I discovered magical things happen to bacon strips when they are marinated in Coke for an extended period of time.

Because bacon strips are so fatty, they don't absorb the Coke, per se. So the bacon doesn't become ultra sweet as one might think. Instead, the carbonation and sugar break down the bacon making it limber and easy to bite through, once cooked. The Coke also seems to reduce the salt a bit leaving the bacon with a dusky caramelized flavor.

I found [baking the bacon](#) in the oven to be the best cooking method since the bacon is damp... All the grease splatter takes place behind a closed oven door.

The unique caramelized flavor and tender melt-in-your-mouth texture make Coke Soaked Bacon a great addition to sandwiches, wraps, or chopped up on salads because it's not the least bit tough.

So try putting these two guilty pleasures together. The effect is intriguing to say the least!



### *June Birthdays*

- 2. **Jessie Njamshi**
- 3. **Joshua Bigelow**
- 5. **Eric Primeau**
- 6. **More Chingor**
- 12. **Kedi-Nora Shei**
- 14. **Kevin Mutindwa**
- 25. **Steven Bigelow**
- 28. **Amy Weeks**



### *June Anniversaries*



- 7. **Phil & May Goff**
- 21. **Dick & Donna Auger**



IF YOU'RE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY IS NOT HERE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN THE BEACONLIGHT! REMEMBER TO NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS OR TO OUR MONTHLY LISTING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

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# PRAYER LIST

*Family of Diane Hope  
Anoura Rose Angelin  
Annie De Martino  
Bette Adams  
Claire Budroe  
Cindy Beck  
Susan Force (Bette Adams daughter)  
Kathy Gosselin  
Kim & Katie (Bette Adams daughter &  
granddaughter)  
Linda Gosselin  
Mark & Diane Bigelow  
Marsha – return of lung cancer  
Nancy Peters  
Roberta Poole  
Ed Guerard  
Karen Simpson  
Elaine Corzine  
Roger Abel  
Steward family  
Renee Brideau (Mark & Diane  
Bigelow Friend)  
Danial Kirouac*

## ***Our Missionaries***

*Light A Candle Ministries  
Rovaungha Richardson, William Seo  
mission trip to Afganistan*

*Daniel Auguste and the Haitian  
Missionary Team*

## ***Other Concerns***

*The Lutheran Church  
1200 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg*

*Baptist Church of Grafton  
First Baptist Church of Gardner*

*First Baptist Church of Gardner*

*For those under persecution for their  
faith.*

*Prayers for those suffering from acts of  
violence around the world*



**IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, PLEASE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL INCLUDE IT IN  
THE BEACONLIGHT!**

**REMEMBER TO NOTIFY US WITH ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THESE LISTINGS.**

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