



## Hazel Shecut Dies

*“The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger and of great mercy.”*

**A**s I thought about the fifteen years I knew Hazel Shecut, parts of this verse came unbidden to my mind. Reflecting on how well the adjectives described her, I was a little taken back when I looked up the full quotation (Psalm 145:8) and found it referred to God. I shouldn’t have been surprised: Hazel lived her faith steadily and cheerfully and God shone through her.

In the last few days we’ve acknowledged the care she gave Lila, the niece who became her daughter, and Lila’s son, Cesar. We’ve rejoiced that they both took care of Hazel in her own home, in the last difficult years.

But I also knew her as a great story teller.

Hazel and I became friends when I started giving her a ride home after the noon services at St. Stephen’s. Over the years, she fed me on Sundays, letting me come into the kitchen to scrape the roast potatoes from the bottom of the pan, crisp and salty from strips of bacon, as she told me about her early life, which began in Charleston, South Carolina in 1907.

Hazel discovered she loved to cook while she was still so young she had to stand on a chair to reach the fuel stove. She became the family’s main cook, a great help to her hard-working mother who was a busy seamstress, with seven children and a husband who adored her but did need fresh, hot biscuits in the

morning and dinner promptly when he came home from his barber shop. In honor of her kitchen skills, at age ten, Hazel’s father gave her a cast iron mold for baking corn bread. Hazel cooled her fruit pies on a marble-topped table in their hall. In spite of hard work, the family enjoyed life—dances, picnics, card parties and the new silent movies. Not everyone at the movies could read, so someone usually read the dialogue out loud as it flashed on the screen. Hazel said it was how she first picked up reading.

As a barber, her father had a repertoire of stories from his customers. Here is my favorite, as related to me by Hazel. For several days in a row this customer had bought a basket of fresh, plump crabs from a young woman at a temporary roadside stand. His wife was very pleased by the fresh, crustacean meat. Then came the day when the girl had no more crabs. “What happened to your supply?” the customer asked.

“The horse done float away,” was the answer.

The girl had found a rotting, dead horse in a drainage ditch, swarming with crabs. Daily she caught and sold the crabs until a rain storm washed the carcass away.

Hazel was taught dressmaking by her mother’s side, and could make a complete trousseau, from lingerie to overcoat. When she moved to □ page 2

# BREAD

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June 12, 2005

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The Fourth  
Sunday After  
Pentecost

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Number 1524

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THE NATIVITY OF ST.  
JOHN THE BAPTIST

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

HOLY EUCHARIST  
8AM

□ **page 1** Washington in the 1950s, she ran her own dressmaking business from her home on Park Road. Her sight failed as grew older, and she was classed as legally blind. This may have stopped her sewing but not her cooking. In her late sixties, a friend asked her if she would take over the cooking for the priests of Our Lady of Victory on Macarthur Boulevard. She did, traveling back each night when dinner was over,

sometimes taking two hours to get home on public transport.

Hazel died in her sleep on May 26. Her funeral was held at St. Stephen's June 1; two priests from Our Lady of Victory participated in her funeral. Her body was interred in Rock Creek Cemetery.

I am honored that Miss Hazel, have me, as a gift, the cornbread pan she had cooked with for seventy years.

-Kim Klein

*God Almighty, we pray to you for Hazel, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

## Thanks Be to God!

**T**his is a wholly inadequate prayer of gratitude and relief and thanksgiving to God and His people here on earth for their grace and strength and the miraculous return to life of my husband, Craig Eder, from the very gates of death when his aneurysm ruptured. The skill and wisdom of his doctors and nurses who cared for him, and the prayers of his unnumbered friends, worked together with God to bring him through the fearsome operation back into this earthly life in what seems to us a miraculously short time.

We can never tell each and every one of you, dear friends, an adequate thank you for your love and prayers and flowers and meals and the feeling of being upheld in your hearts and minds. If it pleases God, we will for the rest of our lives do our utmost to comfort and strengthen the scared and suffering as you, and He, have done for us.

May the blessing of God Almighty...  
In Christ,  
Edith Eder

## People News

**Elizabeth Palmberg** announced to the congregation on Sunday, May 29, that she has been diagnosed with cancer, either lung cancer or a lymphoma. She's awaiting the results of additional tests. Her needs now are prayer, limited conversation due to coughing, and to gain weight prior to the start of treatments.

Muriel Dick's grandson **Richard Lancaster** is attending Penn State.

**Candace Charles** has graduated from Florida A&M University. She will be returning to this area at least for a while.

The **Holloway** family has been busy attending graduations of children and grandchildren in May and June.

**Misia**, Pat Gray's daughter, has turned 25 and celebrated with a week attending workshops and performing at the Calabash Festival in Jamaica.

## BREAD

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## Barbara Wien Convicted for Sudan Civil Disobedience

**P**arishioner Barbara Wien, along with Dr. Eric Reeves, Dr. Marc Lance, Mwiza Munthali, and Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and two others—the “Sudan Seven”—were tried and convicted at the Federal Courthouse in Washington May 25. They committed civil disobedience at the Sudanese Embassy Feb. 2.

Their defense was based upon the argument that such a grievous harm is taking place in the Darfur region that they were forced to choose between the lesser of two evils in order to try to save the lives of tens of thousands of innocent African civilians.

Dr. Reeves, a professor at Smith College in MA, testified that there is indeed a genocide taking place in Darfur.

Dr. Lance, director of the Peace Studies department at Georgetown University, and Barbara Wien, Co-director of Peace Brigades International, testified that nonviolent civil disobedience has historically been an effective way to change policies, and that in the case of Darfur, legal methods thus far have not been effective.

Bishop Gumbleton testified that nonviolent civil disobedience, coupled with prayer, cannot fail to be an effective way to bring about positive change.

The Honorable Judge Rufus King presided over the trial. At the end of the trial he remarked how impressed he was with the defense; the defendants had represent themselves without a lawyer.

Sadly, Judge King did not find their defense of necessity sufficient for an acquittal. He found each of the seven defendants guilty of the misdemeanor offense of unlawful assembly. However, as he respected that the actions were done in “good faith,” he sentenced three of the defendants who had no

prior record to two days in jail. The other four defendants, based on their prior convictions for other acts of nonviolent civil disobedience, received suspended jail sentences (that they do not have to serve) of 30-90 days plus a period of unsupervised probation

One defendant wrote, “I knew that no matter what the outcome, we had won. For in the face of a grave evil, we did not sit by and watch. We have searched for nonviolent responses, for Christian responses. However, we are far from finished. 400,000 people have already died in the last 2 years in Darfur, and 15,000 continue to die every month. Dr. Reeves believes that with the rainy season approaching, that number will soon jump to 100,000 per month.”

For more info: [www.divestedsudan.org](http://www.divestedsudan.org) or [www.sudanreeves.org](http://www.sudanreeves.org).

*-Brenna Cussen (one of the “Seven”)*

## Become A Summer Respite Volunteer at Samaritan Ministry

**D**uring the summer months many regular front office volunteers take a break and relax. During such periods, Samaritan Ministry’s three offices are sometimes short staffed and as a result unable to open. By becoming a summer respite volunteer several hours a week, you will help ensure that Samaritan Ministry’s hours of operation and service remain consistent and that our doors are open to participants.

If you are interested in becoming a summer respite volunteer at Samaritan Ministry, please call our Director of Volunteers, Chuck James, at 202-722-2280.

## WORSHIP at St. Stephen's

### Sundays

**8:00a—**

Holy Eucharist,  
Rite I

**10:30a—**

Holy Eucharist,  
Rite II with  
Children's  
Spiritual  
Formation

Celebrants and  
Preachers

**6/12:** The Rev.  
Linda Kaufman

**6/19:** The Rev.  
Frank Dunn

# LECTIONS

4th Sunday After Pentecost (June 12)

Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

5th Sunday After Pentecost (June 19)

Genesis 21:8-21  
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

## in this issue ...

Hazel Shecut Dies

Pages 1-2

People News

Page 2

Barbara Wien Convicted

Page 3

# THE SAINTS

**Monday, June 13**  
*Birthday: Antoinette Charles*

**Tuesday, June 14**  
BASIL THE GREAT, BISHOP OF CAESAREA, 379

**Wednesday, June 15**  
*Birthday: Ronald Conner, Candace Charles*

**Thursday, June 16**  
JOSEPH BUTLER, BISHOP OF DURHAM, 1752

**Friday, June 17**  
*Birthday: Gerry Fitzgerald*  
*Heavenly Birthday: Sheila Williams, 1988*

**Saturday, June 18**  
BERNARD MIZEKI, CATECHIST AND MARTYR IN RHODESIA, 1896

**Sunday, June 19**  
*Birthday: Candace Haynes*  
*Heavenly Birthday: Mary Jeanette Oldland, 2001; Mary Jane Simmons, 1984*

**Wednesday, June 22**  
ALBAN, FIRST MARTYR OF BRITAIN, c.304

**Friday, June 24**  
THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST  
*Birthday: Cecelia Brown*

ON THE COVER...  
Hazel Shecut

# THE PRAYERS

Here's who we've been praying for recently:

•Jennifer Blackman, Edith & Craig Eder, Millie Fenwick, Ruth Murphy, Elizabeth Palmberg, Keith Freddie, Daphne Piper, and all who desire to be restored to health; those who are home-bound; and all who care for aging relatives, the sick and the homebound;

•Claire Joanne Abrams and Daphne Karen Abrams, to be baptized at St. Stephen's June 19;

•Patricia Davis-Muffett, and her baby-in-the-making;

•Melissa Abel, Connie Adeyeri, Duane Bonds, Bob Broadwater, the Brown family, The Bright/Veneklasen family, Martha Carty, Roy Davis, Romel Dick, Katie Finley, Sunny Jackson, Susie Johnson, Evelyn Jones, Maia Lawrence, Robert Dean McClellan, Joe Midgely, Michelle Crocheron Montgomery, Carroll Muffett, Barbara Oldland, Karl Palmberg, Marisella Ruiz Ibarra, the Schmidt/Melchar family, Robert Spittler, the Revs. Katrina & George Swanson, Christina Way & Jim Stipe, Willard Webster, the Rev. Carolyn West, Astrid West-Harrington, Ellen Williams, and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

## BREAD

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