

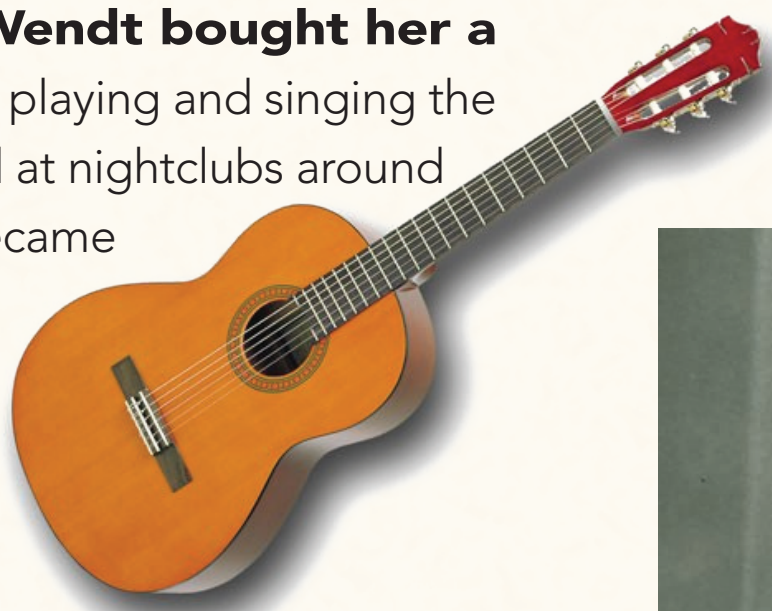
A PAGE FROM THE LONG AND  
AMAZING HISTORY OF ST. STEPHEN  
AND THE INCARNATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# Mother Scott

“Mother Scott, who was born Esther Mae Prentiss back in Warren County, Mississippi, in 1893, is a Washington legend.”

-The Washington Post, February 27, 1977

Mother Scott came to DC in 1960 to visit her daughter. She met Bill Wendt, who learned that she had been a singer and guitar player in her young adult years in the South. **Wendt bought her a guitar**, and she resumed playing and singing the blues, at St. Stephen's and at nightclubs around DC. Over the years she became more and more involved at St. Stephen's and by the 1970s was being identified as an activist at St. Stephen's Church.

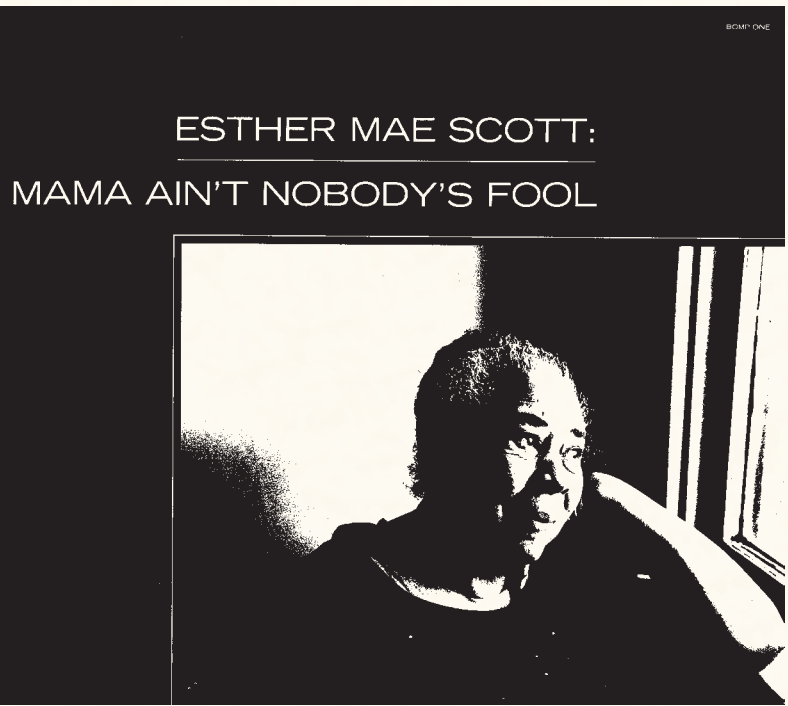


**Mother Scott sang frequently at St. Stephen's**, during communion or special events. Here she sings with Luci Murphy (at right) and an unidentified person.

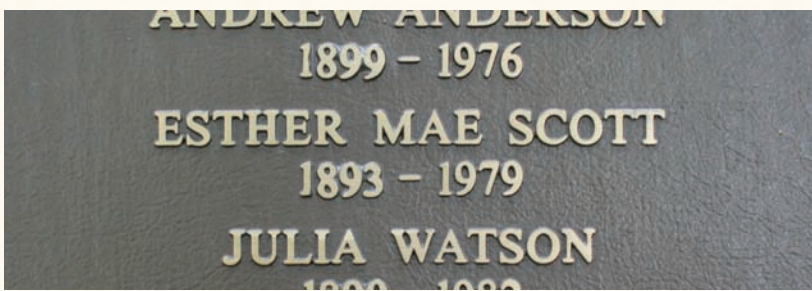


**Mother Scott had sung and played guitar since the days of the travelling minstrel shows**, first as a teenager in bordellos in the South and later with Leadbelly, Louis Armstrong, and Bessie Smith. After she took up music again in the 1960s,, she played and sang with Kris Kristofferson, Alice Cooper, Joan Baez, and Judy Collins, among others.

One of her songs was used — without permission — in the movie “Nashville.”



St. Stephen's helped Mother Scott record **Mama Ain't Nobody's Fool**, about which the Baltimore Evening Sun wrote, “Her voice is rich and strong and when her guitar comes on the record she gets down to the ringing blues of the Mississippi Delta.”



Mother Scott lived in Urban Village after its construction in 1970 and died on October 16, 1979, at 96 years of age. **Her ashes are interred in our Memorial Garden** (St. Stephen's church yard).

“It takes you longer to wear out than to rust out.”

-Mother Scott, who was also a crusader for senior citizen's rights

WIDENING THE CIRCLE THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. STEPHEN'S