



Helen C. Bacher

November 10, 1934 - May 18, 2025

Helen C. Bacher, née Helen Jeanne Cruttenden, born November 10, 1934, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, passed into the loving presence of God on May 18, 2025. She had most recently celebrated a festive 90th birthday wearing a sparkling tiara, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Burton J. Bacher, whom she married in 1986. They enjoyed twenty-nine years together. They served side-by-side at a free medical clinic in their later years. Helen was also predeceased by her first husband, Donald D. Lanese, to whom she was married for twenty-seven years and with whom she raised two daughters, Lynn Lanese and Jeanne Lanese Riek (Jim).

Helen had a passion for the arts in all forms. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Case Western Reserve University, while also studying Voice Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and earned a Certificate in Art Education from the Cleveland Institute of Art.

She worked as an art educator in public and private schools and programs ranging from the Pontiac Art Center to the Cranbrook Museum. In the 1970s and 80s, her talents led her to found and serve as managing director of the Académie des Beaux Arts and the Actors Alliance Theater. She worked as a writer for Lawrence Technological University for almost ten years. Throughout her life, she sang, volunteering in her church choirs as well as serving as a lay eucharistic minister. Many fondly remember her Christmas Eve solos of Oh,

Holy Night. She absolutely shone as a voice and piano teacher well into her mid-eighties, finding great reward in her students' joy and increased confidence as they developed their talents. She adored the ballet, the arts, and music. Education was a priority in her family. She read audiobooks voraciously when her eyesight failed, studying history, literature, biographies, politics, wars, and ancient civilizations, along with geophysics, quantum physics, and anything she could get her hands on.

Helen enjoyed the last years of her life living in the loving care of her daughter, Lynn. She adored being part of the lives of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren there. We are grateful for the blessing of her long, happy life, her love, and the myriad ways she supported each of us. We will treasure her memory.

Helen is also survived by her step-children, Allyn Bacher (Jeffrey Chong), Michael Bacher (Kim), grandchildren Gregory Gumina (Casey), William Gumina, Alex and Callie Riek, Jacob and Andrew Bacher, Eli Bacher-Chong, and great-grandchildren Charlie and RJ Gumina. She was preceded in death by her parents, Phillips and Mary Cruttenden, and her brother, Myron Cruttenden.

A memorial service will take place on Sunday, June 29th at 2:00 pm at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304. The service will also be live-streamed via the link: <https://christchurchcranbrook.org/church-at-home/>

The family requests that any remembrances be made in Helen's name to the Friends of Christ Church Cranbrook Music Program: <https://onrealm.org/ChristChurchCranbrook/-/form/give/now>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **29**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Christ Church Cranbrook
470 Church Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to the Family of Helen Bacher. I remember her well from my 32 year career at Christ Church Cranbrook. I will never forget the wedding of Jeanne and Jim, where I was the Verger (coordinator). RIP Helen, you will be missed.

Richard U. Waldbott Jr. - July 01, 2025 at 02:34 PM

KM

“ Kathy & Mike Mikrut purchased the Serene Retre at for the family of Helen C. Bacher.



Kathy & Mike Mikrut - June 27, 2025 at 11:11 AM

SC

“ I feel so lucky to have met Helen and her beautiful daughter Lynn! Ever grateful for the gift of an amazing painting by Helen hanging in my living room...I think of you both every time I look at it. Praying for peace in the hearts of your family as you celebrate her life and revel in the memories. With much love, Sheri

sheri Conner - June 08, 2025 at 08:50 AM

AC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Angela Cody-Rouget - June 07, 2025 at 08:48 PM

AC

“Helen became a spiritual mom to me and my family. She shared so much wisdom with me over the last four years. I got to share whiskey with her and Lynn on Inauguration Day at an English pub... As we mourned the election results, Helen led all 8 of us ladies in singing loud and proud: God Bless America, but she changed the word bless to save. The whole restaurant clapped and we sipped our whiskey or whatever it was...it was strong. She was strong. She absolutely loved her family and friends. She could not see well, but she would write cards and letters to express her love. She felt blessed beyond measure that her last four years of life were spent in Indiana near so many loved ones. She played the piano many times per week and Lynn's home was filled with her music books, art and treasures. I loved Helen's laugh. She did not tell me what I wanted to hear when guiding me as a wife and mother—she told me what I needed to hear.

Helen survived numerous serious illnesses! When I felt tired at age 52, I would draw inspiration from Helen. I will miss her very much and she is someone I look forward to seeing again in heaven. Lynn, thanks for bringing Helen to Indiana—she changes the trajectory of my life. 💕🙏😊

Angela Cody-Rouget - June 07, 2025 at 08:40 PM

JM

“For 17 years I watched Helen (Nana) love her children, her grandchildren, and great Grandchildren, and even children who were not her own. She raised my fiancé (William) to be a wonderful man and she will be sorely missed. Life will never be the same. Love you Nana. Always and always.



Josephine Markuson - June 07, 2025 at 06:47 AM

TF

“ *The Leigh Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Helen C. Bacher.*



The Leigh Family - June 06, 2025 at 09:55 PM

LL

“ *3 files added to the album Helen*



Lynn Lanese - June 06, 2025 at 07:12 PM