

# Shield



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ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Lansing, Michigan*

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## Thomas Becket *Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170*

The life and death of Thomas Becket have intrigued scholars and church people for centuries. Was he a politician or a saint? or perhaps both?

He was born in London in 1118 of a wealthy Norman family and educated in England and in France. He then became an administrator for Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. Later he was sent to study law in Italy and France and, after being ordained deacon, he was appointed Archdeacon of Canterbury. His administrative skills eventually brought him to the notice of King Henry II, who to Thomas's surprise, appointed him Chancellor of England. He and the King became intimate friends, and because of Becket's unquestioning loyalty and support of the King's interests in both Church and State, Henry secured Thomas's election as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Becket, foreseeing a break with his Royal Master, was reluctant to accept. As Archbishop he changed, as he tells us, "from a patron of play actors and a follower of hounds, to being a shepherd of souls." He also defended the interests of the Church against those of his former friend and patron, the King. The struggle between the two became so bitter that Thomas sought exile at an abbey in France.

When he returned to England six years later, the fragile reconciliation between Henry and the Archbishop broke down. In a fit of rage the King is alleged to have asked his courtiers, "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Four barons, taking Henry's words as an order, made their way to Canterbury, and upon finding the Archbishop in the cathedral, struck him down with their swords. Later, when the monks of Canterbury undressed Thomas's body to wash it and prepare it for burial, they discovered that under his episcopal robes their worldly and determined Archbishop was wearing a hair shirt. While such a garment hardly proves that a person is a saint, it clearly indicates that Thomas was motivated in the exercise of his office by far more than political considerations. His final words to the four barons before receiving the fatal blow were, "Willingly I die for the name of Jesus and in the defense of the Church."

Note from Fr. Dick: Thomas' shrine in Canterbury was the most popular pilgrimage site in pre-Reformation England—as in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The restored shrine was the site where, in 1982, Pope John Paul II visited Canterbury, and prayed with Archbishop Runcie.

**Collect:** O God, our strength and our salvation, you called your servant Thomas Becket to be a shepherd of your people and a defender of your Church: Keep your household from all evil and raise up among us faithful pastors and leaders who are wise in the ways of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ the shepherd of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## December Birthdays

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2	Lucas Robertson
4	Kelly Briggs
6	Jennifer Buysse, Sherie Wahlquist
8	Colleen Yantz
11	Steve Shuff
14	Jean Sweet
17	Adam Lucas
18	Diane Burchfield
19	Ian Hecht
20	Laura Carr
21	Mary Weathers
22	Orji Isiogu, Morgan Wilson
23	Sarah Field
26	Chi Isiogu
27	Steve Smith
28	Lyndsy Carr
30	Russ Davidoski
31	Shannon Kelley

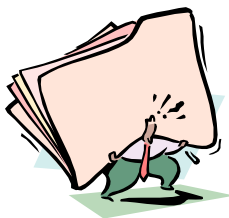
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## December Anniversaries

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16	Bernie & Pat Zandstra
30	Paul & Tara Dombroske

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## Don't Forget

The deadline for the January 2010 Shield will be Sunday, December 20th by 12:00 noon. Please submit your articles in a timely fashion. If you are doing your articles on the computer, *PLEASE* use Garamond or New Times Roman font size 12.

You may e-mail your articles to: archangel48911@Juno.com by Wednesday, December 16th or submit them on paper as in the past.

## Lansing Area Episcopal Projects Monday, November 16, 2009

Eight of us gathered at St. Paul's at 7 p.m. to network and to plan and promote our common and individual projects.

Support for those young adults transitioning out of foster care was scheduled. St. Michael's will gather supplies for one of their new apartments during the month of May, to be delivered June 1<sup>st</sup>. Father Weller reported that A.C.T.I.O.N. of Greater Lansing will hold the Listening part of their annual process on November 19. There is some talk of the merging of A.C.T.I.O.N. with a similar local justice organization, the Gamaliel Foundation, with which Father Hamlin has become involved.

Discussion continued on a possible project for LAEP congregations to undertake together and it was suggested that it pertain to one of the Millennium Development goals.

The Shared Eucharist date has been changed to Wednesday, July 14th or 21<sup>st</sup>. Father Weller will take it to Clericus for a final date. It will be held at Hawk Island park in Lansing and there will be a potluck, worship, and time to play at the park! A dozen youth gathered for the CROP Hunger Walk and further joint activities for LAEP youth are expected. The email address list for youth leaders was updated.

If you attended the Eucharist service at Convention in October and enjoyed it, you'll be happy to know that a similar contemporary service will be celebrated in Lansing on February 14 at 5 p.m. Mark your calendar and watch for further details.

Check out the NEW Diocesan website!

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## Christmas Communion for Shut-ins

The Rector is happy to take Communion to any shut-in who would like to receive Communion during Christmastide. If you or someone you care for would like a visit, please call the parish office (882-9733) before December 17 so that a time can be arranged.

# *Listening for* *the Wingbeats*

## **It's Advent: While the world rushes, we wait**

Even though I am writing this before Thanksgiving, the Christmas specials have started on television, the city has lighted its Christmas tree, stores are filled with wrapping paper and decorations—and have been for weeks. For the world around us, this is a time of often frantic shopping and preparation.

For us as the Church, we mark Advent during the four weeks before Christmas. It is a season of reflection, anticipation, and waiting. Our decorations in Church are subdued—few candles, only greenery instead of flowers at the altar, blue vestments and hangings to remind us of the Christ our King. It is a season to look forward to the yearly celebration of Christmas, but also to look forward to Christ's coming in glory at the end of time, and to look for his coming day by day in our lives and in the lives of all people. That means that while it is a season of waiting, it is a season of active waiting and anticipation. A season to reflect and to prepare our hearts and minds and our lives for all the ways Christ comes to us.

Much of what we do in the Church at this time of year is counter-cultural. We do not decorate for Christmas until after the services on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent; we don't sing Christmas carols until Christmas Eve—and then continue to sing them until Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>). We begin just as the world around us is ready to stop! In our worship, we try to model the watchful waiting and reflective mood of the season. Partly that is done in the prayers and music we choose; partly that is done by having the altar party in place before the service, sitting in quiet anticipation, to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. I invite all of you to try that for Advent as well—being in place 5 minutes or so before the service and sitting in quiet anticipation.

Amidst the world's frantic pace of preparation and celebration in these next weeks, I encourage you to make the time for spiritual preparation as well. Make time for Sabbath; make time for prayer and reflection. There are some pamphlets on the table in the Narthex that might be helpful as well as the Advent calendar that many of you have enjoyed in years past. If you need encouragement, remember the words of Isaiah 40:31: *those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

May you find quiet, peace, and renewed strength from observing a holy Advent.

Blessings and Peace,  
*Fr. Dick+*

## Parish Directory Update

December 2009

Help us keep in touch with you - please notify the Parish Office (882-9733) of any changes in, or corrections to: address, phone number, e-mail, birthday, and/or anniversary dates.

*The following parishioners have changes:*

Leon Dombrowski  
leonlski@aol.com

Steve Smith  
Ssmith@viol.net

Betty Boyd  
1516 Cedarview Lane  
Lansing MI 48911

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*You are invited to a*  
**Christmas Open House**

*1016 Poxson Avenue , Lansing*

*Tuesday, December 29*

*6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.*



*Please join the Hamlins in celebrating  
this joyous and holy season*



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### **Voter List for Annual Meeting**

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the parish on January 24, 2010, a list of eligible voters is posted in the Emrich Room. To be eligible, a person must be registered on the parish books (by Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, transfer, or requesting that one's Baptism be entered), be at least 16 years old, be regular in attendance for at least 6 months and be a giver of record. If you meet these criteria, please check to make sure your name is on the list—and please let the office know if you think there is an error in the list.

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### **Annual Meeting Reports Due**

We prepare a booklet for each annual meeting that reflects the life and ministries of St. Michael's in the past year. For that to be an accurate picture, every organization and group needs to submit a written report by January 6. This is an opportunity to not only talk about your ministries for the past year, it is also a chance to recruit new members and talk about plans for the future. Your reports can be e-mailed to the office at [archangel48911@juno.com](mailto:archangel48911@juno.com) or dropped off at the office. Thank you.

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# HANGING of the GREENS



We will decorate the Church following the 10:30 service on Sunday, **December 20**. Plan to help transform the Church from the relative austerity of Advent to the festive exuberance of Christmastide. (Unlike most of the world around us, we do not decorate for Christmas until after we have finished our observance of the Fourth Sunday of Advent.)

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## *Schedule of Christmas Services*

*Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24*

6:00 p.m. *Blessing of the Creche and Holy Eucharist*

11:00 p.m. *Blessing of the Creche and Holy Eucharist  
with choir and incense*

*Christmas Day, Friday, December 25*

10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

*First Sunday after Christmas Day, December 27*

8:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

*Wednesday, December 30, observing the Feast of the Holy Name*

6:00 p.m. *Holy Eucharist*

*Second Sunday after Christmas Day, January 3*

8:00 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*

10:30 a.m. *Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist*



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**NEW TO ST. MICHAEL'S?** Want to know more about our faith or about the Episcopal Church? Have questions about our worship? **OR** Have you been attending St. Michael's, but were raised in another denomination, and have never formally joined the Episcopal Church, but think it might be time to do so? **OR** Are you ready for Confirmation? "Confirmation is a rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." [BCP p. 860] **OR** Has it been a while since you were Confirmed? Do you need a refresher course, or do you have questions about the way we do things and what we believe? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should consider joining the **INQUIRERS' CLASS** starting in January. If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Hamlin by December 20 so we can find a time that works for everyone.

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Thanks

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God

Thank you to all those who have already made pledges for 2010. It is not too late, we would like to hear from everyone so that the Vestry can craft a realistic budget for next year. By Wednesday, November 18, we had received 57 pledges for \$ 130,046.00 to support the mission and ministry of St. Michael's in 2010. Thank you to:

Ken Alfredson  
Barry & Carol Baker  
John & Carolyn Baker  
Kris & Paul Beckett  
Molly Boelio  
Barb Burns–Briggs  
Kathy Brown  
Florence Burchfield  
Rocco & Robin Buysse  
Charlotte Byers  
Mary Calera  
Magnus & Sandy Campbell  
Mo. Susan Carter  
Nancy & Chuck Case  
Elaine Capper  
Tony & Dorothy Cline  
Jan Cobbs  
Milo Christensen & Marilyn Weisenberg  
Lyn & Delaine Counseller  
Moses & Alice Dangba  
Leon Dombroski  
Sarah Field  
Fr. Dick & Claudia Hamlin  
Jennifer & Orji Isiogu  
Diana Keenan  
Jerry & Fran Kelley  
Doris Ledyard  
Barbara Lowler  
Donald & Jodi MacMillan

Terry & Peg Maricle  
Rick & Carol Merritt  
Shelley Miller-O'Neill  
Rick & Carol Merrit  
Marialice Phillips  
Sally Price  
Judith Ramsay  
Alice & Bill Rissman  
Arthur Roat  
Shirley Schwarz  
Mark & Evelyn Shelley  
Gary & Sue Sipkovsky  
Mitch & Bea Skory  
Don Smith  
Steve Smith  
Michelle Sparks  
Jean & Lou Sweet  
Jim & Sharon Swisk  
Lou & Becky Velasquez  
Jolyon Vincent  
Bob Wahlquist  
Sherie Wahlquist  
Julia Walton  
Mary & Karl Weathers  
Jackie Womble  
Randy Woodall

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## Advent Calendars

There are copies of the poster

**SLOW DOWN. QUIET. IT'S ADVENT!**

available on the table in the narthex. These have been popular with many in our congregation over the last couple of years. It has suggestions for each day—a good deed, something to pray or think about. A great reminder of the true meaning of Advent.

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# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6500 Amwood Drive + Lansing, MI 48911

PHONE 517-882-9733 Email: Archangel48911@juno.com

website: www.saintmichaellansing.org

## DECEMBER 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b> 3:30 Education Committee McAlisters in Okemos  Budget Meeting Nancy Case's 6:30	<b>2</b> 11:30 Women's Bible Study at Great Lakes  <b>6:00 Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Food Bank # 2
<b>6</b> <b>8:00 Holy Eucharist</b> 9:15 Education for All <b>10:30 Holy Eucharist</b>  6:00 EfM	<b>7</b> <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	<b>8</b>  7:00 Vestry	<b>9</b> 11:30 Women's Bible Study at Great Lakes  <b>6:00 Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Food Bank # 3
<b>13</b> <b>8:00 Holy Eucharist</b> 9:15 Education for All <b>10:30 Holy Eucharist</b>  6:00 EfM	<b>14</b> <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11:30 Women's Bible Study at Great Lakes w/ <b>Holy Eucharist</b>  <b>6:00 Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Food Bank # 4
<b>20</b> <b>8:00 Holy Eucharist</b> 9:15 Education for All <b>10:30 Holy Eucharist</b> 11:45 Parish Potluck  6:00 EfM	<b>21</b> <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>  7:00 Women's Circle	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 11:30 Women's Bible Study at Great Lakes  <b>6:00 Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Holy Eucharists 6:00 &amp; 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.</b> 	<b>26</b> Food Bank # 5  9:00 Breakfast at Flapjack's
<b>27</b> <b>8:00 Holy Eucharist</b> 9:15 Education for All <b>10:30 Holy Eucharist</b> Noisy Offering: Year End Bills  6:00 EfM	<b>28</b> <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	<b>29</b> Rector's Open House 6 -9	<b>30</b> 11:30 Women's Bible Study at Great Lakes  <b>6:00 Holy Eucharist</b>	<b>31</b>		

## Gamaliel and Community Action

We have been discerning whether we are called as a parish to be part of a faith-based social action program, something our last Diocesan Convention urged all parishes to do. Fr. Dick has been meeting with people from several churches, including Cristo Rey and Mt. Hope Church, about Gamaliel. This is the community organizing group with which Barack Obama worked in Chicago. Fr. Dick has both a history/approach piece by Gamaliel and a tentative organizational plan for the Lansing area and would be happy to share a copy with anyone who is interested. He would also like to have one or two others from the congregation join him at the next meeting on Tuesday afternoon, December 15. Please call or e-mail the office for copies or for information about the meeting.

On December 6, Maria Salinas, Gamaliel Organizer for Michigan, will preach at both services about the work of Gamaliel.

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## Pastoral Care

Please let the Office, and members of the Pastoral Care committee know if a parishioner is ill or is in need of help. Feel free to let Bob Wahlquist, Randy Woodall or Paul Davis know. We are here to help you but we need to know the situation in order to respond. Please don't assume that we already know we would rather hear from 10 people than from no one.

Thank you,

Paul J. Davis 316-1419, [morristhewondercat@yahoo.com](mailto:morristhewondercat@yahoo.com)

Randy Woodall 819-4205, [rwoodall67@gmail.com](mailto:rwoodall67@gmail.com)

Bob Wahlquist 663-3922

St. Michael's office, 882-9783, [archangel48911@juno.com](mailto:archangel48911@juno.com)

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A BENEFIT CONCERT  
FOR THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND

**Jamie-Sue Seal and John Latini**

7PM – ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
800 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

517 351-7100



**Suggested Donation:** \$8/ticket Please make checks payable to: All Saints Episcopal Church

# of tickets

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pick up tickets at the church office or from Steve Findley, [steve.findley@gmail.com](mailto:steve.findley@gmail.com). Tickets will be available at the door.

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## St. Michael's Episcopal Church

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

St. Michael's Shield  
6500 Amwood Drive  
Lansing, MI 48911

Email: [archangel48911@juno.com](mailto:archangel48911@juno.com)

Website: [www.saintmichaellansing.org](http://www.saintmichaellansing.org)

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### *St. Michael's Episcopal Church*

*Our Mission is to nourish God's People  
that Christ may be known.*

*Rector: The Rev. W. Richard Hamlin, Ph.D.  
Office Hours Tuesday 9:00a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
and by appointment  
Associate Priest: Susan Carter  
Minister of Music: Julia Walton*

Senior Warden: Barry Baker  
Junior Warden: Magnus Campbell  
Secretary: Nancy Case  
Office hours: Tuesday -Thursday 9:00a.m. -1:00p.m.

Director of Christian Education: Jackie Womble

Shield Editor: Diana D. Keenan

Telephone: 517/882-9733  
FAX: 517/882-1733  
Bus Route: CATA Route #8

Holy Eucharist: Sundays - 8:00a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Education for all: Sundays- 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m.  
Choir Warm-up: 10:15 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist: Wednesdays - 6:00 p.m.



## *Secret Pal Christmas*

Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
6:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass. All are welcome!