

Shield



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lansing, Michigan

Phillips Brooks

Bishop of Massachusetts, 1893

Writing about Phillips Brooks in 1930, William Lawrence, who as a young man had known him, began, "Phillips Brooks was a leader of youth. . . . His was the spirit of adventure, in thought, life, and faith." To many who know him only as the author of "O little town of Bethlehem," this part of Brooks' life and influence is little known.

Born in Boston in 1835, Phillips Brooks began his ministry in Philadelphia. His impressive personality and his eloquence immediately attracted attention. After ten years in Philadelphia, he returned to Boston as rector of Trinity Church, which was destroyed in the Boston fire three years later. It is a tribute to Brooks' preaching, character, and leadership that in four years of worshiping in temporary and bare surroundings, the congregation grew and flourished. The new Trinity Church was a daring architectural enterprise for its day, with its altar placed in the center of the chancel, "a symbol of unity; God and man and all God's creation," and was a symbol of Brooks' vision — a fitting setting for the greatest preacher of the century.

This reputation has never been challenged. His sermons have passages that still grasp the reader, though they do not convey the warmth and vitality which so impressed his hearers. James Bryce wrote, "There was no sign of art about his preaching, no touch of self-consciousness. He spoke to his audience as a man might speak to his friend, pouring forth with swift, yet quiet and seldom impassioned earnestness, the thoughts of his singularly pure and lofty spirit."

Brooks ministered with tenderness, understanding, and warm friendliness. He inspired men to enter the ministry, and taught many of them the art of preaching. He was conservative and orthodox in his theology; but his generosity of heart led him to be regarded as the leader of the liberal circles of the Church.

In 1891, he was elected Bishop of Massachusetts. The force of his personality and preaching, together with his deep devotion and loyalty, provided the spiritual leadership needed for the time. His constant concern was to turn his hearers' thoughts to the revelations of God. "Whatever happens," he wrote, "always remember the mysterious richness of human nature and the nearness of God to each one of us."

Collect: O everlasting God, you revealed truth to your servant Phillips Brooks, and so formed and molded his mind and heart that he was able to mediate that truth with grace and power: Grant, we pray, that all whom you call to preach the Gospel may steep themselves in your Word, and conform their lives to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Psalm 84:7-12

Lessons

Ephesians 3:14-21

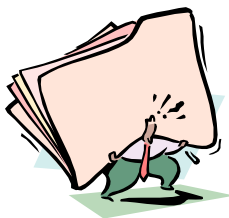
Matthew 24:24-27

January Birthdays

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- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Moses Dangba, Alice Dangba, Jamal Lingua, Salwa Lingua |
| 2 | Drew Wilson |
| 4 | Judith Ramsay, Mary Calera |
| 9 | Kurtis Smith, Ana-Mai Vincent |
| 11 | Gary Sipkovsky |
| 12 | Carl Bridenbaker |
| 13 | Ken Green |
| 14 | Melinda Schaaf |
| 17 | Donald MacMillan, Jr. |
| 18 | Charlotte Byers, Jeff Sweet |
| 19 | Carl Robert Bridenbaker |
| 26 | Jerry Kelley |
| 29 | Alexander Schaaf, Eli Hecht |
-

January Anniversaries

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- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 20 | John & Carolyn Baker |
| 23 | Julian & Debbie Hernandez |
| 29 | Mark & Evelyn Shelley |
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Don't Forget

The deadline for the February 2010 Shield will be Sunday, January 17th 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, January 13th or submit them on paper as in the past. Thank You!

Vestry Meeting Synopsis December 8, 2009

The one-remaining-year vestry position vacated by Bill Lucas was filled by Sandy Wigglesworth after a unanimous aye vote. The Nominations Committee is continuing to look for candidates for Vestry and Convention Delegates.

The Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Cafe held on November 15 was a success with the following profits: Booth rental \$255, Cookies \$497, African crafts \$205, and Threads of Hope (Peruvian needlework) \$2,313.

A great deal of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed budget presented by the Finance Committee. It is a balanced budget!

Unfortunately, to achieve this, many sacrifices were made, including a freeze to the rector's pay, the reduction of education supplies, canceling the supply clergy for two summer services (replaced by morning prayer pending advisement re: licensing of a Lay Reader), elimination of cleaning and kitchen supplies (we're having a kitchen 'shower!'), and cutting the janitorial service (get out your rubber gloves!). The Vestry and Church Staff appreciate in advance the parish's willingness to tighten the belt and pitch in. The Vestry voted to approve the budget for 2010.

To hear more about the details of the budget, please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2010.

The Stewardship Committee reported that the Pledge Campaign is going well. There were 61 pledges made, over 40% of which are increases from last year.

Submitted by,
Barb Burns-Briggs

Welcome to Steve Shuff

We welcome Steve Shuff to the congregation of St. Michael's. His record of baptism has been recorded in our office and he is now a member.

Listening for the Wingbeats



A New Year: New Challenges and New Opportunities

I was thinking the other day about how much importance we often place on the change of year and yet how little it really changes in most of our lives. In spite of New Year's resolutions, few of us change the day to day pattern of our lives; the changes in weather and daylight are continuous processes; virtually no sports, clubs, or other activities organize their season to correspond to the change of year. We do all have to remember to put a different year on our checks and other documents; for some it may mean an adjustment in income—though that is true for far fewer people this year. For the parish (and many other organizations) it means a new budget.

Our parish budget for 2010 does mean some real changes for us, detailed or at least mentioned in other articles. These are the results of the Vestry's determination to adopt a truly balanced budget for 2010. Part of that meant being as honest and comprehensive as we could possibly be in estimating both our income and our expenses, realizing that we never can anticipate fully what the year will bring. We were gratified and encouraged by the many increases in pledges, but the economic conditions still took a toll as some people lost jobs or moved away. As a consequence, the Vestry had to make some hard choices since the budget was already pretty lean. What did we need to do to maintain our most essential ministries? Part of the answer is to count more heavily on parishioners to volunteer for tasks we have always paid to have done.

The new year also presents us with what I think is an exciting possibility. I have been meeting with a group of leaders from several local congregations exploring the possibility of organizing a Gamaliel chapter in the Lansing area to do community organizing. (You can find information about the Gamaliel Foundation at gamaliel.org) An essential component of their approach is what is called a listening campaign. The idea is to get to know people and to know what interests and concerns them. Given the positive feedback from our cottage meetings this Fall, I think this is something we would benefit from even if we ultimately do not choose to be part of a Gamaliel or other faith based community organizing group. (You may remember that our last Diocesan Convention called for parishes to be involved with such groups and that I wondered during my sermon on St. Michael's Day if we weren't being called as a parish to live more fully into the implication of our name to fight evil by being involved in such an organization. Such groups work to change the structure of the society in order to get at the root causes of social problems rather than just responding to the consequences of those problems.)

The idea of a listening campaign is to train 10% of the people of a congregation to listen, for about half an hour, to the interests and concerns of each of 10-15 people. Then the listeners share what they hear to see if any patterns of interest and concern have emerged. Most people like to be heard, and the possibility exists of new ministries and/or of people becoming more deeply involved in the life of the parish. There will be a local training on Saturday, January 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We would need 10-12 people, including a leader to work with me, in order to use this method effectively. The plan would be to do the listening during Lent, either in person or by telephone. If this interests you, or if you would like more information, please let me know.

What will the year bring for us as individuals and as a parish? Some of that we can not know; some of that will truly be beyond our individual control. But we do have the ability to influence our future by the choices we make and by the ways we choose to use our time, our skills, our interests and concerns, and, yes, our financial resources. Above all, we need to pray continually for individual guidance and for discernment of where we are being called as individuals and as a congregation.

May God grant each of you clarity of purpose and the strength and courage to follow where God leads the way.

Blessings and Peace,

Frv. Dick+

Almsgiving in the St.Michael's Parking Lot

By: Pat Zandstra

On Sunday, December 13th I drove into the St.Michael's parking lot at about 7:55 a.m. for the 8 a.m. service. Leon Dombrowski pulled in right beside me. As we started to walk together towards the front door, a man in an old white car drove up beside us. I stopped to find out what he wanted. He was about 50 years old, unshaven, and unkept. He told me that he and his wife spent the night in their car. They needed to get to Brighton but they had no money for gas. He kept reassuring me that he wasn't asking for money, and yet he was. He said he had already approached five people that morning and no one would help him. He asked if I would give him money for gas? Like most people, I don't like to be taken for a fool, but these are hard times, so I gave him \$20. He thanked me and drove away. Fran Kelley was watching the whole thing from inside the church door, making sure that I was alright. I was touched by her concern.

On Monday I went out to dinner with a friend who lives in Williamston. I just happened to mention this encounter with the man in our church parking lot. My friend said that same thing just happened to Mark (her husband) in the Menards parking lot right next to our church last week. It was the same story. He and his wife needed money for gas to get to Brighton. Mark only had \$5 in his wallet, but he gave him all he had.

In the Scriptures we are asked to give alms to the poor. I have no doubt that this man was poor and was desperate for money, why else would he be approaching a strange woman, early on a cold Sunday morning in a church parking lot. I'm just sorry that he had to go about getting money in this way. It makes me wonder how many other people are desperate for money these days, but don't know how to get it. Maybe they are at home, trying to keep warm, and praying for God to perform a miracle for them.

Patricia J. Zandstra
3734 Bayou Place
Holt, MI 48842
517 394-7234

Thank you!

The Nativity set we have in the Narthex for Christmastide is a gift of Joan Culham. We thank her for her generosity and we also thank Joyce Cushing for arranging the gift.

Priestly Ordination

God willing and the people consenting, Bishop Gibbs will ordain the Rev. Richard Sauerzopf to the priesthood on January 23, 2010 at St. Paul's, Lansing. Professor Sauerzopf will continue his research post at Michigan State University and serve on the staff at St. Paul's. We are all invited to the service.

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 24, 2010

Our Annual Meeting will begin at **Noon**. We will convene the meeting, hear the nominations for various offices and vote before taking a break to enjoy lunch. An eligible Voters List is posted on the bulletin board in the Emrich Room. Following lunch, we will hear the report of the elections, have a report on the 2010 budget and hear reports of the various ministries and groups in our parish. We will also discuss a variety of issues affecting how we function and possible future directions including: what we need to do to ensure Sunday security, an effective calling tree, and the necessary cleaning of our buildings; a pastoral care food policy; whether to pursue involvement with Gamaliel; and reminders about notifying the office in case of illness and the importance of donations at coffee hour.

We will be electing	Vestry members:	3 persons to 3 year terms
	Columbarium Committee:	1 person to a 3 year term
	Lansing Area Episcopal Projects Representative:	1 person to a 3 year term
	Representatives to the 2010 Diocesan Convention:	3 delegates at least 1 alternate delegate

Thank You

Claudia and I want to thank all those who sent us Christmas cards and who were able to join us for the Open House. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and your friendship.

Adult Education for Epiphany

The Adult Education offering for Epiphany will be Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori's book, *On A Wing and A Prayer*. The books are \$15.00 each. Our session will begin January 3rd and run through February 14th. If you would like a book, please see Jackie Womble or Fr. Hamlin.

Public Relations Committee

I need one or two people to join me in getting the face of St. Michael's out there. I need someone to alert me to events and someone to shoot a photo of the event and send it to me. Voila! We're in the paper or on TV! It is quick and easy and it can make a great impact in "Nourishing God's People." Talk to me!
Barb Burns-Briggs 256-4406
bburnsbriggs73@gmail.com

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6500 Amwood Drive + Lansing, MI 48911

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

JANUARY 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:00 Wardens' Meeting 9:15 Education for All 10:30 Holy Eucharist 5:00 Educ. Committee 6:00 EfM	4 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	5 12th Night Carol Festival at Grace Lutheran 7:00 pm	6 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Holy Eucharist	7 7:00 Choir Practice	8	9 Food Bank # 4
10 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Education for All 10:30 Holy Eucharist 6:00 EfM	11 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	12 7:00 Vestry	13 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Holy Eucharist	14 7:00 Choir Practice	15	16 Food Bank #5
17 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Education for All 10:30 Holy Eucharist 11:30 Parish Potluck 6:00 EfM	18 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	19	20 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Holy Eucharist 7:00 Worship Committee	21 7:00 Choir Practice	22	23 Food Bank # 1 Ordination of Richard Sauerzopf at St. Paul's
24 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Education for All 10:30 Holy Eucharist Noisy Offering- ERD/MDG ANNUAL MEETING 6:00 EfM	25 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	26	27 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Holy Eucharist	28 7:00 Choir Practice	29	30 Food Bank # 2 Gamaliel training 9-2 at Cristo Rey
31 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Education for All 10:30 Holy Eucharist 6:00 EfM						

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

St. Michael's Shield

6500 Amwood Drive

Lansing, MI 48911

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Website: www.saintmichaellansing.org

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.

Twelfth Night Carol Festival

SING out the Christmas Season in
grand style with

The Maple River Brass

and

The Choirs of Grace Lutheran
Church

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, and
St. Katherine's Episcopal Church

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Seven o'clock in the evening at

Grace Lutheran Church

528 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Lansing, Michigan