

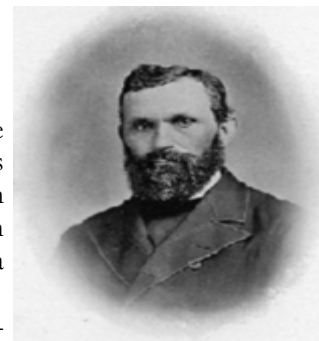
St. Michael's Shield

October 2009
Vol. 49 No. 10



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

Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky *Bishop of Shanghai, 1906*



The story of Joseph Schereschewsky is unique in the annals of the Church. He was born on May 6, 1831, of Jewish parents, in the Lithuanian town of Tauroggen. His early education was directed toward the rabbinate, but during graduate studies in Germany, he became interested in Christianity through missionaries of the London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews, and through his own reading of a Hebrew translation of the New Testament.

In 1854 Schereschewsky emigrated to America and entered the Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh to train for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. After two years, he decided to become an Episcopalian, and to finish his theological studies at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, from which he graduated in 1859.

After ordination, and in response to Bishop Boone's call for helpers in China, Schereschewsky left for Shanghai. Always facile in languages, he learned to write Chinese during the voyage. From 1862 to 1875 he lived in Peking, and translated the Bible and parts of the Prayer Book into Mandarin. After Bishop Williams was transferred to Japan, Schereschewsky was elected Bishop of Shanghai in 1877, and was consecrated in Grace Church, New York City. He established St. John's University, in Shanghai, and began his translation of the Bible and other works into Wenli. Stricken with paralysis, he resigned his see in 1883.

Schereschewsky was determined to continue his translation work, and after many difficulties in finding support, he was able to return to Shanghai in 1895. Two years later, he moved to Tokyo. There he died on October 15, 1906.

With heroic perseverance Schereschewsky completed his translation of the Bible, typing some 2,000 pages with the middle finger of his partially crippled hand. Four years before his death, he said, "I have sat in this chair for over twenty years. It seemed very hard at first. But God knew best. He kept me for the work for which I am best fitted." He is buried in the Aoyama Cemetery in Tokyo, next to his wife, who supported him constantly during his labors and illness.

Collect: O God, in your providence you called Joseph Schereschewsky from his home in Eastern Europe to the ministry of this Church, and sent him as a missionary to China, upholding him in his infirmity, that he might translate the Holy Scriptures into languages of that land. Lead us, we pray, to commit our lives and talents to you, in the confidence that when you give your servants any work to do, you also supply the strength to do it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

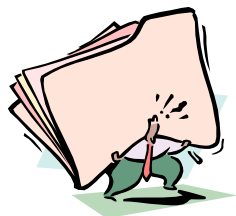
Lessons: Psalm 84:1-6 or Psalm 116:10-17
II Corinthians 4:11-18
Luke 24:44-48

October Birthdays

5	Pam Wilson
6	Bernadine Bell, Ian Kelley
9	Ryan Hoisington
15	Nathaniel Burchfield
17	Delaine Counsellor
19	Jackie Womble
20	Jacob Zanstra, Amanda Bridenbaker
24	Fred Smith
25	Michelle Sparks, Mary Tuckkey
28	Julian Hernandez, Cameron Hoisington
30	Robin Franz, Kathy Brown
31	Shannon Drake-Walker

October Anniversaries

2	Milo Christensen & Marilyn Weisenberger
7	Karl & Mary Weathers
10	Terry & Peg Maricle
19	Bill & Alice Rissman



Don't Forget

The deadline for the November 2009 Shield will be Sunday, October 18th 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, October 14th or submit them on paper as in the past.

Blessing of the Animals



Blessing of Pets

There will be a service of blessing for pets and domestic animals at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, **October 4**, St. Francis Day. Over the last couple of years, these services have been a wonderful success, drawing both our own parishioners and several visitors.

Weather permitting, the service will be held in the lot on the corner of Amwood Drive and American Road; in case of rain, the service will be held in the church. The service will last approximately one half hour and include two hymns, a Bible reading and prayers of thanksgiving and of blessing for our animal companions. The public is invited to attend and to bring their pets and domestic animals—on leashes or otherwise under control. Stuffed animals and pictures of pets are also welcome. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to join you.

COTTAGE MEETINGS ARE COMING!

Any day now you'll receive your invitation to a Cottage Meeting. One of your St. Michael's friends will invite you to a small party to read some scripture, talk about your pride and hopes for St. Michael's and then offer you some dessert. There will be Cottage meetings throughout the month of October, so surely one will fit in your busy schedule. It will be a fun little evening from which all of us at St. Michaels, and all that we minister to, will benefit.

Evening Prayer Wednesday, October 7

Because both Fr. Dick and Mo. Susan will be attending the Fall Clergy Conference, there will not be a Eucharist on Wednesday, October 7. There will be a service of Evening Prayer.

Listening for the Wingbeats



What does it mean to be a member of the Church?

What does it mean to claim we belong to a Church. For us, as Episcopalians, at its simplest, it means that our Baptism is recorded on the official books of a parish. That happens if we are Baptized in the parish, but it can also happen if that parish presents us to the Bishop for Confirmation or Reception. It can also happen by transfer from another Episcopal parish, or by showing the clergy a copy of one's baptismal certificate from another Christian tradition and asking to be enrolled in the parish register. People are removed from our register only by death or by transfer to another parish. (As a matter of practicality, those who simply stop attending are moved to inactive status.)

But, being a member of a parish in any real sense means more than simply being listed on the books. At a minimum, it involves being active in the worship life of the parish. For most of us, it also involves donating our time and talents to support the parish and its ministries. That can take many forms, as we saw on St. Michael's Sunday when we commissioned people to a wide variety of ministries in education, worship, outreach, pastoral care, and various forms of stewardship: financial, environmental, and of our buildings and grounds. For the vast majority of us, being an active member of our parish also means making a financial commitment to our continued life and to support our ministries to each other and to others as well. Most of us have some sense of how important our parish is to our members—the ways we offer care and prayer, education, support, encouragement. It is not always easy for most of us to see the impact we have on so many others: those who benefit from the food bank, those who attend the various twelve step groups that use our building; those helped by the various agencies and groups to which we donate.

Our membership in our parish also makes us members of our Diocese and through it of the Episcopal Church. Our membership in The Episcopal Church also connects us to the Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury. This is fairly abstract for most of us, but we get some sense of it when we have the opportunity to hear, or even meet, our fellow Anglicans like Archbishop Desmond Tutu. (The General Convention of The Episcopal Church will next meet in Indianapolis July 4-13, 2012. That is a wonderful opportunity to experience The Episcopal Church and even to interact with Anglicans from other parts of the Communion. I encourage you to take advantage of its proximity to visit and participate in this once every three year gathering for legislation, worship, fellowship, and marketing.)

At another level, our membership in any church makes us a member of the universal Church: the fellowship of all those who follow Jesus as Lord and Savior. (But that is a whole other discussion.)

This month gives us many opportunities to participate in the life of our own Diocese. The Right Reverend Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan will make his official visitation to us on October 18. He will celebrate the Eucharist and preach as well as meet with us. (It does not look like we have anyone to present for Baptism, Confirmation, or Reception, though those often happen at a Visitation.) The Bishop is our link to the wider Church. Our Bishop's recent election to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church makes that linkage even more evident. Our Diocesan Convention will be meeting just down the street from us, and we are all welcome to observe the actions of the Convention and to participate in the worship. October 31 is an opportunity to join with others in the Diocese for a service of Repentance for Racism. The Bishop is not our only connection to the Diocese. Several of our members are involved in the crafting of a Diocesan mission statement and all of us can have input at a meeting to be held here in December. In addition, we have several members who serve in a variety of Diocesan offices.

To be a member of the Church is to be a member of our parish, our Diocese, The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. It doesn't take much to exist as a nominal member of all of these. But there is much we can gain by being more active and intentional in our involvement with all levels of the Church. May you find ways to make all these memberships sources of pride, nurture and growth in your spiritual life. And if you need ideas about how to do that, just ask!

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Dick +

Policy on Designating Funds from Fund-raisers

This policy should be understood within the context of the Vestry's ultimate authority and responsibility for the receiving, stewardship, and disbursement of all parish funds.

- 1) All fund-raisers, including regularly established annual fund-raisers like the MSU booth and Parade of Homes, should notify the Vestry in a timely fashion of the intent to offer/participate in any fund-raising activity.
- 2) All requests for scheduling fund-raisers should include a proposal on the distribution of profits.
- 3) The Vestry's preference would be that all fund-raisers eventually designate at least 50% of profits for outreach. While established fund-raisers may keep their traditional designation of profits; new fund-raisers will be asked to justify designating less than 50% for outreach.
- 4) It is desirable that these outreach funds be divided so that 50% goes to local outreach and 50% to regional, national, or international outreach programs. Where possible, preference should be given to programs consistent with our parish mission statement and in which parishioners are actively involved and/or with Episcopal Church sponsorship. In the absence of a specific proposal, this will be the policy on distribution of funds. (This does not affect current fund-raisers like the Rummage Sale which leaves the distribution to the discretion of the Outreach Committee.)
- 5) The Outreach Committee will handle the distribution of local funds and the Vestry will administer the distribution of funds for regional, national and international outreach.

Adopted by the Vestry
September 8, 2009

WE TOOK S.T.E.P.S. TOWARD HEALTHIER BODIES!

S.T.E.P.S. Participants! Congratulations! Our fun walking club is finished for now, but you deserve some recognition. We'll have a quick gathering after the 10:30 service on Oct. 4 in the Narthex. Even if your pedometer pooped out on you, come celebrate with us and make plans for the next S.T.E.P.S. event. Give thanks for our bodies!

Revitalization and Strategic Visioning Project (RSVP) for the Diocese of Michigan

Mo. Susan has been serving on the steering committee for RSVP and on September 19, 2009, the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan launched a comprehensive study of its core values and mission objectives that will help articulate the direction of the diocese over the next decade. 50 Episcopalians [including Fr. Dick, Kris Beckett, and Magnus Campbell] were invited to meet to identify the core values of the diocese. On Saturday, October 10, that group will meet again at St. Michael's to draft a Mission Statement. An overview and progress report of the RSVP project will be made at Diocesan Convention on October 23 in Lansing. Reb Scarborough, who is leading our project, will lead an RSVP presentation from 2 - 4 p.m. on the Friday afternoon of Convention. All Episcopalians in the diocese are invited to participate in a series of Vision Events beginning December 5. Each will last from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

December 5 - St. Michael's, Lansing
January 23 - St. Andrew's, Waterford
February 6 - The Cathedral, Detroit
March 27 - All Saints', East Lansing
April 17 - St. Paul's, Jackson

General Convention Presentations

Bishop Wendell Gibbs and members of the Diocese of Michigan Deputation to General Convention will host two presentations in November to discuss actions taken at General Convention in Anaheim.

Saturday, November 7
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit
10a.m.-noon

Saturday, November 14
St. John's, Howell
10 a.m.-noon

Diocesan Convention is October 23-24

The Causeway Bay Hotel
Formerly the Holiday Inn South
6820 South Cedar Street
Lansing, Michigan 48911

This is a wonderful opportunity to see our Diocese in action and to get a better sense of who we are. There are always interesting exhibits and the hearings and legislative sessions welcome guests. The Convention Eucharist offers us the chance to worship with 300-400 of our fellow Episcopalians, so even if you cannot make anything else, attend the Eucharist of Saturday, October 24, at 8:00 a.m.

Bishop Gibbs designates Day of Repentance Day of Repentance for slavery, continuing racism

In response to Resolution 12 of the Diocese of Michigan Convention in 2008, and in response to Resolution A123 of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 2006, the Office of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan announces the designation of Saturday, October 31, 2009, as a Day of Repentance. The purpose of this day is to (a) make a public declaration that human slavery is sin and a fundamental betrayal of the humanity of all persons involved; (b) publicly condemn human slavery in its past and present practices; (c) acknowledge, express our regret, and apologize for any support, justification, and participation in the racist, injurious, and discriminatory practices that still continue. Also, this day will officially mark the initiation of a program to collect and document detailed information on the complicity of the Diocese of Michigan and the Episcopal Church at large in the institution of slavery and to forward that information to the National Anti-Racism Committee for inclusion in future reports. All information collected will be shared with the diocesan household. A Service of Repentance will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's in Detroit October 31, 2009

11 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to be part of this important day in the life of the diocese and the Church.

Bishop Gibbs to visit St. Michael's October 18

Our Bishop will be with us for worship, teaching and fellowship on Sunday, October 18. This is an opportunity for all of us to spend some time with him, to share our hopes and concerns, and to hear from him. Our schedule that day will be:

- 9:15 A conversation with Bishop Gibbs
- 10:30 Holy Eucharist with the Bishop presiding and preaching
- 11:45 Monthly Potluck Luncheon (The Bishop will sit with the Vestry.)

The loose offering that day is designated for The Bishop's Fund. Checks are also welcome and should be made payable to The Bishop's Fund. Please be generous.

Note: There will not be an 8:00 a.m. Eucharist that day. The Bishop is lactose intolerant and unable to eat dairy products such as milk, cream, cheese, yogurt, etc. Please keep that in mind as you plan and prepare your dish for the potluck.

Volunteers needed for Diocesan Convention

I have agreed to co-ordinate Volunteers for our Diocesan Convention on October 23-24, here in Lansing. The volunteers we will need include:

Tellers: to work directly on the floor of the Convention on Saturday, October 24, to assist the Secretary of Convention in counting "show of hands" votes and distributing information. (Minimum of 10)

Hospitality/Greeters: needed Friday 1:00--7:00 p.m. and all day Saturday to greet delegates and serve as guides within the convention center.

Vendor Set-up/Break-down: needed Friday at noon and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers help set-up and take-down vendor displays and help with vendor registration where needed.

Those planning the Eucharist may also be looking for volunteers, including ushers.

A sign-up form should be coming from Jo Ann Hardy at some point, but volunteers can contact me by e-mail. Thanks.

Fr. Dick+

Holiday Flowers



I'd like to take the time to thank you all for the success of our pre-paid altar flower program. Holiday flowers until now have been a prayerful leap of faith. I must order Easter or Christmas flowers and decorations well in advance of the Holiday and distribution of memorial envelopes to our parish. By some miracle, the cost of materials and generosity of those donating memorials seem to meet. To expand our pre-paid program to include Holidays will be challenging. I believe we can rise to this challenge. This year's Christmas decorations will not change in form from the previous year; however, your input will determine the extent of decoration. In the Emrich room is posted last year's itemized prices for our Christmas decorations. We do not yet have this year's prices as the season is early. I did though want to pass on these figures to help make a more informed decision. If you wish to make a memorial donation, I respectfully request we have our memorials in before the 1st week of Advent so I can complete our order to be ready for Christmas. To prepare for this advanced order, I will be placing memorial envelopes in your mailboxes the 1st week of November.

Thank You again for all your help and look forward to our new adventure together.
God Bless- Becky Velasquez.



Fruit and Greens Sale



The Fruit and Greens Sale, which benefits Haven House and Loaves and Fishes, and which takes place each November, is looking for additional volunteers. If you feel called to help distribute flyers, take orders, load and unload boxes of fruit and poinsettias, or delivers all that good stuff for the good of the homeless in our community, please speak to Barb Burns-Briggs.

Adult Education Offerings for Autumn

The Adult Education program on Stewardship with Barb Burns Briggs continues through October 11th. On October 18th Bishop Wendell Gibbs will be visiting. During tje Adult Class, Bishop Gibbs will be available for questions. The next three weeks, October 2-November 8 Pat Zandstra is going to share a program on Evangelism

Thank You

Courtney and I are very appreciative that you gave us the scholarship to go to Camp Chickagami this year. We thank you very much because without all of you help we would not have been able to go to camp this year. You all have been very nice to us and we thank you.
Thanks Evan and Courtney Ramsay

OCTOBER 2009 + ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6500 AMWOOD DRIVE + LANSING, MI 48911

TELEPHONE: 517/882-9733 + E-MAIL: ARCHANGEL48911@JUNO.COM

WWW.SAINTMICHAELLANSING.ORG

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 7:00 Choir Practice	2	3 Food Bank # 3
4 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:00 Warden's Mtg. 9:15 Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist 4:00 Blessing of the Animals 6:00 pm EfM	5 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	6	7 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Evening Prayer	8 7:00 Choir Practice	9	10 Food Bank # 4 Diocesan RSVP @ St. Michael's 9-1
11 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist 11:30 Outreach Comm. Noon-Review of Secretary and Bookkeeper 6:00 pm EfM	12 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	13 7:00 Vestry	14 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Holy Eucharist	15 5:30 Stewardship 7:00 Choir Practice	16	17 Food Bank # 5
18 9:15 Conversation with Bishop Gibbs 10:30 Holy Eucharist with Bishop Gibbs Noon- Parish Potluck Shield Deadline 6:00 pm EfM	19 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i> 7:00 Women's Circle	20	21 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes w/Holy Eucharist 6:00 Holy Eucharist	22 7:00 Choir Practice	23	24 Food Bank # 1
25 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Education 10:30 Holy Eucharist Noisy Offering for Christian Services	26 <i>Rector's Sabbath</i>	27	28 11:00 Women's Bible Study @ Great Lakes 6:00 Holy Eucharist	29	30	31 Food Bank # 2 Day of Repentance Cathedral 11:00

Food Bank

Many thanks for the generosity of all! With the withdrawal of surplus foods from Spartan Stores and Meijers Stores, there is little for food banks to glean from Red Cross. Your contributions to the cart in the Narthex are more important than ever. We ask that when you are going through your cupboards at home that you don't bring in **outdated** items. We cannot give out outdated food. Thank you again for your generosity! Welcome to Pat Zandstra to Team 4 and Charlotte Byers to Team 1. Team 4 still needs one or two more people. Many hands make light work for all.

Judith Ramsay
Fresh Food Bank

Vestry Meeting Synopsis

September 9, 2009

The meeting opened with prayer and roundtable.

Correspondence:

Received a resignation letter from Bill Lucas. Bill and his family will be moving to Oregon in October. A motion was made to accept the resignation, and was seconded. A discussion followed concerning a vestry replacement.

New Business and Parish Planning:

- a. Our noisy offering on September 27th will go to the United Thank Offering.
- b. The new Fund Raiser Policy was reviewed and discussed. A motion to accept the new policy was made and seconded. The policy will be published in the Shield and will be available to all committee chairs.
- c. Discussion concerning formalizing the Pastoral Care Meal Plan Proposal. The importance of letting someone know when you are ill or in the hospital was discussed. This proposal will be presented at the Cottage meetings.
- d. Cottage meetings are being planned and organized. They will take place during the month of October and part of the discussions will focus on the needs and wants of our Parish.

Committee Reports:

A survey of the parish concerning adding another service is being organized. Because such a service is not offered at any of the other Episcopal churches in the area, it could attract some new attendees or may be inviting to some of our members that do not make it to the traditional Sunday services.

Vestry Wardens reports were reviewed.

The meeting concluded with Compline.

Submitted by Pam Wilson

Let's Talk about Evangelism

By Pat Zandstra

- I would like to invite you to join the Evangelism Committee at 9:15 a.m. during the Sunday School Hour on October 25, November 1, and November 8th to talk about how and why we should proclaim the gospel to others. We learned in the Adult Sunday School Class on Stewardship in September that according to our baptismal vows, all baptized people are called to **proclaim the gospel**. Over the space of these three weeks we will try to answer the following questions together: What is the gospel, or "Good News"? Is the gospel really "Good News" to us? and, How can we learn to share the gospel effectively with others? We hope that you will join us for this important conversation.
-

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

St. Michael's Shield

6500 Amwood Drive

Email: archangel48911@juno.com

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.