

Shield



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lansing, Michigan

Sojourner Truth, "Miriam of the Later Exodus" 1797-8 to 1883



Isabella (Sojourner Truth) was the next-to-youngest child of several born to James and Elizabeth, slaves owned by a wealthy Dutchman in New York. For the first 28 years of her life she was a slave, sold from household to household.

She fled slavery with the help of Quaker friends, first living in Philadelphia, then New York, where she joined the Mother Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church when African-Americans were being denied the right to worship with white members of St. George's Church in Philadelphia. Belle (as Isabella was called) became a street-corner evangelist in poverty-stricken areas of New York City, but quickly realized people

When she was about 46, Belle believed she heard God say to her, "Go east." So, she set out east for Long Island and Connecticut. Stopping at a Quaker farm for a drink of water, she was asked her name. "My name is Sojourner," Belle said. "What is your last name?" the woman asked. Belle thought of all her masters' names she had carried through life. Then the thought came: "The only master I have now is God, and His name is Truth."

Sojourner became a traveling preacher, approaching white religious meetings and campgrounds and asking to speak. Fascinated by her charismatic presence, her wit, wisdom, and imposing six-foot height, they found her hard to refuse. She never learned to read or write, but quoted extensive Bible passages from memory in her sermons. She ended by singing a "home-made" hymn and addressing the crowd on the evils of slavery. Her reputation grew and she became part of the abolitionist and women's rights speakers' network.

During a women's rights convention in Ohio, Sojourner gave the speech for which she is best remembered: "Ain't I a Woman." She had listened for hours to clergy attack women's rights and abolition, using the Bible to support their oppressive logic: God had created women to be weak and blacks to be a subservient race.

From Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006

Sojourner Truth is commemorated on July 20 along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, and Harriet Ross Tubman as Liberators and Prophets. In 1867, she settled in Battle Creek and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

June Birthdays

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | Eileen Briggs |
| 5 | David Briggs |
| 6 | Terry Maricle, June Wilson |
| 8 | Sandy Wrigglesworth |
| 9 | Stacey Bofysil |
| 10 | Allison Briggs |
| 16 | Shelby Smith |
| 17 | Nicole Smith |
| 18 | Paul Beckett |
| 19 | Marilyn Weisenberger, Claudia Hamlin |
| 30 | Charlene Uptgraft |

July Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Bernie Zandstra, Jessie Sipkovsky |
| 3 | Randy Woodall |
| 5 | David Hecht |
| 8 | Barry Baker |
| 9 | Nancy Case |
| 13 | Shirley Schwarz |
| 17 | Josephine Lee, Jodi MacMillan |
| 18 | Barbara Lowler, Jim Swisk |
| 20 | Barb Burns-Briggs |
| 24 | Fran Kelley |
| 25 | Kris Beckett |
| 26 | Tony Hernandez |
| 28 | Milissa Cobbs |
| 30 | Mitch Skory |
| 31 | Sandy Campbell |

August Birthdays

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Faith Hernandez |
| 2 | Tara Dombroske |
| 3 | Lindsay Hoisington |
| 4 | Marialice Phillips |
| 7 | Eric Buysse |
| 12 | Robert Garrett |
| 13 | Monique Bailhe |
| 16 | Sally Price |
| 19 | Becky Velasquez |
| 22 | Shelley Miller-O'Neill |
| 23 | Valerie Yantz, Mary Kapp, Taylor Herrmann |
| 24 | Michael Bofysil, Fr. Dick Hamlin |
| 25 | Jay Graham |
| 27 | Louis Sweet |

June Anniversaries

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Michael & Stacey Bofysil |
| 3 | Mitch & Bea Skory |
| 6 | Mark Miller & Shelley Miller-O'Neill |
| 10 | Rocco & Robin Buysse |
| 15 | Rick & Carol Merritt |
| 17 | Orji & Jennifer Isiogu |
| 21 | Lyn & Delaine Counseller |
| 23 | Bob & Julia Walton |
| 27 | Jerry & Fran Kelley Lou & Becky Velasquez Fr. Dick & Claudia Hamlin |

July Anniversaries

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 8 | Todd & Colleen Yantz |
| 9 | John & Pam Wilson |
| 10 | Russ & Bobbie Jo Davidoski |
| 14 | Gary & Sue Sipkovsky |
| 20 | Carl & Amanda Bridenbaker |
| 31 | Gene & Sandy Wrigglesworth |

August Anniversaries

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | David Briggs & Barb Burns-Briggs |
| 2 | Magnus & Sandy Campbell |
| 4 | Jay & Beth Graham |
| 7 | Robert & Ruth Garrett |
| 10 | Fred & Lana Smith |
| 27 | Chuck & Nancy Case |
| 31 | Paul & Kris Beckett |

Don't Forget

The deadline for the September 2009 Shield will be Sunday, August 16th by 12:00 noon. Please submit your articles in a timely fashion. If you are doing your articles on the computer, *PLEASE* use Garamond font size 12 or New Times Roman.

You may e-mail your articles to archangel48911

Listening for the Wingbeats

Summertime, and the livin' is . . . Different!

As we move out of May and into June, July and August, we are aware of change—changes in weather, changes in routine, the changes that come with graduations and weddings, For some, this is a time of more leisure and travel, for others it is a season of more work, or of a different kind of work. All of us are reminded, in one way or another, that change is a part of life. Some of the changes are seasonal or cyclical or cumulative—and we can expect and plan for those kinds of change—always aware that there are events beyond our control and that, ultimately, we can never fully control our future or even know when our time on this earth will come to an end. Change is always a reminder that, as much as we might desire to be in control of our future—or think we desire it—as hard as we sometimes try to act otherwise, we are not in control; we are limited, finite beings. Change can be frightening, disorienting, threatening. But, properly understood and properly approached, change can help us grasp our dependence on God and our interdependence with one another and all of Creation.

Certainly one of the very positive changes for us this year is the ordination of Susan Carter and her presence with us as Priest Associate. She will continue to teach at MSU and her association is very definitely part-time and, generally, non-stipendiary. She will preach once a month and celebrate regularly. She will preach and celebrate while I am on vacation or at Camp Chickagami (and we will pay her the normal Supply Clergy rates for those Sundays). Her association with us is a great gift to me and to the parish.

Another of the usually positive, though generally temporary, changes for many of us during the summer are vacations and chances for travel. Such time can be an opportunity for spiritual as well as physical and psychological renewal, regeneration, and refreshment. I encourage you to visit other congregations when you travel—not just to view religious buildings as a tourist, but to join in worship with the local congregation. It is a wonderful chance to meet some new people, and perhaps, to gain some ideas that might improve the way we greet visitors and identify and incorporate newcomers to our parish. (And, do share your findings with your Vestry.) It is also a way to see and experience some of the diversity in the Episcopal Church, and to see how some of what we do—sometimes what some of us find new or even strange—is fairly common in the Episcopal Church.

It is increasingly easy to find an Episcopal Church if you are traveling. I have a list (with size, address, and telephone number) of all of the parishes in the Episcopal Church, arranged by Diocese and then by city or location—and that includes not just “Up-North” and Chicago, but NYC and San Francisco, Taiwan, Rome, Paris and Port au Prince as well. Or you can go to the internet—at the library if you don’t have access at home—to www.ParishFinder.org where there are even driving directions. And we do have a marvelous diversity of parishes—in terms of size, worship style, ornamentation—or lack thereof—and even language. (Do notice that I am taking it for granted that you do intend to worship every week, as the catechism [BCP p. 858] commends!)

Summer is also an opportunity to catch up on some reading—or to try some new reading material. This summer, what about something on spirituality or church history? Perhaps something on liturgy and worship? Perhaps some poetry by George Herbert, John Donne or another Anglican poet? Maybe even a read through *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*—or order the new *Holy Women; Holy Men* that General Convention will consider this July. (As is usually the case, the media will give almost all coverage to sensational reports—consider checking the Episcopal Church’s website for more balanced reporting: ecusa.anglican.org—or ask me if you hear a report that doesn’t seem quite right or concerns you and I will get you more information.) Different styles of literature appeal to different people, but at least consider trying something spiritual this summer.

May these months be for you a time of relaxation and renewal; may they also be a time of spiritual growth. Enjoy the change of pace; use this wonderful season creatively; let it be for you a time of refreshment.

Blessings and Peace,

Frv. Dick +



W. Richard Hamlin

is a member of St. Michael's
Episcopal Church,
Lansing, MI
In case of emergency, please
call 517-882-9733



Family contact: _____

Telephone: _____

Medical Conditions/Medications: _____

Emergency Health Cards

The Vestry has asked our Secretary, Nancy Case, to prepare business card-sized health information cards for each of us to carry with our health insurance cards. On the front, there is your name and a request to let St. Michael's know in case of a medical emergency (or another Episcopal Church if you are out of the area). On the back is a place to list who to notify in a medical emergency and information about medications and medical conditions. Watch for it in your parish mailbox, fill it out and carry it with your insurance cards.



We Have a Website!

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Jan Cobbs and Barb Burns-Briggs we now have a St. Michael's website. Thank you!!! The address is saintmichaellansing.org

Any questions or suggestions to Barb Burns-Briggs or Jan Cobbs.

Wednesday Services this Summer

Our regular Wednesday evening services will continue through July 22. Watch the bulletins for information about July 29 and the Wednesdays in August—a couple of local priests may be willing to provide those services for us while Fr. Hamlin is at Camp Chickagami and on vacation.

Parish Clean-up Days

To prepare for Mother Susan's ordination (and to look our best for the Bishop and our other visitors that day) we will have parish clean-up days starting at noon on Sunday, June 7 and Sunday, June 14. Wear work clothes to church that day (or bring clothes to change into) and bring a bag lunch. If we all put in an hour or two, we can make a big difference.

OUTREACH

Proceeds from the Spring Rummage Sale were slightly over **\$1,800.00**. Half of this goes to support Outreach and half to the General Fund. Fall Sale will be September 26th.

We will be providing Care Packages for a Foster Care youth again this year. These are items they need when they leave foster care (18 yrs old) and go out on their own. We will collect the items in June for a youth whose birthday is in July. Details will be provided Sundays, May 31st and June 7th.