



OUR STAFF

Interim Pastor:
The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Angie Mitchell
Administrative Assistant:
Linda Wieferich
Caretaker, Al Ferrell
Nursery Attendants:
Sarah Egerer and Theresa King

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Jennifer Morris
Vice-Moderator: Heather Ballien
Clerk: Cyndi James
Treasurer: David Garn
Missions Treasurer:
Roger Ellsworth
Financial Secretary: Laurella Smith
Historian: _____
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth



May 2011

TEAM LEADERS

Finance: Jim Garn
Facilities/Maintenance: Jim Larkin
Personnel: Margaret Leaman
Worship: Gregg Schultz
Visitation: Lois Smith
Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
Christian Ed: Sally Egerer
Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth and Earl Settle
Outreach/Evangelism: Jan Wheeler
Missions: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Women's Society: Dianne Ellsworth
Music: Jody James
Pastoral Relations: David Quinnan

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Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
203 S. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48602-4079
Linda Wieferich

OUR CHURCH VISION

Drawing upon its rich history of service to God in an urban setting, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church serves as a beacon of Christ-centered ministry to the community through witness, worship, and fellowship in a culturally diverse population.

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

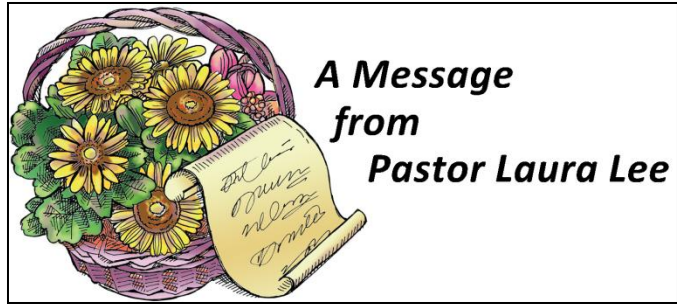
The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser
203 S. Michigan Avenue - Saginaw, Michigan 48602

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Pastor Laura Lee Strawser may be reached:

Cell phone: (989) 307-9063 Email: RevLLS59@frontier.com Pastor is on Face-Book.
Please feel free to contact her.



**A Message
from
Pastor Laura Lee**

“WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE TABLE?”

The other day, Julie Quinnan sent me a sort of litany and prayer from another church newsletter. It is a stewardship prayer adapted from one used by the Diocese of San Diego. I'd like to share it with you.

Stewardship Parish

My parish is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am.
It will be holy, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will be prayerful, if I pray.
It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.
It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith,
of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God,
I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my parish to be.

I want to thank Julie for this wonderful piece of writing! When I read it I immediately knew that I wanted to share it with the folks here at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church.

When you are being interviewed for a leadership position or asked to serve on board for a non-profit business or proposed for membership to an important organization you might be asked the question: “What do you bring to the table?” This litany/prayer asks the same kind of question for us as members of a Christian church. “What do you bring to the table?”

In other words, what gifts, commitments, resources, strengths and abilities do you bring to the service of your church...and more importantly to the Kingdom of God? Notice this prayer starts out with acknowledging that we're all in this together; I'm like you and you're like me. We're all responsible for 'growing' the church because we are all the Body of Christ. We're all responsible for supporting, praying, inviting, working, teaching and being faithful. We all have to bring our BEST 'to the table.'

Will you join me in praying these words from the prayer above?

“...with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my [church] to be.”

THANK YOU

To My Church family

I know I speak for all those who belong to our church family who have lost loved ones and felt the comfort, love and support you have shown by helping with food, and the preparation and cleaning up for our funeral luncheons. It is many hands working together that are a help to others during this time of grief.

The funeral committee appreciates all that you do and thank you so much for your willingness to help when asked.

In Christian Love,
Mary Larkin

RESCHEDULED! The Strategic Planning Session originally scheduled for May 14 has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled at a later date.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Last month the Worship Team asked for your help in taking it upon yourselves in placing flowers on the Communion Table. The responsibility of this has fallen upon a few people and your help is greatly needed at this time. If you would be so willing, please take a moment and choose your Sunday, or a month, to place flowers on the Communion Table. The flower chart is located at the Adams Street entrance, just outside the sanctuary door. Please give this your prayerful consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Ellsworth or Margaret Leaman.



Our MABC Scholarship Team has announced that scholarship applications are now available. They are located outside the church office door. Pick yours up today, fill it out, and return it to the church office no later than Sunday, May 15.

The **ABY is taking orders for flowers** which will be delivered on May 8, Mother's day. Your choice of



hanging baskets are; million bells, geraniums, petunias, and begonias. All are \$15.00 each.



Christian Education Notes:

The Christian Education Team has been working on updating the MABC Camp Scholarship policy. There will be changes to our policy that will affect all of our youth this year. Each camper will need to fill out a **"Camp Intent" form**. These forms will provide information that will determine the amount of money that the camper will receive from MABC. The forms are available from the Youth Team Leader: Cheryl Ellsworth, or the Christian Education Team Leader, Sally Egerer. Any questions, please contact either Cheryl or Sally.

RUMMAGE SALE

The MABC Women's Missionary Society will hold a rummage sale on Friday and Saturday, May 6 & 7 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This money will go to help fund the White Cross Gifts of the Heart. You may bring your items to the church by Wednesday, May 4, or contact Dianne Ellsworth for pick up of larger items.



WAITING ON GOD

On May 5, Americans observe the National Day of Prayer. Waiting on God is an important component of prayer. It's hard to understand why God delays when we cry out for help. Why does he allow us to suffer, when he could just say the word and make it all better? Why must we wait?

Consider a child whose parents always give her whatever she asks, as soon as she asks for it. That child has little opportunity to learn patience or gratitude. Because she doesn't know what it's like to not have, she cannot appreciate the true value of something.

God may have some of these things in mind when our prayers go unanswered for a time. As the psalmist exhorts, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" (Psalm 27:14, NRSV).

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

-Marcel Proust

PRAYER

Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. has been set aside for MABC to come together at the church and pray individually and corporately for the needs of our nation, our community, our church, our families, our friends and any other needs the LORD lays upon your hearts.

A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE



A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, "God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean."

To the question "What does your mom do in her spare time?" one youngster said, "Mothers don't do spare time."

When the children were asked "Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?" one child replied, "God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me."

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will gather at MABC on Saturday, May 14 at 9:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast and Christian fellowship. You are invited to attend.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Our MABC Women's Missionary Society and our Pastoral Relations Teams will host the May potluck on Sunday, May 15 following the worship service. You are invited to attend and taste the delicious dishes so lovingly prepared by our members.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 19, 2011

"If you have a mom, there is nowhere you are likely to go where a prayer has not already been."

-Robert Brault

SCRAP-BOOKING SATURDAY

Our MABC scrap-bookers will gather in the fellowship halls on Saturday, May 14 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. for a day of scrapbooking fun. You are invited to attend at any time. Sally Egerer will be glad to answers any questions you may have.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Prohibitions against prayer are now common in most public school graduations. But some students at a high school in Washington, Illinois, came up with a way around the band.

Ryan Brown, a graduate scheduled to speak, paused to bow in silent prayer as he approached the podium. Moments later, with all eyes on him, Brown faked a sneeze. In response, a handful of his friends shouted, "God bless you!"

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

VALLEYS



Valleys symbolize life's dark or low points; for example, Psalm 23:4 refers to "the valley of the shadow of death" (NIV). But valleys also symbolize people who find God's favor because they're lowly and meek. As a result, valleys can be places of blessing. God lifts his people out of despair and rewards their faithfulness. He also promises to "level" conditions by raising up valleys and bringing down mountains (see Isaiah 40:4).





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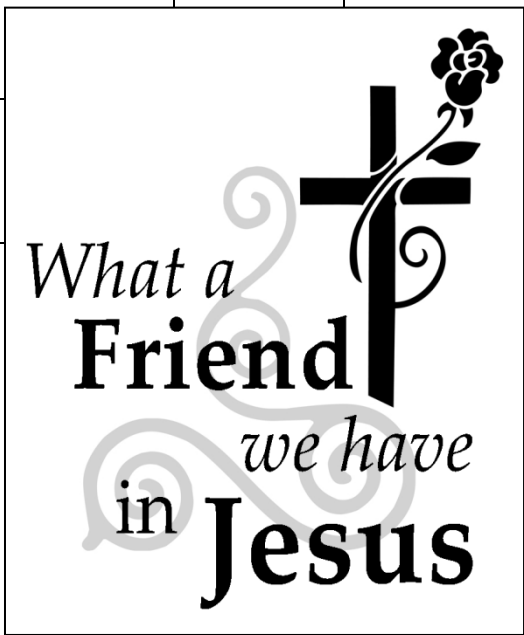
Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday	2 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	3 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	4 CHOIR REHEARSALS	5 National Day Of Prayer 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting	6 Women's Missionary RUMMAGE SALE @ MABC 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	7
8 Mother's Day	9 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	10 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	11 CHOIR REHEARSALS	12 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting	13	14 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 3:30 p.m. Ball game @ Comerica Park
15 Camp Sunday Potluck Sunday Scholarship Apps. Due	16 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	17 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	18 CHOIR REHEARSALS	19 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	20	21 10:00-3:00 Scrap-Booking Saturday
22 Last Day of Church School. Teacher Appreciation.	23 Newsletter Articles due. 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	24 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	25 CHOIR REHEARSALS	26 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting	27	28
29	30 <i>(Office Closed)</i> Memorial Day	31 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>				

WEDNESDAY CHOIR REHEARSALS
 6:30 p.m., Belle Aire Handbell Choir
 7:30 p.m., Latham Burrows Choir

SUNDAY AT MABC
 9:15 a.m. Praise Prelude
 9:30 a.m., Church School
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service & Extended session



MAY BIRTHDAYS



Wishing You a
**Happy
Birthday!**



MAY 2011

01	Marty Parks
02	George Most
02	Sharlene Hamilton
03	Thomas Little
03	Sean Doughty
06	Diana Lemmer
06	James Garn
11	Dakota Casey
12	Samantha Smith
14	Sandra Ellsworth
14	Michael Casey
20	Albert Moore
20	Janice McKnight
22	Jessica Bell
25	Margaret Lowing
26	Jackie Anjakos
29	Sheena Santino
30	Jan Wheeler
30	Bill Larkin

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 7893-8555 with your birth date. We'd like to wish everybody a Happy Birthday during their birthday month. Please contact the church office should you have a change of address. We want to keep our records current. Thank you.