



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



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

The Beacon Newsletter
Is a monthly publication of
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

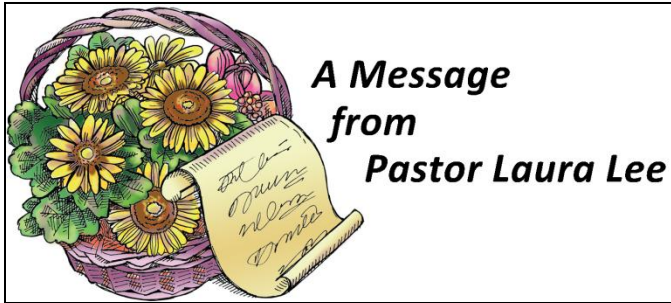
The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser
203 S. Michigan Avenue - Saginaw, Michigan 48602

Church office: (989) 793-8555 Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net Website: MABCSaginaw.org



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.





“HOPE”

It started with four phrases at the top of a blank page: Spring – Holy Week – Tragedies in Japan – Civil War in Libya. I was trying to decide what to write about for the April newsletter. And, as usual, I was having a difficult time. So I decided to simply write down things that were on my mind. These were the first four things that came to my mind.

Sunday (March 20th) was the first day of Spring and it is WAY overdue as far as I’m concerned. Holy Week is fast approaching and I feel overwhelmed by all the preparing, planning and preaching I have to do as this time draws near. Who isn’t thinking about the tragic situation in Japan? The images of this country’s situation is heart wrenching; earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster. And while freedom for Libya’s people is long overdue, I wish it could have come as peacefully as it did in Egypt. So...I sat staring at the four phrases on my blank sheet of paper. And suddenly ONE WORD came to my mind. HOPE.

Hope, as defined in the dictionary, can be either a verb or a noun. It can mean ‘to desire with expectation of fulfillment’ or ‘to trust.’ Or, as a noun, it can mean ‘a person or thing on which hopes are centered’ or ‘something hoped for.’

In Psalm 39:7 we read, “And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My **hope** is in You.” And the writer of Proverbs tells us that “**Hope** deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” (Proverbs 13:12) Paul tells us that in the end...“faith, **hope** and love remain.” (I Cor. 13) The letter to the Colossians states that “Christ in you” is the “**hope** of glory.”(Col. 1:27) And in the letter of I Peter we read “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (I Peter 1:3)

With God, HOPE is both a verb and a noun! We hope (and pray) for the people of Japan to recover from this tragedy and be made whole. We hope for freedom to come to all people who are oppressed. We hope for healing for our friends and loved ones who are ill or suffering. We hope for all people to come to a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And we have hope in God through Jesus Christ, the one who lived, died and rose again. And we are reminded of that hope as Lent turns to Easter; as suffering turns to resurrection. May this Lenten season prepare us all for the HOPE of new and eternal life through the Risen Lord!

Pastor Laura Lee Strawser

HOLY WEEK AT MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY, April 17

9:15 a.m. Praise Prelude
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
12:00 p.m. Fellowship



MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 21

6:15 p.m. A Maundy Thursday meal will be offered at 6:15 p.m. at MABC. There will be a worship service following the meal. Both the meal and the worship service will be in the fellowship hall. First Baptist will be our guests. You are asked to bring "finger foods" to share. Examples of finger foods are: pita chips and hummus, nacho chips and salsa, fresh veggies and fruit, finger sandwiches (egg, baloney, cucumber, etc.), cocktail wieners wrapped in crescent rolls, meatballs served with tooth picks, veggie or fruit pizza (cut into small squares), cookies, sweet rolls, etc. Please remember to bring enough for eight to ten people, since our guests will not be asked to bring food.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 22

MABC will not offer Good Friday services this year. Please visit a church of your choice this year.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 24

8:00 a.m. Son-Rise Worship Service
8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service

Church History Update Order



Our 2010 Church Historian, Teddy Pelkey, has graciously written our 2010 Church History for your Church History book. If you would like to update your book, please fill out the form and enclose \$5.00 for each update.

Please return to the church office no later than
April 10, 2011.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of copies requested: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

CORRECTIONS and/or CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

At the quarterly business meeting to be held on April 28, the following changes to the constitution will be discussed. These changes have the approval of your Church Council.

1. Constitution:

Article III. Polity

Section 2. A. Should now read: ***“The Mid-Michigan Baptist Association of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan.”***

The North Area of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan has changed their name.

2. Bylaws:

Article I. Admission/Classification of Members, Section 1. Admission of Members, B. Associate Members, 2) ***Privileges and Exceptions:***

Associate members shall have all the privileges and assume all the obligations of membership except they shall not be eligible to:

a. Hold the office of pastor.

b. Serve on the Worship Team’s sub-team on Membership

c. Vote on matters that determine the church’s relationship to the American Baptist Churches of Michigan and the American Baptist Churches in the USA

The above section was inadvertently omitted from the last revision.

Addendum to Bylaws - Teams and Team Definitions:

Section 6. Finance Team, C. Duties, 3) the team shall have no power to buy, mortgage, lease or transfer any asset in excess of ***one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)*** without specific vote of the church authorizing such action. Previously approved budgeted items would not require a vote, since they have already been approved.

The Church Council is requesting the change from \$500.00 to \$1000.00.

LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY

Lenten Suppers and Study will continue Sunday evenings April 3 and 10 at 5:30 p.m. A light supper is served followed by a Lenten study. All are welcome.

PRAYER



Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. has been set aside to come together 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.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast fellowship will meet on Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast followed by Christian fellowship. All men are invited to attend.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Potluck Sunday will be hosted by our Mission Team and our Music Team on Sunday, April 10 following the worship service. You are invited to come and enjoy delicious food prepared by the membership of MABC.

Sweep over me, Lord
And brush out my sin!
Replace it with faith,
And live here within.
Amen.



-Peggy Ferrell, from Prayers and Poems

SCRAPBOOKING AT MABC

Saturday, April 16 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. has been set aside for scrap-bookers to come together and put together beautiful memory pages. You are invited to join at any time, and no experience is necessary. Sally Egerer will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due in the church office on Monday, April 18. If there is anything you'd like to share with the church, please contact the office and we can put it in the church newsletter. This is a terrific way to communicate and share with the church.

A HAPPY ENDING

"Our Lord could die with the same calm in which he had lived. He had known all along how things would turn out. He knew his apparent defeat would result in universal glory for the human race."

-A.W. Tozer

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 28, 2011

LIVING IN SATURDAY

Saturday of Holy Week is a strange day for the church. It's sandwiched between Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, and Easter, when he rose.

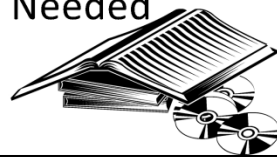
Certainly, we know the truth and triumph of the resurrection, but until Jesus comes again, we're living in Saturday. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed, and the curtain of sin that separated us from God has been torn down. Yet we're still looking forward to – as Jesus said – the renewal of all things.

Although we may be battered and bruised, stumbling, limping or crawling, we shouldn't wallow in defeat. Instead, we can be confident in the victory Jesus won for us. We can shout with Paul, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

While you look back to Friday and look forward to Sunday, live victoriously in Saturday. Jesus has won and has run the victory lap --- and he's coming around again.

-Gregg McCaslin

Church Historian Needed



NEEDED: Someone who has a love for preserving our church history

We have a real need for someone to come forward to be shown where things are and what is being done to preserve our church's history. Our current Historian, Teddy Pelkey, has resigned, but is prepared to show another person what to do and where things are. It is not a difficult task, but it is necessary for the preservation of our history. If you have an interest in history and would like to assume this task, please talk to Jenny Morris, Moderator, or call the church office and indicate your willingness.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, 2011



A second **Strategic Planning Session** for leaders within the church is being scheduled for **May 14,**

2011. We will start with breakfast at 9:00 a.m., hosted by the Men’s Fellowship, and then begin our strategic planning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. If you are a team leader, are on Church Council, or attended the last planning session, please plan to attend.

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.



Communion Table Flowers



Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Easter Breakfast tickets are for sale. Be sure to purchase your ticket from Sally Egerer, Cyndi James, or Cheryl Ellsworth. Tickets are \$3.00 per person or \$12.00 for an immediate family of 4 or more. The breakfast and egg hunt is Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011 at 8:45 a.m.



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.

EASTER’S MEANING

In a 2010 Barna Group survey, two-thirds of Americans knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But only 42 percent connected its meaning to Jesus’ resurrection. And only two percent of adults said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.

Not everyone who connects Easter to religion has the facts straight. Two percent of Americans said Easter is about Jesus’ birth. Another two percent said it’s about Jesus’ “rebirth.” And one percent said it’s a celebration of his second coming. Another three percent described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.

In the same survey, 31 percent of active church goers said they’d definitely invite an un-churched friend to worship with them on Easter weekend.

This Easter, share the truth and joy of the holiday with someone who doesn’t know Jesus. News of the resurrection is too good to keep to ourselves!



A huge thank you goes to Tricia Lewis who so graciously agreed to design the Lent, Palm Sunday and



Easter Sunday worship bulletin covers for our church. Thank you, Tricia, for a beautiful job. Your thoughtfulness put into the design of the worship bulletins to go along with the text is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

COINS

The Bible often uses coins to symbolize human greed. During Holy Week, 30 silver coins – usually shown with a bag or purse – represent Jesus’ betrayal by his disciple Judas (Matthew 26:14-16). Many of Jesus’ teachings are about money, including the parable of the lost coin. Coins also symbolize giving as an act of worship, just as the widow offered her last “mite” (Mark 12:41-44).





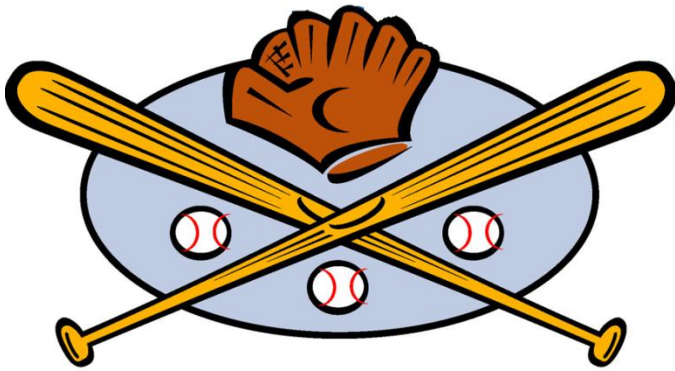
NEW!
**Church Camp
Scholarship Policy**

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.



HOME PLATE 2011

A Pre-Game Program with the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park

DATE: Saturday, May 14

TIME: 3:30 p.m. Program & 7:05 PM Game

Baseball Clinic: Between program & game

Players from Tigers and Kansas City Royals will share about their careers in sports and faith in Jesus Christ.

A \$27.00 ticket includes: game ticket, program, food coupon, baseball clinic, and souvenirs.

Please visit our newly launched web site for event information, promo materials, ordering details, referrals, photos, and much more. If you do not receive our e-mails, please submit information at our web site.

HomePlateDetroit.Org

To sign up for this event, please contact Chris or Trisha Lewis, or Jim Garn.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY RUMMAGE SALE

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

April 29 and 30

FRIDAY and SATURDAY

Come out and support the MABC Women's Missionary rummage sale. Funds received go to support the wonderful work these women are able to do.

If you have items to donate, please bring them to church by Wednesday, April 27 or contact Dianne Ellsworth, 989-245-4505, for large item pick up.



CELEBRATE God's Glory ...God's Power ...God's Way From warm, sandy beaches to historic cobblestone streets, Puerto Rico has it all including ...

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
BIENNIAL**

June 24-26, 2011

San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Celebrate your faith, engage in fellowship, and worship with American Baptists from across the United States and Puerto Rico in June at the 2011 Biennial in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Volunteer, be inspired, learn, experience, visit, and enjoy.

Register today at www.abhms.org. Biennial 2011.





MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
 203 S. Michigan Avenue – Saginaw, Michigan 48602
 (989) 793-8555

Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 4 th Sunday of Lent 5:30 p.m. LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY	4 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	5 7:00 p.m., <i>Band Rehearsal</i>	6 Choir Rehearsals	7 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	8	9 9:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast
10 5 th Sunday of Lent Potluck Sunday 5:30 p.m. LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY	11 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	12 7:00 p.m., <i>Band Rehearsal</i>	13 Choir Rehearsals	14 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	15	16 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Scrap Book Saturday
17  Palm Sunday	18 Newsletter articles due. 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	19 7:00 p.m., <i>Band Rehearsal</i>	20 Choir Rehearsals	21 6:15 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY Meal & Worship Service 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	22 GOOD FRIDAY <i>Office Closed</i>	23 10:00 a.m. ABY Rehearsal
24  EASTER	25 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	26 7:00 p.m., <i>Band Rehearsal</i>	27 Choir Rehearsals	28 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING	29 WOMEN'S MISSIONARY RUMMAGE SALE 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	30

EASTER MORNING - April 24th

8:00 a.m. Son-Rise Worship Service
 8:45 a.m. Breakfast & Egg Hunt
 9:30 a.m. Church School
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Wishing You a
**Happy
Birthday!**

APRIL 2011

01 Dennis Lemmer
04 Jeffrey Larkin
06 Destiny Brown
06 Sue Giessel
09 Earl Settle
11 Cyndi James
14 Justin Lemmer
19 Tricia Lewis
20 Val Geidans
20 Casey Tuck
21 Eva Kelly
21 Carole Moore
21 Marc Leaman
22 Chris Smith
24 Sydney Horlings
27 Phyllis Herron
30 Betty Cooper



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.