



OUR STAFF

Minister:

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

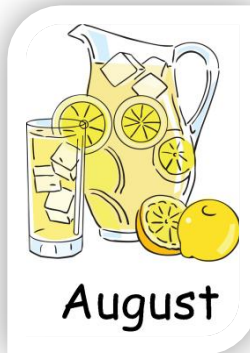
Clerk: Cyndi James

Treasurer: David Garn

Missions Treasurer:

Roger Ellsworth

Financial Secretary: Laurella Smith



2011

TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education: Sally Egerer
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth and Earl Settle
3. Outreach/Evangelism: Jan Wheeler
Historian:
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: Jody James
5. Missions: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
6. Finance: Jim Garn
7. Facilities/Maintenance: Jim Larkin
8. Personnel: Margaret Leaman
9. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
10. Worship: Nancy Lewis
11. Pastoral Relations: David Quinnan
12. Visitation: Lois Smith
13. American Baptist Women's Society
Of MABC: Dianne Ellsworth
14. Nominating:
15. Prayer: Renee McGregor

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.

A Message from Pastor Laura Lee



DO NOT PUT OUT THE SPIRIT'S FIRE!

Suffice it to say, the month of July was not a month I would like to repeat. There were long, slow days of recovery from my recent surgery; days I had not anticipated. My 4th of July weekend is a blur of pain medication and nausea. The temperatures soared and made my garden wilt. Our dog was injured and required surgery at an emergency veterinary clinic. (Of course, this was at great cost and loss of a night's sleep.) Our daughter continued to struggle after losing her job to cutbacks. Our son lost his job. There were car issues and some health issues. And there was ongoing frustration in the search for a new home. It was INDEED a lousy month. And that's not even taking into consideration the crisis caused by the lack of our elected officials to solve financial issues.

All this being said however, the idea that kept coming back to me was how GRATEFUL I was to be a part of God's Kingdom and, especially, to be called to serve as pastor of the Body of Christ called Michigan Avenue Baptist Church! You have to understand that this is VERY UNLIKE me! I would be lying if I told you that this attitude is typical of me. Many who have known me for years would probably confide in you that I'm a bit of a 'whiner'. I tend to think that they exaggerate. But, I must admit that when difficult times come to me and my family, I don't always put on a 'happy' face. I don't blame God or lose faith. I do tend to be quite vocal about my unhappiness with these situations.

So what happened this time??? Certainly, I have to give credit to God and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit!! BUT...I also have to admit that the change in my attitude has to do with YOU...the folks of Michigan Avenue Baptist Church! I'm not trying to earn any 'brownie points' here. I'm sincerely telling you that your care, concern, prayers and love for me have made a difference in my life. And I am chomping at the bit to begin my official role as pastor among you. I believe that we are about to embark on an AMAZING journey toward becoming the people that God wants us to be in order to be co-workers with God in furthering the Kingdom of God "here on earth, as it is in heaven."

Let me share a scripture verse with you that I would like for each of you to read and reflect on for the next month. I believe it will jump start us on this journey.

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire, do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

May God..., the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and...will do this."

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Pastor, Laura Lee Strawser

THANK YOU TO FIRST BAPTIST



A huge thank you goes to First Baptist Church of Saginaw who so generously offered their choir music and three file cabinets in which to keep the music to Michigan Avenue Baptist Church.

Thank you to Jan Wheeler who so generously offered the use of his van and trailer to help me move the music and file cabinet from First Baptist to MABC.

I will be going through the music to see what music we have and look forward to presenting the new music in the near future.

*-John Rickert
Director of Music*

Dear Friends,

It's a cloudy 85 degree day here. We are warned that the rest of the week will be sunny and 95-100 degrees. So, people like me, old, must stay in our air conditioned rooms. I was happy to hear that you were able to get the minister you wanted. I hope, along with you, that the church's program will develop as you plan with our Lord's leading.

I've had my ups and downs this year, but I am better now. Once again I find there is some need for me to be here. I thank all those who have prayed for my health and I thank my Lord who has lovingly helped me along the way.

*Blessings to all,
Dorothy Sting*

THANK YOU

MABC recently helped a family with a shut-off notice. They have sent a lovely thank you note individually signed by each member of the family.

"To see the world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wild flower, hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour."

-William Blake



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 18, 2011

SCRAPBOOKING AT MABC

The MABC Scrap-bookers will gather on Friday, August 19 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. and on Saturday, August 20 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sally Egerer will be happy to answer any of your questions you may have. Everyone is invited to this time of taking photos and creating beautiful memory books. No experience needed...just a desire to create.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Our prayer ministry meets every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. This is a time 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. If you have any questions, please see Renee McGregor, Lois Smith, or Angie Mitchell.

LATE BLOOMERS

The pink crepe myrtle finally bloomed – two full months after every other tree of its kind in the area and just as the changing weather signaled the season's end. Between the rocky soil, too much shade and not enough water, the tree was doing the best it could under the circumstances.

Sound familiar? Like that tree, we're often " ... afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:9-9, NRSV). At times, everything seems to go against us. Nothing comes easily. Life is a struggle.

But in Christ, we are not undone. We can persevere. We can bloom, even under the harshest circumstances.

LOONS GAME

"TAKE ME OUT TO THE



Ball Game!"

please don't hesitate to contact her.

MABC will be going to Faith Night at the Loon's Game on **Sunday, August 14 at 2:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$9.00. Sharon Murphy is chairing this event. If you have any questions,

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

MABC has provided a space for you to contact the entire church body via a newsletter. If there is anything you'd like to communicate to the church as a whole, please have your article to Linda by Monday, August 22. If you don't feel comfortable writing, please call the church office and Linda will be happy to write it for you.

CHURCH CAMPING



Please see Jim should you have any questions.

MABC will be camping at Evert, Michigan Thursday thru Sunday, August 25-28. This is a fun time for everyone. Jim Garn is our chairperson for this event.

PRAYER RETREAT ADDED TO CAMP LAKE LOUISE SCHEDULE

Lake Louise has added an extra week to its summer schedule: the Intergenerational Prayer Retreat at Camp Lake Louise, August 19-26. This weeklong retreat for high school age through adults of all ages is an opportunity to not only learn about, but also practice and experience a variety of forms of prayer and have 4-8 hours of free time a day. Retreat Leader is Kathy Murphy, LLPC, Director of Monarch Center Counseling, Roscommon, MI. To register, go to www.lakelouiserocks.com.

**"God has given us two hands;
one to receive with and the other to give with.
We are not cisterns made for hoarding;
We are channels made for sharing."**

-Billy Graham

FLOWERS

Your opportunity to place flowers on the communion table comes at a perfect time of the year, summer and fall. While your garden blooms, why not take the opportunity to bring in a bouquet of flowers from your garden and place them on the communion table in honor of a special day in your life, to the glory of the LORD, or just because. Please call the church office and let Linda know the significance of the flowers and she will have it in the Sunday bulletin.

NEW THIS FALL



In the fall we will begin having "Worship Service Greeters" who will greet members and visitors at the two entrances as they come in Sunday morning. Greeters will welcome individuals and provide them with a bulletin. If you would like to be part of the Greeter Sub-Team, please see Nancy Lewis. The only requirement is that you arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the start of worship and wear a welcoming smile. A name tag will be provided.

-Nancy Lewis

Worship Team Chairperson

SAVE ME A PEW

The world's largest Protestant Christian congregation is Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea. Since its founding in 1958, the church has grown exponentially. By 1983, seven Sunday services weren't enough to accommodate all the worshipers, so satellite churches were established.

The main church, located directly across from South Korea's National Assembly, can seat 26,000. But membership is so large that people are told which week of the month they can attend worship. What an incredible witness in a country where only about 30 percent of the citizens are Christians!

What would it take for our church to have a similar "problem"? And what can you do about it?



Choir Rehearsals will begin at 6:30 (Belle Aire Handbell Choir) and 7:30 p.m. (Latham Burrows Choir) on Wednesday, September 7. If you'd like to join, please see John Rickert, Music Director. **Praise Prelude** will resume on Sunday mornings, tentative scheduled for Rally Day.

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, September 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is opened to everyone who would like to come

Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 11 where we will kick off our 2011-2012 church school year. Special events are being planned. Remember, church school is for everyone of any age. Church School and Worship Service will return to their regular schedule times.

A **Bible Study** will be offered on Monday evenings. Our **Scrap Bookers** will gather once a month on Friday and Saturday. And our **Potluck Sundays** will return.

Watch your Beacon and Bulletin for updates and further information.

SAVE THE DATE
Installation service for
The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser
4:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 18, 2011
At Michigan Avenue Baptist Church

ULTIMATE COMFORT

"For each of us, the time is surely coming when we shall have nothing but God. Health and wealth and friends and hiding places will all be swept away....To the man of pseudo faith that is a terrifying thought, but to real faith, it is one of the most comforting thoughts the heart can entertain."

THE RIGHT ROAD

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire, and I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

-Thomas Merton

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

POMEGRANATE

Because the pomegranate has an abundance of seeds, the fruit is used to represent hope and future life. It also symbolizes the many believers who are individual members of the universal Christian church.

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor Laura Lee Strawser
will be in the church office
Monday thru Thursday
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

How to Reach Pastor Laura Lee:

MABC: (989) 793-8555
Cell phone: (989) 307-9063
Email: RevLLS59@frontier.com

Pastor is on **Face-Book**
**Please feel free to contact
Pastor at any time.**

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2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	2 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	3	4 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	5	6
7 Communion Sunday	8 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	9 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	10	11 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	12	13
14 2:00 p.m., Loon's Game	15 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	16 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	17	18 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m., Church Council Meeting	19 6:00-11:00pm	20 10:00-3:00 pm Scrap-Booking
21	22 Newsletter articles due 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	23 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	24	25 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	Church Camping August 25–28, Thursday-Sunday	
28	29 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	30 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	31			

SUMMER WORSHIP AT MABC
 9:00 a.m., Adult Church School
 10:00 a.m., Worship Service
*Note: Praise Prelude will not meet during the summer.
 Praise Prelude will resume in the fall.*

**"In summer, the song sings itself."
 -William Carlos Williams**

Wishing You a 

Happy Birthday!

AUGUST 2011

03	Sharon Schultz
07	Gabriel Smith
08	Brian Little
09	Tina Lown
09	Brennan Hall
13	Karen Hatch
13	Andrew Egerer
14	Zachary Larkin
15	Sage Larkin
16	Thomas Graham
16	Autumn Wolven
17	Steven Lown
19	Theresa King
21	Christina Lopez
21	Deborah Ellsworth
23	Stephanie Ellsworth
24	Stephanie Casey
27	Sarah Kushon
30	Nicole Wandzel
30	Jimmie Cooper



If there is one song that we all know it has to be the classic "Happy Birthday To You" song. We sing it each year and it has been translated into various languages making it a universal song. Here is a brief history of how this song came about.

History of the Song

The melody and lyrics were written by two sisters - **Mildred J. Hill** (born 1859) and **Patty Smith Hill** (born 1868). Patty was a schoolteacher who developed the "Patty Hill blocks" and was a faculty member at Columbia University Teachers College. Mildred was also an educator who later on became a composer, organist and pianist. The melody was composed by Mildred and the lyrics were written by Patty, but it was originally for a classroom greeting song titled "Good Morning to All." The song "Good Morning to All" was part of the book *Song Stories for the Kindergarten* which the sisters co-wrote and published in 1893.

From then on the lyrics were changed from its original form to "Good Morning to You" and then to "Happy Birthday to You." It is still unclear who changed the lyrics that turned it into a birthday song, but it was first published in 1924 on a book edited by Robert H. Coleman. Since then, the song became popular and in 1934, **Jessica Hill**, another Hill sister, filed a lawsuit because of the unauthorized use of the "Happy Birthday to You" melody which clearly resembles the melody of "Good Morning to All," the song her sisters originally wrote. In 1935, Jessica, who was working with publisher **Clayton F. Summy Company**, copyrighted and published "Happy Birthday."

In the 1930s the Clayton F. Summy Company was bought by **John F. Sengstack** and renamed it **Birch Tree Ltd**. In 1998, Birch Tree Ltd was in turn bought by **Warner Chappell** for \$25 million. The company is now known as **Summy-Birchard Music**. It is reported that the birthday song brings in about \$2 million a year in royalties with half going to Summy-Birchard and the other half to the Hill Foundation.

From Ask.com

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.