



OUR STAFF

Minister:

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

Director of Music: John Rickert

Guest Organist: Eugene Groenhof
And Jan Eggers

Administrative Assistant:

Linda Wieferich

Caretaker, Al Ferrell

Nursery Attendants:

Sarah Egerer and Theresa King

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Heather Ballien

Vice-Moderator: Tom Carr

Clerk: Cyndi James

Treasurer: David Garn

Missions Treasurer:

Roger Ellsworth

Financial Secretary: Laurella Smith



FEBRUARY 2012

TEAM LEADERS

1. Interim Christian Education: Sarah Egerer
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth and Earl Settle
3. Outreach/Evangelism: Jan Wheeler
Historian: _____
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: _____
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: Sarah Egerer
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

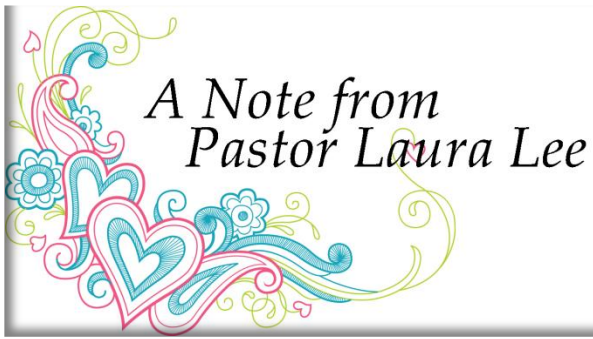
Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net Website: MABCSaginaw.org



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.



HALLELUJAH

The word 'hallelujah' comes from the Hebrew language (**hallelu-jah**). It means 'praise the Lord'. Praising the Lord is something we as Christians should do all the time. But...praising the Lord is perhaps most powerful when we come *together* to do it. This is the experience we call '**worship**'.

Now worship can take many forms, happen in many different places and include few or many people. But worship will always be quite simply '**hallelujah**', **praising the Lord**. So whether we gather in a large cathedral or an outdoor campsite, we 'praise the Lord' (hallelujah) and worship. Whether we sit in padded pews or stand on the floor of a stadium, we 'praise the Lord' (hallelujah) and worship. Whether we are in Saginaw, MI, or La Paz, Mexico, we 'praise the Lord' (hallelujah) and worship. Whether we are gathered with two other people or thousands of people, we 'praise the Lord' (hallelujah) and worship. Whether we are dressed in silk and satin or jeans and T-shirts or have shoes on our feet or are barefoot, we 'praise the Lord' and worship. Whether we read the scriptures in English or Spanish or Thai or Russian or Italian, we 'praise the Lord' and worship. Whether we sing ancient chants or familiar hymns or upbeat new songs, we 'praise the Lord' and worship. Whether the person presenting the message is young or old, or stands or sits, or male or female, or black or white or brown, we 'praise the Lord' and worship.

In our recent "Charting the Course" event we discussed WORSHIP. Those present shared their thoughts, wishes and hopes for our worship time here at MABC. Through this time of sharing and learning we discovered that those who gather at MABC *cherish* their time together in worship. We long to be together and sing, share, pray and hear God's word. But we also learned that there are many who have a strong desire to make our worship even more powerful and meaningful. One recurring thought expressed was that we need to bring some newer music to our worship time; music that is a bit more upbeat. Another desire expressed was that we enhance the worship experience through the use of technologies that would allow people to be free of hymnals (if they choose) and read the words on a screen and to view announcements and points from the sermon through the use of Power Point presentations. As pastor I am pleased about these discussions and ideas.

HOWEVER...as much as I long to improve the power and meaningfulness of our time of worship, I want to remind us all that worship is more than music and technology (as wonderful as these things are). Worship is meditation, prayer, reading and reciting the scriptures, listening to the message God has for us, sharing our joys and concerns with one another...AND...worship is HALLELUJAH - PRAISING THE LORD! As we continue to journey together and strive to be the people God has called us to be, let's seek to COMPLETELY worship God; through music, prayer, listening, giving, seeking and meditating. Let us remember that worship is 'HALLELUJAH' (praising the LORD). Let's remember that above and beyond everything else the reason we gather together is to focus on GOD: CREATOR, SAVIOR AND COMFORTER! With this in mind, I leave you with a psalm to consider.

Psalm 100

- ¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- ³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people,
the sheep of his pasture.
- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- ⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Something of Interest from the OUTREACH & EVANGELISM TEAM



I had accepted an invitation to sing “praise and worship” music at another church on January 22. When John Rickert handed out the music that we would be singing, I learned that it was to be at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, situated on Mackinaw, just south of Shattuck! Okay; I know where that is, near my credit union! Then! When I got there at 4:30 p.m. for a rehearsal, I learned that this scheduled evening service would be an annual “Ecumenical Praise & Prayer Service” and I would be a member of “The Unity Choir” participating in the service! I also learned that “The Unity Choir” members came from the following churches:

Countryside Trinity Prersbyterian/UCC
Faith Evangelical Lutheran
St. Stephan Catholic Church
And of course, MABC

The event was supported by:

Pianist, Crystal Alexander
Choir Director, Dan Groom, of Countryside
Trinity Presbyterian/UCC
Hand Bell Choir Director, Natalie Dixon, of
Faith Evangelical Lutheran.
Homilist, Father James Carlson, of St. John
Vianney Parish
Lector, Joseph Lehning, of Our Savior
Lutheran
Liturgist, Rev. Michael Hahn, of Faith
Evangelical Lutheran
Organist, David Wilkins, of Faith
Evangelical Lutheran
And “Unity in Action” Speaker, Tony
LaFramboise, Director of Partnership Center.

This experience for me was invaluable, because it showed me that Christians are reaching out to other denominations in this area and worshipping together. And this service was not only well organized, but also spiritually uplifting.

After the worship service, refreshments were available in the “Parish Hall” and a good response was evident, a time that gave us the opportunity to fellowship with other Christians. I sat next to Dan Paog, who had brought his

disabled mother to the service and worships at the Countryside Trinity Presbyterian church.

I believe that with better information transfer we as a congregation will be better participants, perhaps for the next annual Ecumenical Service.

Serving in the Light of His Love
Jan J. Wheeler,
Outreach & Evangelism Team Leader

THANK YOU

Dear MABC Friends who are like Family,

Thank you so much for the love gift you gave me at Christmas. It is very much appreciated!

Thank you for the wonderful special day you gave me! Everything was so nice and made me feel very honored. I appreciate the special cake, the corsage, the beautiful card and certificate, the wonderful potluck, the great program, the great music and the kind words. And everything else I haven't included! You have been so kind and caring! Thank you. Even though I am retiring from playing on Sundays, I hope to still see all of you often. Thank you!

Love,
Angie Mitchell
MABC Organist

Dear Pastor and Church Family

I will never forget what you have done! Thank you so much for the prayers lifted up for our sisters. God bless you.

The Guerrero Family
The Lopez Family
The Schland Family

Dear Staff of MABC

On behalf of the Saginaw Country Sheriff's Office, I would like to sincerely thank you for the cookies and baked goods you graciously gave us. Everything was delicious and enjoyed by many.

Happy Holidays!
William L. Federspiel
Saginaw County Sheriff

“To love another person
is to see the face of God.”

-Lyrics from *Les Misérables*,
Claude-Michel Schönberg

Dear MABC

Thank you so much for your generosity this season! Because of charitable donor support like yours, we were able to provide a very happy holiday for 83 families for an amazing total of 248 people! Thank you again.

Underground Railroad

A note from the Underground Railroad:

Dear MABC

Enclosed with the letter you will find two cards from the family you adopted at the holiday time. They wanted to take time and send a personal thank you for your generosity. Thank you again for the amazing job everyone did providing a great holiday with much attention to detail. It meant a lot.

*Sincerely
Kari Tanney
Residential Lead Advocate*

The note in the cards read:

- Thank you and we wish a blessed year.

From (*name*)

- Thank you and Happy Holidays.

From (*three young children signed their names*)

YOUR MISSION OFFERINGS AT WORK

City Rescue Mission

It was so encouraging to receive your recent gift! Your gift will help provide the comforts of home to people who would otherwise spend Christmas alone on the streets of the Mid-Michigan area. Your gift help ensure that the Rescue Mission will always be ready to provide warm shelter, along with nutritious meals and other vital care for our neediest neighbors. Most importantly, you're giving them a chance to hear that Jesus' love makes all the difference. Homeless and hungry men, women and children will have a "home for Christmas" this year, thanks to your generosity. As one grateful Mission resident said, "*I would like to thank all who donate so that we have food and clothing. God bless!*"

The Food Pantry @ First Presbyterian Church

Thank you once again for your pledge to support the Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church. As the economy in the area creates more challenges the need continues to increase for the services provided by the volunteers in the pantry. It is because of caring people like you and your organization the pantry is able to provide this

service to those in need. For the year 2011, the pantry served 3,754 clients which is up 1,107 from 2010. Thank you for your loyal support of this necessary mission.

*Janette L. Gonzales
Financial Secretary*

PRAYER MINISTRY

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. Prayer works. All are welcomed.



REFOCUS FOR LENT

Give up complaining - focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments - think kind thoughts.
Give up worry - trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement - be full of hope.
Give up bitterness - turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred - return good for evil.
Give up anger - be more patient.
Give up pettiness - become mature.
Give up jealousy - pray for trust.
Give up gossiping - control your tongue.
Give up sin - turn to virtue.
Give up giving up - persevere.

-Author unknown.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday morning at 9:00 February 11, 2012. This is a time of a delicious breakfast and Christian fellowship. All men are welcomed.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Potluck Sunday will be hosted by the MABC Youth Team on Sunday, February 12 following the worship service. You are always invited to bring your favorite dish to pass and join in Christian Fellowship.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

-Anne Bradstreet

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 16, 2012

Members of MABC are encouraged to attend Church Council meetings. Your voice is important to us. Please come and let us know your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for your church.

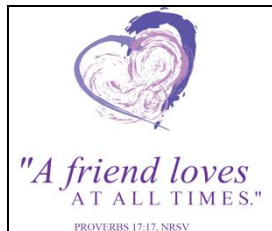
“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God’s call to a fruitful pastoral ministry - with his sister’s assistance. Now, his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It’s a poignant reminder that God’s love sustains us even when human love falls short.



MABC SCRAP-BOOKERS

The MABC Scrap-Bookers will meet on Friday, February 17 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 18 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. During this time they put together beautiful memory pages for generations to come to remember “back in the day” and to preserve a bit of history. You are invited to join at any time, and no experience is necessary. If you have questions, Sally Egerer will be happy to help.

DISABILITY AWARENESS

A friend tearfully shared how an usher asked her to leave a church service because of her squirmy toddler. But the boy wasn’t just having a bad morning; he was born with a genetic disorder called Fragile X, which makes it nearly impossible to sit quietly.

It was nearly a year before that mother attended a church again. Then she found one with a shepherd program, where trained volunteers help children with special needs participate in worship, Sunday school and church activities.

As we look for ways to reach out to people with disabilities, remember that God’s love has no limits. How can we, as God’s church, reflect that love?



5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 18, 2012

Tickets: \$5.00 each

Children age 3 and under are free

Proceeds go to help support the MABC softball team. Tickets are available from Cyndi James and Jim Garn.

If you would like to make a donation to support the softball team, please see Cyndi James or Jim Garn.

See you at the Spaghetti Dinner!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

March newsletter articles are due in the church office on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. 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.

CHURCH HISTORIAN

Our retired church historian, Teddy Pelkey, would like to work with someone who would be willing to become the new MABC Church Historian. Teddy 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 church history. If you have an interest and would like to assume this position, please talk with Teddy, Pastor Laura Lee, or contact the church office and indicate your willingness.

WALKING WITH GOD

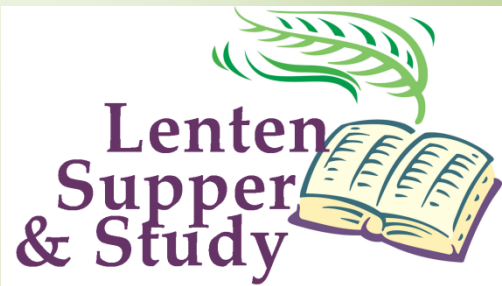
The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

-Greg Laurie

CHARTING THE COURSE

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 25, 2012

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Charting the Course sessions. Here we 'chart the course' of MABC. Please come and voice your thoughts, ideas, opinions, your general input to the question/s being addressed. If you have any questions, please see Heather Ballien or Pastor Laura Lee.



5:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 26, 2012

We will meet in the fellowship halls of the church to enjoy a simple and delicious meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. A 'green bowl' will be offered to help defray the cost of the meal. Your supper will be followed by a Lenten Study focusing on Healing and Wholeness.

We most sincerely hope you will be able to attend this time of fellowship and study in preparation for a glorious Easter morning.

All are welcome. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Laura Lee.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

40



This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).





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

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Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org



FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rehearsals	2 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	7	8 Rehearsals	9 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	10	11 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
12 Potluck Sunday Hosted by the Youth Team	13 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	14 	15 Rehearsals	16 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Church Council Mtg.	17 6:00 P.M. Scrapbooking	18 10:00 a.m. Scrapbooking  SPAGHETTI DINNER 5:00-7:00 p.m.
19	20 <i>Church office closed</i>  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	21	22 Ash Wednesday Rehearsals	23 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	24	25 9:00-12:00 Charting the Course
26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper Series	27 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	28	29 Rehearsals			

Sunday at MABC

9:30 a.m., Church School for All
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service & Extended Session
 12:00 p.m., Fellowship

Wednesday Choir Rehearsals

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

01	Lawrence Arft
02	Danielle Wolven
03	Catherine Eads
06	Angie Mitchell
06	Connie Ellsworth
10	Janet Ferguson
11	Brenda Ferrell
13	Dianne Ellsworth
15	Jody James
17	Kyle Casey
22	Julie Bell
24	Gregg Schultz
24	Chuck Bell, Jr.
26	Lois Smith
28	Brian Ferguson
28	Rusty Ellsworth

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.