



OUR STAFF

Minister:

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

Director of Music: John Rickert

Guest Organist: Eugene Groenhof

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



JANUARY 2012

TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education: _____
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:
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 NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

-Author Unknown

THANK YOU

Pastor Laura Lee and her husband, Ray, wish to thank everyone for the kind and generous gifts that they received this Christmas season. All the 'goodies' were delicious. All the well-wishes were warmly received. And the monetary gift was greatly appreciated. May you all know God's deep and abiding presence and the joyful hope of Christ in the upcoming year. Thanks!!

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser

Dear MABC

Thank you for the generous Christmas Love Gift . Your generosity and love are heartfelt and deeply appreciated. May you have a blessed and happy New Year.

*Blessings,
Linda Wieferich (Coates)
MABC Administrative Assistant*

Dear MABC Family:

Thank for the love gift this year. I really appreciate the generosity given to me by the congregation during this Christmas season. I hope everyone has a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

*-Sarah Egerer
Nursery Attendant*

Dear MABC,

Thank you so much for the love gift this Christmas, it was greatly appreciated.

*-John Rickert
Director of Music*

WHILE PASTOR IS AWAY

During the month of January, Pastor Laura Lee will be taking a brief leave for health reasons and to do planning for the upcoming year. In her absence, Pastor Ray Strawser will be preaching and providing emergency and hospital care. Nancy Lewis, Worship Team Leader, will also be available in case Pastor Ray is in Owosso working as Hospice Chaplain for Memorial Healthcare Home Health and Hospice. If you should have a need during this time, please contact Nancy Lewis first. She will be able to reach Pastor Ray and see that your need is met. Our Church Administrator, Linda Wieferich (Coates), can also be reached if you are unable to reach Nancy.



Update: During this time and should the need arise; Nancy Lewis will be on call from January 1 through January 17. Jan Wheeler will be on call from January 18-25.

January 1-17: Nancy Lewis 790-3151
January 18-25: Jan Wheeler 695-5584

ANNUAL REPORTS

**Annual Reports are Due
Sunday, January 1, 2012**

Annual Reports are due from
All Team Chairpersons
Sub-Team Chairpersons
Moderator
Church Clerk
Church Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Mission (Benevolence) Treasurer
Historian
Pastor
Director of Music

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 26, 2012**

2012 FLOWER CHART

If you would like to provide flowers for the worship service signifying a special date in your life, or just because, you are welcomed to sign your name noting the significance of the date. Please call the church office if you would like to have this date mentioned in the announcement section of the church bulletin.



THURSDAY PRAYER MINISTRY

Each Thursday of the week at 6:30 p.m., we gather at the church to 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 our heart. This time is opened to everyone. You can pray during this time at home or at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Renee McGregor, or Lois Smith.



Come and Celebrate
with the Music Team as we recognize and
honor the years of service of our Organist,

Angie Mitchell!!!

On **Sunday, January 8** during the **Church Potluck**, we will be honoring, thanking and recognizing Angie for her years of service among us here. There will be a brief program and a cake to let Angie know how very much we appreciate her and her ministry among us. Please plan on staying after the worship service that day for this special time of celebration.

Please speak with Jim Garn if you have any questions.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

January 8 is Potluck Sunday hosted by the Christian Education Team. You are invited to bring a favorite dish to pass and to remember the 'green bowls.' There will be a program to honor and recognize Angie Mitchell for her years of service as organist at MABC during the potluck.

Following the potluck, we will take down the Christmas decorations and put them in storage for another year. Please stay and help. We really do have fun!

EPIPHANIES

The word *epiphany* means to show forth. Epiphanies, both large and small, tend to be private events - yet events with great significance for the public. Trying to share the details with another of an epiphany is fraught with complications. The words are never quite right, and even the most sympathetic listener cannot fully bridge the gap between description and what it was like being there. Most of us keep our personal experiences of the Holy to ourselves. Who would believe it? And who would really understand? The irony is that epiphanies are made for sharing, even as they are impossible to communicate fully.

-Father Thomas Rosica (zenith.org)

MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 14, 2012

SAGINAW SPIRIT FAITH NIGHT

MABC will be going to Saginaw Spirit Faith Night on Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. Honored guests will be John VanBiesbrouk from the United States Hockey National Hall of Fame, along with Bishop Joseph Cistone of the Saginaw Diocese. Tickets for the pre-game are \$10.00 and will get you a ticket, a hotdog and a Pepsi. Tickets are \$13.50 at the door with no food or beverage included in the ticket price. The actual game begins at 4:00 p.m. The Saginaw Spirit team will play against the Owen Sound Attack team. Please see Earl Settle if you would like to purchase tickets or if you have any questions. Deadline is January 16, 2012.

SCRAP-BOOKING SATURDAY

The MABC Scrap-Bookers will gather on Friday, January 20 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, January 21 from 10:00 am.-3:00 p.m. There is plenty of material to use and to share. All you need is a desire to create. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Egerer.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If there is something you would like to communicate to the church body, please call the church office with the information. February Beacon newsletter articles are due Monday, January 23.

WITHOUT FAIL

I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I have given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him.

-William Carey

MABC TEAMS

The Christian Education and Music Teams are in need of additional team members. If you have a passion for either of these teams and want to become more involved in the work of the church, please see Sally Egerer for Christian Education and Jody James for music.

Also, team sign-up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board outside the music room. If you are interested in becoming involved in teams, please sign up for the ones that interest you. You can be on more than one team and you do not need to be a member of the church to join a team.

CHILI COOK-OFF



The Chili Cook-Off is coming Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. We are looking for people to make their special chili for the Chili Cook-Off this year.

This is a fundraising event and proceeds go to help support the softball team. If you are interested in making chili, please see Cyndi James.

NEW INFORMATION

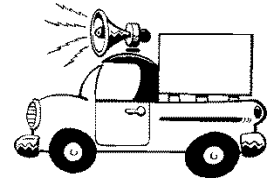
Pastor Laura Lee has a new address and email address. Please make note of the change.

Pastor's New Address:

11058 Lake Circle Drive N.
Saginaw, Michigan 48609

Pastor's New Email Address:

REVLLS59@charter.net



Cell Phone: (989) 307-9063

NEW MERCIES

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord's unceasing love.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 26, 2012

"Charting the Course" 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. January 28, 2012

Charting our Course sessions are key to helping us identify God's plan for our Church and the direction we should be traveling to achieve this. Everyone is highly encouraged to attend by the Church Council members.



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January

2012

Sunday	Mo	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany Sunday	2 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	3	4 Choir Rehearsals	5 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	6	7
8 Potluck Sunday Taking Down the Greens	9 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	10	11 Choir Rehearsals	12 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	13	14 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
15 12:00 p.m., Worship Team Mtg.	16 MLK Day - Office closed 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	17	18 Choir Rehearsals	19 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	20 6-11:00 a.m. Scrapbooking	21 10:00-3:00 Scrapbooking
22	23 Newsletter Articles Due 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	24	25 Choir Rehearsals	26 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 pm. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING	27	28 10:00am-12:00pm Charting the Course
29	30 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	31				

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!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

03	Jennifer Morris
06	Margaret Leaman
07	Jim Smith
07	Bayleigh Larkin
08	Devin Ballien
10	Shirley Yancer
11	Lillian Smith
13	Dorothy Sting
15	Shannon Ferrell
16	Ithemer Landeryou
18	Daytona King
20	Lila Larkin (Bonnie)
21	Linda Wieferich (Coates)
21	Cody Tuck
21	Connor Tuck
22	Melinda Aimesbury-White
22	Hunter Parks
26	Jimmy Larkin
27	Doris Clark
27	Eugene Groenhof
27	Sharon Mason
29	Sarah Ferrell
30	Jim Lewis
30	David Hamilton
31	Chloe Tuck

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.