



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

JULY

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.



In the days to come there will be much excitement with the calling of our new pastor, **The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser**. Her official first day of service to the LORD as our permanent pastor at MABC will be August 1, 2011. She will remain the interim pastor until that date. We are deeply blessed to have her as part of this family. Please make an individual effort to welcome her and her family into this Family of God.

As our search for a pastor began back in October 2010, it seemed as though we just picked up where the last search team left off because the first step is to complete a church profile and this had already been completed by the last search team. Compiling and publishing a church profile can be very time consuming and a lot of hard work. We were fortunate to only have to update the previous one.

While we worked on the church profile, we also surveyed you (the congregation), and asked what were the most important things that you wanted us to look for in a pastor. The number one response was, overwhelmingly, church growth. As we worked our way through many candidate profiles (over 60), we narrowed our search to about twelve candidates. Ten of which we were scheduled to meet at Face to Face in February 2011. As we interviewed these candidates, we found many that we felt the LORD had other plans for them. But we came to a point in the search where we were down to three or four ideal candidates. Of those three or four people, we felt that there were differences in where we were as a congregation, and where they were as pastors. Though the personalities may have fit, the candidates ranged in experience from very little to a great deal. As more time passed, we prayed and discussed our feelings and concerns. We realized that we could not ignore the fact that our most ideal candidate was right in front of us and currently serving the LORD in our church.

Through the search process, we were able to take a good look at ourselves as individuals and as a congregation. As we interviewed pastors, we learned as much about ourselves as we learned about the candidates. I believe the LORD was speaking to us, through them. I am so grateful for the experience as I know all the search team members are. Therefore, included in this article, I have asked each one of the members to give a few thoughts and share their experiences with everyone. As a team, we will be bringing everything we learned to the leadership of this church.

Jim Garn
Pastoral Search Team Leader

From the beginning of my journey with the search team, I have felt it to be an honor and a privilege to represent our church. The people that sat beside me in our search were committed and dedicated right from the beginning. Our task was to not only find the right pastor for our church, but find the pastor that God would call to us. We had to put our personal feelings on hold and focus on the needs and desires of the congregation.

Our team interviewed many candidates of different ages, family backgrounds, and experience. We were blessed to have the opportunity to receive ideas, thoughts, and comments from these pastors. It was an exciting and enlightening time for our team.

Our path has led us to conclude that our choice to recommend The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser was the right choice for our church. We concluded this through a lot of prayer and thoughtful consideration. As for myself, I believe wholeheartedly we made the right choice. I am looking forward to the new and exciting path our pastor will lead us down.

Sally Egerer
Pastoral Search Team Member

I was excited to be a part of the MABC Search Team when it was first formed. I had it in my head the type of pastor that we needed. I attended the first few meetings of the Search Team and contributed my ideas to the conversation. I read all the profiles of the possible candidates and was interested in a few of them. I needed to sort them in such a way as to have some way of knowing these people as to age, experience, family, etc.

I took the profiles and entered the data into a data base and sorted them to see if I could identify those people with the traits that I believed would best suit the aspirations and aims of our church. I gave this data base to the rest of the team trying to help us make a decision.

Unfortunately my wife became ill and I gave my position on the team to one of the alternates while still keeping my membership on the team. I did not participate in the Face to Face trip in Indianapolis, but was present when we interviewed Reverend Laura Lee Strawser.

It is difficult to assess a candidates qualities without meeting them face to face, thus making it a difficult decision to make. I was impressed with Pastor Strawser because she had the enthusiasm, the knowledge and she understood the vision that we, as a search team, had for this church.

J. David Garn
Pastoral Search Team Member

So many things were given to us to think about during our pastor search trip. Some pastors who were maybe not a good match for our church still ministered to us by giving us ideas for growth and change. Below is a random list of thoughts I remember hearing or discussing:

1. A church must have a vision – What does God want your church to be doing?
2. Are we, our church, equipped to reach people under 40? Today's young people are of the digital information age. We are missing out with youth and young adults (our future) if we don't utilize the new technology for teaching the gospel.

3. A church has to be ready to change – has God given us a heart to do new things for him even if it takes effort and time, and may make us feel a little uncomfortable?
4. Do we need to stay and minister where we are? What do the people in our neighborhood need from us? What can we do to attract them to our church and the Word of God?
5. Can we continue to maintain this building and actually minister to the people who live nearby, or do we need to move to a less expensive to keep up location

*Becky Geidans
Pastoral Search Team Member*

The following is my experience being a member of the Pastoral Search Team

1. I enjoyed the process of knowing other churches were in the same position as MABC as we went forward with the interview process.
2. I enjoyed interviewing the candidates, especially the differences they shared, and finding, or not finding, the candidates that fit MABC.
3. I enjoyed knowing we did our best as we listened to the CD's on the way home.
4. The togetherness of the Search Team was tremendous. We shared many talks.
5. I thoroughly enjoyed the decision making process, whether we agreed with each other or not.
6. The preparation we made before we went to Face to Face was long and time consuming.
7. I enjoyed the task of knowing that the pastoral search team did everything we could do and that all the preparation led us to know that in the end we already had the best candidate working for us.
8. We learned much about what we need to do for ourselves from talking with the candidates.
9. We also enjoyed the time we spent as a group of five as we traveled to and from Indiana.

*Cyndi James
Pastoral Search Team Member*

I was grateful and humbled to be selected as a member of the Pastoral Search Team. Knowing that the congregation would be relying upon us to make the right decision for the church was a responsibility I did not take lightly. However, I was confident in all the committee members and felt assured that God would lead us to the right individual.

Choosing Laura Lee was a difficult task. Because she was our interim minister, it was a decision that I think all of us pursued carefully after a lot of thinking, prayer and discussion. It was clear she was loved by our congregation, but we were determined to make sure we chose the candidate that was best for the future of our church, and not simply choose the easiest path. In my heart, I am confident we did exactly that, and I'm delighted that the congregation agreed in our choice. I see a bright future ahead for MABC with The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser to guide us.

*Chris Lewis
Pastoral Search Team Member*

The pastoral search process is an ever evolving and enlightening process...this one, more than any others I've served on. At this Face to Face, I think we learned more about ourselves and that we need to look at where we are and where we want to go. How do we want to evolve? The candidates that we spoke to had many questions for us and what our focus and mission was. How are we living out our vision statement? We need to decide who it is we want to reach out to and who we want to minister to. Several candidates spoke doing "random acts of kindness" in the community. They may or may not know who we are, but they will know someone cared. We also have some unique opportunities due to our location. Which of them should we explore? We've already started with Crayola Park. What other ideas are there? We also have learned that we don't necessarily want a contemporary service. What we want is a modern service. We want to make it the very best service we can, so that people want to keep coming back. These are things in the coming months the leadership needs to look at. I am very excited for what is ahead and for whatever direction the Holy Spirit leads us.

Cheryl Ellsworth
Pastoral Search Team Member

THANK YOU

RESCUE MISSION \$250.00

Thank you helping to restore the lives of people who had lost hope! Your gift is already at work helping to provide hot, nutritious meals, safe shelter and numerous programs and services that can transform lives. In a meaningful way, your generous compassion is a gift to the entire community. You see, as lives change at the Mission, people discover their unique potential. More importantly, they learn how to use their talents to pursue promising futures—and to "give back" in ways that help us all.

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.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 28, 2011



You will want to log on to www.MABCsaginaw.org and view our new and revised

website, hosted by Chris Lewis. Chris has done a fantastic job in putting our church on the web and we thank you.

Along with general information about MABC (*found under HOME*), you will see About Us which gives a general overview of our church, hear the Audio Ministry (*formerly known as the Tape Ministry*), read the Beacon Newsletter, view the church calendar, be able to contact MABC via email with one click of the mouse, get directions to the church from anywhere, read a short history of MABC, and sign up to be a friend of MABC on Face Book. The Audio Ministry and the Beacon Newsletter have previous issues along with the current issue.

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS



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.



**"I was not born to be free:
I was born to adore and to obey."**

-C.S.Lewis



**Saturday
July 30, 2011**

At either
Sanford Lake OR Haithco Park

Please see Cheryl Ellsworth
for final location
and any questions you may have.

Looking forward to seeing you!

ROUGH ROAD AHEAD

It had been an especially long trip home, and the weary traveler still had many more miles to go. So he winced at a sign warning “Rough Road Ahead – 4 miles.”

Rough, indeed. The lanes narrowed, and the shoulder disappeared. Traffic slowed to a crawl as drivers navigated around potholes and moving construction equipment. But sure enough, after exactly four miles, the road became smooth again.

“In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus said. “But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NIV). Notice that Jesus didn’t say we “might” have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled on by hope.



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.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS SEEDS

The Bible often uses seeds as symbols of faith of God’s Word. In the Old Testament, seeds also refer to off-spring. Jesus said people who believe in him can perform mighty deeds with “faith the size of a mustard seed” (Luke 17:6, NRSV). Many of Jesus’ teachings use seed imagery; for example, in the parable of the four soils, he said the seed, God’s Word, can grow only when people hear it, “hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance” (Luke 8:15, NRSV).



HAND CHIMES ARE MISSING!



The Bell Choir is missing two of our chimes (the A&G) from our collection. If anyone has them or knows their whereabouts, please return them to the choir room or contact me at (989) 598-4132.

-John Rickert, Director of Music

SCRAP-BOOKING SATURDAY



Our MABC scrapbookers will gather in the fellowship halls on Friday, July 15 from 6:00-11:00 p.m., and Saturday, July 16 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for scrapbooking fun. You are invited to attend at any time. Sally Egerer will be glad to answer any questions you may have.



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

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



2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday	4  Independence Day Church Office will be closed	5 7:00 p.m. CLB Rehearsal	6	7 6:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	8	9
10	11 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	12 7:00 p.m. CLB Rehearsal	13	14 6:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	15 6:00 p.m. Scrapbooking	16 10:00 a.m., Scrapbooking
17	18 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	19 7:00 p.m. CLB Rehearsal	20	21 6:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting	22	23
24	25 Newsletter articles are due 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	26 7:00 p.m. CLB Rehearsal	27	28 6:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m., QUARTERLY BUSINESS MTG.	29	30  Church Picnic
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.*

SAVE THE DATES:

August 14: Loon's Game. (Please see Sharon Murphy for ticket information)
August 25-28: Church Camping at Evert, Michigan. (Please see Jim Garn for information)

JULY BIRTHDAYS

JULY 2011

05 Laure Smith
06 Gregory Wegner
08 Becky Geidans
08 Adam Ballien
08 Cameron Ballien
09 Sophia Lucia
10 Mary Larkin
12 Donna Arft
13 Bianca Aimesbury-White
14 Carla Young
14 Hiram Ellsworth
14 Alex seno
15 Zachary Cooper
17 Kathleen Smith
18 Candace Larkin
19 Vesta Carroll
19 Madelyn Campbell
21 Jessica Lemmer
21 Blake Casey
23 Kearstyn Ellsworth
25 Melissa Saeed
27 William Zinz



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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.