



2011

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: 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

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Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
203 S. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48602-4079
Linda Wieferich



MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser
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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.



Pastor Laura Lee's Page

"REMEMBERING THE RABBI"

Lent & Easter Season 2011

The word 'Lent' comes from an Anglo Saxon word, 'Lencten', which means "to make longer" and is related to our word, 'lengthen.' It reminds us that this season we are preparing to observe comes at the same time as the days begin to 'lengthen' (get longer), the temperatures begin to warm up and the earth begins to come alive again with lush greens and brightly colored blossoms. But...before we get to those glorious days of sunshine, warmth, flowers, picnics and walks outside in our shorts, we must patiently wait through the last throws of winter; cold windy days, unexpected snowstorms, cloudy skies, rain and deciding whether to wear a sweater or a heavy coat. What a perfect time to remember the difficult days of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we struggle through those final days of winter, we can recall those final days of struggle that Jesus went through on his journey to become the Savior of the world.

Lent, traditionally, begins with Ash Wednesday and continues through until Easter. Lent is usually marked by a season of reflection, additional Bible study, fasting, sacrificing a favorite food or habit, prayer, meditation and contributions to the poor and needy. Lent is 40 days, not including Sundays, and ends with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

I recently came across a Lenten worship series from a pastor who served a congregation I also served. The pastor's name is Rev. Jim Davison and he served the First Baptist Church of Birmingham, MI, many years ago. I believe his thoughts and ideas are still relevant for us today and so have adapted his ideas for our 2011 Lent and Easter worship time. And I want to say "thanks" to Rev. Davison for his inspiration.

This Lenten season, I'm inviting you to "Remember the Rabbi." Beginning on Sunday, March 13th, our worship time will focus on remembering the events of the last week of Jesus' life on earth. A group of faithful folk have worked to make this Lenten season rewarding and meaningful. Worship times will be filled with music, personal testimonies, prayer and sharing the Word of God through preaching. In addition, there will be opportunity for further study and reflection on Sunday evenings as we offer Lenten Suppers in our Fellowship Hall, coordinated by our own, Connie Ellsworth. And during Holy Week we will experience both the celebration of Palm Sunday and the agony of Maundy Thursday as we look forward with expectation to the JOY of Easter!!

Please commit yourself to this special time here at MABC and prayerfully consider others you might invite to join you here. This would be a perfect time to invite a family member, friend or co-worker to share this vital part of your life with you. Below, you will find a list of the dates of worship along with the Scripture texts and titles of messages and a symbol highlighting each week's message. May God inspire you during the lengthening days of 2011 and empower you to be who you've been called to be.

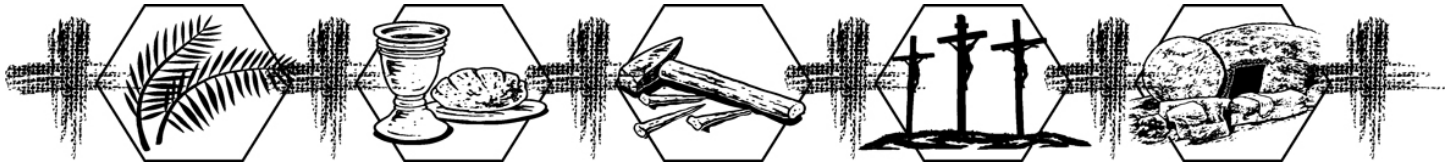
I remain a servant in the court of a most Gracious God,

Pastor Laura Lee Strawser

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2011 - REMEMBERING THE RABBI
Remembering the last week of the life of Jesus

Dates, Texts and Sermons:

- * March 13 - Remembering His Forgiveness, Text: Matthew 26: 31-35 & 69-75, Symbol: The Rooster
- * March 20 - Remembering His Example, Text: John 13:1-17, Symbol: Basin and Towel
- * March 27 - Remembering His Agony, Text: Matthew 26: 36-46, Symbol: The Garden
- * April 3 - Remembering His Trial, Text: Matthew 27:11-14 & 24-26, Symbol: The Gavel
- * April 10 - Remembering His Humiliation, Text: Mark 15:16 – 24, Symbol: The Dice
- * April 17 - Palm Sunday - Remembering His Triumph, Text: Matthew 21:1-11, Symbol: The Palm Branch
- * April 21 - Maundy Thursday - Remembering His Sacrifice, Text: Matthew 26:26-30, Symbol: Bread and Cup
- * April 24 - Easter Sunday - Remembering His Glorious Resurrection, Text: Matthew 28: 1-10, Symbol: Butterfly



THANK YOU

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for your kind and loving words of comfort expressed to my family and me during my mother's illness and passing. Your many cards, visits, and prayers, will always be remembered. The Lord's love and compassion was felt because of you. Thank you.



*In Christian Love,
Linda Wieferich (Coates)*

Dear MABC Family

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and kind words during my surgery and recovery. The support that I received from my family and friends gave me the strength to get through this difficult time. I am truly blessed to have a wonderful church family.

Sarah Egerer

Thank you so much for the "Christmas love" gift. Last year was a financially tough year for me, as well as a lot of others in our congregation. Your love gift was truly a blessing! Sorry for not getting this out to all of you earlier.

John Rickert, Director of Music

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Christian Fellowship and delicious food will be shared. All men are welcomed to attend and to bring a friend along too.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – 2010

The American Baptist Churches USA has awarded MABC a Certificate of Appreciation.

ABC-USA expresses thanks to you for the support that your church as provided to the American Baptist Churches USA mission outreach at home and around the world. In 2010, MABC provided a total of \$4,491.26 for American Baptist Mission Support and \$900.00 for United Mission work within the ABC/USA. Thank you for your support of American Baptist mission.

Signed; Leo S. Thorne, Associate General Secretary Mission Resource Development, and, The Rev. Dr. Michael Williams, Region Executive Minister.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Sunday, March 13 will be Potluck Sunday hosted by the Outreach & Evangelism Team and the Officers of the Church Council. You are invited to attend this time of delicious food and Christian fellowship.



Remember to turn your clocks **AHEAD** before going to bed Saturday night, March 12.

PRAISE MUSIC

You are invited Sunday mornings, for a time of singing hymns, psalms and scripture choruses for a time of pre-service praise to our Lord. We meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.

PRAYER

Thursday evening 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 p.m. @ MABC
Thursday, March 17, 2011

SCRAPBOOKING SATURDAY

Scrap-bookers, and those interested in learning this valuable and fun art, are invited on Saturday, March 19 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. We meet in the fellowship hall of MABC.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Newsletter articles are due in the church office on Tuesday, March 22. This is a wonderful way to communicate and share with the church body.

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 7, 2011

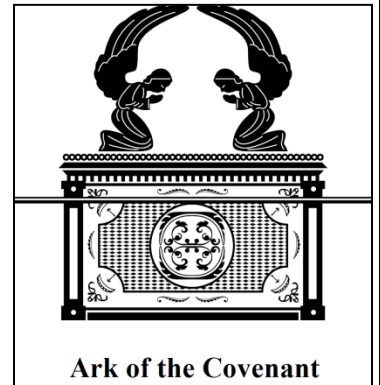
A **second Strategic Planning Session** for leaders within the church is being scheduled for May 7, 2011. We will start with breakfast at 9: a.m. (hosted by the Men's Fellowship), and then begin our strategic planning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. If you are a team leader, are on Church Council, or attended the last planning session, please plan to attend.

DOES THE CHURCH HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS:

Please be sure the church has your correct email address. You may call the church office just to make sure we have your correct email address. The church newsletter and various correspondences are sent email. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

The ark was at the center of worship for the Israelites. It contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. In the Old Testament, the ark was a visible representation of God's throne, or presence, on earth, where he communed with Moses and the high priests. It also represents our earthly bodies, where the Holy Spirit dwells.



"The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God."

-Author unknown

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Flowers for the Sunday morning worship are desperately needed. Many of the people who were responsible for placing flowers on the altar, have moved away or left by other means.



The responsibility has fallen on a small group of people to provide this service. Can you help by taking a month or a Sunday to do this?

Please sign the flower chart on the Adams Street entrance. An attractive artificial plant, a house plant, flowers from the garden or one of the locals stores (i.e., flower shops, Walmart, Meijer, Kroger) are all acceptable. Please consider signing the flower chart and keep our sanctuary beautiful.

-Your MABC Worship Team



Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw
2011 Spring Concert
At First Congregational Church
403 S. Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw
Sunday, April 10, at 3:30 p.m.
Conductor: Carin Owen

If you would like to place a plant in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please fill out this form and return it along with the proper amount of money to the church office or place it in the offering plate. You may take your plant home with you after the 10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service.

NOTE: Easter Lily is white. Tulip, daffodil, azalea, hydrangea are pastel colors.

**Please make your check payable to MABC.
Deadline is Sunday, April 3, 2011**



Easter Lily	Quantity _____	x \$10.00 =	\$ _____
Tulip Plant	Quantity _____	x \$ 8.00 =	\$ _____
Daffodil Plant	Quantity _____	x \$ 8.00 =	\$ _____
Azalea Plant	Quantity _____	x \$16.00 =	\$ _____
Hydrangea Plant	Quantity _____	x \$15.00 =	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED			\$ _____

Easter Plant given in HONOR of _____

Easter Plant given in MEMORY of _____

Easter Plant GIVEN by _____



**LENTEN
SUPPER & STUDY**

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday, March 13
 Sunday, March 20
 Sunday, March 27
 Sunday, April 3
 Sunday, April 10

**We will meet in the fellowship halls of the church.
 There we will 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.
 Supper will be followed by a Lenten Study.**

**We most sincerely hope you will be able to attend
 this time of fellowship and study.**



Dear Congregation

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues,
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.”

MATTHEW 9:35 (NRSV)

Recognizing that all people are made in God’s image and are loved by God, our church must reach across cultural, social, economic and racial lines with practical acts of love within the church and the community. Holistic ministries should address physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of individuals - particularly the needy, forgotten and defenseless. Our church must be characterized by believers who are committed to the reconciliation of relationships among all people.

Loving relationships within the local church produce unity, accountability and a powerful demonstration of God’s presence within our communities. Beyond the local church, they are manifested in cooperation and interdependent relationships with other Christians locally, nationally and internationally. Together, we can make a difference for the cause of Christ by supporting the America for Christ Offering 2011.

This year’s theme - “Touching Lives, Transforming People” - is an encouraging reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about a transformational hope for people in need. With his hands, Jesus touched, comforted, prayed and blessed people. The same hands, whose power restored sight to the blind, made the lame walk and miraculously fed the 5,000.

In Christ, we have both the model and the strength to “touch and transform” people in the church and the community. It is our personal walk with the Lord that transforms and enables us through the power of Christ to live not for ourselves, but to serve God by serving our neighbors. Our hands become the tools of Christ in a world of need and opportunity. Christ’s work of transformation is accomplished when we step into the lives of people around us.

We are impelled by this year’s theme to touch people with whom we come in contact every day with the transformational love of Jesus Christ. I ask you to join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering 2011 and in help us to reach our goal in support of touching and transforming lives for the cause of Christ. The MABC Mission Team has set a goal of \$400.00 by the end of March.

With Eternal Hope,

MABC Mission Team



MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

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MARCH 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 p.m., Band Rehearsal	2 Choir Rehearsals	3 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	4 World Day of Prayer	5
6	7 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	8 7:00 p.m., Band Rehearsal	9 ASH WEDNESDAY Choir Rehearsals	10 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	11	12 9:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast
13 1 st Sunday of Lent Potluck Sunday LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY	14 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	15 7:00 p.m., Band Rehearsal	16 Choir Rehearsals	17 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m., Church Council Meeting	18	19 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Scrap Book Saturday
20 2 nd Sunday of Lent LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY	21 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	22 Newsletter articles due. 7:00 p.m., Band Rehearsal	23 Choir Rehearsals	24 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	25	26
27 3 rd Sunday of Lent 12:00 p.m., C.E. Team mtg. LENTEN SUPPER & STUDY	28 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	29 7:00 p.m., Band Rehearsal	30 Choir Rehearsals	31 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.		



The Women's Missionary Society will be having a rummage sale Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. You may bring your items to the church by Wednesday, April 27 or contact Dianne Ellsworth for pick up. Thank you for donating your items

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Wishing You a
**Happy
Birthday!**



MARCH 2011

02	Angie Garn
06	Jimmy Larkin, Sr.
06	Mackenzie Bell
07	Mary Aimsbury
07	John Leaman
09	DeShaun Jasper
10	Nancy Dempsey
15	Kelsie Morris
16	Kurt Ballien
16	Brenden Wolven
17	Lee Welling
17	Dana Burton
18	Pastor Laura Lee
19	Matthew Little
20	Brooklyn Meyers
20	Emma Navarrete
20	Jenna Geidans
22	Honey Wheeler
23	Robert Lemmer
23	Tina LaFrance
26	Muril Seabrook
27	Sheila Welling
28	Audrey Wilson
29	William Horton
29	Judith Schuler
31	John Seno

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.