



### 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



### TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education:  
Sarah Egerer
2. Youth:  
Cheryl Ellsworth and Earl Settle
3. Outreach/Evangelism:  
Jan Wheeler  
Historian: Teddy Pelkey  
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: Jennifer Morris
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
16. Audio/Visual Technician:  
Earl Settle

### 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

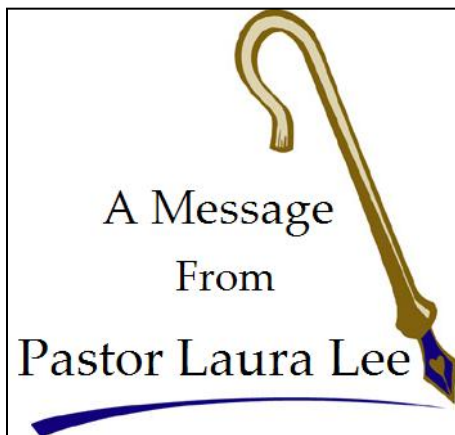
Email: [MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net) Website: [MABCSaginaw.org](http://MABCSaginaw.org)



Pastor Laura Lee Strawser may be reached:

Cell phone: (989) 307-9063 Email: [revlls59@charter.net](mailto:revlls59@charter.net)

Pastor is on Face-Book. Please feel free to contact her.



## CONTINUING TO CHART THE COURSE!

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers at MABC -

In this edition of the Beacon newsletter I want to highlight some of the things that your church leaders and I are working on to continue to 'chart the course' and move MABC forward in becoming the people God has called us to be. I am so very proud of the leadership of this church as they pursue God's leading, consider difficult decisions, care for our people and facility, and prepare to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

\* The February 'Charting the Course' event was very educational and motivational for me. This event was designed to encourage discussion about the worship services here at MABC. Heather Ballien, our newest moderator, was a great facilitator who led us through several exercises in order to bring the group to a place where we could see what worship means to 'all' of us and how we might make changes to enhance and bring greater joy and meaning to long-time members as well as visitors and younger people. In the end, one of the ideas that had the greatest consensus was that of bringing a more 'upbeat' tone to the worship service through learning and singing more praise music.

While music was the primary focus of this event, I want to challenge all of us to remember that **'WORSHIP'** is more than just music. Worship is music **PLUS** scripture, message, prayer, testimony, silence, action, praise and reflection. Worship is not just **INDIVIDUAL** but it is **CORPORATE**. Worship is about the **STRANGER AMONG US** and not just about **ME**. Worship has as its **focus GOD** and not **OUR COMFORT**. Worship is **PARTICIPATORY** and not just for **SPECTATORS**. Worship is **FIRST AND ALWAYS about GLORIFYING AND HONORING GOD!**

As we come together to **WORSHIP** God this Lenten season, you'll notice some adjustments to our typical worship service that are intended to help us 'glorify and honor' God more profoundly. The Worship and Music Teams as well as Church Council are supportive of these adjustments in order to accomplish this goal. I hope God will be honored and all our hearts and spirits lifted as we worship together.

\* Another way that church leaders are 'charting the course' is through a unique opportunity being offered to our church through Michigan American Baptist Churches (our region partners). MABC is taking part in a learning experience aimed at helping congregations to reach people for Christ by reaching out to their communities in new and different ways. This opportunity called the **Missional Church Learning Experience** (MCLE hereafter) is a 9 month training period in which a small group from our church meets regularly with small groups from other American Baptist churches in order to pray, learn, plan, accomplish and share a 'missional' experience. **A MISSIONAL CHURCH** is "an authentic faith community whose primary focus is serving outward, on mission with God, bringing Christ's love alive in its neighborhood and beyond", according to Rev. Dr. Ron Carlson (missional church strategist with our denomination). A 'missional experience' therefore moves a church toward the Great Commission while deepening its members' personal commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior. In other words...this opportunity is designed to help MABC **GROW UP** into Christ and **GO OUT** with Christ into the community around us!

The group of individuals beginning on this journey are Tom Carr (Vice-Moderator), Jim Garn (Finance Team Leader), Sarah Egerer (Christian Ed. Team Leader), Sarah Ferrell (Youth representative), Cheryl Ellsworth (Youth Leader & Observer) and myself. These folks are committing themselves to quite a task and need your prayers. They also will be asking for your help throughout the process. While the training is only available to a limited number, the project itself will require participation by many. If you have any interest at all in participating in this experience, please speak to me or one of the others mentioned above.

One of the requirements for this training is that our group keep the entire family of MABC updated and informed of our efforts and progress. So...I will be reporting information as we move along with our MCLE. And please feel free to ask questions about this. I have some great resources that you may like to see.

We are on an amazing journey toward deepening our relationship with Christ and the world God's redeemed. Join us!

## THANK YOU

To My Family at MABC  
from the family of Leo Verhaeghe

We don't know what we would have done without all of your loving thoughts and prayers during our time of need. You gave us strength and encouragement and then comfort when it was needed the most.

Thank You and may God Bless you all.

*Julie & David Quinnan*



**Sundays**  
**March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2012**  
**At 5:30 p.m.**

We will gather in the fellowship halls for a simple supper. Our study time will be based on a DVD and book entitled, "Christ Followers." This study series focuses on Luke 6 and invites participants to become...doers "of the word with passion, devotion, connection and commitment." There will be time for study, discussion and prayer. We hope you will be able to join us as we prepare for a glorious Easter morn,.

Please note that Connie Ellsworth is looking for a few people to provide desserts for these suppers. Please contact her if you can help.

### LENT CONCERT SERIES

**At State Street United Methodist Church**  
**3617 Mackinaw**

**Saginaw, MI 48602 (989) 792-3931**

February 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Saginaw Area Concert Bank

March 4 at 4:00 p.m.

ACT-SO Jazz Band

March 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Muzyka!

March 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Just Trombones

**Suggestion: Why not attend the Lenten Concert series and then come over to MABC for a Lenten Supper & Study.**

## PRAYER MEETING

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 welcome.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning, March 10 at 9:00 a.m. All men of the church are invited to join in this time of delicious food and Christian fellowship.



Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 10.

## POTLUCK SUNDAY

Potluck Sunday originally scheduled for March 11 **has been cancelled**. You are highly encouraged to come to the **Lenten Supper and Study beginning at 5:30 p.m.** Looking forward to seeing you.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education team will meet on Sunday, March 11, 2012 following the worship service.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council will meet on at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2012.

## ATTITUDE CHECK

Attitude is the mind's paintbrush. It can color a situation gloomy and gray, or cheerful and gay. In fact, attitudes are more important than facts.

*-Mary C. Crowley*

## UNNATURAL

It's countercultural, unnatural even - this Lenten call to deny oneself and resist temptation, to put aside comfort for a time in reflection of Jesus' sacrifice for us. It's downright uncomfortable.

Lent is a most unwelcome experience because human nature seeks pleasure and avoids pain at all costs. But Jesus promises that those who dare to follow him into the desert will find a rich reward.

## SCRAPBOOKING

Our scrap-bookers will meet on Friday evening March 16 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. and from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 17, 2012. Come and join in this fun time of making memory pages. No experience is necessary.

## BEACON NEWSLETTER

Beacon newsletter articles are due on Tuesday, March 20.

## BLOOM



A gardener planted two small shrubs side by side. During the dry summer, both plants struggled to get established. One developed black spots and lost most of its leaves. The gardener assumed the little plant wouldn't survive but was sure the healthy-looking shrub would bloom.

The following spring, to the gardener's great surprise, the stronger plant had not a single bloom but the weak, stricken shrub had produced a beautiful flower.

This is often true, as well, of people who've experienced great sorrow and loss. They know the Savior's love and comfort in ways that only those who suffer can know. And by God's grace, they share that love and comfort with others.

As Ugo Bassi said, "He who suffers most has most to give."

*-Kari Myers*

"I've long since stopped feeling guilty about taking 'being' time; it's something we all need for our spiritual health, and often we don't take enough of it."

*-Madeleine L'Engle*



The church pantry is in need of a few items to assist those in need. The items most needed are the following:

- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef, etc.)
- Personal products (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, hand lotion, etc.)
- Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue, etc.)
- Laundry and cleaning supplies
- Canned fruits and vegetables

You may place your donated items in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

*Thanks for your consideration!*

## EASTER BREAKFAST TICKETS

Easter Breakfast tickets will go on sale during the last weeks of March. Please see Sarah Egerer or Cyndi James for ticket information. Our youth will be conducting the Son-Rise service and there will be an Easter egg hunt after breakfast for the children. Please join us on April 8<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection.



*-Sarah Egerer*

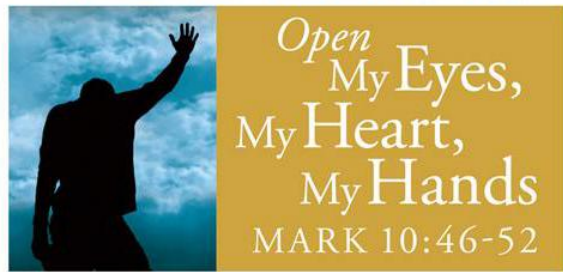
*Christian Education Team Chairperson*

## IN GOD'S HANDS

We are not the masters of our own destinies. We are called to plan and strategize, to work and live active lives, to attempt things that are beyond us and tackle challenges that stretch us to the limit. Yet the outcome of our efforts, even our ability to exert ourselves, is always in God's hands.

*-Carolyn Custis James, The Gospel of Ruth*

# ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP



**AFC'12**  
America for Christ Offering 2012

MARCH 2012

Dear MABC

The America for Christ (AFC) 2012 theme is Engaging Discipleship: Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands. This theme is a powerful reminder that we have been sent into the world (Matthew 28) to be ambassadors of God's love, expressed through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The primary rule of engagement is "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

We can ignore this calling and get busy doing church by singing hymns, listening to sermons, giving our tithes and offerings, getting involved in the choir or joining a committee. These activities may make us feel spiritually good, but God is calling our church to daily follow the incarnational practice modeled by our Lord, who continually engaged people and cultivated relationships. Active discipleship is a selfless love that responds to the need, hurts and pain of these at the door of our church. Our true prayer and Christ-like attitude should be "open my eyes, my heart and my hands that I may be of service to others. Lord, use my life."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer perhaps said it best when he wrote, "God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world. What we find repulsive in their opposition to God, what we shrink back from with pain and hostility, namely, real human beings, the real world; this is for God the ground of unfathomable love." (A Year with Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Daily Meditations from His Letters, Writings, and Sermons).

As God's children in this world, we are called to engage people. As we meet people every day in our life's journey, we should share the love of Christ in word and deed. As God's people, let us extend our hands daily to lift and encourage those around us who may need hope and a transformative touch of love. This year's theme Engaging Discipleship: Open My Eyes, My Heart, My Hands encourages us to come alongside people. Let us see the need, let it break our hearts and, with our hands, let us comfort and be a blessing to others.

I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's America for Christ Offering and help us reach our goal of \$400.00 by the end of the month. We will be making a difference in the lives of others for the cause of Christ. Offering envelopes will be in your church pews and also on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary.

Engaging Discipleship that reflects God's Love!

Your 2012 MABC Mission Team

## MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reverend Laura Lee Strawser  
203 S. Michigan Avenue - Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
(989) 793-8555

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### Lent and Easter 2012

#### IN THE HANDS OF THE HEALER

THEME: We will look at ways in which God offers healing and wholeness to the world.



We will gather in the fellowship halls for a simple supper. Our study time will be based on a DVD and book entitled, "Christ Followers." This study series focuses on Luke 6 and invites participants to become...doers "of the word with passion, devotion, connection and commitment." There will be time for study, discussion and prayer.

We hope you will be able to join us as we prepare our hearts for a glorious Easter morn. Please note that Connie Ellsworth is looking for a few people to provide desserts for these suppers. Please contact her if you can help.

State Street United Methodist Church, 3617 Mackinaw, is offering a **Lenten Concert Series** beginning at 4:00 p.m., on the same days as our **Lenten Supper & Study**. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided and a free-will offering will be received at State Street United Methodist Church. As a suggestion, why not attend the Lenten Concert series and then head over to MABC for the Lenten Supper & Study. *Please note a final concert will be offered on March 25 at State Street United Methodist church, however it begins at 5:00 p.m. and this would not leave you enough time to attend the last of the Lenten Supper and Study series at MABC.*

#### Sunday, February 26, 2012, First Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "The Healer Revealed" Matthew 11:2-6
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 4:00 p.m. State Street United Methodist Church, 3617 Mackinaw  
Saginaw Area Concert Band (*Local people who never disappoint with their wide range of music*)
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study  
We will be focusing on Healing and Wholeness throughout this series.

#### Sunday, March 4, 2012, Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "Your Faith Has Made" Mark 5:21
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 4:00 p.m. State Street United Methodist Church, 3617 Mackinaw  
ACT-SO Jazz Band (*local students with amazing musical gifts*)
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study

#### Sunday, March 11, 2012, Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "I Will Heal Their Land" 2 Chronicles 7:12-15
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship  
(*Please note Potluck Sunday has been cancelled. You are encouraged to attend the Lenten Supper and Study series*)
- 4:00 p.m. State Street United Methodist Church, 3617 Mackinaw  
Muzyka! (*Acoustic, folk-gospel group*)
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study

### Sunday, March 18, 2012, Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "Snow and Wool" Isaiah 1:10-20
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 4:00 p.m. State Street United Methodist Church, 3617  
Just Trombones (*A unique listening experience*)
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study

### Sunday, March 25, 2012, Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "The Restorer of Sight" John 9:1-7
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper and Study

## HOLY WEEK

### Sunday, April 1, 2012, Palm Sunday



- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: "The Wounded Healer" Luke 19:33-41
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship



### Thursday, April 5, 2012, Maundy Thursday

A Maundy Thursday meal will be offered at 6:15 p.m. at MABC. There will be a worship service following the meal. Both the meal and the worship service will be held in the fellowship hall. We will be inviting Beacon of Hope church to join us. We will partake in an Agape Meal (Love Feast). You are asked to bring "finger foods" to share. Examples of finger foods are: pita chips and hummus, nacho chips and salsa, fresh veggies and fruit, finger sandwiches (egg, bologna, cucumber, etc.), cocktail wieners wrapped in crescent rolls, meatballs served with tooth picks, veggie or fruit pizza (cut into small squares), cookies, sweet rolls, etc. **Please contact Connie Ellsworth** to let her know what you will be bringing and remember to bring enough for eight to ten people, since our guests will not be asked to bring food.

### Friday, April 6, 2012, Good Friday



MABC will not offer Good Friday services this year.  
Please visit the church of your choice this year.

### Sunday, April 8, 2012, Easter Sunday

- 8:00 p.m. Son-Rise Worship Service
- 8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service:  
"All is Well" Matthew 28:1-10

He is  
**RISEN**



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: The Easter Lily is white. Tulips, daffodils, azaleas, and hydrangeas are pastel colors.

**Please make your check payable to MABC  
Deadline is Sunday, March 18, 2012.**

Easter Lily	Quantity _____	x \$10.00 =	\$ _____
Tulip Plant	Quantity _____	x \$ 8.00 =	\$ _____
Daffodil Plant	Quantity _____	x \$ 8.00 =	\$ _____
Azalea Plant	Quantity _____	x \$15.00 =	\$ _____
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Event Cancellation Policy**

In the event that the cancellation of the worship service or any other *public* church activity may be warranted, the following procedure will be followed:

The Church Moderator shall consult with the Pastor(s), the **Worship Team Leader**, and any other persons who might provide pertinent information for making the decision, such as the church maintenance staff, Christian Education **Team Leader**, Music Director, etc.

Should the Moderator determine that cancellation is warranted, he/she shall notify WNEM-TV (Channel 5), WEYI-TV (Channel 25), and WSGW Radio, (790 am) for public announcement.

Reasons for the cancellation of worship or other church activities include (but are not limited to) power outage, boiler malfunction, inclement weather or other natural disaster, declared emergency by local officials, and medical emergencies.

*Note: This policy does not apply to internal meetings, such as board and committee meetings, music rehearsals, and youth group meetings.*



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## MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	2	3
4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent  5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper & Study	5  6:15 p.m., Bible Study	6	7  Rehearsals	8  6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	9	10 9:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  <b>NOTE: Potluck has been cancelled</b>  12:00 p.m. CE Team meeting  5:30 p.m., Lenten Supper & Study	12  6:15 p.m., Bible Study	13	14  Rehearsals	15  6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.  7:00 p.m. Church Council Mtg.	16  6:00-11:00 p.m., Scrap-Booking	17  10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Scrap-Booking
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  5:30 p.m., Lenten Supper & Study	19  6:15 p.m., Bible Study	20  Newsletter articles are due	21  Rehearsals	22  6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	23	24
25 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  5:30 p.m., Lenten Supper & Study	26  6:15 p.m., Bible Study	27	28  Rehearsals	29  6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	30	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!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

02	Angie Garn
06	Jimmy Larkin, Sr.
07	Mary Aimesbury-White
07	John Leaman
10	Nancy Dempsey
15	Kelsie Morris
16	Kurt Ballien
16	Brenden Wolven
17	Dana Burton
18	Pastor Laura Lee Strawser
19	Matthew Little
20	Emma Navarrete
20	Jenna Geidans
22	Honey Wheeler
23	Robert Lemmer
23	Tina LaFrance
26	Muril Seabrook
28	Audrey Wilson
29	Bill Horton
29	Judy Schuler
31	John Seno

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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.