



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

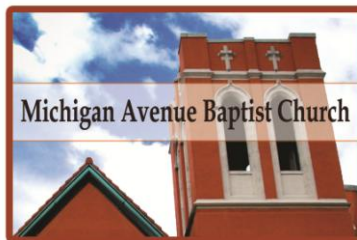
Clerk: Cyndi James

Treasurer: David Garn

Missions Treasurer:

Roger Ellsworth

Financial Secretary: Laurella Smith



MAY 2012

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

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

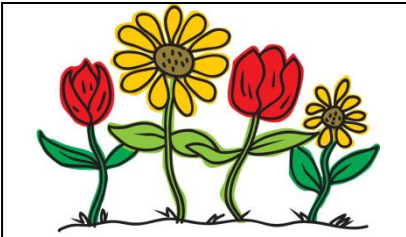
Church office: (989) 793-8555

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

Pastor Laura Lee Strawser may be reached:

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

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



A Message From Pastor Laura Lee

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

"April showers bring May flowers." That's how the old proverb goes. We'll see. Remember, this is Michigan where April can still bring snow showers and 'freeze' warnings late into the month. The outlook for May isn't much better. As a matter of fact, most nursery owners and master gardeners will tell you that it's not truly safe to plant your gardens until closer to Memorial Day. (Even then, you might get caught by a cold night or two.)

But...we can always HOPE! That's why those of us who love gardening, tending to our yards, planting flowers or vegetables are chomping at the bit to get out into our yards and get our hands into the ground! Our hope for this year's flowers, shrubs, plants, fruits and vegetables is growing with each sunny day. We can see, smell and taste the results of our efforts even before the first shoots spring forth from the earth. HOPE, as they say, "springs eternal."

What is it that you are HOPING for? ...greater financial resources? ...better working conditions? ...reconciliation for a broken relationship? ...healing from an illness or condition? ...peace from worries? ...a deeper walk and connection with your Creator God? Consider these words from Romans 5:1-5:

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame (disappoint), because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Notice some of the words of this text; faith, peace, grace, glory, hope and love. These are POWERFUL words. These are COMFORTING words. These are words full of PROMISE!

Those who believe have been restored to a right relationship with God through Jesus and are at PEACE. We rest in the peace of God's GLORY and GRACE. And, even though we may struggle or suffer, we live in HOPE. HOPE that never disappoints us because that HOPE is continually renewed through the power and presence of the very Spirit of God, the Creator of everything! AMEN AND AMEN!!

We at MABC are on a journey to become the people God has called us to be. As with any journey there will be set-backs, struggles and dry times. However, this journey WILL NOT be disappointing because we have God's Spirit filling us with HOPE. We will not be put to SHAME because God LOVES us and desires the best for us. Let us renew our individual commitment and congregational covenant to *living lives that shout to the world* the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ!

AMEN!

THANK YOU



To The Members and Friends of MABC,

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. Your overwhelming support through prayers, notes, calls and love made the loss of my Dad a bit easier to bear. Thanks for the monetary gift, flowers and many, many cards. Thanks, too, for being my sisters and brothers in the Lord.

May God Bless You!

Lovingly,
Pastor Laura Lee

The following is from Pastor Laura Lee's family:

Dear Michigan Avenue Friends,

During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Thank you for the flowers and expressions of prayers and sympathy. It was a comfort and joy to have the support of so many throughout this time. We look forward to meeting you soon.

-Jeff McClain
-Vivian McClain

A note of thankfulness from the family of Haley Jenkins, one of the people whom we offer prayers under our Prayer Concerns in the Sunday bulletin:

To Everyone at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church,
Words cannot express how much your love and support and prayers have meant to our family. You pray for us and send God's love to us from miles away and we feel it as though you live "next door." The power of the Holy Spirit is all around us and we couldn't face the day without it.

We love you all!!

Shawn, Jim and Haley Jenkins



PRAYER'S POWER

Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.

-Elisabeth Elliot

A Thank You from HealthSource of Saginaw

The residents and staff at HealthSource would like to thank you very much for each heartfelt gift. From socks to slippers and puzzle books to radios, we were able to match each gift with a resident's need or wish. Monetary donations were helpful in fulfilling special needs and requests made by specific residents. Thank you again for your support.

UNANSWERED PRAYER

When prayers go unanswered, we may ask if God hears. Is he listening? Is he even there? If he hears, why is he silent? Does he really love me? Does he care?

We may ask such questions in moments of desperation and discouragement. But let us consider an alternative possibility, a truth supported throughout Scripture: no prayer goes unanswered.

As William Arthur said, "To someone who prays in faith, unanswered prayers are simply the evidence that the answer is much closer."



PRAYER MEETINGS AT MABC

Each Thursday evening of the month, we gather at 5:30 p.m. at the church, to offer prayer both 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 hearts.

Prayer works!
Pray without ceasing

"THE GENTLE GARDENER"

I'd like to sow the barren spots
With all the flowers of earth,
To leave a path where those who come
should find but gentle mirth;
And when at last I'm called upon
To join the heavenly throng
I'd like to feel along my way
I'd left no sign of wrong.



-Edgar A. Guest



SUPPORT MABC-ABY

The MABC-ABY will be selling hanging flower baskets (*million bells, petunias, geraniums and begonias*). An order sheet has been placed in the church fellowship hall. Orders may be placed through Sunday, May 6, 2012. Flowers will be delivered on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13, 2012. Thank you for support the MABC-ABY.

GREAT LAKES LOONS GAME FAITH NIGHT



MABC is going to the Great Lakes Loons Game Faith Night on Sunday, June 3. Jim will be ordering tickets and will need to have your reservation no later than May 6.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



If you are going back to school in the fall and are a member of MABC, you may be eligible for a scholarship from the church. You may pick up your application, and a bit about the scholarship program, at the back of the sanctuary. Scholarship Applications are due in the church office no later than May 6, 2012.

SOMEDAY

"Someday" is a snake whose tongue has mastered the talk of deception. "Someday," it hisses, "I'll take her on that cruise ... we'll have time to sit and chat ..."

But you know the truth before I even write it, don't you? Someday never comes! Wise up! Invest the time. Send the flowers. Write the letter. Make the apology. Take the trip. Purchase the gift. Do it! The seized opportunity brings joy - the neglected one brings only regret!



-Max Lucado,
And the Angels Were Silent

Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 12, 2012

All men of MABC are invited to this time of delicious food and Christian Fellowship.

IN-CARNATION

The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root come *incarnation*, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.



The church is in need of a vacuum cleaner to be used in the church building. If you have an extra vacuum cleaner around the house you are not using or feel lead to purchase one for the church, please see Jimmy Larkin. Thank you.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 17, 2012

“Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, ‘I will try again tomorrow.’”

-*Mary Ann Radmacher*

“The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.”

-*Honoré de Balzac*

SCRAPBOOKING AT MABC

Friday, May 18, 2012

6:00-11:00 p.m.

and

Saturday, May 19, 2012

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If you have an interest in preserving photographic or ‘treasure’ memorabilia, this is an activity for you. Sally Egerer will be happy to answer any of your questions.

TEACHER APPRECIATION & POTLUCK SUNDAY

Our teaching staff will be recognized during the worship service today, Sunday, May 20, 2012.

Potluck Sunday will be held following the worship service on Sunday, May 20, 2012. It will be hosted by the Women’s Society Team and Pastoral Relations Team. You are invited to bring your favorite dish to pass and to remember the ‘green bowls’ to help defray the cost of paper products, etc. See you at the potluck!

SUNDAY, MAY 20th

Sunday, May 20th is Teacher Appreciation Sunday. We will be honoring our Sunday School teachers and our 2nd graders.

-*Sarah Egerer*
Christian Education Team Leader

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

June Beacon Newsletter articles are due in the church office on Monday, May 21, 2012. This is an excellent way to make things known to the church as a whole. Linda will be happy to help write your article if you so desire.

HOW WILL THEY KNOW?

A well-known 1960s song by Peter Scholtes answers an implied question: How will others know we’re Jesus’ disciples? Not by how we understand family values. Not by our politics or theology. Not by how many Bible verses we’ve memorized how often we attend church or how much offering we give.

Rather, the son’s title and refrain say it all: “They’ll know we are Christians by our love.” Jesus put it this way: “Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35, NIV).

Sometimes love involves words - teaching, proclaiming, bearing witness to God’s presence. But if words aren’t backed by actions, they soon fall flat. We can, as the song says, “spread the news that God is in our land.” But if we don’t live like that, no one will believe it.

When we declare God’s reality but withhold kindness from neighbors, observers rightly question whether we follow the God whose presence we announce. But “if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us.” (1 John 4:12).



MEMORIAL DAY REFLECTION

We who are left, how shall we look again
Happily on the sun or feel the rain
Without remembering how they who went
ungrudgingly and spent
Their lives for us loved, too, the sun and rain?

-*Wilfred Wilson Gibson*

THANK YOU!

MEMORIAL DAY

Please note the church office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012 in observance of Memorial Day.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

TONGUES OF FIRE



Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2, when “tongues of fire” rested on the disciples’ heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church; images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background - other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian’s life.

BIBLE QUIZ

Which of the following is an accurate mother-child match from Scripture?

- A. Lois and Eunice
- B. Rebekah and Joseph
- C. Eve and Isaac
- D. Hannah and Eli



The answer can be found on the calendar page.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, June 3

- Graduation Sunday at MABC
- MABC is going to the Loon’s Game

Sunday, June 10

- No Potluck. It’s summer at MABC!

Sunday, June 17 Father’s Day

- Summer Hours Begin at MABC
9:00 a.m. Church School for Adults
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, July 9

- Our new organist, Mark Rethman, officially arrives at MABC

Sunday, July 14

- Church Picnic
Watch you Bulletin for further information.

Thursday, July 26

- Quarterly Business Meeting
- Thursday-Saturday, August 23-25, 2012
- Church-wide camping at Evart, MI



CELEBRATION SINGERS

from South Carolina
will be performing at MABC
on Tuesday, June 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

On June 12 the Celebration Singers from Boulevard Baptist Church will be performing a free concert for the public at MABC. The Celebration Singers are the youth choir from Boulevard Baptist Church of Anderson, South Carolina. They are following a 40-year tradition of taking their choir on a summer tour. This year they are touring Michigan.

We have agreed to host the members in return for their concert. If you are able to house two or more members, please see Jenny Morris. In addition, you will need to provide breakfast and return transportation to the church in the morning. We are looking forward to hearing them perform.

The Music Team



Jesus — the original child advocate

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

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



MAY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Music Rehearsals	5:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.		
6 Communion Sunday	7 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	8	9 Music Rehearsals	10 5:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	11	12 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
13 Mother's Day	14 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	15	16 Music Rehearsals	17 5:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Church Council Mtg.	18 6:00 p.m. Scrap-Booking	19 10:00 a.m. Scrap-Booking
20 Teacher Appreciation and 2 nd grade recognition Potluck Sunday hosted by Women's Society & Pastoral Relations Teams	21 Newsletter Articles Due 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	22	23 Music Rehearsals	24 5:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	25	26
27 Pentecost	28 Memorial Day (office closed)	29	30 Music Rehearsals	31 5:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg.		



SUNDAY AT MABC

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

WEDNESDAY CHOIR REHEARSALS

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

Answer to Bible Quiz: A. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 2 Timothy 1:5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

01	Marty Parks
02	George Most
03	Tom Little
06	Diana Lemmer
06	Jim Garn
11	Dakota Casey
12	Samantha Smith
14	Sandra Ellsworth
14	Mike Casey
20	Bud Moore
20	Jan McKnight
20	Sharlene Hamilton
22	Jessica Bell
26	Jackie Anjakos
29	Sheena Santino
30	Jan Wheeler
30	Bill Larkin

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.