



OUR STAFF

Minister:

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



November 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.



CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out." - - Romans 12:1-2a, from The Message; The Bible in Contemporary Language, by Eugene Peterson.

In our worship time for the last few weeks, we've been considering the idea of how we're changed by a changeless God. We're being challenged to consider how we can be changed and for what purpose we are being changed. So I really like the way Peterson interprets this notion of transformation. He sees it as complete; involving every aspect of our lives.

"Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering."

And this also...

"You'll be changed from the inside out."

I recently came across a quote that addresses what this means for congregations, not just individuals. In an article entitled, "Why Incremental Changes Won't Work" Paul M. Dietterich is addressing the issue of 'change' in the life of the church. He writes these words:

"Transformative change is qualitatively different from incremental change. ... (it) requires a break with many of the inherited ways of perceiving, thinking, and behaving that characterized both the Imperial Church (c.312-1790) and the Establishment Church (c.1790-1960)."

I think that what Dietterich is saying is, that when it comes to the kind of transformation that God expects of us in the Body of Christ, the important part is not HOW MUCH change is needed but WHAT KIND of change is needed.

As we continue to 'chart the course' for our ministries here at MABC, we need to remember that the changes we make and the transformations we experience must have a Christ-like **quality** to them. We have to ask ourselves if the changes being made promote the Kingdom values we hold, demonstrate Christ's love for the world and bring glory to our Creator God. When we allow God through the power of the Holy Spirit to change us from the 'inside out', we will experience **quality transformation** that increases our joy, moves us toward Christian maturity and brings the hope and reconciliation of Christ to others.

Let's 'chart the course' to that future!

YOUR MISSION OFFERINGS AT WORK

American Baptist Churches USA

Dear Friends at MABC

As we approach the end of the summer season, I greet you in the name of the God who is lord of the harvest and pray God's bountiful blessings on all that you do.

In reviewing reports on United Mission giving, we were pleased to learn that your church has been a faithful giver to total United Mission every year for the past ten years. Your gifts to United Mission touch every aspect of the mission and ministry of ABCUSA. Your dollars are at work around the world through International Ministries, around the country through American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and around your community through the good work of your region. Your gift is helping us to resettle refugees from Burma, many of whom are Baptist brothers and sisters. It is supporting our General Secretary, Roy Medley, as he represented us at the Baptist World Alliance meeting this summer and visited the refugee camps in Thailand and Malaysia. It is allowing us to structure our denomination for the 21st century under the guidance of the recently-passed Bylaws revisions. And much, much more.

Together we are truly United In Mission as we strive to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our regions, our nation, and around the world. It is faithful churches like yours that form the backbone of our denomination, and we are grateful to God for you.

Thank you for this tangible expression of your participation in the family known as American Baptist Churches USA.

Your co-traveler with Christ
Rev. Leo S. Thorne, PhD
Associate General Secretary
Mission Resource Development

City of Saginaw Riverfront Development Commission

This Certificate of Appreciation from the Riverfront Development Commission is being awarded to you for your group's volunteer work at the Crayola Park area for the 2011 program year. The commission sincerely appreciates your group volunteering to take care of this area that has been designated as an Adopt-A-Park area for the past four years.

Suzanne J. Seibel
Office Assistant
Riverfront Development Commission

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS

November 6

Gregg & Sharon Schultz Adams Street
Sherrell McCafferty Michigan Ave

November 13

David Quinnan Adams Street
Chris Lopez Michigan Ave

November 20

Carrie Hansen Adams Street
Jeannie Trudell Michigan Ave

November 27

Nikki Anjakos Adams Street
Chuck & Julie Bell Michigan Ave

GOD'S PRECIOUS SAINTS

A man mourning the sudden death of his young wife wondered, "Where was God when Jenny died?" Unable to sleep, he turned to Scripture and read Psalm 116:3 (NIV): "The anguish of the grave came upon me: I was overcome by trouble and sorrow." The man's anguish echoed the psalmist's. Reading on, he discovered verse 15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

"What does it mean by precious?" the man wondered. The footnote proved helpful: "Not in the sense of highly valued, but of that which is carefully watched over." The widower pictured God watching over his wife in her last moments. "That's where God was," the man thought with relief.

May we, too, be assured that God cares for his saints – not only at death but also in life, through grief and into healing.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for John "Jack" Young will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 5 at the church.



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday morning November 6. That means to set your clocks back one hour before retiring to bed on Saturday, November 5. See you on time in church Sunday morning.

Dinner with the Pastor



**Thursday, November 10, 2011
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

All are invited to come and enjoy an evening of delicious food and fellowship with Pastor Laura Lee Strawser.

The Pastoral Relations Team will be hosting Dinner with the Pastor. The Team will provide meat, potatoes, salad and dessert. Please feel free to bring a dish to pass.

In order to prepare for this dinner, we ask that you contact David Quinnan and let him know you will be coming.

We look forward to this time of fellowship.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will gather at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 12 for a delicious breakfast and Christian fellowship. The theme for this gathering is "Giving Thanks with a Grateful Heart. All men are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please see Jan Wheeler.

A TIME TO SHARE

"Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to him as a love gift. Offer the blessing back to him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard a thing for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never let you hold a spiritual thing for yourself; it has to be given back to him that he may make it a blessing to others."

-Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest

Dear MABC

The Membership sub-team is currently updating the MABC membership roster. Below is a list of members we are trying to confirm their status. Please help us in performing this task. We need to hear from them PERSONALLY if they do not want their names removed from our membership rolls. Please contact: Jenny Morris (989) 996-2102, Sally Egerer (989) 793-7077, or MABC (9989) 793-8555.



**Have
You
Seen?**

Debby Brothers
Michael Cheger
Jean Cheger
Doris Clark
Tara Crawford
Craig Johnson

*Thank you for your help.
MABC Membership Sub-team*



The Bible According to Kids

Children say the funniest things about Scripture. Here are a few examples:

- "in the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off."
- "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients."
- "The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."
- "The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."
- "When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta."

THE SOURCE

"One day I read in the 10th chapter of Romans, 'Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.' I had up to this time closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since."

-D.L. Moody



THANKSGIVING *Potluck Dinner*

Sunday, November 13, 2011

The Personnel and Worship Teams will host the Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner following the worship service on Sunday, November 13. A most delicious turkey will be prepared along with mashed potatoes and gravy, and dressing. You are invited to bring along your favorite dish to share with others.

We look forward to seeing you at the potluck. May you have a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THINGS

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted, such as freedom, clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

What about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that he is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 17, 2011

SCRAPBOOKING SATURDAY

The MABC Scrap-bookers will gather at MABC on Friday, November 18 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 19 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. You are invited to come and enjoy the craft of making memory books through scrapbooking. Sally Egerer will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



DID YOU KNOW?

As an outreach project of MABC, we will be serving hot cocoa and popcorn on the front lawn of the church to those passing by during the Pride Parade on Saturday, November 19. If you would like to help, please see Cheryl Ellsworth.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits –
who forgives all your iniquities,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

-Psalm 103:2-5, NRSV



The psalmist's all-encompassing list is a good example of all the gifts of God we should gratefully acknowledge. Personalize this ancient prayer by pondering your own experiences of God's forgiveness, healing, redemption, love, mercy and satisfaction of your daily needs.

"Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

-Albert Schweitzer



HANGING OF THE GREENS
Sunday, November 20, 2011

Following fellowship, we will begin hanging the greens for the Christmas season. When the decorations have been hung, a most delicious meal will be enjoyed by all.

See you at this festive event within the church.

Alfred Burt
CAROLS

On December 11, The Latham Burrows Choir will be performing, "The Alfred Burt Carols." Rehearsals have already begun and I want to invite everyone to experience this beautiful music and be a part of this year's Christmas Program. The choir will be rehearsing every Wednesday night 7:30-9:00, (except November 23, the eve of Thanksgiving.) We'll only have about 7 nights to practice, so it is very important to make all of these scheduled rehearsals.

Alfred Burt (April 22, 1920 – February 6, 1954) was an American Jazz musician who is best known for composing the music for fifteen Christmas carols between 1942 and 1954. Only one of the carols was performed in public outside his immediate family circle during his lifetime.

Burt was born in Marquette, Michigan. His family moved to Pontiac, Michigan when he was two after his father, Bates Burt, became pastor of an Episcopal church there. At the age of 10, having shown an early interest in music, Alfred received his first musical instrument, a cornet, as a present from his parents. Though he would learn to play several other instruments, including the piano, Alfred spent most of his life playing cornet and trumpet in bands and orchestras, with a special interest in jazz.

Burt studied music at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and graduated with a bachelor of Music degree in 1942.

A tradition that the elder Burt had begun upon moving to Pontiac in 1922 was the creation of a Christmas card, which he sent to family members and parishioners. On these cards were original Christmas carols, with both the words and music by the Reverend Burt. For the family Christmas card in 1942, Bates asked his son to write the music for that year's carol, "Christmas Cometh Caroling." From then on, Alfred would write the music for the family's Christmas cards, and the "Alfred Burt carols" were born.

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving Wednesday and Thursday, November 23 and 24, 2011.

Linda will be on vacation Monday, November 28.

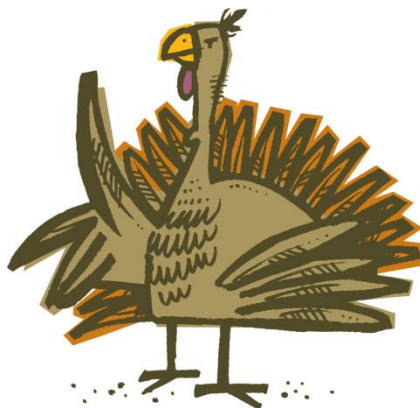
May you and your loved ones be richly blessed this Thanksgiving day and throughout the year.



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The deadline for Beacon newsletter articles is due in the church office by Monday, November 21, 2011.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



"I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compote the cranberries and

bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or a pork sandwich."

-The Turkey



We meet on Thursday evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for prayer. This is an opportunity for our church body to come 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 our hearts. For additional information or any questions you may have, please contact Renee McGregor, Lois Smith, Angie Mitchell or Peggy Landeryou.



We have received a letter from Carin Owen, Director of the Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw, stating they will be moving by the end of October. Carin has been hired as Youth Director at a local church and the band will be moving with her. Carin states in her letter:

We have been very grateful for your gracious hospitality. We have enjoyed playing at your services and appreciate the loyal following of parishioners at our concerts. We wish you much success for your church and cannot express enough the gratitude we have had for the use of your facilities.

MABC has received a lovely card individually signed by the members of the Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw. It has been posted on the bulletin board outside the music room.



**Christian Symbols
CORNUCOPIA**

Cornucopia, a Greek word meaning "horn of plenty," has origins in Greek mythology. But the cornucopia became a religious symbol and was even stamped on Jewish coins. Overflowing horns, now common as Thanksgiving centerpieces, came to symbolize abundance and blessing.



In 2005, a female humpback whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines just east of the

Farallon Islands, off the San Francisco coast. Hundreds of yards of line rope were wrapped around her body, tail, torso and mouth, weighing her down so much that she struggled to stay afloat.

A fisherman spotted the whale and radioed for help. Rescuers determined that the only way to save the creature was to dive in and untangle her. This was a dangerous proposition, as one slap of the tail could be deadly.

Rescuers worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed the whale. What she did next surprised the divers: She swam in what seemed like joyous circles, coming back to each person, one at a time, nudging them gently, in what rescuers assumed was a beautiful gesture of thanks.

May you and those you love be surrounded by people who help you get untangled from whatever is binding you and may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST/TEA
Saturday, December 3, 2011
9:00-11:00 a.m.
THEME: Advent Now and Then
TICKETS: \$5.00 per person

To order tickets, or if you have questions, please contact Rhonda Casey or Cheryl Ellsworth. Please watch your Sunday Bulletin for further information. We hope to see you at the Christmas Breakfast/Tea.

LOOKING AHEAD

Women's Christmas tea/breakfast, Advent, Baking & frosting cookies, Men's Breakfast, Cantata, Potluck, Christmas Program, Scrapbooking, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Event Cancellation Policy



Inclement Weather 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, the Chair of the Worship team, and any other persons who might provide pertinent information for making the decision, such as Team chair of the Finance, Christian Education, Music Director, church maintenance staff, etc.

Should the Moderator determine that cancellation is warranted, s/he 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 team meetings, music rehearsals, and youth group meetings.



Poinsettia ORDERS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please fill out this form and return it along with \$8.00 per plant to, the church office or place it in the offering plate no later than Sunday, November 20, 2011.

Please make your check payable to MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Thank You.

Poinsettia given in HONOR OF _____

Poinsettia given in MEMORY OF _____

Poinsettia GIVEN BY _____

After the Christmas Eve worship service, you may take your poinsettia home to enjoy. May you have a beautiful and Blessed Christmas.

Christmas, 2011

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

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



November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 12:00 p.m., Music Team meeting		1	2 Choir Rehearsals	3 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg	4	5 11:00 am. Memorial Service for Jack Young
6 12:00 p.m., Music Team meeting	7 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	8	9 Choir Rehearsals	10 6:30-8:00pm Dinner with the Pastor 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg	11	12 9:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast
13 Thanksgiving Potluck hosted by Personnel & Worship Teams 12:00p.m. C.E.TeamMtg.	14 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	15	16 Choir Rehearsals	17 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg 7:00 p.m. Church Council Mtg.	18 6:00-11:00 p.m. Scrapbooking	19 10:00-3:00 Scrapbooking Pride Parade Outreach & Evangelism Event
20 Hanging of the Greens	21 Newsletter articles due. 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	22	23 <i>Church Office closed</i> Choir Rehearsals	24  Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 	28 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	29	30 Choir Rehearsals			



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

As colder weather approaches, we are asking that you remember to turn off lights and turn down the heat when you notice it not being used. Remember to come to church dressed in warmer clothing.

Sunday at MABC

9:15 a.m., Praise Prelude
 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



NOVEMBER 2011

- 01 Nancy Lewis
- 02 Sharon Murphy
- 03 Shannon Grunaf
- 04 Ruth Dowis
- 04 Teddy Pelkey
- 05 Heather Ballien
- 06 Michael Quinnan
- 07 Raymond Ingles
- 09 Craig Egerer
- 12 Kay Barber
- 12 Eric Smith
- 15 Wilbur Yancer, Sr.
- 15 Aaron Doughty
- 17 Joyce Murphy
- 19 Daniel Leaman
- 20 Matthew Wilcox
- 21 James Cooper
- 22 John Sauvie



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.