



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



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.



A Message from
Pastor Laura Lee

"CHARTING A COURSE"

I have had a total of three experiences on sailing vessels.

The first experience took place on Lake Chautauqua, NY, just after my Freshman year in college. My Freshman roommate was working for the local newspaper and had invited me to visit her. One BEAUTIFUL afternoon, she borrowed a *tiny* Sunfish sail boat and took us out on the lake. It wasn't a very windy day as I recall, and the tour around the lake was relaxing, refreshing and thoroughly enjoyable! We had no particular place to go and so we took ourselves where the wind carried us. The sailboat was small, yet I felt safe.

The second experience occurred when I was about 21 over the Fourth of July holiday. The co-worker I was vacationing with had a friend who owned a rather large and extravagant sailboat on Lake Erie, PA. It was a VERY WINDY afternoon out on the lake with many other vessels sharing the same water. The captain/owner of the boat was not someone I knew, therefore I didn't feel quite as comfortable as I had during my first sailing experience. At one point the sailboat caught a large gust of wind, the captain accepted the challenge and the boat heeled way over on its side. As I grabbed the side railing for dear life, I saw the water inches away from my face and prayed. I was pretty sure that I was about to go straight into Lake Erie!!

The latest experience of sailing occurred just 5 years ago when my husband, Ray, surprised me with a trip to Traverse Bay to sail aboard the schooner, Manitou. This 119' sailing ship is said to be very much like the 'Mayflower'. It was by far the largest sailing vessel I'd ever been on. The crew was very experienced and knew exactly the course we would sail that afternoon, since they had been doing it for quite a while and more than once a day. The sun was shining, the winds were just perfect for sailing, the captain was confident and knowledgeable, the boat was well-made and THE COURSE WAS TRUE AND STEADY. It was unforgettable!

According to one internet dictionary site the definition of the word '**course**' has at least 12 meanings. As a noun it can mean...**1.** a continuous progression from one point to the next in time or space, or...**2.** a route or direction followed.

These two meanings are at the heart of my hope for our ministry together over the next several months. As of September 18th (my installation service), we are now setting sail on a journey of Discovery, Discipleship and Dreaming! We are 'charting a course' for our future. We are sailing our vessel on a 'continuous progression from one point to the next...' We are following a 'route or direction' that is being laid out by God through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

There will be times when, our sailing will be easy, REFRESHING and enjoyable, like my experience on Lake Chautauqua. We will know what is the right thing to do, the right way to go and how to get there. BUT, there will also be times when our sailing will be down-right FRIGHTENING! Sometimes the winds of change can be very strong and unsettling and those charged with sailing the vessel must trust the Captain and crew to carry them through the storm. We don't want anyone feeling like they're going head-first into the choppy waters. And ultimately, there will be BLESSED times when the ship is strong, the skies are sunny, the wind just right and the course STEADY AND TRUE. Our schooner will carry pilgrims of its own to places of mission and mercy and love.

WE ARE setting sail on a journey of Discovery, Discipleship and Dreaming! WE ARE 'charting a course' for our future! And this journey begins on Saturday, October 1st. On that day we will begin to Discover who we are as God's people in this place and time. On that day we will begin to make Discipleship a priority for all our brothers and sisters. On that day we will start Dreaming of ways we can fulfill both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Please make a commitment to be here on October 1st between 9:00 AM and Noon. And may God bless us as we seek to be the people that we have been called to be.

Grace & Peace to you all,
Pastor Laura Lee Strawser

LOOK
for the
white table cloths

MABC is missing several white table cloths. Please look around your home to see if you took them home and forgot to return them to the church. The white table cloths are greatly needed at the church. Thank you for your efforts. If you find them, please leave them in the kitchen area. Thank you.

ALWAYS REFORMING

The Latin phrase, *Ecclesia semper reformada est* means, "The church is always reforming"; implied is "And that's good!"

On going change and growth are important for individuals, too, but for many of us, change is hard. Use this prayer poem to embrace positive change, safe in the arms of our unchanging God.

Cradle to grave –
How shall my life flow?
Always the same,
Never daring to grow? Since
God is the same, always faithful and near,
I'm free to move forward in spite of my fear. So ...
Naming the Lord as my Power through strife, I
Go forth braving newness – in faith and in life!



-Heidi Man

PRAYER GATHERING

Each Thursday evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m. we set aside time 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 our hearts. All are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please see Renee McGregor.

TIME TO STEP DOWN

Americans enjoy an abundance of freedoms. From what career we'll pursue to what we'll eat for lunch, we're constantly making decisions about what we want out of life. So it's hard to find peace when our plans go awry and our circumstances seem out of control.

A wise person suggested, "For peace of mind, resign as general manager of the universe." What if we stepped down and let God be God? He created the universe, after all. Shouldn't we trust him to run it?

SCRAPBOOKING AT MABC

On Friday, October 7, from 6:00-11:00 p.m., and on Saturday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. many gather in the fellowship halls of MABC to create beautiful memory pages for our future generations to enjoy. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. If you have any questions, Sally Egerer will be happy to help you.

MABC BREAKFAST



You are invited to come to the MABC Breakfast on Saturday, October 8 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Our theme will be "Victory in Jesus" taken from 1 John 5:4. A guest speaker is not scheduled, but all those who would like to attend are invited. A most delicious breakfast will also be enjoyed by all.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Sunday, October 9 is potluck Sunday and it will be hosted by our Facilities & Maintenance Team. You are invited to bring your favorite dish for all to enjoy, and please remember to put something in the green bowls to help defray costs incurred by the church for this potluck. Either way, please come and enjoy delicious food and Christian fellowship. We are looking forward to seeing you.

WHEN TROUBLES COME

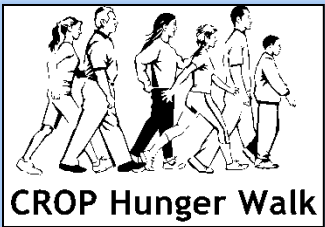
Have you noticed that things often seem to fall apart all at once? It could be a string of financial setbacks. First the refrigerator goes out, then the car won't start and next the roof starts leaking. Or maybe our relationships break down or our career unravels.

What can we do when hardships threaten to overwhelm us? Peanuts character Charlie Brown said, "I only dread one day at a time." But we can do better than that.

We can take a deep breath, cling to God's hand and keep walking, knowing that our heavenly Father is always with us.

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION (*Vacation*)

Linda will be using vacation time and will not be in the church office from Thursday, October 6 through Tuesday, October 11. She will return on Wednesday, October 12. Linda will also be out Thursday, October 20. If there is anything you anticipate needing during this time, please contact the church office as soon as possible.



CROP WALK

You are invited to join with other members of MABC as they put on their walking shoes following the worship service and fellowship on Sunday, October 9. If you'd rather not walk, consider sponsoring a walker. Cyndi James and Cheryl Ellsworth will be happy to answer any of your questions about this project.

CROP WALKS are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The November Beacon Newsletter articles are due in the church office by Monday, November 21. This is an excellent way to reach the church as a whole. You are invited to leave your article on Linda's desk, or call the church office with your information and she will be happy to write your article for you.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 27

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

HARP



This multi-stringed musical instrument is associated with David, who played to soothe King Saul and later wrote many psalms. The harp also represents praise music in general, as well as all the instruments people use to glorify God (see Psalm 71: 22). The idea that angels play harps comes from Revelation 14:2 ("And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of ... harpists playing on/their harps").

The Wonder of Worship

How sweet the hour of praise and prayer,
When our devotions blend,
And on the wings of faith divine
Our songs of joy ascend!

-Fanny Crosby



MABC FALL CARNIVAL

Saturday, October 22, 2011
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. (or so)

All ages are welcome.

Come and enjoy this happy time of costumes, food, games, prizes, etc.

Volunteers are needed!

Please contact Sharon Murphy at (989) 488-2012 if you would like to help.

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Saginaw, MI 48602
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"Faith, like light, should always be simple and unbending; while love, like warmth, should beam forth on every side and bend to every necessity of our brethren."

-Martin Luther



October 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we think about our individual lives and even our church's life, we can easily forget we are part of a large community of faith, the Church of Jesus Christ around the world! On October 2, World Communion Sunday, we will be reminded of that fact. On that day Christians worldwide will be celebrating the Lord's Supper, even as we will. That special day, we will kick off our World Mission Offering which supports the global work of American Baptist International Ministries.

Our gifts make possible the ministries of nearly 100 long-term International Ministry missionaries and more than 1,500 short-term missionaries and volunteers. They work in more than 70 countries along with 220 partner organizations that include evangelistic associations, hospitals, schools, publishing companies and others responding to Christ's call.

Reflecting that call, the World Mission Offering theme is based on Luke 10:1-9, 17a. It tells how Jesus sent 70 missionaries to **Live the Word** and **Proclaim the Word** so that others might Be Transformed. In these coming weeks, we will have an opportunity to discover more fully what that means.

I believe as a result of that discovery, God will lead us to provide financial support to global missions this year. Our 2011 goal is \$400.00 to be reached by the end of October. Offering envelopes will be in your church pew. Please join in embracing this challenge as together we **Live the Word** and **Proclaim the Word** so that others might Be Transformed.

Yours in response to Christ's call to follow him,

MABC Mission Team
Nikki Anjakos-Seno, Chairperson

► **Live the Word**
► **Proclaim the Word**
► **Be Transformed**



OCTOBER 2011

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00-2:00 Leadership/Vision Planning Mtg.
2 12:00 p.m. Women meet with Pastor. O&E Team meeting.	3 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	4 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	5 Choir Rehearsals	6 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	7 6:00-11:00 P.M. Scrapbooking	8 9:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast (1John 5:4) 10:00-3:00 Scrapbooking
9 Potluck hosted by Facilities & Maintenance CROP WALK	10 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	11 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	12 Choir Rehearsals	13 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	14	15 <i>Sanctuary & Fellowship Halls in use.</i>
16 12:00 p.m. C.E. Team Meeting	17 Newsletter articles due. 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	18 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	19 Choir Rehearsals	20 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg.	21	22 5:00-7:30 p.m. Fall Carnival
23	24 6:15 p.m., Bible Study	25 7:00 p.m., <i>CLB Rehearsal</i>	26 Choir Rehearsals	27 6:30 p.m., Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Mtg.	28	29
30	31 6:15 p.m., Bible Study					

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




**A Lighthearted Reminder
From The Finance Team**

Please be sure to wear a sweater, sweatshirt or coat when you use the church facilities, and, if necessary, long johns or even a snowmobile suit, so that we may leave the heat off as long as possible to avoid experiencing heating bills. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



OCTOBER 2011

- 01 Jennifer Cherry
- 01 Janis Wilcox
- 03 Benjamin Horlings
- 05 Linda Jacques
- 07 Mindy Tuck
- 07 Justin Bell
- 08 Pamela Graham
- 08 Courtney Leaman
- 10 Hilary Lemmer
- 11 Pamela Leaman
- 11 David Lown
- 16 Donald Pietz
- 17 Kenneth Jacques
- 21 Hayden Larkin
- 21 Gerald Morris
- 22 Al Ferrell
- 23 Margaret Landeryou
- 23 Carla Nettleton
- 23 Jeff Lapan
- 25 Margaret Hollingsworth
- 25 Tara Crawford
- 25 Tana Shrader
- 28 Craig Wolven
- 30 Cathy Giessel
- 31 Cheryl Zinz
- 31 Joshua Ellsworth

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.