



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

SEPTEMBER

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.



JUMP; DON'T BE PUSHED, INTO FALL!

As I sit in the church office and contemplate the end of August and the beginning of September, I'm torn between sadness for the end of summer and excitement for the beginning of the fall. I think it's this way for most of us.

We so enjoy all that summer brings. There are warm days for swimming in pools or lakes or oceans. There are long hours of sunshine to play baseball, soccer, horseshoes, golf or any number of other sports. Summer offers time for travel to just about anywhere in the country you can imagine. There are opportunities for picnics and fairs and amusement parks and hiking and camping. In summer the boat docks are full and water skiing, tubing and knee boarding compete for water space with wave runners and canoes. And through it all there's plenty of SUNSHINE and no need for coats, scarves or mittens. SUMMER is glorious! And when the long, warm days of summer begin to fade, we become a little sad to see all those things come to an end.

HOWEVER...the upcoming season of fall has its own blessings and adventures! The days of fall tend to be warm during the daylight hours and wonderfully cool in the evenings. There are beautiful colors waiting to burst out on the leaves of the trees. Michigan apples will soon grace our stores, kitchen tables and sack lunches ready to be made into pies, crisps, candy apples, applesauce and so much more! Orchard tours and craft sales will start to spring up. Yards decorated with corn stalks, gourds and pumpkins entice children to begin to think about what costumes they might wear for trick-or-treating. And, BEST OF ALL, football season begins!!! (GO, STEELERS & ok, Lions!!)

So...as I said above...I'm torn between sadness for the end of summer and excitement for the beginning of the fall. Sometimes, I even feel like I have to be dragged or pushed into fall because I don't want summer to end. Until I remember what joy and excitement awaits me when Sunday school starts up again, people who've been on vacation come back to worship, fellowship meals begin again and plans are made for a new church year full of God's blessings!

We here at Michigan Avenue have much to look forward to in the next several months: new worship series', choir and hand bell performances, children's programs, parties, gatherings, outings, Bible studies and so much more. I hope you will keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to all these things and participate as much as you can so that we might bring glory to God and lift each other up as sisters and brothers in Christ.

LET'S BE READY AND WILLING TO 'JUMP' INTO THIS FALL AND NOT WAIT TO BE 'PUSHED'!!

God's blessings await us when we're willing to look for them. See you in CHURCH!

Grace & Peace to you,
Pastor Laura Lee

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU !!

I would like to thank everyone at MABC and especially those who sent me cards and called during my recovery from surgery in July. It meant a lot to me! I also want to thank all those who have wished me well as I begin my permanent ministry among you here at MABC. And a special 'thanks' to those who are currently working on the installation service for September 18th. God has blessed me through all of you!

Pastor Laura Lee Strawser

DID YOU KNOW....



....our church has a benevolence fund to assist people in emergency situations? The donations for this fund come from the offering envelopes marked "Communion" that accompany the regular communion Sunday giving envelopes. Please consider donating a few dollars to help someone pay a utility bill, purchase food or clothing, or pay a rent bill. The recipients are extremely grateful.

....our church has a food pantry to assist those who need a little help with the weekly grocery bill. Donations are received in the basket found at the back of the sanctuary near the ushers' table. All non-perishable food and paper products are either given to individuals who come to us in need or to the First Presbyterian Food Pantry. Please consider donating to the pantry to help those less fortunate. You may drop your items in the basket any Sunday.

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKS

Reminder: There are a few scholarship award checks that have not been given out. If you have been awarded an MABC Scholarship and have not received your check, please be sure that you have turned into the church office your upcoming class schedule/registration and your thank you note. Your scholarship check will then be mailed to you.

CHOIR REHEARSALS



Choir rehearsals have begun. The Belle Aire Handbell Choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. The Latham Burrows Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining either choir, please see John Rickert, Music Director.

**"Life will only work out successfully one way,
and that is God's way."
-Leslie Weatherhead**

MABC BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast has opened their 9:00 a.m., September 10th gathering to both men and women. The Reverend Ray Strawser will speak on his experience with "Hospice". A most delicious breakfast and Christian fellowship will be enjoyed by all.

We are planning to have a guest speaker at each gathering. If you know of someone who would be willing to be a guest speaker, please let Jan Wheeler or Jim Garn know. We hope to see you on September 10.

RALLY DAY



Sunday

September 11, 2011

9:30 a.m. Church School for all

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

The Christian Education Team is currently planning Rally Day festivities. This year, RALLY DAY kickoff is scheduled for Sunday, September 11. Activities will start during the Sunday school hour at 9:30 a.m. and conclude with a potluck hosted by our Finance Team after church. Additional information will be provided in the Sunday bulletin in the next few weeks.

Extended Session will begin on Rally Day. This is for our children ages first grade thru fourth grade. There will be a parent's meeting held on Sunday, September 18 following the church service.

Our two staffed nurseries will resume on September 11th. The main floor nursery, located next to the music room is for babies and toddlers birth up to 3 years of age. The nursery located on the third floor is for children 3 years thru kindergarten. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Sally Egerer.

SEE YOU ON RALLY DAY @ MABC



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS

September 11

Harold & Sandy Ellsworth Adams Street
Vivian Settle Michigan Ave

September 18

Margaret Leaman Adams Street
Sarah Ferrell Michigan Ave

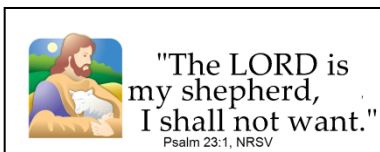
September 25

Cyndi James Adams Street
Sharon Mason Michigan Ave



One of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.

Praise God that he allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.



A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

PRAYER

Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm.. 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. We meet every Thursday in the sanctuary. Renee McGregor or Angie Mitchell will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

PRAISE PRELUDE

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 at 9:15 a.m. in the church sanctuary.

VACATION TIME

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day. Linda will be on vacation September 1, 6, 7, and 12. If there is anything you may need from her, please contact her beforehand.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Potluck Sundays will return to MABC beginning on Rally Day, September 11. The September potluck will be hosted by the Finance Team. Each month will be hosted by one or two teams. This is an opportunity to bring your favorite dish to pass and share with others. It's also a chance to sample other favorite dishes of the congregation. Green bowls will be set on each table for you to place 'green' money which will help to defray the cost of paper products (paper plates, silverware, napkins, table coverings, cups, etc). Potluck Sundays are held the second Sunday of each month. See you there to share delicious food and Christian fellowship.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

7:00 p.m.

Thursday,

September 15, 2011

MABC SCRAP BOOKING

Join us on Friday evening from 6:00-11:00 p.m., and again on Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (September 16 & 17) for scrap booking. Bring along your photos and learn how to place them in memory books for you and your loved ones to enjoy today and for future generations. No experience is necessary. Sally Egerer will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

ON THE ROCK

Nothing before, nothing behind;

The steps of faith

Fall on the seeming void, and find

The rock beneath.

-John Greenleaf Whittier



It is our pleasure to announce the

*Installation Service
Of
The Reverend
Laura Lee Strawser*

*at
Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Saginaw, MI*

*It is with great joy that we invite you to
attend this special worship service and
celebration on*

*September 18, 2011
At 4:00 p.m.*

*Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
203 S. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602*

*A Reception in the fellowship hall
will immediately follow.*

*If you have any questions, please
Contact the church at (989) 793-8555*

*Jim Garn
Pulpit Search Team Leader
Michigan Avenue Baptist Church*

*We look forward to sharing
this special time with you.*

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter articles are due Monday, September 19. If there is something you would like to communicate to the church as a whole, the Beacon Newsletter is an excellent way to share. You may write your article and leave it on Linda's desk, call the church office, or, if you do not like to write, call Linda and she will gladly write it for you as you give her the information.

BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE

The REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL put out by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty is available on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary.

FLOWERS FOR THE COMMUNION TABLE

Flowers for the Sunday morning worship service are 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? A flower chart has been posted at the Adams Street entrance for you to sign. An attractive artificial plant, a house plant, flowers from your garden or from one of the local stores, is acceptable. Please consider signing the flower chart and keep our sanctuary beautiful.

NOTE: If you are providing flowers and would like the significance of the flowers put in the announcement section of your Sunday bulletin, please contact Linda with the information no later than Wednesday morning of that week.

GIFTS TO SPARE



Do you want to tithe to the church but think you really can't spare the money? Try this experiment: At the beginning of the month, write a check and deduct the amount from your checkbook.

Hold on to the check until the end of the month. By then, you'll likely discover you really can spare that money. Then you can place the check in the offering plate as a cheerful giver.

-Dorothy Derrigan-DeLuyck

DOES THE CHURCH HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL?

Please be sure the church has your current email address as the newsletter and various correspondences are sent via email. The email address to the church can be found on the front of this newsletter. Thank you.

OUR CHURCH WEBSITE



WEBUPDATES

Our new church website is wonderful! On the website, you can listen to the weekly worship service, and read the monthly bulletin. An archive is kept so you will never miss a single worship service or Beacon newsletter.

Log on to www.MABCSaginaw.org. It's that simple.

SOMEONE WHO CARES

It's easy to become discouraged when we pause to consider the needs all around us. Many worthy causes and pressing concerns require action. What can one person with limited resources accomplish?

Theodore Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss) said: "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

We're most effective and fulfilled when we put our God-given talents and resources into areas he has uniquely shaped our hearts to be passionate for. Passion is the key. If you want to make a difference, find something you care a "whole awful lot" about and then dive in.



THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes to the Classic Legacy Band of Saginaw under the direction of Carin Owen. Members of the Classic Legacy Band have provided beautiful music for Sunday worship service from June 19 thru September 4. They have been a blessing to MABC through their gifts of music. MABC cannot thank you enough for your offering of music. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



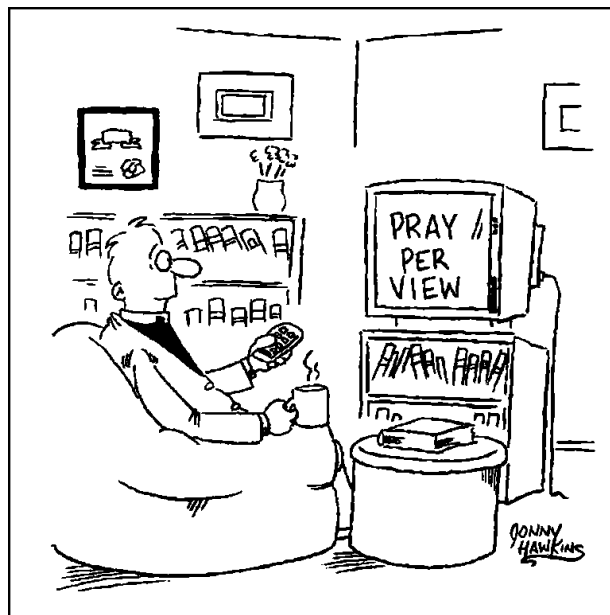
Watch your bulletin for upcoming concerts!

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

ROBE



A robe, specifically one that's new and white, symbolizes the righteousness we receive through Jesus' death and resurrection. Isaiah 61:10 speaks of "the garments of salvation" and "the robe of righteousness." In Revelation 6:11, faithful martyrs each received a white robe. People who are being baptized or confirmed often wear white robes as a sign of purity.



SEEK TO PLEASE

Shift your prayer life from "Please, God" to "Please God." Take the comma out of those two words when you pray, and transition your praying from asking God for things to asking God for the pleasure of God's pleasure.

-Homeletics

Pastor's Office Hours

Pastor will be in the church office
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-3:00
Friday 10:00-1:00

How to Reach Pastor Laura Lee:

MABC: (989) 793-8555
Cell phone: (989) 307-9063
Email: RevLLS59@frontier.com
Pastor is on **Face-Book**

Please feel free to contact Pastor
at any time.




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



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

SEPTEMBER 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | 1 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion Sunday | 5 Labor Day (office closed) | 6 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i> | 7 Choir Rehearsals | 8 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. | 9 | 10 9:00 a.m., Men's Breakfast |
| 11  RALLY DAY & POTLUCK hosted by the Finance Team. | 12 6:15 p.m. Bible Study | 13 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i> | 14 Choir Rehearsals | 15 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Church Council | 16 6:00-11:00 Scrap-Booking | 17 10:00-3:00 Scrap-Booking |
| 18  4:00 p.m. Pastor's Installation Service | 19 Newsletter articles due 6:15 p.m. Bible Study | 20 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i> | 21 Choir Rehearsals | 22 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. | 23  First Day of Autumn | 24 Annual Gathering |
| 25 | 26 6:15 p.m. Bible Study | 27 7:00 p.m. <i>CLB Rehearsal</i> | 28 Choir Rehearsals | 29 6:30 p.m. Prayer Mtg. | 30 | |

Sunday, September 4, 2011

9:00 a.m., Adult Church School
 10:00 a.m., Worship Service

Sunday, September 11, 2011 RALLY DAY

Return to Regular Worship Schedule
 9:15 a.m., Praise Prelude
 9:30 a.m., Church School for All
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Potluck Sunday



September Wednesdays at MABC:

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



Happy Birthday to you

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 07 Holly Harris
- 08 Nikki Anjakos-Seno
- 08 Teigan Nettleton
- 09 Hazel Groenhof
- 10 Ruth Deleon
- 12 James Kushon
- 14 Federico Navarrette
- 16 Jeffrey Zinz
- 19 David Quinnan
- 21 Amber Jasper
- 23 Carrie Horlings
- 25 Waydean Perry
- 25 Ned Schissler
- 25 Douglas Doughty
- 25 Katie Graham
- 25 Rhonda Casey
- 26 Harold Ellsworth
- 26 John Rickert
- 30 John Maciag



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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.