



OUR STAFF

Transitional Pastor:
Reverend Nikey Keels
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Jeremy Reis
Administrative Assistant:
Linda Wieferich
Caretaker, Al Ferrell
Nursery Attendant:
Sarah Egerer



April, 2016

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Nancy Lewis
Vice-Moderator: Tom Carr
Clerk: Cyndi James
Treasurer: Jody James
Missions Treasurer:
Roger Ellsworth
Financial Secretary: Mary Leary

CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education:
Theresa King
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth
3. Missions, Outreach/Evangelism:
Co-Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Co-Leader: Vacant
Historian: J. David Garn
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: David Garn
5. Finance: Jim Garn
6. Facilities/Maintenance:
Vacant
7. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
8. Worship: Jan Wheeler
9. Pastoral Relations: Vacant
10. Visitation: Lois Smith
11. Nominating: Appointed as needed



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

203 S. Michigan Ave - Saginaw, Michigan 48602

Church office: (989) 793-8555

Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net

Website: MABCSaginaw.org



SPIRITUAL RETREAT

We have scheduled a Spiritual Retreat for our congregation at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, Michigan. It will be held Friday, May 20 from 7:00-9:30 p.m. and Saturday May 21 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This retreat will be led by Rev. Jim Williams. His wife, Rev. Linda Williams, will help facilitate the sessions. Both pastors have extensive experience in leading spiritual retreats. Unlike the previous retreat that we had last year, this retreat will NOT be about leadership, finances, church growth, or any other of the practical issues of the church. This retreat is about reconnecting with God on a deeper level. The description below has been provided by the Revs. Williams regarding the retreat. The cost is \$75, which includes lodging and meals for the two days. You may sign up for the retreat by seeing Nancy Lewis. Also, if you wish to sponsor another participant who may not be able to afford the cost, please inform Nancy when you sign up. The deadline for payment is **May 1**. Please make your check payable to Michigan Avenue Baptist Church. We hope to see you there!

People frequently lack focus because they live in bondage to complexities. The purpose of simplicity is to cultivate an inner awareness which becomes expressed outwardly in a lifestyle. Simplicity is not shallow, although it can become that. It is not withdrawal, although it can become that. Simplicity is knowing what comes first and living with clarity because of that knowledge. The discipline of simplicity helps people focus on seeking the Kingdom of God's reign and its righteousness. That focus will put everything else in its proper order. It frees people from the complexities that society encourages. The discipline of simplicity leads people to buy things for their usefulness, not for their status. It helps people identify addictions. It might even lead to giving away possessions. It can help people enjoy things without owning them. God offers the courage and insight for each of us to live a simple life. The simplicity of knowing this can be freeing.

To help anyone who is interested in simplifying their life will be the main focus of the retreat. The retreat will begin at 7 PM on Friday night with an introductory period followed by opening devotions. The retreat will contain an introduction to Spiritual practices focusing on obstacles to prayer and some suggestions as how they might be overcome. There will be informal bible study, small group discussion, periods for silent reflection and prayer and a closing worship service of healing and communion.

Friday night's session will last from 7 - 9:30 PM and Saturday will begin with optional morning prayer at 7:30 AM with breakfast at 8 AM in the fellowship hall and morning devotions beginning at 9 AM. The retreat will conclude with a service of healing and communion at 3 PM on Saturday afternoon.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: MAY 1, 2016

CHECKS PAYABLE TO MABC

See Nancy Lewis to register

BYLAWS CHANGE

The Church Council is currently required by our bylaws to meet on the third Thursday of each month. Because there are occasional conflicts that prevent members from attending on the prescribed Thursday, the church leadership is requesting a bylaws change to allow for flexibility in the day on which the Council meets. Below you will find the current language, followed by the requested change.

Current bylaw language:

ARTICLE IV B3 (A)

The church council shall meet monthly **on the 3rd Thursday of each month** except the months when a quarterly meeting is held. In those months, a council meeting is optional as determined by the moderator.

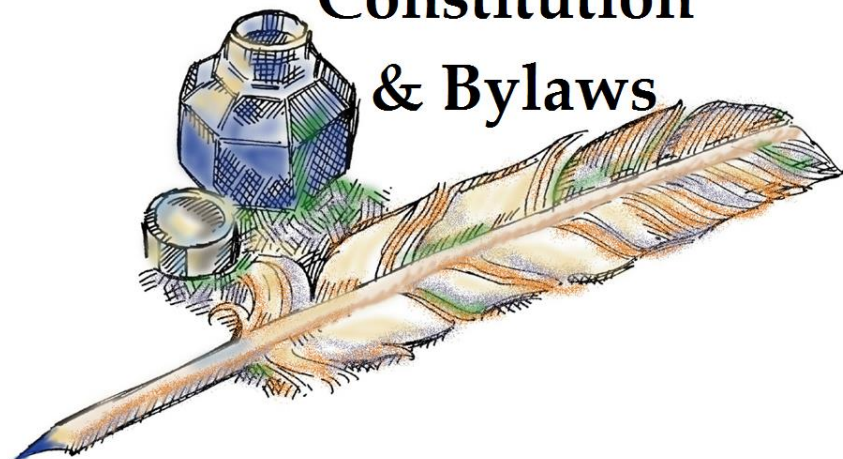
Requested change:

ARTICLE IV B3 (A)

The church council shall meet **monthly** except the months when a quarterly meeting is held. In those months a council meeting is optional as determined by the moderator.

This bylaws change will be voted on at the **April 28, 2016, Quarterly Business Meeting**.

Church Constitution & Bylaws





If you are going to school or back to school in the fall and are a member of MABC, you may be eligible for a scholarship from the church.

Information and applications about the scholarship program are available at the back of the sanctuary and in the church office.

Scholarship applications are due in the church office no later than Sunday, May 8, 2016.

THANK YOU TO JAN WHEELER!



Thank you to Jan Wheeler for volunteering to become the Worship Team Leader! Jan's position was approved by Church Council at the March 17 meeting. He is now our "official" team leader!

We are still in need of a Facilities Team Leader. If you feel this is your "calling" and you'd like to volunteer to serve in this position, please contact Nancy Lewis, Jody James, or Jim Garn.



BAPTISM And RECOMMITMENT BAPTISM

10:45 a.m.
Sunday, April 3

Following the April 10th worship service, we will gather in the fellowship halls for Potluck Sunday.



April Fools' Day isn't a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year's Day from April to

January, and people who didn't believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our proclamation" to offer salvation to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 - and every day - we live as "fools for Christ," we are precisely what he calls us to be!



MEN'S BREAKFAST
9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 9, 2016

All men are invited to attend this time of good food and Christian fellowship.

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Sunday, April 17
Following the worship service

Please meet in the Burrows Room.

BIBLE QUIZ

What was the name of Esther's cousin who raised her after her parents died?

- A. Hegai
- B. Haman
- C. Mordecai
- D. Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes)

Answer may be found on the calendar page.





April, 2016

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday Baptism and Recommitment Baptism	4 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	5	6 Rehearsals	7 4:15 p.m. Prayer Team	8	9 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
10 Potluck Sunday	11 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	12	13 Rehearsals	14 4:15 p.m. Prayer Team	15	16
17 12:00 p.m. Worship Team meeting	18 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	19 Beacon newsletter articles are due	20 Rehearsals	21 4:15 p.m. Prayer Team	22	23
24	25 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	26	27 Rehearsals	28 4:15 p.m. Prayer Team 7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Mtg.	29	30

Answer to Bible Quiz: C (See Esther 2:7)



"Let's give 'em a good start
 with some holy water!"

Sundays at MABC

9:30 a.m. Church School
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Wednesday Rehearsals

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



Happy Birthday to You!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*06 Destiny Helpap
11 Cyndi James
14 Justin Lemmer
20 Valdis Geidans
21 Eva Kelly
21 Carole Moore
21 Marc Leaman
22 Christopher Smith*



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.