



#### 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

#### OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

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

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.  
Thursday  
January 28, 2015



#### 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: Vacant
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](mailto:MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net) Website: [MABCSaginaw.org](http://MABCSaginaw.org)

# Welcome 2016!

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEELS

...5, 4,3,2,1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Can you believe it? Another year is already upon us, and there is much on the horizon in 2016 that will change. Politically, at the end of this year, we will experience a change in leadership after November's presidential election. Financially, the hope is that we will receive a favorable return on our taxes so that we can cover our Christmas debt, tackle those much needed home improvements, and for some of us, the opportunity to purchase a new home. On the spiritual front, Christians world-wide will pause in spring to reflect upon the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the newness of eternal life that his sacrifice afforded us. Socially, we desire a change in that **everyone**, for whom Jesus died, will be seen as valuable and be protected here on earth.

At the turn of the New Year, people around the globe brought in 2016 seeking to usher in newness and change within their time zones and according to their cultural tradition. Jews adhered to the Hebrew calendar by celebrating their new years in the middle of September with the holiday known as Rosh Hashanah. African Americans engaged in watch night services at their respective places of worship in commemoration of the 153<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation becoming effective on January 1, 1863. In New York, many popped open bottled spirits, while it rained down confetti after the ball dropped in Times Square. Pomegranates were broke open, and Kremmidas (onions), were hung outside the front door of homes in Greece. The Citizens of Denmark leapt from chairs, and tossed plates like a bad habit. Spaniards scarfed down 12 grapes before the 12 strokes at midnight ended. Puerto Ricans cleansed themselves of the previous year by throwing buckets of water out the window. Japan literally rang in the New Year as temples tolled their bell 108 times! Whether it was the desire to obtain new wealth and prosperity, new friends, and a renewal of energy, all of these rituals were to signify the urgency of obtaining something new.

There is one change, however, that is rarely spoken of during the New Year which is in desperate need of transformation and that is the heart. I'm not talking about the organ that has two ventricles, an aorta, an artery, and...well, you get the message. I am referring to what the Greeks call, *kardia*. *Kardia* in the Greek, is used to describe the heart of a person in terms of their inner life. This pertains to one's motive for action, and the driving force behind decisions and behavior. According to Strong's concordance, *kardia* is defined as the mind, character and center. Now, before you begin to defend yourself with platitudes of how good of a heart you have, let me remind you that even the healthiest person can suffer a heart attack.

The children of Israel could most certainly attest to the experience of having heart complications. Even though they enjoyed the benefits of being God's chosen people, they allowed themselves to become acculturated into the customs of those around them. Their hearts/*kardias* began to darken and the arterial walls of their character became hard waxing cold and stony to the degree that they erected places of worship to pagan gods. As a result of turning away from the very God who had protected them and provided for them, the children of Israel's blessings were constricted, and they experienced a massive heart attack in the form of being carted away in captivity by the Babylonians. But, God administered CPR to his people in the form of prophesy through Ezekiel.

In verse 36:26 (NRSV) of Ezekiel it reads, <sup>26</sup>*A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* If you will notice, God was not merely vested in giving them a new area code, and new accoutrements, but he was most concerned with his people receiving a heart transplant that was to come directly from him and not man. After all, what would have been the point of being free from physical bondage if they were still bound by the same old murky heart from the past? As Mark 2:22 states (NRSV) <sup>22</sup>*And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.*

Therefore, in the midst of our rituals to bring in new years with pots of greens and beans for prosperity, and cleaning all the laundry, along with every dust particle of 2015, let us acquire a brand new ritual this year and beyond by allowing the master surgeon to run an EKG on the heart of our character. Should he find our hearts stony from the wear and tear of life, may we be so humble as to allow him to give us a heart transplant from his heavenly throne. How, you may ask, is this made possible? When we spend intentional set apart time with God each day through prayer, bible study and listening to what he has to say. It is then that we will come to discover that with a new heart, our view of God, ourselves, our family, friends, loved ones, and even our enemies will also be made new. What could be more valuable than that?

Therefore, may the blessings of a new heart and a new beginning be received by you from God in this New Year.

Many Blessings & Happy Holy Sweet 2016!

Rev. Nikey D. Keels  
Transitional Pastor

# THANK YOU!

## YOUR MISSION OFFERINGS AT WORK

Dear Friends

On behalf of the East Side Soup Kitchen Board of Directors, Staff and all the people we serve, I write to thank you for your generous donation of \$125.00. We prepare hot, nutritious meals every day but the impact seems more immediate when the air is frigid. We would not be able to keep the soup pots full were it not for your generosity and concern. May God bless you always for your kindness to others.

Sincerely,  
Pam Cole, Director

Dear MABC

On behalf of the Food Pantry @ First Presbyterian Church, I would like to thank MABC for its pledge to support with your gift of \$200.00. As the economy in the area creates more challenges the need continues to increase for the services provided by the volunteers in the pantry.

As you may know, 100% of the donations are used to buy food and other personal hygiene products for the clients and it is staffed by volunteers from the area churches.

It is because of caring people like you and your organization the pantry is able to provide this service to those in need. For the year 2014, the pantry served 6,235 clients. This year through October of this year, 5,026 have been helped.

Thank you for your loyal support of this necessary mission.

God's Blessings,  
Janette L. Gonzales, Financial Secretary

Dear Friends

On behalf of the residents and staff of HealthSource Saginaw, I want to thank you very much for your very generous donation of Christmas gifts for our residents and patients.

Sincerely  
Teresa Emerson, Activity Director

Dear Congregation

I'd like to thank you first for the Christmas Love gift you collected on my behalf. I'd also like to thank you, in gratitude, for the many cards and gifts. I hope you had a blessed Christmas, and have an even better new year.

Sincerely  
Rev. Nikey Keels

To my MABC Family,

Thank you so much for the Christmas love gift. I really do appreciate, and made sure to put it to good use. I hope everyone has a good 2016!

John Rickert  
Director of Music

Dear MABC

Thank you for the Christmas love gift. It is greatly appreciated. But most of all, thank you for sharing the Love of Christ throughout the year. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed new year.

Linda Wieferich  
Administrative Assistant



## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016

Please note: Annual Report are due January 3, 2016. Reports are due from the following:

All Team Chairpersons,  
Sub-Team Chairperson, Moderator,  
Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Financial  
Secretary, Mission (Benevolence)  
Treasurer, Historian, Pastor, and the  
Director of Music.

If you would like to submit your report before the due date, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help. We want to make the annual report as complete as possible.

*Thank You!*

## THE MEANING OF EPIPHANY

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means “an appearance” or “a revealing.” Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6<sup>th</sup>, the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus’ first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

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## A GREAT HEART

Great beauty, great strength and great riches are really and truly of no great use; a right heart exceeds all.

—Benjamin Franklin

## A GOOD START

He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, he will be in the last place the remainder of the day.

--E.M. Bounds



## NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A new Women's Bible Study will begin Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. We meet in the Burrows Room at the church. Please contact Becky Geidans as soon as possible to let her know you will be attending. She will need to order books. Thank you.





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

**COMBINED**  
**Worship Team and Music Team Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 17, 2016**  
**Following the worship service.**

### POTLUCK SUNDAY

On Sunday, January 10, our monthly Potluck Sunday will occur. You are invited to bring your favorite dish to pass and enjoy Christian Fellowship. Hope to see you at the potluck.



### A NOTE TO ALL

Please let the church office and/or Nancy Lewis or Carole Moore when you are in the hospital. The hospitals don't always let us know in a timely manner that you are there. Thank you for your help. We

care about you greatly.



Need some creative ideas for performing acts of kindness? Here are a few from [randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org):

- Make blankets or scarves for homeless people.
- Send a care package to someone who's in college or the military.
- Collect coins for a charity or cause.
- When you can't attend an event, give the tickets to strangers.
- Provide tutoring or mentoring in your field of expertise.
- Offer to babysit or pet-sit for free.
- Send a note of appreciation to someone who's made a difference in your life.
- Share your gifts of music, reading or conversation at a nursing home.
- Donate old sports equipment to schools.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt - maybe even a family member or yourself!

### ODE TO SUNDAY

Of all the days that's in the week  
I dearly love but one day,  
And that's the day that comes betwixt  
A Saturday and Monday.

-Henry Carey

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.  
Thursday  
January 28, 2015



### "THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME"

O what is Jehovah El Shaddai to me?  
My Lord, God and Savior, Immanuel, He;  
My Prophet, Priest, Sacrifice, Altar and Lamb;  
Judge, Advocate, Surety and Witness, I AM;  
My Peace and my Life, my Truth and my Way;  
My Leader, my Teacher, my Hope and my Stay;  
Redeemer and Ransom, Atonement and Friend;  
He's Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End.

-Rev. John H. Sammis

## FOOD PANTRY AT MABC

While we do not have a regular give-away food program at MABC, we do have a good pantry that is used to meet the needs of anyone who finds themselves without enough food for their families. We especially like to help those who might not be served by other organizations or are friends and/or family of our members. Please feel free to refer anyone you know to Connie Ellsworth if there is a need.

The Pantry can always use the brief list below. Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry to the hungry!

Laundry soap, shampoo, bath soap.

Paper products: toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, Kleenex tissues.

Tuna, peanut butter, jams/jellies.

Soup, canned fruits, canned vegetables, crackers.

Baby products: diapers, baby wipes, baby wash soap.



## SEEKING THE BEST

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing - that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

-Fred Rogers

## ALWAYS DOING A NEW THING

In 2015, scientists discovered more than 18,000 new species - some ancient and extinct, others contemporary. They include a cart-wheeling spider; fossils of a "feathered dinosaur"; a beautiful sea slug that photographs in brilliant blues, reds and golds; a Christmas-colored plant that grows in near isolation in Mexico; and a puffer-fish whose males make intricate seafloor "crop circles" as spawning nests.

Such discoveries - regardless of how old or new the species are - demonstrate the ongoing creativity of God, who both does new things and gives people new abilities to discover them.

Recently, we began a new church year with Advent. At Christmas, God did a new thing by becoming human. Now we launch into a new calendar year, in which scientists will surely discover *more* new creatures. The newness all around us reminds us that God is always doing a new thing in *our* lives, too!

## BIBLE QUIZ

According to the Gospel of John, which disciples led others to Jesus, and whom did they lead?

- A. Matthew led Judas.
- B. Andrew led Simon-Peter.
- C. James led John.
- D. Philip led Nathanael.
- E. All of the above.
- F. B and D



Be **joyful** in hope,  
**Patient** in affliction,  
**Faithful** in prayer

Romans 12:12, NIV

**Annual  
Business Meeting**


**7:00 p.m.  
Thursday,  
January 28, 2016**



**MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
The Reverend Nikey Keels, Transitional Pastor  
203 S. Michigan Ave  
Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
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**Answers to Bible Quiz:  
F (See John 1:40-42, 45FF)**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday and "Taking Down the Greens"  Annual Reports are due	4  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	5	6  Rehearsals	7  4:30 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 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	15	19
17 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Team mtg.	18 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	19 February newsletter articles due	20 Rehearsals	21 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	22	23
24	25 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	26	27 Rehearsals	28 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team  7:00 p.m. Annual Business Meeting  	29	30
31	<b>Sunday's at MABC</b> 9:30 a.m. Church School 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Fellowship			<b>Wednesday Choir Rehearsals</b> 6:30 p.m. Belle Aire Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir		

# *Happy Birthday to You!*



03 Jennifer Morris  
07 James Smith  
07 Bayleigh Larkin  
08 Devin Ballien  
10 Shirley Yancer  
15 Shannon Ferrell  
18 Daytona King  
20 Lila Larkin  
21 Cody Tuck  
21 Connor Tuck  
21 Linda Wieferich  
22 Hunter Parks  
27 Sharon Mason  
20 Sarah Ferrell  
30 Jim Lewis  
30 Vivian Settle  
30 David Hamilton  
31 Chloe Tuck

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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.