



# The Beacon Newsletter

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE And CHURCH PICNIC

10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, July 10, 2016

### 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



### 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

**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)

### 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

Dear Congregation,

As your Finance Team leader, it is necessary that I communicate with the congregation from time to time about the financial health and status of the church. This is an extremely sensitive subject and difficult to address. On one hand, our purpose here is to be a people of God, to spread the Gospel, to be disciples of Christ. On the other hand, any organization, no matter what form it takes, can only be functional by being diligent and responsible with the resources God has provided.

Although we as a people of God are responsible with the resources he provides, we do not hoard resources and yet we do not overspend resources. It is important for you, as a member of the Body of Christ, know the struggles we face. Due to the decline in attendance over the last ten years, we can no longer meet our present needs. We are able to operate on a contribution of income that is being provided by our endowments and general offerings from you.

As I have said in previous Annual Reports, we can no longer sustain expenditures beyond our means. Here is when it becomes sensitive. Some people are encouraged by gentle reminders to give as much as they can, while others say, 'Here we go again...they're asking for more money'. How do you find the middle ground? You don't.

So here it is. After all necessary costs have been reduced to a bare minimum; we are still in a heavy deficit situation. Even with our endowments, we are not meeting the financial necessities anymore. The endowments will be used more heavily overtime and eventually will be gone. Once that happens, there will be no resources left to keep the church doors opened. Preparations will need to be made prior to this happening. It is obvious that this affects our pastoral search as well. Please be in personal and spiritual preparation for this.

My hope and prayers are that God will turn this around. In the meantime, the Finance Team will begin to meet more frequently to address the actions needed for the future. Please consider these words and think about what you can do to be a part of change for our future. Please be in daily prayer about this. I welcome any suggestions.

In His Service

Jim Garn  
Finance Team Chairperson



P S A L M 138:8

THE LORD WILL FULFILL HIS PURPOSE FOR ME.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD THANK YOU

Dear Members of MABC

Thank you for your generous support with the scholarship award. This financial support will help me complete my goal of earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. With your help I know I will go far with my educational journey.

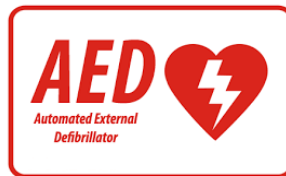
Thank you,  
Devin Ballien

### LOVE'S FREEDOM

Love is the power to grant freedom without desiring to limit or inhibit its exercise. It is the power to give freedom without any will to take it back. And it is only Omnipotence that can refrain absolutely from trespassing upon freedom. Only God can give and not take back ... [God] suffers within himself the entire consequence of allowing man absolute freedom. That is his love ...

Thus, the existence of evil and suffering in the world is a proof, not that God is either good but powerless, or all powerful but not good. On the contrary, it is a proof that God is both loving and omnipotent. Only absolute love could grant unhindered freedom, and only omnipotence can endure the operation of that freedom.

-D.R. Davies



MABC has received an AED/CPR (Automated External Defibrillator) through a grant from Michigan Cardiology Institute Post #3. It is located in the entrance to the sanctuary through the double doors. Cheryl (Sherry) Ellsworth and Jody James have been certified in its use. Should the need arise, please contact Cheryl or Jody

### HELP NEEDED

When I've taken sacred vows -baptism, marriage, ordination or as part of a congregation committing to support the just-baptized or new teachers - I've felt genuine gratitude for words such as these in the ceremony: "May God, who gives you the will to make these promises, also give you the power to perform them." I'm relieved God doesn't leave me on my own to fulfill what is easier said than done.

Adults who guide youngsters can follow God's lead by committing to this kind of help. For example, my young son often declares, "*I promise!*" about a requested behavior. He means it, but when distractions arise or energy sags, when he's hungry or tired or frustrated, when the task feels overwhelming ... he needs help obeying or delivering on his promise. As a parent, I can say, "Let's do it together," or "How about setting the timer and doing the job in 10 minutes?" or "Afterward, we can play."

God doesn't leave us to rely on our own power. Likewise, adults can pledge inwardly to children: "May I, who have motivated you to promise this, also help you perform it."

Heidi Mann



## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE and CHURCH PICNIC MABC PARKING LOT

Sunday, July 10, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

- Following the worship service, we will have a picnic.
- Dress casually, bring a dish to pass, a lawn chair and your own drinks. Meat, buns, and condiments will be provided.
- Pray for a sunny day!

**SEE YOU THERE!**

### **SUMMER WORSHIP MUSIC**

Your church needs your help this summer. If you are interested in offering your musical talent during the worship service, now is the time. Whether you sing, play an instrument or both, your talent will be greatly appreciated.

There is a sign-up sheet on the board in the music room. Just put your name in any Sunday that is available and/or see me.

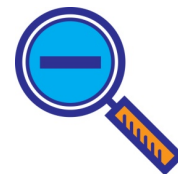
If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with me after church, send an email to [rickertmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rickertmusic@gmail.com), or give me a call at 989-598-4132. Thank you.

John Rickert,  
MABC Music Director



### **ZOOM OUT**

On a computer screen, images can be magnified to show tiny details and make text easier to read. In the process, however, the “big picture” is lost. After checking various aspects of a project closely, it’s a good idea to “zoom out” again to be sure everything still looks as it should.



Likewise, it’s easy to fixate on the tiny details of our lives (especially flaws in ourselves and others). We tend to enlarge our problems far beyond their actual size and totally miss problems taking a toll elsewhere. We may also forget the beautiful “big picture” of God’s care encompassing us. After tending to life’s details, it’s important to take a broader view to see whether our up-close perceptions hold true when we gaze on the work as a whole.

“Help us ‘zoom out,’ oh God,” prays Joshua DuBois in *The President’s Devotional* (HarperOne). “Widen our perspective and extend our horizon, so that we can more fully know your purpose this day, and every day.”





MABC is 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.

### DESTINATION DEVOTIONS

Planning a summer trip? Take along a scripture passage befitting your vacation to use for devotions and prayer time (all NIV below):

- **In the mountains:** “The mountains and hills will burst into song before you” (Isaiah 55:12).
- **At a lake, perhaps on a fishing trip:** “They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people’” (Matthew 4:18-19).
- **Near an ocean or river:** “Let the sea resound ... let the rivers clap their hands” (Psalm 98:7-8).
- **In the desert:** “They looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud” (Exodus 16:10).
- **In the woods:** “Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD ... That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season” (Psalm 1:1-3).
- **In the flatlands:** “My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me ... I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:34-35).
- **On a “staycation” close to home:** “Love the LORD your God ... These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road ... Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

### THE GIFT OF GRACE

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don’t be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It’s for you I created the universe. I love you.

There’s only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach and take it is a gift too.

-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

### MABC Prayer Team

The MABC Prayer Team gathers every Thursday, beginning at 4:30 p.m. to pray individually and corporately for the needs of our nations, our community, our church, our families, our friends and any other needs the LORD lays upon our hearts. Please join us as we discern the will of God.



Eagles came to symbolize the Resurrection thanks to ancient legends that they renewed their youth, plumage or eyesight by flying near the sun, then diving into water. The eagle’s upward movement made it a symbol of Jesus’ ascension. John the Evangelist is represented by an eagle, for his “soaring” description of Christ’s divinity. God’s care is likened to an eagle in Bible verses such as Exodus 19:4, “I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself” (ESV).

**QUARTERLY  
BUSINESS MEETING  
7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, July 28, 2016**



**EARTHLY PRAYERS**

In English translation, the Psalms often sound smooth and polished, sonorous with Elizabethan rhythms and diction. As literature, they are beyond compare. But as *prayer*, as the utterances of men and women passionate for God in moments of anger and praise and lament, these translations miss something. ... As *prayers* they are not quite right.

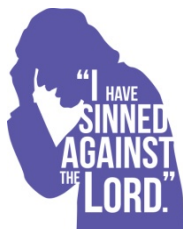
The Psalms in Hebrew are earthly and rough. They are not genteel. They are not the prayers of nice people, couched in cultured language. ... Only as we develop raw honesty and detailed thoroughness in our praying do we become whole, truly human in Jesus Christ, who also prayed the Psalms.

-Eugene H. Peterson's introduction  
to Psalms, in *The Message*

**BIBLE QUIZ**

Who said to the prophet Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD"?

- A. Reuben, for selling Joseph into slavery
- B. Jacob, for deceiving Isaac and stealing his brother's birthright
- C. Rahab, a prostitute
- D. David, considered Israel's greatest king.



*The answer may be found on the calendar page.*

**"PRAYER AT SUNRISE"**

On greater Maker of this thy great sun,  
Give me the strength this one day's race to run,  
Fill me with light, fill me with sun-like strength,  
Fill me with joy to rob the day its length.  
Light from within, light that will outward shine,  
Strength to make strong some weaker heart than mine,  
Joy to make glad each soul that feels its touch;  
Great Father of the sun, I ask this much.

-James Weldon Johnson



- Sunday, July 10. Outdoor Church Service and Picnic in the churchparking lot.
- Thursday, July 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Quarterly Business Meeting
- Church Camping Day at River Country Campground, Evart, MI. A fun day for everyone - Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>
- September 11, 2016. RALLY DAY  
Jim Hendricks Christian Piano Concert at MABC beginning at 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.,  
Quarterly Business Meeting.
- December 11. John & Kate Music Duo

**CITIZENS OF HEAVEN**

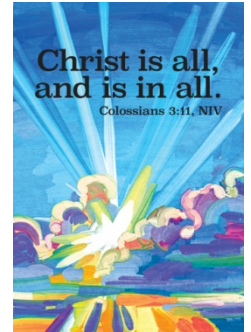
Keep yourself as a pilgrim and a stranger here in this world, as one to whom the world's

business counts but little. Keep your heart free,  
and always lift it up to God.

-Thomas á Kempis



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday		5	6	7  4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	8	9
10 Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic at MABC	11  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	12	13	14  4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	15	16
17	18  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	19 August newsletter articles due	20	21  4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	22	23
24	25 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	26	27	28 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team  7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Mtg.	29	30
31						



**OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**And CHURCH PICNIC at MABC**  
**Sunday, July 10, 2016**



**SUMMER WORSHIP AT MABC**

**9:00 a.m. Church School**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Answer to Bible Quiz: D (See 2 Samuel 12:13)

# *Happy Birthday to You!*



## **BIRTHDAYS IN JULY**

05 Laure Smith  
08 Becky Geidans  
08 Adam Ballien  
08 Cameron Ballien  
10 Mary Larkin  
14 Carla Young  
14 Terry Ellsworth  
14 Alex Seno  
15 Zachary Cooper  
18 Candace Larkin  
19 Vesta Carroll  
20 Jessica Lemmer  
21 Blake Casey  
23 Kearstyn Ellsworth

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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.