

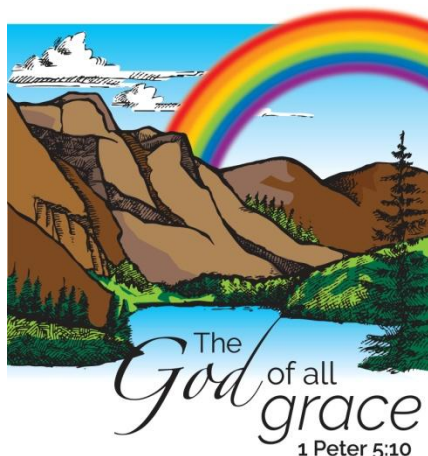


#### OUR STAFF

Pastor:  
Reverend Carol McCleary  
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: Cheryl Zinz  
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.



A Message from

*Pastor Carol*



Dear Members and Friends,

On Palm Sunday we had the privilege of witnessing four teenagers and one adult publicly profess their faith in Christ and be baptized. My faith was strengthened as I met with these candidates and heard their stories of coming to faith in Christ, and I trust your heart was encouraged as well as you witnessed their act of obedience.

A baptism is a glorious event in the life of the church and in the life of the person being baptized. I thought I would take this opportunity to answer some questions I've been asked over the years about what Baptists believe about this important practice.

### **Why do Christians practice baptism?**

Christians practice baptism because Jesus was baptized, and he commanded his followers to baptize as well. Jesus' final words to his disciples, recorded in Matthew 28:19 are: *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...."* In the Baptist tradition, baptism is considered an ordinance - something we do in obedience to the command of Christ.

### **Why don't Baptists baptize babies?**

Since Baptists believe that baptism represents a commitment to follow Christ, we believe that baptism should be reserved for those who are old enough to make a mature profession of faith in Christ. This conforms to the New Testament pattern of people coming to faith in Christ and then being baptized.

### **Why do Baptists practice immersion (dunking people under the water) rather than sprinkling or pouring?**

Baptism symbolizes dying to sin and rising to new life in Jesus Christ. Baptists believe that immersion captures that symbolism better than other modes of baptism.

### **Does baptism save us?**

To this question, Baptists answer a resounding NO. God is the one who saves. When we trust Christ as our Savior, God forgives our sin and comes to dwell within us by His Holy Spirit. This inner transformation is the work of God. Baptists like to say that baptism is "an outward sign of an inward change." Baptism proclaims to the world: "I have decided to follow Jesus."

If you have questions about baptism or are interested in being baptized, please see me. I would love to talk with you more about this important step of obedience.

Faithfully,

Pastor Carol



*Pastor Carol is putting together a Summer series on the book of Psalms. If you have a favorite Psalm or verse from the Psalms that has special meaning for you, please let Pastor know. She would love to hear your story!*

## **MABC FUNERAL POLICY**

Church usage is subject to the approval of the Pastor.  
The Pastor will advise the Worship, Facilities, and Hospitality Teams.

Member is defined in the Church Constitution  
Member's immediate family, i.e.: husband, wife, and children.  
Mother, Father may be included in this policy as members.

### **Fees for use of the church and its facilities will be as follows:**

**Organist:** Minimum of \$100 recommended

**Sanctuary:**  
Inactive and non-members: \$100.00 for sanctuary use

**Social Hall:**  
Inactive and non-members: \$100.00 for social hall use

**Custodian:**  
Members, inactive, and non-members: \$50 custodial fee.

**Note:** The pastor does not charge a fee for funeral services. However, compensation for funeral services is not included in the pastor's salary. It is customary for the family to provide an honorarium for the pastor. Honorariums typically range between \$100 - \$200, but there is no expected amount. Funeral homes often include the honorarium as part of their overall costs; in cases where they do not it is appropriate to give the check directly to the pastor. Any questions or concerns about the honorarium can be discussed with the pastor.

**Luncheons:**  
The church social hall may be used for funeral luncheons, upon request. However, the food, table service, and drinks would need to be provided by an outside caterer. Check with the church office for a list of local caterers. Arrangements with the caterer must be made by the family. Checks should be made to Michigan Avenue Baptist Church for above services rendered.

**Note:** Outside pastors and organists require approval by the pastor and/or Church Council.

*Approved by Church Council March 2017*



**Thursday, May 4, 2017**

**Our theme this year is For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us! Taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, "O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God..."**

**As the 2017 National Day of Prayer on May 4th approaches, thousands of individuals, churches, and communities will be working to rally millions of Christians to once again heed this call!**



**Scholarship Apps**

If you are going to school in the fall and are a member of MABC, you may be eligible for a scholarship from the church. You may pick up your application and information about the scholarship program at the

back of the sanctuary or from the church office. Scholarship applications are due in the church office no later than Sunday, May 7, 2017.

## THANK YOU

Dear MABC.

Thank you all for your prayers and visits during Mom's illness. Thanks also to all who came and supported us at her memorial service. You really do show the love of Christ!

-The Ferrell Family



## WILLING RECIPIENTS

A young graduate longed for a certain sports car and knew his dad could afford it. So on the big day, he was infuriated to receive instead a leather-bound, embossed Bible. He threw it down and left for good.

Years later, after his father died, the son entered his father's study with sorrow and regret. Sorting through belongings, he found the gift and this highlighted verse: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11, ESV). Suddenly something dropped from the back of the Bible: a key with a tag from the dealer of the car he'd wanted long ago. On the tag were his graduation date and the words "Paid in Full."

How often we miss out on God's generous gifts because they come "packaged" differently than we expect! At graduation - and throughout life - may we be open to every gift God bestows on us with a Father's deep love.

**mother's  
DAY**

**SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017**

## A MOTHER'S PRAYER

A.T. Pierson writes that "all true prayer trusts God to give his own answer, not in our way or time, or even to our own expressed desire, but rather to his own unutterable groaning within us which he can interpret better than we."

As an example, Pierson points to Monica, the mother of the man who came to be known as Saint Augustine. Although Monica "pleaded with God that her dissolute son might not go to Rome, that sink of iniquity," he went anyway. While there, he met Ambrose, bishop of Milan, who led him to the Christian faith. Saint Augustine is considered one of the most important church fathers.

"God fulfilled the mother's desire while denying her request," Pierson writes. How might God be meeting your desires, even amid what appear to be unanswered prayers?

*Please note that Potluck Sunday has been moved to Sunday, May 21.*

## PRAYER TEAM

Every Thursday the Prayer Team gathers at 4:30 p.m. to offer prayer both 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.

**PRAYER WORKS!**  
Pray without ceasing!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

**9:00 a.m.**  
**Saturday, May 13, 2017**



The men of MABC are invited to this time of good food and Christian fellowship. See you there!

## "JESUS, STAND AMONG US"

Jesus, stand among us,  
In your risen power;  
Let this time of worship  
Be a hallowed hour.  
Breathe the Holy Spirit  
Into every heart;  
Bid the fears and sorrows  
From each soul depart.  
Thus with quickened footsteps  
We pursue our way,  
Watching for the dawning  
Of eternal day.



-William Pennefather

- Faith is like Wi-Fi: It's invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need."

-Unknown

# Notes From the Music Director

## CHOIRS ARE TAKING A BREAK

The Latham Burrows Choir and the Belle Aire Handbell Choir are taking a break for the summer months. We will be looking for new voices come the fall. During the summer months why not think about joining the Latham Burrows Choir. We'd love to have you join us.

## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you goes to the Latham Burrows Choir, Belle Aire Handbell Choir, and those who offered A Gift of Music throughout the year. You've brought much joy and ministry through your gift of music.

## SUMMER MUSIC

Your church needs your help this summer. If you are interested in offering your musical talent, now is the time. Beginning in June, we will have many summer Sundays to fill with special music during the worship service. Whether you sing, play an instrument or both, your talent will be greatly appreciated.

There will be 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, John Rickert.

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







7:00 p.m. - Thursday, May 18, 2017

### DECISIONS MATTER

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on the victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bidgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.

-C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

### FILL YOUR BUCKET!

David Brooks, author of *The Road to Character* (Random House), created a moral bucket list in an effort to develop "eulogy virtues" - the traits praised at people's funerals. Qualities such as humility, dependence and energizing love offer more joy than any "resume virtues" ever will, he writes.

"There's joy in freely chosen obedience to organizations, ideas and people. There's joy in mutual stumbling. There's an aesthetic joy we feel when we see morally good action, when we run across someone who is quiet and humble and good, when we see that however old we are, there's lots to do ahead."

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES



**ABWM JUNE CONFERENCE**  
June 2-4, 2017

*Please see Jackie Anjakos  
for further information*



**The following people were baptized on Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday, of this year. We are happy to welcome them in their profession and baptism of faith.**

**Blake Casey** is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Meridian Junior High School. Blake enjoys riding his dirt bike, doing things with friends and playing sports. Blake chose John 3:16 as his baptismal verse because it reminds him why God sent his Son and because it was his great-grandpa's favorite verse.

**Evelyn Hall** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at White Pine Middle School in Saginaw. Evelyn plays soccer and volleyball. Evelyn selected Psalm 62:6 as her baptismal verse: "*He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress I shall not be shaken.*"

**Denice Papesh** is a life-long Michigander. She and her husband Ted have two sons. Right now she is having fun raising baby chicks. Philippians 4:13 holds special meaning for Denice. She says, "I know that I can do anything I need to do through Christ."

**Amaya Reed** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Swan Valley Middle School. She enjoys riding her Segway and rock climbing with Evelyn. She likes to learn instruments and make music. Amaya chose Revelation 21:4 as her baptismal verse because "I believe that when you are baptized you become a new you." *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*"

**Connor Tuck** is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Freeland Elementary School. Connor enjoys sports and playing outside. Connor selected John 3:16 as his baptismal verse because "it tells about Jesus and how he died for our sins."

**POTLUCK SUNDAY**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday, May 21, 2017**

Bring your favorite dish to pass and come to share Christian fellowship and great food. There will be green bowls on the table to contribute financially to offset paper cost. See you at the potluck!

**RESTORING THE BALANCE**

In *Springs in the Valley* (Zondervan), pioneer missionary Lettie Cowman tells of a traveler making a trek through an African jungle. Native tribesmen who helped carry loads walked rapidly on the day one, covering a great distance. Yet the next morning they refused to move. When the frustrated traveler asked the tribesmen why they were just sitting, they said they'd gone too fast on the first day and "were now waiting for their souls to catch up to their bodies."

Cowman writes, "This whirling rushing life which so many of us live does for us what that march did for those tribesmen. The difference: They know they needed to restore life's balance; too often we do not."

God promises rest for our soul *and* body, so don't overlook the importance of physical restoration. Only by taking time to recharge can you be an effective laborer in God's kingdom.

**MEMORIAL DAY**



**Thank You For your service**

**2017 CAMP LAKE LOUISE**

Are you thinking about attending Camp Lake Louise this summer? Information will soon be ready. They are putting together a wonderful God-filled program for all ages. Church scholarships are available too! Check out their website at [www.camlakelouise.com](http://www.camlakelouise.com) or see Cheryl Ellsworth for further information.



**CAMP**  
**REGISTRATION**

**"WHY DON'T STREETLAMPS HAVE EARS?"**

"Mom!" my 3-year-old self hissed at 6:00 a.m. "Why don't streetlamps have ears?" My mom later wrote (in a 1974 article) that she peered at me sleepily, silently asking a question of her own: "Seriously?!"

That year I mused – and exasperated – my parents with countless questions: "Why did sister leave one shoe here and one there?" "If God is up in heaven, how did he make the grass?" Why are dandelions yellow?" To that query, Mom replied, "I guess that's how God wanted them" – and wrote, "In our house, we let God answer many of our questions."

I still have questions: Why is my dynamic young friend dying of cancer? Why are a parent's own children sometimes hard to love? How can we end war, poverty, sex trafficking? Should we donate money or save for college? How, exactly, does salvation work? Sometimes science or professionals are God's instruments to answer my questions. Sometimes answers come quietly to my heart – and sometimes they don't come at all.

Faith doesn't mean never questioning. It means trusting enough to ask, even when a question seems silly or pointless. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for teaching me by your loving example that God always welcomes my questions.

-Heidi Mann

## ?? Bible Quiz ??

Acts 17 describes Paul speaking about God to the people of Athens in front of — incredibly! — a site that still exists. What is that site?

- A. The Panathenaic Stadium
- B. The Areopagus
- C. The Acropolis and the Parthenon
- D. The Temple of Hephaestus



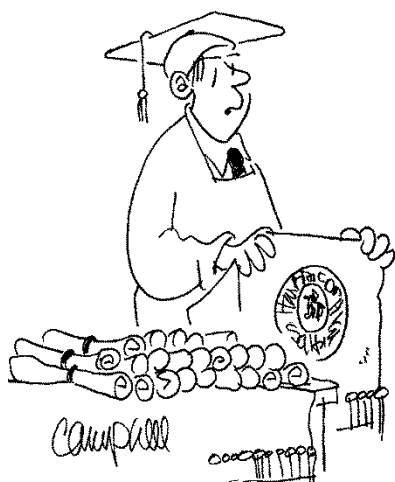
Answer: B (See Acts 17:22.)

### BEGINNING ... and BEGINNING AGAIN

During the coming weeks, as you or loved ones celebrate graduation, remember it isn't a closed door, an end or a farewell. Instead, it's an entryway threshold, a beginning, a hello - and one of many such opportunities that mark life.

"God wants us to know that life is a series of beginnings, not endings, just as graduations are not terminations but commencements," writes Bernie Siegel. "Creation is an ongoing process, and when we create a perfect world where love and compassion are shared by all, suffering will cease."

Of course, we can "create a perfect world" only by letting God guide our actions. So, dear graduates, may you partner with God to meet suffering with love, kindness and compassion through all the new beginning of your life!



"You'll never forget your high school experience, though grades indicate you've tried."

### MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Before pursuing a career as a Christian singer, Ryan Stevenson was a paramedic, encountering trauma and "true brokenness." When he received a 911 call about a woman struck by lightning, Stevenson didn't think she'd survive. But thanks in part to his efforts, the woman made a full recovery - and later struck up a friendship with him.

One day the woman asked Stevenson, "If you could be doing anything with your life, what would it be?" His answer? Music. She gave him a check for \$2,000, and he used it to cut an EP, which led to a record deal. Through Stevenson's chart-topping song "Eye of the Storm," he wants to remind listeners that God "hasn't forgotten about us. He's still paying attention to us no matter how horrible things might seem. He's in control."



### COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP

May 7 Communion Sunday  
May 14 Sharon Schultz  
May 21 Becky Geidans  
May 28 Nikki Anjakos-Seno

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Month of June

One Great Hour of Sharing  
And Regional Ministries Offerings

#### June 2-4

Annual ABW Conference

#### June 4

Communion & Pentecost Sunday  
(Remember to wear RED)

#### June 10

Men's Breakfast

#### June 18

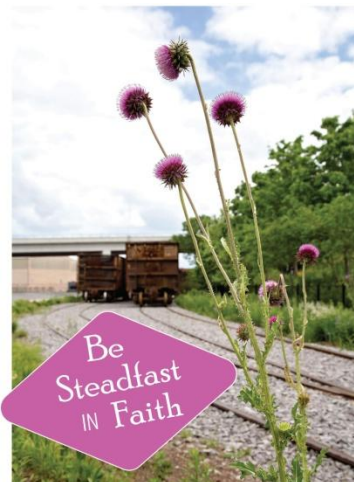
Father's Day

Return to Summer Worship Schedule

#### June 22

Church Council





MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH  
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	2	3  6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4 National Day of Prayer  4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	5	6
7  COMMUNION SUNDAY	8  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	9	10  6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	11  4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	12	13 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
14  Mother's Day	15  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	16	17  6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team  7:00 p.m. Church Council Mtg	19	20
21  Teacher Recognition Potluck Sunday	22  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	23	24  6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	25  4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	26	27
28	29  Memorial Day  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	30	31  6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			

**SUNDAYS AT MABC**  
**9:30 a.m. Church School for All**  
**10:45 a.m. Worship Service**  
**12:00 p.m. Fellowship**

# Happy Birthday



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If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 793-8555 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.