



# Newsletter

SEPTEMBER - 2022

Greetings!

## A Mixed Salad

I've really been into eating salads lately. It's always a production. Of course, there's some type of lettuce, then I add meat, cucumbers, tomatoes, feta cheese, sunflower seeds, garbanzo beans, a dash of garlic or ginger, maybe a hard boiled egg, and some salad dressing. It's really good, at least I think so.

But what would happen if when I mix it all together, the salad started to complain?! I know, I've eaten too many salads, but work with me for a bit. :)

The cucumber is angry the tomato is too red, wondering why can't you be more green like me. The lettuce thinks the cucumber is way too rigid. You should become softer, more flexible like me.

The tomato thinks the ginger/garlic is too pungent. The garbanzo beans join the fray, yelling at the feta cheese. Finally, the meat doesn't appreciate the salad dressing taking away or adding to it's already tasty flavor.

Yes, I'm well aware that salads don't talk, but if they did . . . . But humans do.

We all have our likes and dislikes, our gifts and talents and so on. Paul spoke about this, not in terms of salad, but of people. In Romans 12, Paul addressed this very reality. In Romans 12:12-13, he wrote - - - *12 For just as the body is one and has*

*many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

Paul's telling us that we're all part of one body. There's many members, but we all work together for the good of the church, the kingdom. That's who we are called to be at FBC as well. We reach up to God, we look inward, maybe even reaching inward to change our hearts, then we look outwards and reach out to others. That's the church.

In order to accomplish this mission, we need those who are the garlic, ginger and feta. But we also need the lettuce and the meat and the tomato and whatever else you want to add. That's the church. Sometimes it's a strange combination - - - a mishmash, a hodgepodge of humanity who become **ONE** in the name of Jesus Christ. We do it for His glory and in the process it changes who we are, and it changes the world.

In my opinion, a salad of just lettuce would be bland. It's the combination of ingredients that make this fun for me to eat. And when mixed in the right way, ingredients don't suppress the others. They bring out the best in each other. And that's the church.

Some of you resonate with my salad, others are yuck! No way! That's fine. You have your likes and dislikes. Excellent!! But the church is made up of all this and more, so we may bring the glory to God.

This week read from [Romans 12](#). It's such a great chapter. Paul talks about spiritual gifts and the church, and then he talks about the very real and tangible ways the church is called to be the church. It's through our actions. I hope you are blessed today and through September!!

Pastor Michael

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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Hello there,

My name is Elida Stillwell. Many of you may also know me by my nickname- Lidy. I have the privilege of serving you as the new church secretary. As our previous church secretary Kelli took time off from her new job to train me and introduce me to this new position, we took a few moments to look over some of the past church directories. We came across a directory with no year printed on it. We guessed its year of print anywhere from early 1970s to 1980s (we later found it was from 1975). In this directory was a church member by the name of Mrs. Milburn Stillwell. In the less formal print of today, it would have read “Josephine Stillwell.”

I was so excited to find this picture because my husband (Jason) had told me his grandmother had been a member of this church years ago. She had taken Jason to Bible school here (same church family but in the old church location) and saved his attendance record for years even though he was too young to remember it. He had told me how his grandmother prayed for him daily and he has memories of her sitting in her rocking chair every evening reading the Bible after the day’s work was finished. I truly believe one reason our family follows Christ and serves God today is because of this dear lady’s prayers years ago.

2 Timothy 1:5 says “I am reminded of your sincere faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. And I know that the same faith continues strong in you.” Timothy was not saved because of his grandmother or mother, but the faith they modeled for him set the groundwork for Timothy to develop his own sincere faith and relationship with God.

As all of us are looking for ways to grow in God and make a difference in a world that needs Jesus, it is encouraging to see reminders of those who have gone before and made a difference. I never got to meet this precious lady and Josephine passed away before her grandson got saved. She did not get to meet the family that he is raising, but her faith set something in motion that will last through eternity. We do not know which things we spend our time and resources on that will outlast us, but as we choose to put Christ first, God can use even the simple things to make a big impact for Him.



ALL-CHURCH  
*Potluck*

JOIN US FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



September 11 - After morning worship

Bring your favorite covered dish or dessert (or both!)  
and enjoy a great time with the church family.

**New Sermon Series Beginning September 18**

Pastor Michael will begin a new series about who we are called to be as a church. We will look at the who, what, where, why, and when of the church and how it involves each of us. Discover yourself as an important member of the church today!





# Praise on the Prairie



**Sunday, Sept. 18th - 5:30pm**

**Bring your lawn chair, a picnic dinner,  
and come enjoy special music and a  
hymn sing led by George and Joni Killian!**



## **SALT (Seasoned Adults Learning Together) Society is going on an outing!**

September 20th, we will meet at the church and take the church van to Jacobs Family Orchard in New Castle. For a small \$6.00 fee, there is a tour of the orchard and a demonstration of apple cider making. Purchases can be made in their market. We will not be planning a meal with this event, but if you would like to drive separately, there are dining options.

Please let Judy Swisher or Beth Thompson know how many are in your party. We will make reservations by September 15th. Hope to see you!

**Committees Meeting - Wednesday, September 21, 6:30pm**

All those on committees are invited to attend a meeting at the church to talk about a new vision and thoughts for the church. Please plan to attend!



### Calling all Singers, Ringers, and Worship Bringers!

It's time to kick off our Fall ministries in music. Worship Choir will resume rehearsals on **Thursday, September 8, at 7:00-8:00pm** in the sanctuary. Anyone who has a passion for worship and can carry a tune is welcome. Whether you are a regular member, are returning from a season away, or have never sung in choir, come and join

us!

Praise team rehearsals continue on **Thursday nights at 6:15-7:00pm**. If you are hiding your light as a singer or instrumentalist and would like to shine, let George know. We have a place for you, too.

New this fall is our Worship Bell Choir, also starting rehearsals on **Thursday, September 8, at 5:30-6:15pm**. Anyone interested in joining this new group, please let George know, or just come to the first rehearsal. If you can ring a bell and count to four, come and ring a little more!

**See you on September 8th!**

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This fall is shaping up to be an exciting time for Alexandria First Baptist Church.

On September 18th, Pastor Michael will be starting a new sermon series, but I will let him tell you more about that when he is ready! Last Sunday, George announced that choir would be starting up soon. He also announced that we would be starting a hand bell choir. Wednesday evening services will be starting up again as well. The marketing committee has been hard at work with some special things planned for September. You will not want to miss a Sunday! A new committee will soon be formed to concentrate on church safety to further some of the work that has already been done. In just a few weeks we will be looking for people to fill open spots on all of our boards.

All of these groups starting or re-starting, along with Sunday School classes, SALT Society, serving on boards, helping in the kitchen, or helping in the nursery all have one thing in common and that is making a connection with others. In Ephesians 4:16, Paul compares the church to a body, where each part of the body is needed. A commentary I read recently helps make my point. "Participating in church and offering your time and talents will improve and strengthen both you and the people around you."

Let me encourage you all to find something within the church to further your commitment and help strengthen the entire body.

## SERVICES



### Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

### Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study  
with Debbie Deutsch

### Wednesday

6:30pm: Kids and Teens  
High Point (K-3rd)  
Crew 456 (4th-6th)  
Impact (7th-12th)

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