

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Newsletter

JANUARY - 2023

Greetings!

### **New Year . . . New You?**

Can you believe we've entered 2023. It's going to take awhile before I stop writing 2022. As we move into this new year, what are you hoping for, expecting? We all have different hopes, dreams and expectations. Some have had a banner year, while others can't wait for this new year, hoping it changes.

There's always one thing that we can control and that's ourselves! As I consider this year's sermons and plans for the church, I want us to be excited about Jesus. With that in mind, I'll be preaching about being a fan or follower of Jesus for the first 6 weeks, then we'll look at the words of Jesus to the churches in the book of Revelations 2-3. Which will amazingly bring us to Easter on April 9.

For now, I want you to look at the Fruits of the Spirit, from Galatians 5:22-23. I believe they are all predicated on love, the first of the 9 fruits. Maybe this can be part of your plan to grow in 2023. Maybe it's to pray for God to work these into the way you live your life and how you demonstrate who Christ is.

I will grow in **love** as I allow the Spirit to transform my **attitude**.  
I will grow in **joy** as I allow the Spirit to direct my **emotions**.  
I will grow in **peace** as I allow the Spirit to guard my **mind**.  
I will grow in **patience** as I allow the Spirit to govern my **reactions**.  
I will grow in **kindness** as I allow the Spirit to inspire my **behavior**.  
I will grow in **goodness** as I allow the Spirit to purify my **heart**.  
I will grow in **faithfulness** as I allow the Spirit to strengthen my **character**.  
I will grow in **gentleness** as I allow the Spirit to soften my **thoughts**.  
I will grow in **self-control** as I allow the Spirit to subdue my **desires**.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” - Galatians 5:22-23

Pastor Michael

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Organizational Meeting

There will be an organizational meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, January 9th in the sanctuary for all those who are on boards or committees. Pastor Michael will speak briefly, then the boards/committees can meet.

### S.A.L.T. Society Luncheon

We will meet on Tuesday, January 17 for a soup pitch in at 12:00 noon.

We hope you can make it!

## IMPACT

High Point, Crew 456, and Impact will resume their regular Wednesday night meetings on January 11th!

## SERVICES



### **Sunday**

10:30am: Worship Celebration

6:00pm: Impact (7th-12th Grades) meeting at different homes

### **Tuesday**

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

S.A.L.T. Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month

### **Wednesday**

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting (first Wed. of month), Bible Study (remaining Wednesdays)

6:30pm: Kids and Youth Activities

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **Looking Backwards and Looking Forwards!**

As we on the board of Deacons look back over 2022, we do so with excitement over what has happened last year with some old programs restarting (Salt Society), some programs continuing (Back to School Rally,) and new programs starting (Handbell Choir), just to give examples.

There was activity from all over the church, doing the work of the church. We now have a new church logo and everyone has a matching T-shirt. I am hoping we can plan a Sunday this summer when we can all wear our T-shirts to promote our church unity.

As we head into 2023, we have to wonder what will happen in our church, what direction we will take, how we will further the work of Alexandria First Baptist Church. Maybe you have an idea that is something you would be excited about, that others might also be excited about... Come help make it happen! The one thing we know for sure, we want to move forward and want to always guard against maintaining the status quo. Regardless, we invite you to come every Sunday, invite others, check on those whom you haven't seen at church for a while, and when you see visitors at church make sure they are greeted and made to feel welcome.

Our motto for 2022 continues in 2023: Reach up, reach in, reach out.

Happy New Year!



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