IDEAS FOR EVERY AGE GROUP TO SHOW APPRECIATION

PRESCHOOL / CHILDREN IDEAS
Bring a pair of socks that represent your family and that will fit the pastor or someone in the pastor’s family. Write kind notes on paper strips and roll them up in the socks. Tie each sock roll with a ribbon. Pray over your pair of socks and attach a note “I prayed for you to be blessed the day you wore these for the first time.” Put them in a basket or giant paper sock that says... “Pastor, you bless our socks off!”

Create a poster with a giant heart outlined on it. Ask the children to use the ink pad on their thumb and press it on the heart shape. Add the child's name under the thumbprint if you want. Use different colored ink pads to give color to the poster. Write or attach the words, “Pastor, Thank You for the godly impression you are making on us.”

YOUTH IDEAS
Provide childcare and/or gift cards for a date night or to a coffee shop, etc.
For a single staff member, do lawn work or help with a home project.
Provide in office help for the month.

YOUNG ADULT IDEAS
Give coupons for child care that the pastor and his wife could “redeem” at their discretion.
Distribute stamped envelopes addressed to the pastor with instructions to write and mail a personal note of encouragement and appreciation to the pastor and/or his wife.

ADULT IDEAS
Take up a collection and buy the pastor and his family a needed appliance or piece of furniture.
Purchase and wear “I Love My Pastor” buttons on a particular Sunday.

SENIOR ADULT IDEAS
Host a card party where senior adults can bring purchased or homemade thank you cards and cards of appreciation for their pastor. Ask them to mention important sermons or spiritual lessons that have impacted their lives.
Deliver baked goods. Ask your pastor’s wife what is your pastor’s favorite cookie or pie. If he is on a special diet, ask what kind of healthy snack he loves to eat. Deliver your goodies in an attractive container, with a special note of appreciation.
Be a grandparent for a day. This wonderful act of appreciation is coordinated by the senior adult leader and the pastor’s wife. Give your pastor and his wife daily get-a-ways throughout the year with childcare and gift cards for dinner and a movie.

ENCOURAGING THE HARVESTER REAPS ETERNAL REWARDS

PASTOR STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH
OCTOBER 2017
Dear Oklahoma Baptists,

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and I am thankful that we have some of the best pastors and ministerial staff in the world right here in Oklahoma. I know from personal experience how much it means to our pastors and staff when church members and congregations express encouragement and appreciation. Please take time to review these ideas and pray how you might be an encouragement to your pastor and staff who labor for the Kingdom day in and day out.

Dr. Anthony Jordan

GET IDEAS FOR YOUR CHURCH AT
WWW.BGCO.ORG/PASTORAPPRECIATION

STRAIGHT FROM THE PASTOR’S MOUTH

We asked several Oklahoma Baptist pastors what would most communicate appreciation from their congregations. This is what they said.

- Encouraging prayer cards from church members.
- I am always given a card with a financial gift on pastor appreciation. I am thankful for both forms of recognition but most important to me is that they remember me and thank me for my service to the church.
- A “younger me” would need monetary affirmation, but present “battle-worn me” would just like sincere notes of encouragement.
- Speaking practically, a paid getaway to a place of beautiful solitude for a time of rest and reflection.
- A gift of time off to spend with my family or perhaps a very short sabbatical with pay.
- A gift that reflects or feeds a pastor’s passion outside of the church, something that could be a part of their personal “down time”.
- Obviously it depends a little on the how long the pastor has been at his church, but simple expressions like gift cards to eat out or maybe a weekend getaway (nothing extravagant) would be appropriate, things that allow a pastor to just spend time with their wife or family.
- I prefer it when individuals make individual gestures as opposed to when a church does something as a whole, a church-wide blanket gesture which comes across as being a “token” response.
- My church hasn’t necessarily done anything during Pastor Appreciation Month as a church in a long time. So maybe for me just the recognition that it is Pastor Appreciation Month might be helpful.
- Nothing says “I love you” like cash. :-)
- Being a pastor is mostly a wonderful blessing for my family, but, at times, it can also be very taxing on them. In light of this, the most meaningful gifts from my church have been things that our whole family can enjoy like a getaway to Branson, tickets to a Thunder game, or gift cards to a family restaurant. It also means a lot to me when the church recognizes my wife along with me. They may not realize just how much I depend on her wisdom, encouragement, and support, but she deserves a lot of the credit for any success I have.
- I would feel appreciated if the church did something for my family, such as giving us a weekend getaway somewhere.