IDEAS FOR EVERY AGE GROUP TO SHOW APPRECIATION

PRE-SCHOOL / 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.
Dear Oklahoma Baptists,

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Celebrate the hard work of your pastor and ministry staff. It doesn’t have to take a lot of time or money to tell your pastor and staff just how much you appreciate them. Please take a few moments to review these ideas to find ways to express encouragement and appreciation to your pastor and church staff. Pray how you might encourage your pastor and staff today.

_But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another._ (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr.
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