

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Pastor Appreciation says more about your church than your pastor. Every church wants to be known as a loving church. One of the most obvious measures of a loving congregation is how they treat their pastor. Here are a few ideas that may be appropriate expressions of appreciation for your pastor, or they may spur your own imagination on to something even more personal.

1. Let your pastor(s) know that you support her/him/them, and that you pray for them daily/weekly. Then actually do it.
2. Apply the truth of your pastor's preaching to specific areas of your life and then say, "Thank You Pastor, for helping me spiritually."
3. Practice **Extravagant Generosity** with words of encouragement to your pastor(s) for their service to God and your congregation.
4. Engage in **Radical Hospitality** by inviting your pastoral family to your next social time with friends or family.
5. Get involved in *Risk-taking Mission and Service* by baby-sitting for your pastor's children, allowing your pastor and their spouse time for a date.
6. Gift cards for restaurants, book stores (Amazon-Kindle, iTunes, Barnes and Noble-Nook), movies, etc., are always appreciated.
7. Organize a small group to care for mowing at the parsonage for one month. This would be particularly appreciated during periods of extra meetings or events.
8. Offer to care for snow removal of the parsonage driveway the first heavy snow of the winter, or maybe the week before and after Christmas.
9. Bring invited guests with you to worship each Sunday during October.
10. Be present at worship each Sunday during October.
11. Volunteer several hours at your local shelter, food bank or youth center in honor of your pastor or local church.
12. Give altar flowers in honor of your pastor or pastoral family.

13. Some congregations accept money during the month of October and present it to their pastor toward the end of October as an “Appreciation Offering”.

14. Donate generously to your local food bank or Advance Special in honor of your pastor.

15. Organize a “pounding” or “pound party”. A “pound party” is an event where each person brings something as a gift, usually that weights about a pound, such as a pound of sugar, a pound of beef, a pound of flour, etc.. This type of event is particularly a blessing for the pastor who is part-time and/or without insurance.

16. Hallmark has an array of cards just for Pastor Appreciation Month.

Can you think of other ways to show your pastor how much you appreciate them?