Preschoolers and children can create handmade cards or crafts and collect snacks to make a snack basket for pastor and staff.

Students might initiate a workday to wash windows, wash cars, or do yard work at a time that is convenient for the pastor, staff, and their families.

Adults/Young Adults

- Arrange childcare and provide restaurant and theater gift cards for a date night.
- Provide baked treats or a meal to deliver to the family or to the church staff on a specific day.
- Host a pastor/staff appreciation meal on a Sunday after worship.
- Take the family out for a meal or to a sporting event.
- Find out about a large item that the pastor or staff member has been saving for and collect money as a group to buy it.

EVERY AGE GROUP CAN SHOW *appreciation*

SHOW APPRECIATION AS A CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Provide scholarships for the pastor and staff members' children to go to camps or other student activities.
- Recognize ministry anniversaries.
- Support and encourage through regular communication.
- Respect pastor and staff's family time.
- Acknowledge family birthdays and anniversaries.
- Monthly date night with free childcare.
- Evaluate salary and vacation package and be as generous as possible (call ABSC for assistance).
- Offer additional time off.
- Budget for annual renewal retreat/conference time/continuing education.
- Schedule a sabbatical after every five to seven years.

Be creative with ways to show appreciation. This brochure is provided to get your congregation thinking about ways to celebrate and encourage your pastor and others in ministry positions.

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER AND AT

ABSC.ORG/STAFFAPPRECIATION

Compiled by members of the task force on staff appreciation:

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Arkansas BAPTISTS

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BECAUSE THEY KEEP WATCH OVER YOU AS THOSE WHO MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT. DO THIS SO THEIR WORK MAY BE A joy.

HEBREWS 13:17

DEAR CHURCH LEADER,

Just as you and I enjoy knowing that someone appreciates our work, I want to encourage your church to participate in Pastor and Ministry Staff Appreciation during the month of October.

Church members have a great opportunity during this month to tangibly express their love and commitment to the pastors and staff members who give of themselves in a sacrificial way to serve our Lord and His church. Pastor & Ministry Staff Appreciation Day is October 13, 2019. Your church may choose another day to fit your calendar.

Some churches use the entire month to express appreciation. Please remember the spouses and children who play a supporting role in ministry. This is a great time to say "thanks" to staff and their families in creative and meaningful ways. It is vital that a culture of honor and gratefulness be created in our churches.

Ask key lay leaders (deacons, hostess committee, or Bible study groups) to plan events or activities to show appreciation to your pastor and other ministry staff. Pass this brochure around to any group that might wish to implement the ideas. Contact us at 501-376-4791 ext. 5103 to obtain additional brochures.

You can find additional ideas at:

ABSC.ORG/STAFFAPPRECIATION

J.D. "Sonny" Tucker

J.D. "Sonny" Tucker
ABSC Executive Director

PLANNING TO SHOW APPRECIATION . . .

Read this brochure. Let the suggestions listed here spark your imagination!

Plan early. Be sure to honor spouses of staff members. Include them in any type of recognition or expression of appreciation. Events or activities that might embarrass the pastor and/or staff members or their spouses should be avoided.

Share this guide with a designated individual or groups such as deacons, personnel or hostess committee, and small groups/Sunday School classes who will promote Pastor & Ministry Staff Appreciation.

Follow up on assignments. Make sure that all details are planned.

Enjoy the benefits of a pastor and ministry staff who feel loved and appreciated.

ENCOURAGE YOUR PASTOR/STAFF THROUGH PRAYER

The most important thing that you can do for your pastor/staff and their families is to pray for them every day. Pray for them just as for your own family: for health, protection, blessings, wisdom, courage, daily needs, and for their spiritual growth and discernment.

Send messages reminding them of your prayers and asking for specific requests.

Surround your pastor and his family during a October Pastor-Staff Appreciation worship service and pray for them as a congregation.

Provide a box to drop in prayers of encouragement (sample available on website).

Distribute copies of the October prayer calendar from our website: absc.org/staffappreciation.

BLESS YOUR PASTOR/STAFF THROUGH ACTS OF SERVICE

Be prepared with suggestions such as . . .

- Babysitting/childcare.
- Mow their lawn or weed flower beds.
- Prepare a meal or treat them to a restaurant meal.
- Help with auto or home repairs and maintenance or hire someone if no one in the church is able to perform these tasks.
- Hire someone to assist with housework to provide a respite for the staff member's family.
- Acknowledge achievements of pastor, staff, and families.
- Send cards/notes of encouragement.

CELEBRATE YOUR PASTOR/STAFF WITH GIFTS/GIFT CARDS

Keep in mind that gifts of cash or a cash equivalent, such as gift cards, are considered by IRS guidelines to be taxable to your church's employees and should be included as wages on their W-2

- Gift cards to favorite restaurants, department , or specialty stores.
- Basket of favorite snacks.
- Movie, theater, or sporting event tickets.
- Gift certificate for a weekend getaway to a hotel, bed & breakfast, or state park; provide childcare if needed.
- Gift certificate to hair/nail salon/spa for spouse/female staff.
- Amazon gift card.