

## SUPPORTING YOUR PASTOR'S MINISTRY

- **Take your place** in the life of your church! Discover your spiritual gift and use it.
- Encourage your pastor in continuing education and spiritual enrichment, providing both time and finance.
- Make sure conferences and seminars for your pastor and spouse are not considered vacation time.
- **Give new ideas a chance.** "But we have always done it that way" are some of the most deflating words a creative pastor can hear.
- Never compare your current pastor with a former pastor. It is unfair, bears no fruit, and stands a good chance of causing discord.
- If you are not tithing, start working toward that goal - then let your pastor know of your decision.
- **Tell people about your church.** Invite them to worship and introduce them to your pastor.
- Be a consistent Christian. Regularly attend and support the ministries of your church.
- Make your spouse and children your priority!
- **Take an active part** in at least one ministry of the church, giving help and/or leadership.
- Understand the many expectations placed upon a pastor - and monitor your own expectations.
- **Share Christ** in the marketplace, with neighbors and friends.
- Continue to develop your own personal walk with the Lord - keep on growing!
- **Be teachable** - open to new thoughts and ideas.

## PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR

- **Pray daily** for your pastor and family!
- Pray for the Lord's protection over your pastor, their ministry and their family.
- **Form a prayer group** that prays regularly for your pastor and family.
- Arrive at church early enough to pray for the services, leaders, and Lord's blessing.
- **Pray for insights** in how to be most effective in caring for your pastor and family. God will lead you if you are open!
- Remember, pastors consider themselves to be caregivers. It may be hard for your pastor to receive care so be relentless!
- **Be diligent** in offering care to your pastor and family.
- Ask, ask and ask again - **"Pastor, how can I help you?"**
- Send your pastor and spouse to **SonScape Retreats** for seven days of rest, renewal and life change.

SonScape Retreats focus on spiritual formation, burnout prevention, and crisis intervention for those in Christian ministry.

For additional information, a current retreat schedule and how you can make it possible for your pastor to attend, contact Vicki Ceass at 888.312.7771 or [vicki@sonscape.org](mailto:vicki@sonscape.org).



SONSCAPE RETREATS  
rest • renewal • lifechange

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## PASTORS NEED YOUR LOVE

The 50 suggestions in this brochure are practical ways in which you can love your pastor.

It is our prayer that these suggestions will help you and others in your congregation begin demonstrating care of your pastor. These suggestions can also be applied to your church staff as well as others who serve God through your congregation.

The Apostle Paul says you hold the key to helping your pastor be happier, healthier, and more effective:

***"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!"***

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, The Message*

## PASTORS UNDER PRESSURE

Pastors are under tremendous pressure. As a result, burnout is a major crisis facing the church today.

We expect pastors to be biblical scholars, powerful preachers, sensitive counselors, successful managers, and effective fundraisers.

Most pastors work 60-70 hours a week to meet all of the demands that are placed upon them and yet many feel they're falling behind in ministry and in life:

- 80% say ministry negatively affects family
- 70% do not have a close friend
- 60% are in some form of crisis
- 50% struggle in their relationship with God
- 400 pastors leave ministry weekly in the U.S.

**support and  
encourage them**



## CARING FOR YOUR PASTOR

- **Write a note** telling your pastor something you learned from a recent sermon.
- Celebrate the anniversary of your pastor's coming to your church.
- Plan a (surprise) luncheon for your pastor.
- **Never say negative things** about your pastor or the church in front of your family or others. Talk directly to the pastor if you have a concern.
- Be sure your pastor has at least one day off a week - then make sure it is taken!
- **Provide adequate paid vacation.**
- Take your pastor fishing, golfing, sailing, etc., not to talk about church, but to play!
- **Care for your pastor's health.** Provide for adequate medical and dental services. Adequate health insurance is a must!
- A membership in a health club is a wise investment for your pastor.
- As a church, make annual physicals mandatory.
- **Pay your pastor as well as you possibly can!** Overwhelm with generosity!
- Organize a group to help care for any repairs at church or your pastor's home that need attention.
- Offer to help with any maintenance on family cars.
- **Congratulate, show appreciation and give love!!** Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to show love and concern.

## CARING FOR YOUR PASTOR'S FAMILY

- Drop a note to your pastor's family to express appreciation and brighten their day.
- **Remember the birthdays** and wedding anniversary of your pastor and family.
- Take your pastor and family out for a meal after church or at another time.
- Include your pastor and family in your family activities but give them the right to decline.
- **Allow members of your pastor's family to be themselves.** Love them for who they are.
- Support and encourage your pastor's children. Find out what they're interested in and talk to them about those interests.
- Remember your pastor's children are children, not miniature saints. Allow them to be children.
- **Protect the privacy** of your pastor and family and their time together.
- Buy something for your pastor's family, perhaps something totally frivolous but fun!
- **Be aware of any special needs** of your pastor's family. Be especially sensitive around major holidays like Christmas.
- Help your pastor by stocking the family freezer.
- If there are young children, offer to watch them for an evening, giving your pastor and spouse a night out.
- Plan a surprise gift for your pastor and spouse -- several days at a B&B is always welcome!

**overwhelm them  
with appreciation and love!**