



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

THANK YOU, PASTORS!

The day this newsletter was published was National Moldy Cheese Day. Pretty much every day of the year is a designated celebration of something. While celebrating your favorite gorgonzola may not be at the top of your priorities today, there is one “holiday” in the next month that you should know about.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday is always the second Sunday in October and October is known as Pastor Appreciation Month. All four of our pastors work hard to shepherd us well through preaching and teaching, dis-

cipleship, prayer, and care and counseling. All of them are also balancing numerous other responsibilities – family, full time jobs, community involvement, etc. On the next page of this newsletter, you will find a short article by Brenden Hoover about some of the reasons we should be showing “double honor” to our pastors.

Following that, you will find another guest article by one of our pastor’s wives, Elizabeth McBroom. She will share with you some ways that you can practically love, support and encourage not only your pastors,

but their families as well.

There are many ways that you can celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month. We have boxes in the sanctuary where you can drop off cards or notes of encouragement. Share with them how their labor has benefited you and how God is working in your life through their work. Look for ways to serve well and to listen to their preaching and teaching. But most of all, as Elizabeth will share, pray for them. Ask God to continue to strengthen them as they work diligently to shepherd us as a church.

Worthy of Double Honor: Pastor Appreciation

Brenden Hoover | Guest Contributor

October is Pastor Appreciation month, and we have many reasons to be thankful for our pastors here at First Baptist Church Fairdale. We have four gifted pastors that have shepherded us well for many years. In all the ups and downs of life, they have been a steady encouragement to us. The need to give thanks and appreciate our pastors is not just a one month occurrence because scripture teaches that this is a gratitude that should stay constant.

1 Timothy 5:17 says *“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.”* In this passage, Paul is saying that our pastors should receive double honor. We should go above and beyond to thank them. Our pastors are such faithful shepherds that they might make the job look easy. However, theirs is a difficult job, and no one can over-emphasize how important it is. Here are a few reasons I am grateful for our pastors.

I am thankful for every sermon and teaching we get that takes a lot of work from our pastors. Each week our church is blessed with faithful teaching from the word of God. It comes straight from the Bible. This teaching that is so deep and applicable to our lives does not just happen automatically. It happens because our pastors spend many hours preparing.

I am thankful for the many ways our pastors serve. A pastor’s schedule is far from ordinary and can be taxing. Our pastors are busy and working hard even when we do not see them. The daily life of a pastor is one that caus-

es them to always be ready. 2 Timothy 4:2 says to “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season.” Our pastors do this with excellence and without complaining. Whenever a pastor is pulled away due to unexpected circumstances there is always another pastor who steps up and willingly takes on the task of preaching. When there are hardships in the church our pastors have been quick to be a help to us.

I am thankful for the relationships our pastors have built with individual church members. When my wife and I started coming to FBCF, we were in the midst of difficult circumstances. They spent time getting to know us and considered our particular needs as a family. We are still grateful to our pastors for exhorting us at that time to simply come to church, be taught, and rest. It was an incredible blessing and comfort to us.

I am thankful for our pastors’ godly character. They lead with humility and welcome feedback. They are gentle and patient with us. Let’s remember to show honor to them week in and week out as they love and care for our church.

Love and Support for Our Pastors & their Families

Elizabeth McBroom | Guest Contributor

How can the church body support and encourage pastors and pastor families? When I started to reflect on this question I was stumped. Of course the typical answer came to mind, pray. Pray a lot. However, I wanted to think on a daily basis along with your prayers. So first, I just want to say thank you for loving us. Let's start there. As a congregation, as The Church, you all love us well. We feel it. We know it. So then let's talk practical day-to-day. How can you support and encourage your pastors and their families?

- Let's just be honest, I am still going with pray. Pray for your pastors. Pray for us wives. Pray for our marriages. Pray for our children. Pray that we represent Christ to those we are ministering to. Pray for our heavy days in the valleys. And pray we worship God on the mountaintops.
- Love our children. Our children are children. They need to be shown grace and mercy when they miss the mark, and they need to be held accountable when they miss the mark. They don't get a pass because they are pastor's kids. However, they are not perfect because they are pastor's kids. They need their church.
- Include us. We are busy. We know that. At times we have to say no, but just like everyone else we want to be included. We like being asked to go to lunch after church, invited to the drive-in movie, and out to get that cup of coffee. We love being with our church people. Also know

that sometimes, we need time to just be with our house people.

- Send that text or card. We like it when you reach out to us. There is just something special when a card arrives in the mail that encourages our sons, daughters, or family. Our whole day can change when that text comes through that says you are thinking about us. Pastor families are busy serving. Getting those messages from you all lets us know that you are loving us in the serving.
- Love your pastors. This one is from the heart of a pastor's wife. Our husbands love you. They pour their hearts into serving God, by serving others. As a pastor's wife we know their dedication is to Christ and His church. It is one of the things we love about them. They hurt when you hurt. They rejoice when you rejoice. So we ask that you love them well.

Which brings me back to the beginning of this article. Thank you for loving us well. Thank you for speaking kindly of our families. Thank you for all of the kindness shown. Thank you for serving alongside us and serving us as we minister and bring the Gospel to a hurt world. And just as a side note, those delicious pies don't hurt either.