



# Out of My Mind...

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www.clergyappreciation.org  
www.worshipministrycatalyst.com

## For your Consideration: Some Thoughts Preceding Pastoral Appreciation Month (Oct.)

Denise George has written a book entitled What Pastors Wish Church Members Knew in which she reports the results of her research about what pastors fear the most. Her findings: being fired, spiritual dryness and physical burnout. Ms. George says most of the laity, who view their pastor as a "spiritual Superman", would never come up with this list of fears. Her primary recommendation for avoiding these fears is to "affirm their pastor as a valuable and effective spiritual leader".

That's where Pastor Appreciation Month comes in. Congregations have the entire month of October to express their gratitude for the work of the pastors who serve them so diligently. Joan & I will never forget the year that the folks at Calvary, Avon Lake surprised us during the morning service with a shower of gifts: from books to gift certificates to handcrafted items to a five foot pine tree ("the Love Tree"; which is still flourishing by the entrance to their worship center). We felt greatly appreciated and renewed in our determination to serve with gusto. Their regular thoughtfulness helped keep us there fourteen years!

Trust me, if your pastor is breathing, he needs appreciation, so however you choose to affirm him, please make sure you choose to do it and please do so next month!

### In My Briefcase:

Living as Ambassadors of Reconciliation  
by James Wilson  
Five Languages of Apology  
by Gary Chapman & Jennifer Thomas  
Arminian Theology  
by Roger E. Olson

**From the field:** Pastor Mike Mullins of Calvary Warren reports:

The people of Calvary Baptist Church in Warren, Pa entered a Christian float in this year's July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. The parade brings out several thousand people. The parade is family oriented and very secular. Typically, you see floats and groups associated with local businesses, social and community related groups.

This past spring two of our young single parent lay leaders had an idea/calling to include something Christian in the parade from our church. The theme of the float was "God in America." They enlisted some creative and financial helpers since this was not in our budget. The center piece was a large figure that looked like a Bible holding hands with another large figure that was labeled a Declaration of Independence. There was a banner up high that read, "One Nation Under God." There were pictures of past presidents with God honoring quotes. There was a sign on the front that said, "He Lives." The creative decorators spent hours working on this float.

For the parade, we had around 43 people from our church walk with the float. We had lots of give-a-ways, including hundreds of pieces of candy that were tossed out to the crowd. We also created some church information handouts that were either given out by hand or placed inside some of the give-a-ways.



The judges gave us 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the non-profit division and a check for \$300! We entered this float as a Salt and Light in Christ moment for this community. Praise God! We received a lot of encouraging feedback from people not associated with our church.

### ON OUR PRAYER WATCH:

**Abigail Holloway**  
chronic headache pain  
**Madison Allison**  
neurological issues

**Selah: "We just expect pastors to be healthy, morally pure. I think the board needs to take responsibility, not just for the church budget and facilities, but also consciously [for] the care of that pastor."**

**James Bradford**