

THANKS FOR 25 YEARS!

Rob Robinson

This past Sunday, Al Kunkle announced to the church that on October 17, I will complete my 25th year as minister of the Thomaston Road Church of Christ. It was more than 25 years ago that I received a telephone call from Macon, Georgia, that started out something like, "This is Al Kunkle, like uncle, with a K." Since that conversation, Al has been a faithful Christian brother, friend and leader to me. I appreciate his support, confidence and faithfulness over these years. I will always feel a great sense of gratitude toward Al Kunkle.

I also feel enormous gratitude toward you, Thomaston Road Church of Christ. I hear stories about how difficult a life ministers have, about demanding, unfair, inconsiderate, unrealistic expectations people have of the minister and his family. It's like every man who manages to serve in the ministry must be some kind of martyr, and people can't imagine how they do it. When I hear those stories, I feel sorry for the people who have been through such experiences. But I gratefully confess that my experience with this church has been just the opposite. I could hardly have been treated better.

me serve as your 25 years. Thanks loving and caring one another, and outsiders and such good

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philipians 1:3-4

Thank you for letting preacher for the past for being such a group of people, to to visitors and strangers. Thanks for fellowship as we

enjoy in this church, and for being virtually free of such vices as envy, slander, gossip, pride and judging. Thanks for being a church that cares about others in need, whether our own members, hungry strangers in our community, or victims of disasters elsewhere. It's great to be part of a church with the love and respect for God's word that you have. It's joyful and inspiring to work together with such people as you are, hard-working, willing to take on big projects and do them thoroughly and with excellence. I appreciate you for your respect and support for the God-ordained leadership of the church, and I am grateful for such leadership as we have, who do not lord it over others, but lead with kindness, compassion and faithfulness. Thank you for being a sacrificial and generous church, and for being a happy church. Thanks so much for loving me and my family, praying for us, supporting us, encouraging us, and for managing the right balance between respecting our privacy and being there for us when we need you.

Lately, we have begun to discuss plans for my eventual retirement. Someone told me they hope I will continue for another 25 years. Thanks for the kindness, but I do not expect to do that. I plan to continue in my current role at least through the beginning of the year 2020. We will use the intervening time to find the right person to replace me and to make a transition that is as smooth and seamless as we can make it. Please pray for our church's future.