

A Lump of Kohl

The Thoughts of Pastor George A. Kohl for October 11, 2015

I am looking forward to meeting all of you next week. I look forward to loving and serving the Lord together with you. As an intentional interim pastor, I do not come with a prescribed plan for changing a church. Instead, I come with a prescribed process designed to help a church understand who they are and who they are not, where they are and where want to go, and the kind of pastor they really need to help them get where they sense God wants to go.

A LUMP OF KOHL: When I have thoughts I want to communicate and lack other means, I publish an edition of *A Lump of Kohl*. Here I “share a piece of my mind.”

CONTACT INFO: My mobile phone is 774-312-4966. My email for church business is bbc.gakohl@gmail.com.

THE FIRST TWO MONTHS of intentional interim ministry are very active. There are so many names, policies, and traditions to be learned. I also get exposure to the key ministries, boards, and committees. The early stages of the process also involve a 30-day prayer campaign, conducting numerous interviews in group settings, assessing the church’s needs and values, and assessing the church’s level of understanding and application of God’s Word. We also activate a Transition Team during this time.

NEXT WEEK (October 18): You will soon see that I do not have a typical style of preaching. Every sermon is different according to what I think will best meet the aims God lays on my heart. For my first sermon, I will introduce myself to you and share God’s Word while sharing my testimony. Shortly after that service and a cup of coffee, I will have to run south to Connecticut for the joyful installation of the new pastor at the church where I previously served as an intentional interim pastor.

THE NEXT 2 WEEKS (October 25 & Nov. 1): Over the next two Sundays, I will make a couple of documents available to you: (1) an overall plan for the year ahead, and (2) my pastoral policies.

PRAYER CAMPAIGN: We cannot overestimate the importance of prayer in everything we do in service to the Lord. There will be a four-pronged approach to our prayer campaign over the month of November:



1. Starting on Sunday, November 1, I will preach a short series of sermons designed to inspire us to pray.
2. Starting on Monday, November 2, we are going to encourage every willing person in the church to pause from whatever they are doing for two minutes at 7:14 AM to pray that God will do a special work at Bethany in the days ahead. Why 7:14 AM? Simply to remind us of God’s promise of revival in 2 Chronicles 7:14: *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* Specific prayer requests related to this process will be printed in the bulletin each week.
3. Over the course of the campaign, we will hold weekly special prayer meetings on various days and at various times. These are in addition to the regular prayer meeting and not to take its place. In these special prayer meetings, we will be praying for God to work in and through BBC.

4. We would like to encourage as many people who are willing to read a book, *A Journey to Victorious Praying*, by Bill Thrasher. It has 30 small, informative, and inspirational chapters. Starting on November 1, we will read chapter 1 and read a chapter each day that corresponds with the day of the month.

BUYING THE BOOK ON PRAYER: Until I better learn the ropes around here, I'll be floating the expense for the books. Those who want a copy can give me the cash or write a check payable to payable to "George A. Kohl." Paperback copies cost \$11.00. You can download a Kindle version from Amazon for \$6.99. If the cost of the book is a hardship for you, do not hesitate to speak with me. Better yet, if you know that the cost of the book will be a hardship for someone, consider buying a copy of the book for them. In any case, funds are available to assist with such needs. I hope to have a supply on hand starting next week, October 18.

SPEAKING OF PRAYER: I could use some prayer this week. I will be spending 3 days in Virginia getting some advanced training in intentional interim ministry. Please pray that I will learn a lot, have abundant energy for this intense training, and be well prepared for a good start with you on Sunday.

INTERVIEW GROUPS: I will be conducting interview groups to get different people's perspectives on the church. Why not grab a bunch of your friends and try to come together? It would be great if every willing person participated in one of these groups! I hope you will look at the schedule below and find a group that suits you. I will bring the interviews to a close by November 18. It is OK if other groups are meeting in the church at the same times. Interviews will last about 60 minutes. Locations will be announced as you come in the door. After the group interviews, I

will be happy to listen to any personal concerns someone has that they did not want to share in the group meeting. Below are some times to choose from:

- \$ Monday, October 19, 7:00 PM
- \$ Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 PM
- \$ Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 PM
- \$ Wednesday, October 28, 9:00 AM
- \$ Sunday, November 1, after service and a cup of coffee
- \$ Tuesday, November 3, 10:00 AM
- \$ Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 PM
- \$ Sunday, November 8, after service and a cup of coffee
- \$ Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 PM
- \$ Sunday, November 15, after service and a cup of coffee

REGULAR PRAYER MEETING: On Tuesday, October 20 I plan to participate in (not lead) the regular prayer meeting.



SPECIAL PRAYER MEETINGS: For starters, I will conduct special, weekly, prayer meetings. I hope that all of you will participate in one or more of these meetings. The meetings will last 30 to 60 minutes.

- Thursday, October 22, 7:00 PM
- Monday, October 26, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, November 5, 10:00 AM
- Monday, November 9, 1:00 PM
- Thursday, November 19, 6:30 PM