

Dear Friends,

As I look back over my career, I can remember when I was 5 years old on the sidewalk in front of my grandmother's house where a gentleman stopped and spoke to me, he asked what I wanted to be when I grew up. I said a doctor. It is now 63 years since that brief conversation. Many of you have had a Dr. Kinzer as your physician for over 60 years. Some of you have been a friend, a patient for shorter periods. No matter the period of time, I so much appreciate your allowing me to care for you.

You may have figured by now this letter is sort of a good bye. Yes, I am officially announcing my retirement for August 30, 2019.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Ross Summerford, MD will be continuing your care at Creekside if you so choose. Dr. Summerford is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine and a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine. He will begin practicing at Creekside Family Practice on September 03, 2019.

To answer the question (What will you do in retirement?), many of you are aware that I have seven grandchildren that I am so looking forward to spending more time with. From my screen savers you know that Marta and I like to travel. We have a long trip planned soon after I retire. I also look forward to being again involved in medical missions. I hope that, as many of you that have retired have told me, that I become busier than when I worked. A new problem to deal with.

I hope and pray that my retirement will present unanticipated opportunities to serve in new ways. I am currently privileged to serve on two committees at Huntsville Hospital, and as long as they will have me, I will continue to do so. Finally, I approach retirement with excitement for what the future holds, with relief from the need to deal with the business of medicine, with trepidation at the unknown. I will continue to pray for you; and, I solicit your prayers.

Best Wishes,

Claude L. Kinzer, MD
CLK