



330 Knollwood Street  
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[knollwood.org](http://knollwood.org)

September 1, 2017

Dear Knollwood Church Family,

On February 16, 1986, I began my journey as Knollwood's Minister of Music. With great excitement and hopeful expectation, Cathy and I and our two young daughters (Emily, 5, and Erin, 3) moved to Winston-Salem to begin a new chapter of our lives together. These intervening 31 years have been full of joy, affirmation, and ministerial fulfillment. Our family has been blessed, loved, nurtured, and cared for in such rich ways. I could not have asked for a more supportive church family, from preschoolers to senior adults.

It seems now like several times a week Cathy and I get a new offer for a Medicare supplemental insurance policy, or long-term care insurance, or an offer for a free dinner to hear how a financial planner can help us maximize our retirement dollars. My next birthday cake will have sixty-six candles. However much we might like to stop the clock, we can't. Cathy and I can see the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another slowly coming into focus.

Some months ago I began conversations with Bob Setzer and the Personnel Committee regarding my pending retirement. After much prayer and discernment, we have decided that the month of my 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary would be a fitting time to draw my Knollwood ministry to a close. I plan for Sunday, February 25, 2018, to be my concluding Sunday at Knollwood. This will give Knollwood the fall months to fully embrace the new ministries made possible by the Wellness and Community Center, it will allow me a concluding Christmas Festival, and it will allow the church several months to thoughtfully plan for the next steps of music ministry.

While Cathy and I look forward to a different-paced lifestyle, and more time for family (including, of course, our grandchildren), we will miss our life at Knollwood, its staff, its worship, and its membership very, very much. We plan to eventually relocate to Richmond, VA, Cathy's hometown, where we have lots of family—our daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, and a large extended family, including Cathy's mom. I likewise think that it is healthy for Knollwood, and for my successor, if I live in a different place.

What a great journey it has been to work alongside the KBC staff in all of its iterations. I have had the unique privilege of serving with every pastor in Knollwood's history (what an honor), plus most of the other former church staff members. There are way too many to list here—but to all my past colleagues, thank you.

To the present church staff— Bob, Demrice, Chris, Chrissy, Ted, Tyrone, Peggy, Diane, Colleen, Ben, Marlin, Lisa, Josh, and *especially* Lauren (and our most recent interim pastor, Roger)—WOW, what a privilege and joy it has been. I have been led, taught, listened to, followed, and told to relax; it

has all been part of an incredibly rich and fulfilling life of ministry and church music making. Thank you.

To the dozens and dozens of singers and instrumentalists and helpers over these years—the Chancel Choir, the Youth Choir, the children’s choirs, the bell ringers, the guitarists, the brass players and directors, the children’s choir leaders, assistants and pianists, the bell choir leaders, the youth choir mentors, the music ministry interns, the program editors, the youth guitar teachers, the composers and arrangers, the orchestral musicians, the conductors, the drama producers, the hymns-for-a-lifetime volunteers, the script writers, the children’s choir coordinators, the parents who got the children and youth to rehearsals, the chaperones, the bus drivers, the music committee members, the drama and Christmas Festival production teams, professional organists and ministry assistants, the preschool and elementary Sunday School teachers who made possible three decades of singing songs and hymns on Sunday mornings, weekly music ministry volunteers, the members of the congregation who engaged in singing yet another new hymn, and many, many others—I express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude.

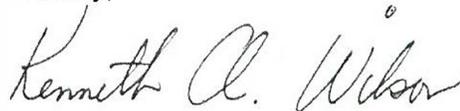
Being absent from this place will leave a hole in our hearts that will be hard to fill. I can’t imagine not thinking constantly about which hymns will best suit our theme for next Sunday, about the next youth choir rehearsal, about the next trip, and about the next anthems on the schedule.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Minister of Music for these years. My hope is that your lives have been enriched by church music, and that, in it all, God has been glorified.

I bring to these concluding months the same hopeful expectation that was in my heart when we came to this community three decades ago. I trust that you will help me make these final months of our ministry together great ones indeed for Knollwood and her worshiping life.

Cathy and I love you, and we will forever cherish the memory of what will be 32 years of shared ministry. After retirement, we look forward to hearing about a continuing fruitful music ministry at Knollwood. Thank you from the depths of our hearts.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth A. Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ken Wilson

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16, NRSV)*