

*Central Christian Church, Lexington, Ky.*

LESLIE R. SMITH, Minister

January 22, 1959

CLINTON HENDERSON, Education  
ARTHUR N. WAKE, Music  
LYNN H. DRAPER, Administration  
W. HOWARD HOLVERSON, Membership  
PAULINE STARN, Living Link  
HOMER GAMBOE, Living Link

Dear Friends:

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter--the same mixed emotions which many of you have confided that you had as you were trying to make up your minds as to whether you would go with the new church or stay with Central. And yet I am sure that in the minds of both of us, there is the conviction that this step you have taken is the right step and that God will richly bless the effort ahead in making available to those of another section of the city, the gospel which we believe our church can distinctively contribute. So when I speak to you, severing our relationship as "minister-parishioner" I contradict myself by saying, "I'm glad you will be a Charter Member of Crestwood Christian Church yet I am sorry you are leaving Central." You have meant much to the Kingdom of God in its expression at Short and Walnut, and I am sure you will mean even more in the new Crestwood Christian Church.

We want you to have the thrill of a good send-off this next Sunday, and we want those who stay with Central to be challenged by the added responsibility which immediately becomes theirs. Hence, this is our desire as it has been carefully worked out by the Ministers, the Nominating Committee and the Administrative Board.

We want all of you to attend the second service next Sunday, January 25. We want you to be seated together in reserved pews clear across the church just back of the deacons.

The special service will begin right after the Gloria so that it can be completed and you leave for Glendover School and your first Communion in the new church by not later than 11:40.

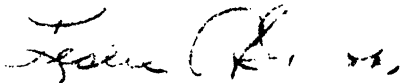
After the hymn, "We Would Be Building," there will be a very brief statement about the new church, its possibilities, the responsibilities that attend its building, etc. Then there will be a reading of the names of each of you. You will stand until all are standing. There will follow the commissioning service when you will be given certificates which are being

hand-lettered by your committee. There will follow a brief statement about the challenge which this venture continues to hold for Central Church and the responsibilities of those who continue with it. Then will follow the installation of officers and Sunday School teachers who will pick up the responsibilities you lay down so that Central's program will continue without default next Sunday. There will follow a charge to the congregation that they reverently release you to your new work and pledge themselves to uphold those who have been chosen in your places. Then after a dedicatory prayer and as you leave, we shall sing "God of Grace." We shall continue singing the hymn as Central's congregation moves two pews forward to fill in the physical gap which your leaving creates and during the Communion service to fill the gap in their hearts with fervent prayers for God's attendance with you.

As you leave, stop on the front steps of the church for your picture as a group.

May we count on you?

Ever sincerely yours in the Master's work,



Leslie R. Smith

LRS:pmw