

Church housed first LDS, then Presbyterian faith

By REUBEN WADSWORTH

Citizen staff writer

The Presbyterian Church has been a presence in Franklin County for over 45 years.

The first meeting of Presbyterians in Preston was on February 15, 1953, under the direction of Reverend Miner E. Bruner of Logan. Bruner continued to be the pastor until pastor Richard Scott arrived five years ago.

Scott is a retired military chaplain who, after applying and interviewing, was extended the call to be the pastor of both the Malad and Preston churches in April 1994. He was stationed at the Tooele Army Depot while in the service and two of his daughters live in the Salt Lake area, both were reasons he decided to settle in the area.

Scott serves in the governing body of the Presbyterian church at what is called the Synod level. He is currently serving a three year term that frequently takes him to California on business. Scott is provided with a house in lieu of salary. He lives in Malad and serves as the pastor for their church as well.

The Presbyterians in Franklin County currently have a small congregation of approximately 32 members. Many people who come to the services aren't local members, Scott said. In the summer there are about 25 retirees from Sun City, Arizona who live in Utah State University student housing that come to the

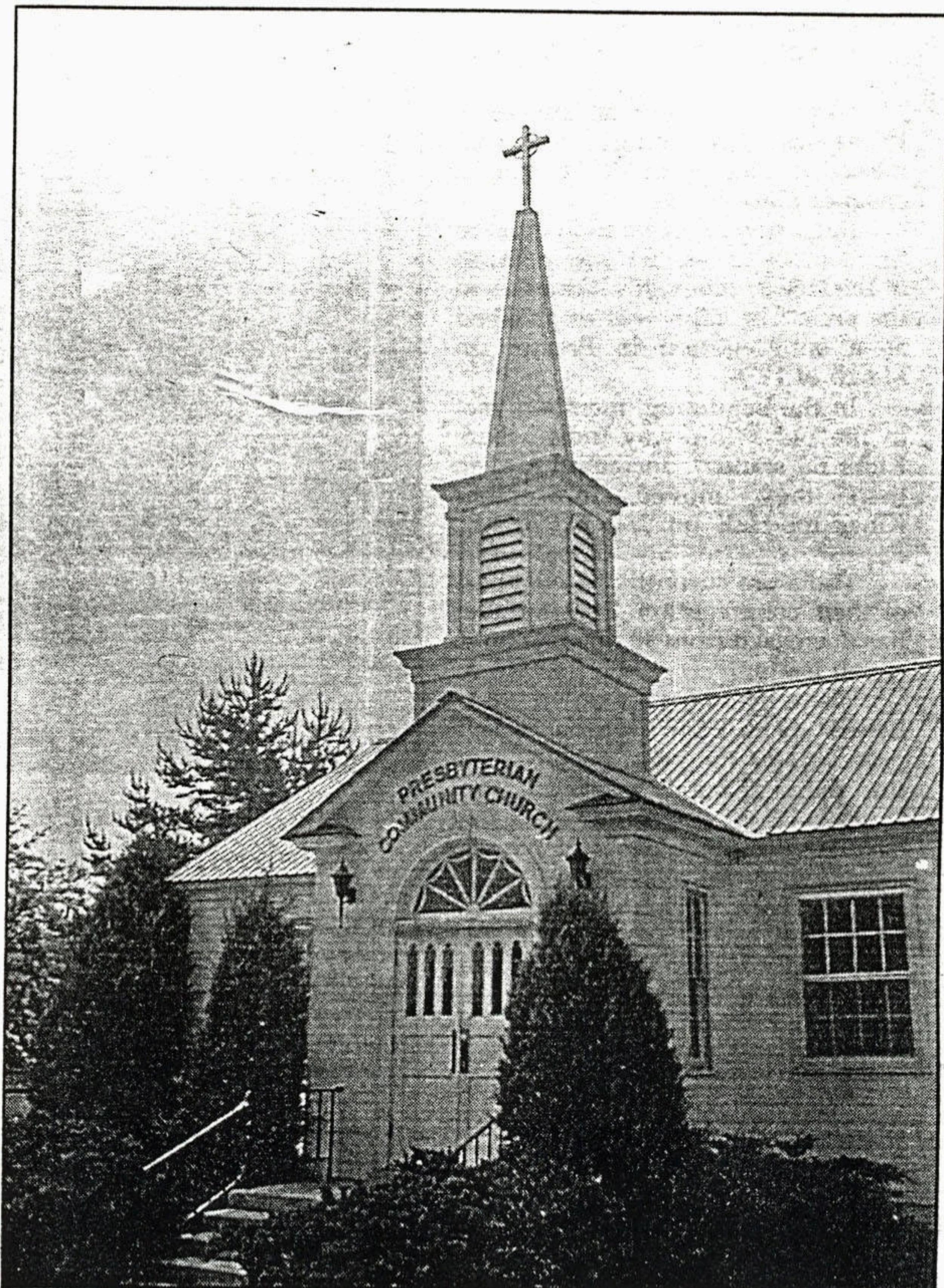
church. Scott calls them "Sunbirds." These Sunbirds have been coming for the last 20 years and have contributed greatly to the church.

The church in which the Presbyterian group meets has an interesting story within itself. They bought the old Glendale LDS ward building that was put up for sale in the late 1950s and though their bid was not the highest, they were awarded the building on the basis that it would remain a church. Before the acquisition of their own church, the group met in the basement of the Franklin County Courthouse.

The former Glendale church was moved intact a distance of 15 miles by Tom Rowley, using railroad irons and truck wheels on axles. The building was transported through the Glendale Reservoir basin by bridging the small stream remaining because the reservoir was emptied during the winter. Scott said it was more cost effective at the time to move the church rather than build a new one.

Bob Acock, the church's clerk for 37 years, said the conditions were ideal for moving the structure because there was no snow on the ground at the time. A foundation was built by the late Glen Call and the building was placed upon it. The church now stands on the corner of Second North and Second East.

Improvements have been made on the building since it was moved



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