

Presbyterian Church prepares for growth of community

By KAREN AUST

As the City of Preston and the Franklin County Planning and Zoning Committee discuss ideas for meeting the challenges connected with the communities' future growth, the Presbyterian Community Church is already in the process of expanding.

The Presbyterian Community Church was organized in Preston in 1953 by a small group of Protestant worshippers who had been meeting in the basement of the Franklin County Courthouse. In 1959 the Presbyterian congregation made a resolution to begin plans to construct a church. About the same time, the LDS Church decided to sell the building that the Glendale Ward had been meeting in.

It was decided, by the Presbyterian Church members, that the church building in Glendale would meet the needs of their congregation. The Presbyterians made a bid for the building, and the bid was accepted, not because it was the highest bid, but because the building would continue to be used as a church.

The building was then moved from its location in Glendale, rolled along on railroad

irons and truck wheels on axles, through the dry Glendale Reservoir basin, over a temporary bridge that was constructed to get it across the small stream of water still flowing in the reservoir's basin, in December of 1959. A foundation was constructed on the property that was chosen on the corner of 2nd North and 2nd East streets in Preston, and the little white building became the church home to its faithful members, who have welcomed worshippers from many denominations, from many places, for 45 years.

As it is with many places and things in our small rural community, the appearance of the church hasn't changed much in nearly half a century. Now, like much of the community, the Presbyterian Church is experiencing growth. With that growth has come the need for more Christian education, more meetings, and more fellowship. Increased activities, such as the Church's Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas caroling hay ride (which included young and old voices from the LDS and Grace Fellowship churches), Valentine Party and Dinner, Youth Lock-In, Easter Sunrise Service and Brunch, have

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Photo by ROBERT MERRILL

Workers from Craig Jensen Construction, frame an addition to the Presbyterian Community Church to accommodate their increased membership.