

# Preston Presbyterian pastor continues to serve

By CITIZEN STAFF

Most every Sunday, Mike Butler and his wife Cathy make the 90-mile trip from Davis County, Utah, to Preston.

The couple make the trip because Mike is serving as pastor of the Preston Community Presbyterian Church, which sits on the corner of 2nd North and 2nd East.

Butler is a Commissioned Lay Pastor, and, as such, works a full-time "day" job as a computer technician at a firm in Layton, Utah. But a big part of his heart is in his "part-time" job as a pastor.

"I like the idea of being a minister. I knew I wanted to find a church that had a need for a pastor," the retired Air Force captain said. "I got a call to fill a pulpit. I love it," he said of his assignment to Preston, where he has served for about three and one half years.

Prior to that, Butler served a congregation in Myton, in eastern Utah, about 151 miles each way from his home.

"I love it," he said of the work. "There are wonderful people in both places (Myton and Franklin County)."

Among the stalwarts is Ed Moore, a spry man of 86 who lives only a block from the church. "I'm 86, and I've never met someone so nice," he said of Butler.

Moore's efforts are felt in many ways by the small congregation, which usually draws about 40 to its 10 a.m. Sunday morning services.

He opens up the church on Sunday mornings, and does everything from folding the bulletins, or "menus of food for thought," to putting the coffee on. In addition, the New Jersey-born florist of 39 years also puts out and arranges various floral displays in the front of the sanctuary. He has a vast and varied collection from which to choose, which he supplies himself.

"I'll keep your pew all

dusted off," Moore tells parishioners who may be temporarily unable to attend services because of illness or while they're away.

"The average age of the congregation is 57," said Butler, who at 55, is just slightly younger. "There are three Sunday School classes, one for elementary, one for junior high age, and one for adults."

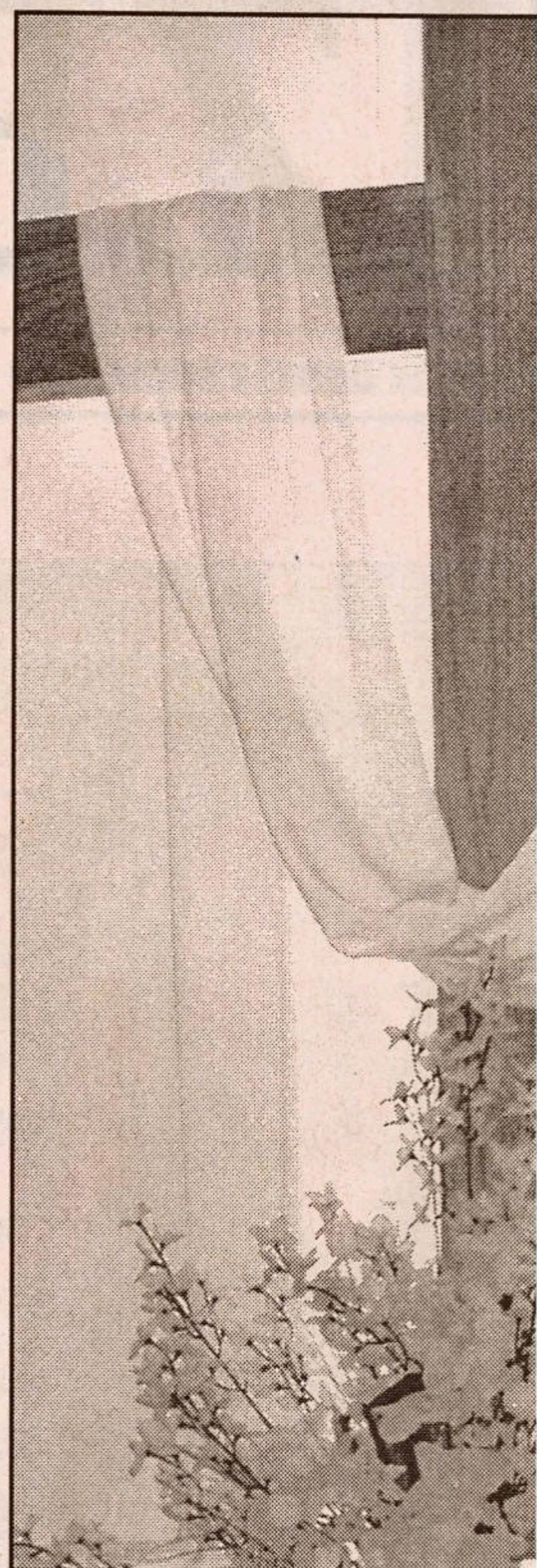
Classes are held in rooms that have either been added on or refurbished, with most of the expansion/remodeling nearly done. "The congregation had been talking about remodeling for many years. They paid for it in cash."

*"When you're so outnumbered, you look for a place to hold on to," Butler said. "Nearly everyone (in the congregation) has an LDS relative. I don't Mormon bash."*

~ Mike Butler

"We expanded the sanctuary into the old Fellowship Hall, could comfortably seat about 80," he said. The addition has added 1,300 square feet for a new kitchen, two Sunday School rooms, and nursery.

"It was a nice building," Butler said of the church, which formerly housed the old Glendale LDS Ward. "There were two parties interested in buying the building," he said. "The LDS Church said this is a house of God, so we paid less than the others who wanted it."



Pastor for the Presbyterian

The frame structure was hauled by truck in 1957. "They had to wait until winter, to take it across the then-frozen Glendale Reservoir," he said. "It looks like it was built where it is."

The Presbyterians, here, are almost like a needle in a haystack, one of only four non-LDS congregations in Preston. "We have found working with the LDS Church to be very beneficial. I don't know how much money individual LDS members donated when we expanded," Butler said.

The baby grand piano, which provides music along with a Rogers organ, was virtually donated by an LDS congre-

his cannon a couple of times a day during the celebration.

Their will be a softball tournament, and Friday brings the Miss Idaho Pageant.

CALENDAR

101

WEEKEND