

First worship services and church school of what was to become the Presbyterian Community Church of Preston, Idaho, were held in the Social Hall of Franklin County Court House, in Preston, on February 15, 1953.

This group of people became an official church organization in December, 1953.

The Founding Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Miner E. Bruner, of Logan First Presbyterian Church, took over the planning for subsequent services, supplementing his attendance and participation with one of his Ruling Elders, or a young adult leader of the Westminster Fellowship group in his church.

At times, the young adult leader was termed Assistant to the Pastor, or Student Pastor, and through the years, the Preston congregation thus came in close contact with some really fine young people, as these university students had reason to serve while attending Utah State University. Several of them became ministers on their own, after graduating from U.S.U.

This program continued for seven years in the Social Hall, until a suitable building was purchased from the L. D. S. Church, located at Glendale, Idaho, and moved to its present site, at the corner of 2nd North and 2nd East Street, in Preston.

The lot was offered by and purchased from James Dorigatti, a Roman Catholic, who had previously worshipped with an earlier Christian group, meeting at the Court House, prior to the time the present Catholic Church, St. Peter's, was constructed in Preston.

The possibility of gathering a group of protestant worshippers had arisen when Mrs. Ruth Weber and other ladies had planned on establishing a Church School at the Weber residence, for the children who were unchurched in the L. D. S. community. The ladies found there were approximately 50 to 60 people who might respond, so called a meeting at the Court House to discuss the possibility of forming a church, and after discussion, the group voted to seek Dr. Bruner's help in organizing the group as a community church, under the care of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Bruner was the Weber's Pastor, as they had transferred their membership to the Logan Church on moving to Preston in 1952, knowing there was no protestant church here, besides the 7 L.D.S. Wards, and St. Peter's Catholic Church.

It was in 1959, with David Crawford as Student Pastor, that the resolution was made to construct a simple chapel to serve the congregation, and a petition was carried by Mr. Crawford and Mr. Gus Mink, for a favorable recommendation for the construction of the new church in the community.

At this time, we became aware of the fact that the vacant Glendale Ward building was being offered for sale, as the Ward congregation had merged with the Preston 7th Ward, as there was not sufficient personnel to staff the Glendale Ward.

The building was thought to be adequate for the needs of the Presbyterian Congregation, once it could be moved to Preston, a distance of 10 or 15 miles.

The L. D. S. Church accepted the bid offered by the Presbyterian group, although it was not the high bid, inasmuch as the building would continue to be used as a church, and thanks were publicly made to express our appreciation for their consideration.

One mover, on being approached, said the building would have to be cut in two to move, and that caused some misgiving. Then another mover, Mr. Tom Rowley, was engaged by Mr. Robert Acock, to handle the project, as he proposed