

In the News

Prestonwood Baptist Church

PROSPER PRESS

Prestonwood to Start Construction

By Rodney Hays

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Hundreds from throughout the Prosper-Celina-McKinney area turned out on Sunday afternoon to witness the groundbreaking of Prestonwood North, a church many of them already call home. They cheered as a row of 22 gold shovels, some held by leaders of the church and others by some of the youngest members, dug into the dark, rich soil on the 127-acre property on Prosper Trail.

“New beginnings are always exciting, because they look to the future,” Pastor Jack Graham said. “And it speaks to the faith of the congregation to take this on. It’s the front edge of a vision, and you see it being fulfilled here.

“I look out and see so many happy faces, so many committed people.”

Among the many present were local civic leaders, including the mayors of Prosper and Celina, and U.S. Rep. Ralph Hall, who presented Pastor Graham with a flag that had flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

“I’d rather be here right now, at this moment, than anywhere else today—a Methodist who’s just heard a good Baptist sermon,” Congressman Hall told the crowd. “So thank you, Jack.

“It’s good to be here where we’re doing something progressive, something that really means something, something that promotes goodness, heavenliness, Godliness, all for the glory of our Savior,” he said.

Prosper Councilman Dave Turley, who is a member of the church, said he welcomed the church to the community, not just because he’s a member, but because of the economic development the church could bring.



“Just look at the Plano campus [of Prestonwood],” Turley said. “It was just a big field before.”

Now around the church’s main campus near Park and Midway, retail businesses, restaurants and residential areas are popping up all around.

“You even see other churches down there,” Turley said.

He hopes some of the same growth is spurred by Prestonwood North Campus.

Prestonwood already has a bookstore in Prosper, located on Prosper Trail. Turley said he loves the bookstore because it keeps him from driving to Frisco or McKinney to pick up items such as birthday or Mother’s Day cards.

The groundbreaking ceremony begins an estimated 14 to 18 months of construction for the first phase of the project. When completed, the church will have space for 1,500 worshippers. Sunday’s service offered a glimpse of what is to come as more than 800 people filled the temporary worship center in the Prosper High School gym, and hundreds of children filled the school’s classrooms.

The Prestonwood North church family began the day with the Worship Service led by Pastor Graham and a barbeque lunch on the school grounds. Hundreds then made their way to the property, just west of Coleman Street, on shuttle buses and by foot, unfazed by the thick, muggy air. Though it’s only been a year since the church was launched, members already feel a great bond. And on Sunday, that bond was strengthened even more as they witnessed yet another milestone—the next step in the life of their church.