

Some of us had a big surprise on Sunday at church. It wouldn't have been a surprise to Mike Mattson, who lives just across the street from the Newberry Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but it was a big surprise to those of us who were there.

A month ago at the last CSD meeting, Mike called me aside and said that a person he knew in Barstow told him the Branch was going to close.

"Naaah," I said with confidence. "That's just a rumor. Nothing like that is going to happen. It's been there for 45 years!"

But on Sunday we found out at the end of the meeting, that it was true. This coming Sunday will be our last meeting in Newberry Springs. All the members will be joined with the Barstow Ward, which is bigger, of course.

The pretty little church on Newberry Road near Valley Center has the best green grass in town. It's been cared for by a group from Hesperia or somewhere – that's a benefit of being a very tiny part of a very large church where the finances from one place with more resources shares them with the ones like us.

Mike was right, but that's not all. He cares about that building and has frequently warned us when something odd is happening there. Thanks, Mike.

I'd like to ask the rest of the community to also look out for the building which will be empty and vacant, a target for those who look for easy targets. Being on Newberry Road will help because almost everyone drives on that road and can glance over for quick check. I appreciate that.

I wish I could tell you what the future plans are for the building or the property. Maybe we should ask Mike!

Vickie Paulsen

43843 Valley Center, Newberry Springs

760-447-2118