

Barker leaves Ione congregation after 7 years Pastor comes to Heppner Nazarene congregation

The congregation of the Ione United Church of Christ will say farewell to the Rev. Cathy Barker Sunday, Sept. 21. She and Mercy, her dog, will begin the drive across the United States to Cadillac, Michigan, and Barker's new church on Monday morning.

The Rev. Barker recalls that many things have happened during the seven years she has served the Ione Church.

"The first week I was here, cows—lots of them—thundered across my lawn, she relates. "I leaped for my camera to get proof of what goes on in rural Oregon, she said. Nothing like that has happened since."

The first year at Ione, her first year as a full time pastor, was difficult in many ways, she admits, but one of them was not being accepted. "Almost everybody accepted me readily. I don't mind being the first; it's never bothered me because it's not a personal issue. Very few rejected me because I am a woman. There are so many women in the ministry now that United Church of Christ seminaries are about half women."

The most exciting change at IUC has been the summer internship program, she said. For the past few summers Ione and Condon United Churches of Christ have shared an intern pastor; a seminary student who is a licensed minister has allowed each pastor to take a vacation while the other was available to advise the student, if necessary. The student has also had a chance to be on his own, yet have another pastor close at hand, she said.

The choir was strong when I came here, she said. "The Church is blessed with musicians," so I can't take any credit for the music program.

A worship committee was just getting started when I came and it has



Cathy Barker

rely on the church council to help with some fresh leadership."

As a pastor, the Rev. Barker says she sees herself as an "enabler" bringing seedlings of ideas to people to plant, water, and bring to harvest.

Her new church, she says, will provide some new challenges for her. They have been through a financial crisis two years ago, so stewardship will be a challenge. There is no youth program, and Church growth will be a priority.

The Church is about the same size as the IUC, but the town is a much larger industrial town surrounded by rural areas.

"I'm looking forward to the winters," she said. "They have had winters with 100" of snow. I'm sick of Ione's puny winters. I like winter with commitment rather than the off-again-on-again winter of eastern

Oregon."

Mercy's ears picked up at the talk of a new home. She is apparently prepared for the adventure.

"By going to another part of the country, I'm challenging myself to adapt," the pastor said. "I have lived in the east, west, and Pacific northwest; the midwest seems to be the missing piece. I see myself as a citizen of the world, and am considering the longterm. I hope someday for an overseas mission," she said. "To adapt to another culture, I will need to be adaptable."

"Don't be afraid to really care about each other and really show how much you do care," she says will be her parting advice to parishioners. "We need to express our Christian love not just locally but globally."

The Rev. Vaughn Gossman, 33, from southern California, arrived in Heppner August 30 to pastor the Nazarene Church.

He and his wife Becky have three sons, Michael, 8; Joshua, 7; and Matthew, 7 months.

The Rev. Gossman served as senior pastor for two years at the 75-member Wilson Church of the Nazarene in Yuba City, California. Prior to that, he was an assistant pastor for three years at a multi-congregational church in LaPuente, California.

He studied religion and psychology at Pacific University at Azusa for one and one-half years, and attended Victor Valley College for two years where he earned an Associate of Arts degree. He expects

to attend Blue Mt. Community College while serving the Church in Heppner.

He says that his primary function as a pastor is to preach and teach the word. A pastor, he says, equips the saints for ministry and serves the needs of people.

The pastor says that he is not a minister who has lived in a hole, that he has been where everybody else has been. He held a variety of jobs, from truck driver to librarian, while he was in school. He has also worked as an instructor with a California Training School in court-ordered alcohol diversion, petty theft rehabilitation, and traffic school programs. All of which he says help him to relate with people.

Neighborhood Center will also be at the booth to explain how the Center benefits from United Way donations. Funds from the national organization and from the county United Way are used for emergency food, utilities, and shelter.

Members of the Heppner ambulance crew will have an ambulance on display. The ambulance crew has applied for United Way funds to help purchase medical equipment for the ambulance.

Tri-County Home Health which receives funds from United Way will be at the booth to check blood pressures.

Pat Scott from the Heppner

everyone staring at me because I am an American."

By the end of her stay, though, she said she didn't want to come home.

Her host family was Akira and Asako Tanabe, whose daughter Minako had stayed with Nance three years ago as part of the same exchange. The couple have another daughter, Fukiko.

"My family spoke very good English," she said, "so I just learned some basics of the language. A friend whose host family spoke only Japanese learned a lot more. It was a learning experience, though, a whole new way to live."

Mrs. Tanabe worked for the Toshiba Co. and Mr. Tanabe worked for the government. They were "rich" compared to many other families, the Heppner 4-H'er says. Their two-story house was large by Japanese standards, but very small compared to American homes. They had beds, a sink, shower, and bathtub, but the bathroom fixtures were in separate rooms instead of one room as in this country. Other families sleep on Totami mats and many still rely on public bath houses. The houses had no yards and were so close together "you could hear everything going on in the next house," she said.

4-H'ers received two major bits of advice during orientation, when we arrived, she said. "Don't wear shoes in the house and eat everything, but don't ask what it is until after you eat it."

"I liked eel," she said. "I thought it was good. I also ate a lot of raw fish, octopus, and dried squid. We ate rice for breakfast lunch, and dinner. Beef was very expensive, so we ate pork."

Tokyo is very clean, she said. "There is no graffiti on any subway. All the workers wear white gloves. Cab drivers wear suits. Everyone is dressed up. The whole city is clean."

"The people are very honest. I saw a billfold on the ground and told my host parents about it. They told me to just leave it there because the owner would come back and get it."

We hiked to the top of Mt. Fuji, saw how big Tokyo really is from the Tokyo Tower, saw many temples and shrines, Ginza St., and visited Japanese festivals. "I'm not sure exactly what they were celebrating, but many seemed to be still celebrating the end of World War II."

Tokyo is very hot and humid, she said, one day she just missed a typhoon. That day was the only time she saw clear, blue sky in Tokyo.

She says she would like to return to Japan for a visit in maybe a couple of years. "I met many people, some of them I'll never forget."

United Way explains benefits

Morrow County United Way Chairman Dave Hampton will explain how United Way benefits Morrow County at a booth next to the Heppner post office on Thursday, Sept. 18 from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

He will give away hot dogs and Pepsi.

Tri-County Home Health which receives funds from United Way will be at the booth to check blood pressures.

Pat Scott from the Heppner

4-H'er returns from Tokyo

Nance Wright, daughter of Ken and Judy Wright of Heppner participated in the 4-H Labo/Lex exchange to Tokyo last summer.

Tokyo was rather a shock when she first arrived, she said, because it is so crowded, and "I've been to big cities before," but Japan is 4 mountains so everybody has to crowd into such a small space. "The first week was hard because I got homesick and was not used to

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Jones honored at reception

Delpha Jones of Lexington has been appointed Community Service Chairman for the Oregon State Rebekah Assembly by state president Carol Ann Alley.

Jones will be responsible for compiling reports from each lodge, tallying points, and presenting awards to the lodges providing the most service to their community, county, and state.

She was honored at a reception Sunday at the Oddfellow Hall in Lexington. Kathy Tellechea baked and decorated two sheet cakes for the occasion. Serving cake, coffee, and punch were Virginia Peck, Dorothy

Burcham, Geri Martin, Luella Taylor, Kathy Tellechea and Frances Peck assisted.

Guests from The Dalles, Irrigon, Hermiston, Heppner, Ione, and Lexington attended.

Jones, a 36-year member of Holly Rebekah Lodge has served 27 years as secretary, has served as Noble Grand, Dist. Deputy President, Chaplin, and Drill Captain. She has served as Chairman of the district meeting twice, and has been a delegate to the state convention, but this is her first state office.

"It's an honor to serve the lodge," Jones said.



Delpha Jones and guests

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