

Interim at Ione 'felt right' pastor says

When the phone rang, I responded immediately realizing that this is what I was trained for, called to do, and it felt right, the Rev. Isa (Sara) Brown said of the interim ministry at Ione's United Church of Christ.

Escaping from California to Ione at first I thought I was getting sick because the air here is so pure. We're happy to be here; Ione people are so cordial and we have been received so grandly.

"I perceive myself as being on a journey with the people of my Church," Brown continued, "we're on a journey together seeking at one time with one another and with God." The difference is that I may have had some training others have not had, she said. "I hope that somehow I'm being an instrument to help somebody grow and to develop a more profound relationship with God, because most times ministers don't see dramatic evidence that they are accomplishing anything."

Sometimes I'm uncomfortable in the pulpit, above the rest of the congregation. I did a community service where everyone sat around the Altar and read scripture. A circle is very democratic because no one is above anyone else, she said. Everyone contributed and shared. After all, "we're all in the same boat, sometimes it's rotten; sometimes it's wonderful; but we're all together."

An interim ministry is different because the pastor acts as a bridge between the previous minister and the one who will come. Not only Brown's ministry, but also her life seems to be a journey. After graduation from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and sociology, she was a social worker for three years then moved to New York Ci-



Rev. Isa (Sara) Brown where she worked as an executive secretary at Columbia University and for Alistar Cook. During this time she studied acting, modern dance and voice; was the chief character actress for off-Broadway and in summer stock performances; and began working toward a masters degree in elementary education.

From New York City, she returned to her "hometown" Rochester, New York, where she entered Colgate Rochester/Beckley Hall seminary (and met fellow student and former Heppnerite Rev. Ed Watts.) During her senior year, she received a call to a church in Lisle, New York, which she served as a full-time licensed pastor until her ordination in June, 1980.

"Being a student again keeps you young," Isa said. "I felt no generation gap at the seminary, only close friends. I've always had an insatiable curiosity about life and love learn-

ing, reading, travel and meeting new people."

Also in Rochester, taught at a community college and met and married Hasa Brown. That was 11 years ago, he said, and now I'm learning what it is to be a house husband a pastor's husband all at the same time. Though I suspect pastors' wives just because there aren't as many of us and we're not expected to do as much, he said.

Before their marriage, Hasa served in the U.S. Army, worked construction trades, taught himself electrical work, was a forklift operator, brewmaster, and restaurant owner and manager.

From Rochester, New York, the couple moved to Ft. Berthold, ND, where Hasa earned his G.E.D. and attended United Theological Seminary for a year during her ministry at the church. Isa also taught community college. For a time she ministered to three churches on the reservation and taught classes in Indian Culture which, she said, Indians on the reservation loved because many know very little about their culture.

From Ft. Berthold, their journey continued to North Fork, California, 45 miles North of Fresno in the Sierras and Grace Community United Church of Christ. She served the small church for two years until they moved to Fresno and became house parents for six teen-age boys with severe emotional problems.

After Hasa fell, and injured his knee, they left the group home and because Isa qualified for an emergency teaching certificate in California, she did substitute teaching for grades kindergarten-sixth in the Fresno area. "I was prepared to continue with that this

fall while doing volunteer ministry. I planned a service of the Word and Sacrament for early mornings, adult education classes in Native American spirituality, a course on dreams, and a class of spiritual growth through drama. I was also going to do a five-week course with battered women at a Center for Domestic Violence.

When the interim is over at Ione, "I think maybe another interim for awhile. Also, I'm seriously considering returning to school for a masters degree in counseling for accreditation in California to open a private practice. It's difficult to plan the future, though," she said, "because life changes suddenly. I feel God has a hand in what we do, and it's best to go with my intuition."



Blood drawing a success

J.J. Osmin chats with a Red Cross staff person at Monday's blood drawing in Heppner. J.J. was one of five Heppner High School Honor Society members who donated time to help. Twelve Pioneer Memorial Hospital employees also volunteered their time to help Red Cross workers draw blood, Sandi Hanna, of Pioneer Memorial Hospital said. Fifty-nine people gave blood she said, "that's nine over our goal and 12 over last year."

Canadian priest joins All Saints'

The Rev. Tony Bullman, most recently of Rocky Mt. House, Alberta, Canada, came to Heppner early this month to serve as vicar of All Saints Episcopal Church.

He, his wife Barbara and two sons Mark and Paul are "delighted to be in Heppner," he said. Small town America is so much different from a small town in Canada. In America, people are proud of their small community and way of life. In Canada, the feeling in small towns is one of being left behind. It's depressing and the towns are run down, he said.

Born in England, Bullman moved to Canada with his parents in 1949, at the age of 18. He knew from childhood that he was called to the ministry, but delayed that career while working as an accountant for 10 years to help his family get settled in. He earned his masters of



divinity from Emmanuel and St. Chad in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The first four years of his ministry was spent in mission work in northern Saskatchewan. He served seven churches driving 4,000 miles each month on gravel roads. "After my work there, I was totally exhausted and ready to resign the ministry," he said.

He did leave the ministry for four years in the early 1960s. During that time, "a conversion experience allowed me to see that the Church didn't depend on me but on my relationship with God," he said. "I still work hard, but I see that I owe responsibility to myself and my family also. With the conversion experience, I was touched by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and so my ministry is also touched," he continued.

My ministry is spirit-filled, he explained, and my role is to bring the message of how important Jesus is in my life to the Congregation so they can understand how everyone needs a personal relationship with Jesus.

Refuges closed

From page 1

hibited at all times. However, shotguns can be used in designated hunting areas for waterfowl, pheasant, quail and rabbits during the waterfowl season.

Waterfowl hunters are required to use non-toxic (steel) shot when hunting anywhere along the Columbia River including Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge, he said.

All three refuges have some or all of these additional restrictions: shell limitations, specific hunt days, permits required. Refuge hunt leaflets should be consulted.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Umatilla Refuge Complex office at 503-922-3232.

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