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Gazette Times

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With Advent, another beginning as a new priest starts her service at Hope Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal

With this year's Advent season comes a new beginning for All Saints Episcopal and Hope Lutheran churches-a new priest.

The Reverend Janis Johnson, an Episcopal priest, began as pastor for the joint ministry of Hope and All Saints in Heppner on December 1.

The Rev. Johnson, 54, is originally from Old Willapa in Washington State. She graduated from high school from Raymond High School there and attended Seattle Pacific College, now Seattle Pacific University, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in German in 1974. During her studies at Seattle Pacific, she had the opportunity to spend the summer of 1972 studying in Vienna, Austria.

After graduation from college, she substitute taught high school for a short time and then went to work for the Washington State Employment Security Department as a vocational counselor for single parents on public assistance. She worked for the department for 15 years in a variety of capacities, which included developing a mentorship program for women on public assistance and developing a series of self-esteem retreats for them.

She then went to work for the Department of Social and Health Services where she did community program development, working on development of housing programs, a drop-in center for teen parents, disaster relief planning and numerous domestic violence services.

The Rev. Janis Johnson

Then, she says, she got tired of meetings and went back to being a social worker primarily dealing with teen parents and women in domestic violence situations. It was during that time she felt a call to go to seminary. She enrolled at Fuller Theological Seminary and took classes on the history first six centuries of Christianity. It was during that time she saw an Episcopal shield on the side of the road and felt a call to not just study religion, but to become a priest. So she entered the process of holy ordination. She retired from her job and moved to New York City where enrolled in the Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in Chelsea. The seminary, a cloistered community that spans a city block, is located on the estate of the writer of "The Night Before Christmas", Clement Moore. "I had a great time there and met wonderful people," said the Rev. Johnson. During her stay in New York she was able to impose ashes on Ash Wednesday at Ground Zero which was "one of the most moving experiences I've ever had," she said. "We stood there until there were no more ashes on our hands." She was at St. Paul's Chapel, which was used as a respite site for Ground Zero workers, until she and others were forced to leave.

After her graduation from seminary in May of this year, she returned to Washington State where she worked as an unpaid deacon in the Kenmore Church of the Redeemer, around an 80-mile commute from where she lived in Olympia. "It was a great parish; they've just been a loving community," said the Rev. Johnson, who adds that some of the parish members from there will be in Heppner for her ordination.

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Murray Drugs' decorated tree wins people's choice award; light parade, gingerbread contest winners announced

HHS Class of 2008 won the light parade school category

J&G Concrete won the community light parade category

Murray Drugs' tree won the people's choice award

Murray Drugs won the People's Choice Award for decorated Christmas trees auction held Friday night at the Heppner City Hall with their entry, "Tree of Hope". The auction was held in conjunction with the Stroll Heppner and Light Parade. The money raised will go to Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

The Heppner High School Class of 2008 won first place in school category for the light parade; J&G Concrete won first in the community category; the Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Rodeo Court won first in the court entries; and Glenn Baker won first in the individual entries with his Scrooge outfit. Baker had also won the Scrooge contest in which voters donated money to his jar placed at the Bank of Eastern Oregon. He, Cliff Green, George Koffler and David Sykes, all Heppner, competed for donations for the downtown loud speaker system and Baker brought in the most money.

Each light parade winner received $75.

Winners of the Chamber-Willow Creek Diner Gingerbread House Contest were: three to five years - Charles Cason; six to nine years - Ella McCormack; and 10-12 years - McKenzie Correa. Each winner received $20.

Strolling Heppner

Charles Cason and his first place entry in the gingerbread house decorating contest in the three to five-year-old category

Scrooged!

Irrigon High School cheerleaders, boosters aid sick baby

The Irrigon High School Cheerleaders and Knights Pride Booster Club hosted a cake and dessert benefit raffle for the Jacob and Amy Taylor family on Tuesday, Dec.5, during the Irrigon/ Ione games. The Taylors' baby, Kya, was born prematurely and very ill.

For more information please call Dana Izaguirre at 922-2971.

Caroling planned Saturday

Pastor Keith Brudevold of the Heppner United Methodist Church will lead carolers around town on Saturday, Dec. 9. Anyone interested should meet at All Saints Episcopal Church at 3:30 p.m. that day for practice, with caroling to begin around 4 p.m. The group will tour the town and visit Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living. Carolers will travel by car.

Anyone who knows of shut-ins they would like to include should let Pastor Brudevold know. Cookies and hot drinks will be served at the church following the caroling session.

Public gets look at new flood plain maps

A public hearing to discuss the new Willow Creek Valley flood maps was sparsely attended Monday night, as government officials explained the new maps and how the data was arrived at.

The new maps will be used by lending institutions and insurance agents in determining who must purchase flood insurance and the cost of that insurance. In addition the maps will be used by the county and local communities for building and construction restrictions.

Denise Atkinson of FEMA was on hand to present the new map information and answer questions from the public.

The new maps cover the cities of Heppner, Lexington and Ione, and people were encouraged to check the new maps as the flood plain in many areas has shrunk and property that was in the flood plain may no longer be.

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MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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