



FILE PHOTO

Children visit with wise men during the 2014 Living Nativity at the Hermiston First United Methodist Church. This year's event is Saturday and Sunday.

Living Nativity shares reason for the season

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

An 82-year-old Hermiston man will don a robe and crown and stand in the cold this weekend, something he has done each Christmas season for more than two decades.

Don Waters, a member of the Hermiston United Methodist Church, has participated in the Living Nativity to help share the story of Jesus' birth ever since the church started the tradition nearly two dozen years ago.

"We try to tell people what the season is all about," Waters said. "It's about the gift Jesus Christ brought to us."

The 23rd annual Living Nativity is Saturday from 6-8 p.m. and Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at the Hermiston United Methodist Church, 191 E. Gladys Ave. The free outdoor presentation features four stations with actors, animals and reader boards.

"Don Waters has been a character for as long as I can remember," said Becky Hunt, who coordinates the event. "He has dressed up in the same kingly outfit for many years."

When determining parts for the cast, Waters wanted to be a king — a role he has

continued throughout the years. He carries a container with jewelry and participates with two other wise men, who also carry items that represent frankincense and myrrh. Waters enjoys participating in the presentation that helps in telling the Biblical story of Jesus.

The live animals, Waters said, seem to attract the attention of children that visit the Living Nativity. The program includes sheep, goats, burrows and chickens, he said.

"The little kids really like that," Waters said.

Recent improvements have been made with the presentation, Hunt said. A big prop for the angel stand was constructed by a group of teenagers, including many from the First Christian Church. Their effort helps with the Living Nativity, Hunt said, and provides students with community service hours for graduation.

People are welcome to linger as long as they would like. Hunt encourages people to stop by and reflect on the story of Jesus. After viewing the scenes, visitors are invited inside for hot chocolate and cookies.

For more information, call 541-567-3002.

New pastor looks to foster church growth

By **TAMMY MALGESINI**
Community Editor

The new pastor of the Hermiston Christian Center feels God led him to help rejuvenate the church.

Stan Steward most recently lived near Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Shari. Contacted by area denomination leaders, they discussed needs at the Hermiston church. Steward officially started in June but didn't settle into town until August.

"I rose to the challenge of trying to rebuild and re-establish this church," he said. "One of the things the church leadership and congregation is interested in is growing."

Attendance had dwindled to about 85 after peaking at around 300 a decade or so ago. The church also runs a Christian school, has 25 acres of land and a newly constructed gymnasium facility.

Steward, who has taught at the university level throughout most of his career in ministry, has seen growth at the church in the past few months.

"Just since the summer, there have been four to five new families that have come to the church," he said. "So, that's a good trend."

Steward said he enjoys the challenge of being a pastor more than the routine of teaching. He most recently served as professor of American history at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, near Dallas. He remains connected with the university, teaching through online courses.



STAFF PHOTO BY TAMMY MALGESINI

Stan Steward is the new pastor at the Hermiston Christian Center.

Calling being a pastor multi-dimensional, Steward said it includes roles as a counselor, developer, prophet and business manager.

"I think there's more of a hands on effect you can have in people's lives by pastoring," he said.

Although Steward hadn't previously visited Eastern Oregon, several relatives on his father's side died in the June 14, 1903 flood in Heppner.

With a deep interest in history, Steward is looking forward to exploring the area and learning more about the disaster.

The couple, who have five grown children spread across the United States, is adjusting to living in a smaller city. Steward said he's happy to be a part of the community and helping the church thrive.

"We're just still settling in, but it's off to a good start," he said. "This is a

good church with good people."

The Hermiston Christian Center is located at 1825 W. Highland Ave. Sunday services include Sunday school at 9 a.m. and worship at 10 a.m. In addition, there are small groups and other activities offered during the week.

For more information, contact 541-567-3480, hcc4u@machmedia.net or visit www.hcc4u.org.

IN BRIEF

Girl Scouts offer craft party

Girls in kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to make holiday gifts and decorations.

Hosted by the Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington, the Winter Break Craft Party is Monday, Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston. Each girl will need to bring a sack lunch.

Space is limited. The cost is \$15 for registered Girl Scouts and \$30 for community members. Registrations must be received by Monday, Dec. 14.

To register, send a check with girl's name, parent's name and contact information to Susie Re, GSOW Craft Party, P.O. Box 198, Hermiston, OR 97838.

For more information about the Winter Break Craft Party, call Stacia Miller at 541-720-2996.

To learn about joining Girl Scouts, visit www.girlscoutsofsw.org or call Addie Bower, GSOW membership specialist, at 541-389-8146.

Sam Boardman invites public to Christmas program

The Christmas program at Sam Boardman Elementary School is open to the public.

The event is Thursday at 6 p.m. in the school's gym, 301 Wilson Lane, Boardman. For those unable to attend the evening performance, they are invited to the final rehearsal at 1 p.m.

Those planning to attend are invited to bring a non-perishable food item, which will be donated to food baskets for those in need during the holiday season.

For more information, contact louise.kienzle@morrow.k12.or.us or 541-481-7383.

Red Cross encouraged giving life

The American Red Cross is asking individuals and organizations to give something that means something this winter by making a lifesaving blood donation or hosting a blood drive.

Blood donations often decline during the winter due to holiday festivities and travel. In addition, seasonal illnesses can also have a serious impact on blood donations

Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative, A negative and AB blood.

To donate, people need to be in good health, at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds.

While walk-ins are welcome, donors can make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 800-733-2767. Upcoming area blood drives include:

- Monday, Dec. 14, noon

to 5:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angel's Catholic Church, 565 W. Hermiston Ave., Hermiston.

• Tuesday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., PGE Coal Plant, 7334 Tower Road, Boardman.

Grief group meets in Irrigon

A weekly grief group is available in Irrigon.

Griefshare meets each Tuesday from 6:30-8 p.m.

at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 205 Tumbleweed Blvd., which is located behind Stokes Landing Senior Center. The Christian-based program is free to the public. The meetings include support, group discussions, DVD lessons and workbook exercises.

Supported by Vange John Memorial Hospice, the group is free. For more information, call Beth Harrington at 541-314-5888.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

NEW BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pastor J.C. Barnett
Children's Church & Nursery Available
700 West Orchard Avenue
P.O. Box 933
Hermiston, Oregon
541-289-4774

Echo Community Church
21 N Bonanza Street
Echo, OR
Phone: (541) 376-8108
Sunday School.....9:30 am
Worship.....10:45 am
Children's Church.....11:15 am
Potluck & Communion ~
First Sunday of the Month

Oasis Vineyard
A COMMUNITY OF HOPE
1255 Hwy. 395 S. • 567-5834
oasisvineyard.us
Worship 10:00 AM
"come as you are"

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturdays
Sabbath School.....9:30 a.m.
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
567-8241
855 W. Highland • Hermiston

Christmas Worship

Celebrate Christmas
with the members of
HERMISTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
191 East Gladys

- **LIVING NATIVITY:**
Sat. Dec. 12th 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Sun. Dec. 13th 4:00 - 6:00 PM
- Walk through at your own pace as the Christmas Story unfolds with live actors, a donkey, sheep & chickens.
- Afterwards warm up inside with refreshments.
- **Regular Sunday Morning Services at 11:00 AM**
- **Christmas Eve:**
"Come and Go Communion Service"
in our sanctuary Dec. 24th
from 7:00 - 8:00 PM

The Full Gospel Home Church
235 SW 3rd
Phone 567-7678
Rev. Ed Baker - Rev. Nina Baker
Sunday: Sunday School.....10:00 am
Worship.....11:00 am
Evening Service.....7:00 pm
Wednesday Service.....7:00 pm
"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1 Pet. 5:7

First United Methodist Church Of Hermiston
Rev. Dr. James T. Pierce, Pastor
Open Hearts, Open minds, Open doors
191 E. Gladys Ave.
Sunday Worship at 11am
(541) 567-3002

First Christian Church
"Proclaiming the Message of Hope, Living the Gospel of Love"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
CHILDREN'S CHURCH 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided
567-3013
775 W. Highland Ave., Hermiston

St. Johns Episcopal Church
All People Are Welcome
Scripture, Tradition and Reason
Family service 9am Sunday
Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston
Fr. Dan Ledlard, Priest. PH: 567-6672

Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church
565 W. HERMISTON AVE.
DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday
.....English 7:00 am
THURSDAY.....Spanish 6:00 pm
SATURDAY.....English 5:00 pm
.....Spanish 7:00 pm
SUNDAY.....English 9:00 am
.....Bilingual 11:00 am
.....Spanish 1:00 pm
OFFICE.....567-5812

Grace Baptist Church
555 SW 11th, Hermiston
567-9497
Nursery provided for all services
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:45 AM
6:00 pm
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM
"Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"

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the best thing about Sundays
1520 W ORCHARD AVE
Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am Classes for kids @ 9:15 am
SEEKING JESUS, SHARING LIFE, SERVING PEOPLE
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LANDMARK BAPTIST CHURCH
125 E. Beech Ave. • 567-3232
Pastor David Dever
Sun. Bible Classes.....10:00am
Sun. Worship Service.....11:00am
Sun. Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study.....6:00pm
www.hermistonlmbc.com

NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston
Sunday Worship Services
English- Pastor Dave Andrus
9:00 & 10:45 am
Spanish- Pastor Genaro Loredó
9:00 & 10:15 am
Classes for kids during all services
For more information call
541-567-8441

THE COUNTRY CHURCH
Pastor James Becker
32742 Diagonal RD
Hermiston OR 97838
Sunday School 10 am
Worship 7 am
Evening Service 7 pm
Bible Study Wednesdays 7 pm
Firestarter Youth Ministry
(Ages 12-17)
Monday @ 6 pm

HARVEST Baptist Church
Come Greater With Us!
Sunday AM Service 10:30 AM
Sunday PM Service 3:30 PM
Thursday Bible Class 6:00 PM
224 E Main Street, Hermiston, OR
(541) 701-9055
www.HBCHermiston.com

To share your worship times call
Amanda Jacobs
541-278-2683