

Assembly of God church welcomes new pastor

Written by Darci Tomky

□ Having arrived in Holyoke only a couple weeks ago, Max and Karen Hines have found it easy to adjust to the new community and church. As the Assembly of God's new pastor, Max notes, "The people, not just the congregation, they've all been very friendly and welcoming."

□ Small, rural communities are familiar to the couple, and they were even excited to see the town had a stoplight. Hines has pastored churches in Bartley, Neb., Miltonvale, Kan. and Lynden, Kan., all smaller than Holyoke.

□ When asked how he became involved in ministry, Hines simply said, "The Lord called me to it." Hines' father was also a pastor, which discouraged him from pursuing ministry options because he wanted to find an occupation that he could call his own. In the end, Hines knew this is what he should do.

□ Hines graduated from Platte Valley Bible College in Scottsbluff, Neb. in 1977. Here he received his education and also met his wife, Karen.

□ The couple looks forward to learning more about the community and becoming involved in the church. While Hines will be the one preaching, he emphasizes his wife is "a great help to my work."

□ In addition to being a pastor, Hines has also experienced a number of different jobs in a variety of communities. Working in the newspaper industry, the orchards in western Colorado and a lumberyard in Kansas are just a few of his undertakings throughout the years. Hines is also familiar with northeastern Colorado having spent two high school years in Sterling.

□ The couple has two grown sons with one living in Missouri and the other serving the military in Iraq.

□ After all the boxes are unpacked, Max and Karen look forward to planting a garden of both flowers and vegetables. They also enjoy camping and fishing in their free time.