Ann Shepherd Memorialized

Mourners packed First Presbyterian Church on Jan. 25 to celebrate the life of the woman who for more than 30 years was considered the surrogate mother to Portland's sexual minorities community.

Ann Shepherd—who co-founded the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays with her husband, Bill—died Jan. 4 at home. She was 84.

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, came all the way to Portland from Los Angeles for the service. The Revs. Dudley Weaver and Susan Leo of Bridgeport United Church of Christ also officiated.

"The Shepherd family wishes to thank all those who have extended the gift of their love and supportive presence to them in these last weeks," the service program read. "In the gift of one another we find strength and comfort."

Remembrances can be sent to the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Fund of Equity Foundation, P.O. Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228-5696.

PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

From left, the Revs. Susan Leo, Dudley Weaver and Troy D. Perry memorialize Ann Shepherd on Jan. 25 at First Presbyterian Church; inset, Susie Shepherd (center) celebrates her mother's life with well-wishers

Corvallis Group Disbands

AFTER 8—an organization that has provided queer advocacy, education and visibility in Benton and Linn counties for the past 15 years—no longer is functioning.

"There is not the sustained energy to continue maintaining the group's operations," president Karuna Neustadt wrote to supporters Jan. 13. "We believe that the time for AFTER 8 has passed."

The group was formed after voters approved 1988's Ballot Measure 8, which rescinded an executive order banning discrimination in state employment on the basis of sexual orientation. The initiative later was found unconstitutional by the Oregon Court of Appeals.

"The name 'AFTER 8' was chosen as a sign of hope that there was indeed life after Ballot Measure 8," Neustadt said. "We were determined to provide accurate information about the lives of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals so that nothing like Measure 8 would ever pass again."

Since then the Corvallis area has seen the creation of three Gay Straight Alliances, a youth support group and a chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. In addition, several churches formally have been designated as welcoming or reconciling congregations.

AFTER 8's Harvey Milk Awards, which started out as a small one-time dinner at a Unitarian fellowship, grew into an annual sold-out affair drawing more than 300 people. In the spring of 1992 the group joined with the American Civil Liberties Union and National Organization for Women to form the Mid-Valley Human Rights Coalition, which led the campaign that soundly defeated the Oregon Citizens Alliance's Measure 02-06, which would have allowed discrimination based on sexual orientation.

AFTER 8 also successfully worked to include sexual orientation in a Corvallis anti-discrimination ordinance; helped Benton County develop Oregon's first human rights law to include trans people; convinced the Corvallis School District to ensure the provision of domestic partnership benefits for nonrepresented employees and to curtail recruitment by the Boy Scouts of America; cosponsored the Opening Doors conferences for educators working with queer youth; and assisted Ashbrook School in writing a policy allowing free artistic expression for performers regarding sexual orientation. Volunteers also staffed "bigot busting" tables and made efforts to expand the public library's selection of queer-positive books.

The end of AFTER 8 "does not mean that there is not room for other LGBT groups to continue with their work, or for another LGBT group to come into existence," Neustadt said. "Indeed, we hope that this is exactly what happens, if it is needed."

Anti-Tobacco Coalition Forms

A new group is organizing to combat smoking in the sexual minorities community.

The LGBT Coalition Against Tobacco will

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