

## WHAT'S NEXT?

## FRED PHELPS RETURNS TO OREGON

The Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers will be in Oregon from April 17 to 19 to protest same-sex marriage.

The notorious preacher, who created the Web site GodHatesFags.com and heads Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., picketed outside the 1998 funeral of Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime. Phelps will be in Portland all day April 18 but also plans on spreading his message to Beaverton and Salem.

In a press release posted online, Phelps had harsh words for everyone on his hit list: Multnomah County ("sodomite whorehouse"), gay-friendly churches ("dog kennels/leper colonies"), Portland State University ("the fag/dyke propaganda mill and recruiting depot") and openly gay Oregon Supreme Court Justice Rives Kistler ("filthy fag"). The statement also demonstrated a surprisingly vast knowledge of sex slang including scat, rimming, fisting and golden showers.

Phelps was supposed to be in town Feb. 8 and 9 to protest a pro-gay photography exhibit

financed by the Beaverton School District, but he canceled at the last minute. This is where he plans on picketing this time:

- **April 17:** 4:30 to 5 p.m., St. Cecilia Catholic Church, 5105 S.W. Franklin St., Beaverton; 5 to 5:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 13715 S.W. Walker Road, Beaverton; 5:30 to 6 p.m., Faith Baptist Church, 3345 Cordon Road N.E., Salem.

- **April 18:** 8 to 8:30 a.m., St. Michael Lutheran Church, 6700 N.E. 29th Ave.; 9 to 9:30 a.m., Intown Presbyterian Church, 1411 S.W. 11th Ave.; 9:30 to 10 a.m., Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 147 N.W. 19th Ave.; 10 to 10:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1838 S.W. Jefferson St.; 10:30 to 11 a.m., St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1716 N.W. Davis St.; 11 to 11:30 a.m., Portland State University, Southwest Sixth Avenue and College Street.

- **April 19:** 7:45 to 8:15 a.m., Oregon Supreme Court, 1163 State St., Salem; 9:15 to 9:45 a.m., Portland City Hall, 1220 S.W. Fifth Ave.; 10:30 to 11 a.m., Beaverton School District, 16550 S.W. Merlo Road; and 11 to 11:30 a.m., Beaverton High School, 13000 S.W. Second St. [E]



Dozens of couples renew their marriage vows during "The Wedding Celebration" March 21 at First Congregational Church

missioners for the decision-making process that resulted in marriage equality.

## Benton County Gets Cold Feet

In an 11th-hour reversal, the Benton County Commission changed its mind about issuing

marriage license to same-sex couples starting March 24. Instead, it decided to withhold marriage licenses from all couples, gay or straight, until the Oregon Supreme Court rules on the matter. Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers' office reportedly threatened to arrest the county clerk if marriage licenses were issued to gay men and lesbians.

"We didn't so much put the brakes on the decision we made last week as that we are consistent with it," Commissioner Linda Modrell said. "All couples in Benton County will be treated the same."

BRO's Thorpe applauded the commissioners for defending human rights.

"It is a very creative and interesting solution to the dilemma that they were facing," she said. "On the other hand, for all the same-sex couples in Benton County who were counting on being able to get married, we're disappointed." [E]

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