



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joyce Felton and Pat Emmerson on their wedding day in 2004

its ban on same-sex marriage by as soon as 2012. The effort involves events, canvassing and a television ad campaign featuring Oregon couples—both straight and gay—speaking on why they support same-sex marriage.

"We know from experience and research that the most effective way to change hearts and minds about marriage is to open up, have conversations and connect on a very basic human level on things we all share," Frazzini says.

**Goin' To The Chapel, Again**

First Unitarian Church has decided to see the 2004 glass as half full. Its anniversary of the marriages is a way to celebrate love and to work for marriage equality, says the Rev. Kate Lore.

The church welcomes sexual minorities and is attended by several gay and lesbian families. In 2004, ministers married 200 same-sex church members, Lore explains.

"We went through our directory and called all of our members who were same-sex couples, and we decorated our chapel and had weddings for days," Lore says.

The church hopes to evoke that same energy during what it's calling the Politics of Love Weekend. The three-day event begins March 25 with a set by comedienne Suzanne Westenhoefer and music by the Portland Bear band Sneakin' Out.

The next day, Saturday, the church will host a community fair from 1 to 5 p.m. It will fea-

ture films and workshops for the LGBTQ community.

On Sunday, the church will hold a special morning service to honor the anniversaries of same-sex couples. First Unitarian expects a Sunday attendance of 1,000.

Pat Emmerson and Joyce Felton are members of the church. They plan to attend to commemorate their wedding, an event they celebrated with family and friends seven years ago.

"Our wedding was sort of whimsical," Emmerson says. "We skipped in to 'Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah' instead of 'Here Comes the Bride.'"

And despite the fact their marriage was nullified, the couple is still happy they had one.

"They sent us our money back and canceled our marriage, but they didn't actually take away the marriage," Emmerson says. "They took away the paper, but they didn't take away the marriage."

"They didn't even take the paper away," Felton interrupts. "We still have that." ☐

*Politics of Love Weekend, March 25-27: Fri., 9 p.m., \$20, Sat., 1 p.m., free, Sun., 9:15 a.m., free; First Unitarian Church of Portland, 1011 SW 13th Ave.; firstunitarianportland.org.*

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