

AIDS-related stigma from society. Knowing what your HIV status is, Kaplan explained, is necessary for all sexually active people.

"Recent research suggests that knowing your HIV status is the most promising way to reduce infection and increase the quality of life for those living with HIV," he said.

National HIV Testing Day is Monday, June 27.

For more information about Cascade AIDS Project, visit cascadaids.org. For more on Pivot, visit pivotpdx.org.

Members of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church to March with Oregon Integrity During Pride

A contingent of the remaining congregation at Northeast Portland's St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (11229 NE Prescott) has announced it will march in Portland's Pride parade Sunday, June 19. The marchers join other metro area Episcopalians, and the diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend Dr. Michael J. Hanley, with the Portland chapter of Integrity USA. Integrity is the national association for GLBT Episcopalians and their supporters.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church made headlines in March 2010 when the priest and a majority of the congregation voted to leave the Episcopal Church over disagreements stemming from the denomination's increasing acceptance of GLBT members. Following



St. Matthew's volunteers

their abandonment of the Anglican Communion—to realign with the Anglican Church in North America, which despite the name is not part of the Anglican Communion—the Portland chapter of Integrity USA sent a letter to the continuing Episcopalian congregation expressing encouragement.

On May 14, Integrity members and supporters met at St. Matthew's for a community service day to spruce up the grounds in a gesture of appreciation and support coordinated by the Reverend Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence. The parish is returning the favor by marching with Integrity during Pride.

"We are beyond thrilled," says Andy McQuery, Integrity's diocesan organizer for Oregon. "We are seeing the fruits of graceful engagement, moving beyond homosexuality

as an 'issue' and toward the reality of human beings and relationships. This happens when you talk *to* people, instead of *about* them."

This marks the first time members of St. Matthew's have participated in the Portland Pride march. Though the St. Matthew's contingent is likely to be small—approximately three or four people—McQuery explains the excitement over the partnership in terms of it being a symbolic victory for the continued progress of religion and the GLBT community.

Whether or not any residual discomfort exists among the remaining members of St. Matthew's congregation as a whole is unclear—though as McQuery points out, "It is extremely significant that the parish's overhauled website includes the words 'gay and lesbian' on the homepage," an inclusion unthinkable just a year ago.

"I hope maybe this will spur many of the other Portland area churches that are perhaps a little too complacent or confident about their welcoming of GLBT folk to get more involved in outreach activities," says McQuery.

Bishop Hanley recently endorsed civil marriage equality for same-sex couples on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon's Marriage Matters Oregon campaign.

Coming up Wednesday, June 29, Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay Episcopalian minister, is scheduled to visit Portland in support of Equity Foundation. Robinson will speak and answer questions during a Breakfast Forum at the organization's offices downtown and then, in the evening, will speak at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on NW 19th. The general public is invited to both events, but tickets are limited and going fast.

For more information on Integrity USA, visit integrityusa.org. Bishop Gene Robinson appearances: Breakfast Forum, Wed., June 29, 7:30-9 a.m.; NW Health Foundation, 221 NW Second Ave., third floor Bamboo Conference Room; \$50. Equity Fundraiser Dinner, Wed., June 29, 7 p.m. reception, 7:30-9 p.m. dinner; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Kempton Hall, 147 NW 19th Ave.; \$75. To reserve your seats, call 503-231-5759 ext. 523 or email lanced@equityfoundation.org.

Community News

• Though Corvallis is without an official Pride



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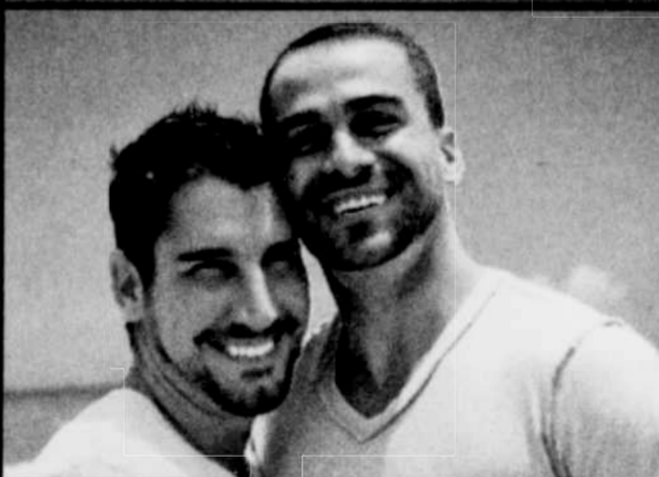
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