

Corgis: Event benefited the Oregon Humane Society

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“They’re lovable,” said Jennifer Robinson, the organizer of the Portland Corgi Meetup Group who hosts the yearly event. “It’s hard to look at a corgi and not smile.”

Famous Instagram accounts like @corgnelius, @aquacorg, @corgin-stagram and @ralphthecorgi, range from 80,000 followers up to nearly 700,000. There’s no doubt that corgis have stolen the heart of many.

“It’s the fact that they’re so happy with their people,” said Donna Newton, the breed rescue contact for the Columbia River Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club. “They’re smiling all the time. I think that’s why they appeal to people.”

The interest shown on social media has translated well in reality. Started in 2007, the Portland-based corgi meetup group has grown from 30 members to more than 500. This year the group cordially hosted an estimated 700-plus people, doubling last year’s attendance.

Even though it was a corgi beach day, all breeds could participate. With more than 700 people signing in at Cannon Beach, the Oregon Humane Society estimated at least 350 corgis attended.

“Everyone I’ve seen has had one or two or three,” said Christy Blahutka, who worked at the Oregon Humane Society booth, in regards to the number of corgis people brought with them.

On Facebook, there were more than 2,000 people “interested” in the event and another 1,000-plus RSVP’d as “going” to the event.

As the event grew larger each year, the group decided to reach out to the Oregon Humane Society. This is the second year the event has benefited the Oregon Humane Society. Last year’s event raised \$1,500.

“As our event started growing we wanted to do something to help the community as well,” Robinson said.

Combining a love for corgis with a dedication to giving back, the group also participates in events like Dogtoberfest, Walk in the Pearl, Doggie Street Fest and Strut Your Mutt.

See photos from OPB at <http://bit.ly/2au0IQJ> and from people at the event at <http://bit.ly/2aq8jBL>.



Corgis and their owners walk up and down the beach during the Oregon Corgi Beach Day benefiting the Oregon Humane Society on Saturday at Cannon Beach. The event included a costume competition, raffle and other activities. More photos online at <http://bit.ly/2aHkvis>



Justin Moore, dressed as a corgi, kneels beside his dog Baron during the Oregon Corgi Beach Day on Saturday benefiting the Oregon Humane Society at Cannon Beach. Corgi is Welsh for “dwarf dog.”



Maverick Harper throws a football as corgis chase it during the Oregon Corgi Beach Day benefiting the Oregon Humane Society on Saturday at Cannon Beach.

Corgis and their owners walk up and down the beach during the Oregon Corgi Beach Day in Cannon Beach. The event included a costume competition, raffle and other activities.



Tweedie: ‘Any success is the Lord’s. I’m a shepherd. I just sustain and feed the sheep.’

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The family calling

His father, uncle and grandfather were Presbyterian ministers in his native California, but Tweedie insists he did not plan to emulate them.

Armed with humanities degrees from San Francisco State University, and considering a college teaching career, he worked in a public library for six years fueled by his love of literature. A rejection letter from the University of California Berkeley graduate school led to gloomy reflection.

“I was devastated. I spent one Christmas vacation trying to settle my life down,” he recalled. “At the end of that week, I ‘surrendered.’ I said, ‘OK, God. You are going to work on me until I’m done.’”

He trained for the ministry, married the day after graduating from seminary (his wife, Jeanine is a nurse educator),

and embarked on a one-year fellowship in Edinburgh where he worked as a Scottish hospital chaplain.

He returned to serve a church in Logan, Utah, and neighboring Preston, Idaho. There Tweedie pioneered a hospice program and forged links with the Mormon community. A year in which he exchanged jobs with a pastor in Adelaide, Australia, was another highlight.

Eight years in Weed, California, at the foot of Mount Shasta, was followed by 17 years in Mililani, Hawaii. The church, outside of Honolulu on Hawaii’s most populous island, Oahu, was Tweedie’s longest assignment. It offered a settled base while he and Jeanine raised three daughters.

“It was one of the most amazing congregations ever,” he said. “It’s the melting pot of the Pacific. We had 14 to 16 different language groups

in the congregation — that meant great potluck suppers!” Asian and Polynesian cultures were well represented. “It was a pretty cool place. I thrived on cross-cultural communication.”

He enjoyed working with other Christian faiths, Buddhist groups, Jewish and Islamic leaders and others. “It was mind-numbingly exhilarating.”

Long Beach was a perfect final posting, said Tweedie, who just turned 65. “It has been a very welcoming community for an outsider — an instant embrace, and that’s not always true. We are glad to be retiring and staying here.”

Tweedie is proud of incorporating music into worship — including pieces he writes himself.

Bringing the young along

His church attracts young Christians from other con-

gregations. “I have enjoyed working with the members of the church and building a significant youth ministry, even though the congregation itself is older,” he said.

Youth mission trips have included the impoverished Yakama Indian Reservation, helping the homeless in Seattle, Portland and Spokane, and a visit to Puerto Rico. “We also try to have them experience different universities, especially Christian universities, and inspire them to higher education in a Christian environment.

“We set goals high and inspire them with the good news of God’s saving love through Jesus Christ,” he said, delighting in the phrase. “That’s a good saying and what I’m all about.

As well as meeting spiritual needs, Tweedie highlights the church’s practical role as a safety net for the less

fortunate. He will continue as board president for His Supper Table, a church-inspired community group which feeds the needy and operates a thrift store.

He has provided leadership for Food4Kids Backpack food program for Long Beach Elementary School and for Overnight Winter Lodging, which serves homeless people.

Tweedie is busy as a writer, having just published a book of peninsula stories. A couple of his plays have been performed by Peninsula Players, with whom he has acted and directed, and another, “You Never Know,” will be performed in August. His photography is displayed at the Bay Avenue Gallery in Ocean Park.

In retirement, he anticipates more writing and music composition, plus family activities. The Tweedies have two grandchildren.

The search is on

The church’s clerk of the session, Ardell McPhail, recruited Tweedie and has begun another search. She said Sunday speakers likely will fill in during August until an interim minister can be hired. A committee will hire a permanent replacement.

McPhail commended Tweedie for his contribution. “He has worked in the community to get our congregation to expand out,” she said, noting his successes in helping the homeless.

“He has brought in a lot of new people, and he has brought a lot of music to the church, his own and also inspiring others,” she said.

Tweedie passes on the credit. “I don’t know if I have been successful,” he said. “Any success is the Lord’s. I’m a shepherd. I just sustain and feed the sheep.”

— Patrick Webb