



### The Rev. Dr. Tom Schwartz –

Tom began his pastoral ministry at Christ Presbyterian Church in June of 2003. He was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Washington at Seattle. He went on to Princeton Theological Seminary for a Master of Divinity degree, and received a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Tom has also completed additional training in sex therapy and marital counseling.

Tom has served as an Assistant Campus Minister at Princeton University, a Campus Minister and College Instructor at Southern Oregon University, an Associate Pastor for Administration and Special Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, and an Associate Pastor at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette, California where his ministry included coordinating a Singles Ministry which reached out to over 4,000 individuals each year.

Tom and his wife, The Rev. Cheryl Nutting, have two children, Elizabeth and Michael. Tom enjoys spending time with his children, as well as running, carpentry, fishing, reading, and attending movies and concerts.

### **Tom's thoughts on ministry -**

*My enthusiasm for ministry is at its highest when I am working with others to envision more effective ways of communicating the Gospel. My spiritual life has been richly fed while participating in the life of local churches, but I know that has not been the experience of many men, women, youth and children. Churches today must be able to incorporate the richness of our tradition with new styles of ministry that inspire people to respond to God's call. Long time members must find their lives revitalized and new participants must find a church that fosters community and a compassionate concern for others.*

*Worship is central to the life of the Christian community. It is the place where we hear God's word to us today and have the opportunity to respond in prayer, song and commitment. Worship should be a joyful, nurturing, and at times, a prophetic moment in the life of the community that enables God's Spirit to work among us and encourages us to be faithful followers.*

*The primary role of leaders in the church is to empower people to use their God-given gifts for the benefit of the church and the wider community. A teamwork approach to leadership, where each person's opinions are respected and valued, offers the most hope for the church in the future. Church consultant Terry Hershey has written "When we don't need to control people, we're free to love them. When we don't need to be God, we are free to be used by God. When we don't need to win the game, we're free to enjoy being on the team. When we don't need to create an impenetrable reputation, we're free to give the ministry away."*

*As the church, we have a unique and important call to minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in need - to the poor and disenfranchised. At times I am overwhelmed by the suffering and pain experienced by so many people throughout the world. It is not an option for us to offer compassion. What does the Lord require of us? "Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)*