

News & Views

October 2010

**Atkinson Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist**



Community Fair—Sunday, Oct 24, after the service

RETURN OF THE COMMUNITY FAIR-

- 😊 Do you want to get more involved in the Atkinson Community?
- 😊 Have you always wanted to know more about church committees, teams, and groups?
- 😊 Are you hungry after church?



If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then plan to attend the AMC COMMUNITY FAIR—just head downstairs on Oct 24th, right after the service.

You'll be able to talk with various committee members, learn more about committee opportunities at Atkinson—and enjoy finger food! Come see the various things that are going on within AMC!

If you have questions, contact Diana Antoniskis.

Breakfast Potluck—Sept. 19

(Photos removed to respect privacy)

The Family Ministry Team sends a sincere thank you to **Louisa Gonyou and Pat Bacon** for all their help and company at this year's Kick-Off Potluck Breakfast.

You guys rock!



From the Minister

Chaos Theory for Churches. Truths of the Universe Revealed.

As much as we try to resist it, I think that at a basic level, our lives, the world, the universe are chaotic. We try to control things and often it seems we can, but the truth is that a human life is messy. It just is. And when we gather together in families and communities, it just gets messier.

Some religions respond to this truth of the universe by creating hierarchies and authorities with control to make sense of the mess – a Father God to watch over all and mete out ultimate justice. Our religious response is to recognize the mess and the chaos of life for what it is. To work with it and move in it and to recognize the possibility that arises from the messiness and chaos. To see divinity in the on-going creative processes of life, to be co-creators with that divine spirit of our lives and the world.

As such, we will have a grand opportunity to live out our theology this coming church year. As such, this will be a grand time to be part of this vibrant community.



Rev. Dana Worsnop

There is just so much going on in the church, in our lives. Though there has been another hiccup in the proceedings, our hope is yet to break ground and build our education wing with an elevator(!). Until then we will literally be holding church in a construction zone. What a great metaphor for our lives and our spiritual path.

All the while, we have babies being born in the church, people sharing triumph and tragedy, and

all the usual goings on – From the Community Fair this month to our on-going Chalice Circles, from the Holiday Fair in December to assorted potlucks. And then there are all sorts of religious education classes for children, youth and adults. Throughout, you continue to care tenderly for one another in tender times.

Living in this swirling, seeming chaos will continue to ask things of all. It will ask for your time and your talent. It will ask of your treasure, which I know feels all the more dear these days. But mostly it will ask of your heart. We are not just building an education wing with an elevator(!), we are building a home, we are building hope. These days when the world seems even more chaotic and uncertain, we are making a concrete statement of our hope and faith in our future together.

And, in the midst of it all we have seem to have a bunch of new folks checking out what's going on in this church that's building and growing and creating a buzz in the air.

To all of you who are new among us, you've found your way here at a really grand time. We hope you feel welcome and invited in – even if at times it all seems little chaotic and messy. I hope you also see that we are living our faith as fully and dynamically as we can. I hope you find a place to offer your gifts.

Welcome all to this swirling time of creativity and possibility in the life of Atkinson Memorial Church.

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana".

Rev. Dana Worsnop

Family Game Night coming November 10!

More details coming soon from the Family Ministry Team

April Albers, Linda McComiskey & Lisa Powell



Construction Delayed New Education Building Could Still Be Ready To Dedicate in September 2011

A Bump In The Road

The *Building the Future Team* received word that York and Curtis (Y & C) , our selected General Contractor, had not been able to fulfill their commitment to us. Their bid came in 20% higher than they had estimated.

The team gave Y & C one week to work with their subcontractors to bring back a bid that was reasonably close to their original estimate. Y & C failed to do so.

Opting to stay true to their congregational promise, to keep the mortgage at \$300,000 or less, the team took the fiscally responsible action. They dismissed the General Contractor.

Plan B

In our original bidding process other contractors had come in near the Y & C bid. The team interviewed these other bidders, checked their references and felt good about them. Y & C won the bid because their costs were slightly less. Plan B is to go out for another round of bids and select a new General Contractor.

New Timeline

The Building Team hopes that construction can begin in December or January and be completed in August as originally planned.

Theological Inspiration

The team received an inspirational email from Reverend Worsnop comparing us to Japanese Temple Builders.

Request a copy from TalkToUs@atkinsonchurch.org.

“Blessings on the work. Blessings on the Carpenters.”

Reverend Dana Worsnop, 2010



Moderator's Message

On September 4, the Board of Trustees held its annual retreat. One of these items that we discussed was the importance of our Ends Statements in guiding the work of Atkinson. These End Statements were developed last fall as we started our first year using the policy governance model. Since we re-visited them, I thought all of you might want to do the same.

ENDS STATEMENTS

Within

The people of Atkinson Memorial Church have a deeply meaningful, liberal, and spiritual experience that changes the way they live their lives.

- We share soul-nourishing worship that transforms, challenges and inspires.
- We find personal fulfillment through participation in church activities, leadership and a variety of programs that promote spiritual growth.
- We offer lifelong opportunities for growth and learning on our personal journeys.
- We gain an ever-deepening understanding of Unitarian Universalist theology and how it informs our spiritual and ethical lives.

Among

Atkinson Memorial Church is a vital, radically welcoming community of many diversities where members and friends deepen their connection to one another and other Unitarian Universalists and congregations.

- We live the openness of our tradition and grow ever-more diverse in over-coming the barriers that divide the human family.
- We share our life experiences and wisdom through a variety of programs, acknowledging the contributions of all generations.
- We minister to each other with care and compassion;

- We cherish our beautifully expanded green and accessible space where all are safe and accepted;
- We generously share human and financial resources to support our growing mission and ends.

Beyond

Atkinson Memorial Church is a visible leader and partner, as a beacon of liberal religion and a haven for justice and equity, and Oregon City, Clackamas County and the Portland area is a more just and compassionate community because of AMC's prophetic leadership.

- Our historic building is a welcoming gathering place for all who seek its use in congruence with our mission.
- We respond to prejudice, injustice and oppression, especially in supporting and affirming the GLBTQ community and in alleviating homelessness and hunger.
- We build, act, and invest in environmentally responsible and sustainable ways.
- Inspired by our faith, individuals, families and youth participate in acts of justice and compassion in the wider world.

These statements are the visions that we have set for our church. As our work at Atkinson progresses for this church year, keep these statements in mind and ask yourself how you are contributing to the achievement of our Ends.

Peace to All,



Alice Ericksen, Board Moderator

Stay safe!

NO EXIT

Construction Zone

Here's a reminder that during the months of deconstruction and construction, nearly all of us are to keep out of the fenced in area beside the church. A limited number of people on the Build the Future Team or in Facilities are allowed access. Red signs on the two doors that lead to the area will help remind us of this.

RE-thinking

Well, we have hit another bump in the road of building our new religious education wing. That's how the Build the Future team is talking about it and sitting in meetings with them, I am convinced. The idea of actually moving into brand new classrooms is a pretty mind-blowing concept. So, until the outside walls start appearing it won't really seem possible. But I do believe the Build the Future team believes this amazing thing is going to happen.

We hit a record in the children and youth attendance on our first Sunday of religious education this fall. We had 77 young people on Sunday, September 19. This means that a couple classes in particular are brimming. We are working on how to adapt to this, so you may hear more throughout the next month or so. The team of folks (Greg Penner, Dennis Bauermeister, JoAnne Forsyth and Sandra Cranston) leading the 4th, 5th and 6th graders have asked parents to sign up to be assistants. An extra helping hand in a room with 16 young people is a great comfort to the volunteer teachers. The Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd team may do the same thing. They are Brenda Koehler, Angie Koehler, Jim Ammeson and Eini Lowell.

The teachers and advisors are making a real effort to send emails home to parents with a brief description of what their group did each Sunday and a brief description of what is coming the following Sunday. If you are receiving these emails and appreciate them, please let them know. Otherwise they are talking into a vacuum. If you are not getting emails please let me know so we can add your email to their list of contacts.



This is an exciting year because of the building project and most of the groups are making-do with their accommodations to make room for construction. We know many of the spaces are not adequate, to say the least. That's exactly why we are building the new wing. So, please be patient with the volunteers who are teaching your children and youth; on the other hand, do let us know if you have concerns. We want this to be a friendly and enriching year for everyone amid all the excitement and chaos.

In the glow of gifts and challenges of community,

Annie

Annie Scott, Director of Religious Education



Chalice Circles - ...helping to light our way through deeper connection with each other and the world.

Chalice Circles are small groups of adults who meet every other week for 10 sessions (approximately 20 weeks) to grow in spirit and depth of community. Sign up in the Dome Room for your preferred days & times and we will create groups and notify you. Circles will begin the week of October 31. Questions? Speak with Annie Scott, Director of Religious Education

THE HOLIDAY FAIR IS FAST APPROACHING!!!!

It is only 64 days until the Atkinson Holiday Fair, our joyous fund- and fun-raiser to be held on Saturday, **Dec. 4** and **Sunday, Dec. 5**.

The shelves of our shops and booths are bare! We need help in stocking them to be ready for all of the shoppers who are planning to do their holiday shopping at Atkinson.

We are calling all.....

Artists and Sewers
Jewelers and Gardeners
Knitters and Bakers
&
Candlestick makers
(And all other talented Atkinson elves!)



Need Ideas?

The Old Curiosity Shop needs tshatshkes. (That's Yiddish for collectables, giftware, knick knacks, other interesting things. (Last year Dennis McCue purchased a life-size feather rooster which stands proudly on his bookcase)

The Booksellers Shop needs used books in giftable condition for adults and children.

For the **Hand Made goods shop** knitters and sewers might create hats, mitten, scarves, baby gifts, crib quilts, table linens, wall hangings; bakers could create delectable treats..

The **Toy Shop** can use dolls, cars and trucks, push toys, games, balls, puppets and stuffed lions, tigers and bears OH MY.....

If you have questions or concerns please call Margi McCue.



We're in two places on Facebook

Here's a reminder that Atkinson has two Facebook pages. "Atkinson Memorial Church" is for the general public as well as members of our congregation. Sermon topics are posted there each week. The second one, "Members and Friends of Atkinson Memorial Church," is a nonpublic group, only open to those in our congregation. There we post photos of our youth and kids and various events. Look us up on Facebook and join in!

Treasurer's Trove

Thanks to many things, including good cash flow coming in during the summer, our great auction last fiscal year and our very successful rummage sale in August we have been able to allocate a bit more than \$15,000 to our reserve. Electronic Fund Transfers help provide consistency of the incoming funds.

Members and friends have recently saved us a lot of money during the demolition of the old pre-school and preparing the site for our new building. Diane Benya loaned us her excavator (named "the Big Yellow Ting that eated the preschool" by 3-year-old Salem Allen) for several weeks for free saving us a lot of rental cost. Scott Silver, our "Minister of Destruction" spent a great deal of time operating said tract hoe (he called it play). He also spent untold days/hours working at the site and generally overseeing the entire demolition process. Many other members also spent a good

deal of time working hard to get this job done. Thanks to all of you we saved our congregation many, many thousands of dollars in labor costs and rental fees.

As mentioned above, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) both debit and credit helps with our cash flow and is becoming more and more popular with members. It's fast and easy to get this started. Just fill out and return the authorization form you can get in the church office, on the table in the Dome Room or by emailing Barb Pitney at If you have any questions feel free to email Barb or call her.

In Community,

 Treasurer



A "Lofty" View—Notes from the Choir

The fall music season is off to a rousing beginning with Water Communion featuring the delightful "Wade in the Water," and now we're looking through fall to the winter Holiday Season. We're going to have some wonderful music in our services, including renowned bassoonist, Bill Wilson, playing for our Day of the Dead service; Metropolitan Opera hopeful, Kenya Anderson singing, "Precious Lord"; the Bell Ensemble from First Church UU led by Ellie Hodder joining the choir in a Mongolian Shepherd's Song as a kick-off to Advent, and the fabulous music of Hannukah and Christmas, with many selections from each holiday tradition.

Now's the time to join us in raising our voices in celebration of Life. Yes, YOU are invited to be part of the Atkinson choir. No experience necessary, just a willing heart and voice. Our rehearsals are from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Wednesday evening. Please feel free to call with any questions you may have and know that you are very welcome.

Love,

Kris

Kris Armetta, Music Director



Children & Youth Change for Change!

Begins Sunday, October 3, 2010

The children and youth are having a fundraiser for the new building this year. The first Sunday of each month, we are inviting them to bring change to place in the clear acrylic "Change for Change" box. Over the course of the year we will see the coins grow and grow and fill up the box. Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, etc... any and all change will help grow our new building or perhaps the furnishings inside. During the spring the young people will explore how the money might be used in consultation with the Build the Future team. May your kids look in the sofa? How about under the seats in the car? Could they earn some change by doing a job around the house? The Change for Change campaign begins Sunday, October 3. The box will be passed from Children's Chapel to the junior youth to the senior youth.

SISTERS

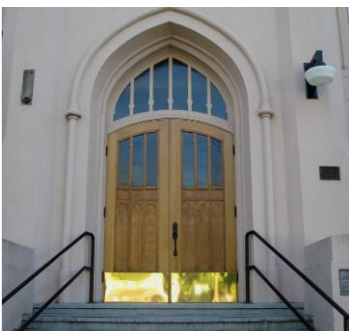
In October we are going to take a virtual trip to Mali, Africa. Selena Steinmetz, a relatively new member of SISTERS and Janet King's daughter, spent two months there recently and is going to tell us about her adventures. Now if that prospect doesn't draw you in, I don't know what could! **All interested women are welcome.**



So the meeting will be held at the same old time--**7 pm** and same old date, the second **Monday, October 11** in this case-- at Janet King's home. Call her if you need directions. (Please do not bring any food unless asked by the hostess!)

—Marion Minar

Where Did the Light Fixture Go?



Many have noticed that one external light fixture on the 6th Street entrance is missing. It has been loaned out to Oregon Dept of Transportation. ODOT? You may know that the Oregon City Willamette River Bridge (the "old" bridge) is undergoing renovation via ODOT. If you look, there are no lights on this bridge but there are many abandoned light mounts. It is conjectured that the lights were removed sometime because of vandalism. Also, if you look at old pictures of our church, you can tell that the fixtures currently on our building are NOT the original ones. Upon closer examination, it is clear that the fixtures are more Art Deco style than Gothic style so they really don't belong on our building. This close examination also reveals that the mounting hole pattern of our fixtures is suspiciously close to that of the "missing" OC bridge fixtures! It is now believed that some of the fixtures that were once on the bridge are now on our building!!! ODOT is in the process of creating replicas of "our" fixtures to put back onto the restored bridge. We anticipate having the fixture back on the building before Halloween. For reference, the OC bridge was completed in 1922 and our building was completed in 1925. I think our building has held up much better than the bridge, don't you?

—Scott Silver

Adult Faith Development Classes

The Gift of Faith: This is a 3-part book discussion class for parents or guardians that celebrates the importance of religious community, both as a support for parents/guardians and as an environment in which the spirituality of children can flourish. Led by Annie Scott, Director of Lifespan Religious Education. Childcare will be available. You can purchase the book for \$10 in the Dome Room
| Dates: Fridays, Nov. 5, 12, 19 | 6:30-8:00 pm | Fee: \$15

Hugs Matter: In this two-hour class, we will explore how infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop a secure relationship with their parents. Increase your understanding of attachment and how you can promote young children's exploration, confidence and competence.

Dates: Sunday, Oct. 10 | noon - 2:00 Fee: \$5 Min 5 participants
Facilitator: Angie Koehler Location: Martha White Room

Beaded Nametag Necklaces: Is your church nametag looking a bit dowdy? Dress it up with a beaded lanyard you make in this workshop and you'll be the envy of your pew. Materials provided.

Dates: Sunday, Dec. 5 | noon - 1:30 Fee: \$5 adult \$2.50 child
Facilitator: Sally Betser Location: South Room

Crafts for Christmas: Join with other church members making simple gifts to sell at our Holiday Fair. Materials and expertise provided. Just like an old-fashioned quilting circle, but without the quilt!

Dates: Thursday, Nov. 4 | 1-3 | & Saturday, Nov. 6 | 1-3 | Fee: None
Facilitators: Cay Borduin & JoAnne Forsyth
Location: Bachelder Room

Living By Heart: Join Rev. Dana Worsnop for two days of learning, contemplation, prayer, and self-examination. Using the video "Living by Heart" with Unitarian minister Harry Schofield, we will explore taking on this spiritual practice in our own lives.

Dates: Saturday Oct. 9, 9-4 & Saturday Nov. 6, 9-noon
Fee: \$20 (includes lunch) Facilitator: Rev. Dana Worsnop

Yoga: Imagine the perfect method of living a long, healthy, and happy life. One that is as efficient, effective, and safe as possible. Several thousand years ago someone called it YOGA. Experience yoga in this six week class led by Brandy Henry.

Dates: Sundays, Oct. 17 - Nov. 21 | 12:30-1:30 Fee: \$15
Facilitator: Brandy Henry Location: Parsonage

Look for sign-up sheets
in the Dome Room



SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL CLASSES—

Contact Annie Scott, Director of Religious Education at 503-656-7296

SUPPORT ATKINSON!

We're launching our *Chinook Book* fundraiser on **Sunday, October 10th** !

Chinook Book is filled with valuable coupons for saving at local, sustainable businesses that promote healthy living in our community. Find hundreds of dollars in everyday savings with offers for:

- **New Seasons**
- **Whole Foods**
- **Pizzicato**
- **Cha Cha Cha**
- **Bike Gallery**
- **Amtrak**
- **Portland Nursery**
- and many, many more!



To see a complete list, please visit: ChinookBook.net

The books are sold for **\$20** and we keep **\$10** per book! Our goal is to sell **75 BOOKS** and raise **\$750**. Save money and support our community with *Chinook Book*, all while helping us reach our fundraiser goal.

Remember, *Chinook Book* has something for everyone! It makes a great gift, so pick up copies for you and a friend.

To make your purchase, please contact **Jerry Spriggs or look in the Dome Room.**

Sunday, October 31 - Help Feed the Hungry

At the end of the month low-income families, individuals, and those with disabilities often find themselves short on money for food. Since 2001, youth and adults from our church have been cooking and serving a hot meal four times a year in Milwaukie. (whenever there is a 5th Sunday in the month). Oregon

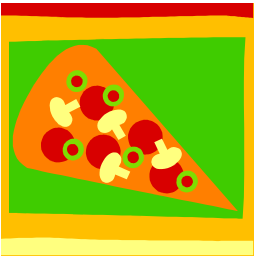
Food Bank provides the food. Adults and families (youth aged 12 and older) can lend a hand. Two shifts are available:

Shift #1 assists the cook with food preparation and set-up (start time varies depending on the menu, but a few people are needed about 10:30 or 11 a.m. and others can come right after the church service ends.

Shift #2 requires 10-12 people for serving and cleanup (starting at 1:50 p.m. to about 4 p.m.) Sign up in the Dome Room. Additional info is on the Social Action bulletin board in the Dome Room.

Sign up in the Dome Room or contact Faith Leith.

Join in the Party!



October Facilities work party will be on Saturday **October 9** from 9:00 to 12:00. We will be doing some scraping and painting, maybe a little digging, maybe a little demolition. Or fix one of your pet peeves! Come join the fun and enjoy pizza and conversation afterward. If you need childcare in order to attend, please contact JoAnne Forsyth (JoAnneLin@movingpixel.com, 503-557-1377).

We ask that each household send one person a year to help.

Hope to see you there!

Scott Silver

Plant Trees in Oregon City on October 10

10/10/10 is International Global Climate Action Day!

Trees capture and store carbon, reduce runoff into streams, improve water quality, lower stream temperatures to benefit fish, and provide homes for wildlife.

Last spring our Senior High Youth and Green Sanctuary Committee got us started on tree planting at our homes. Now youth and adults can plant native trees and shrubs along Abernethy Creek in Oregon City - a team effort with SOLV and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Date: **Sunday, October 10, 1-4 pm** (we regret that this project is near the same time as Anita Trudeau's memorial service; we'll dedicate this project to her memory)

Adults; ages 13-18 (1 adult per 4-5 youth); under age 12 (1 parent per 2 kids). We'll be bending and walking on uneven ground, so wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. SOLV provides tools and gloves.

Sign up on the list in the Dome Room and sign a waiver form (parent must sign if under 18). You also can contact Kathy Shinn and she can e-mail a form and directions.



Care Packages to Troops in Afghanistan

Spc. Matthew Waltz , the grandson of Margi McCue, serves with 37 other men in the 806th Engineering Company located about 70 miles west of Kandahar. They are charged with "route clearance" in the area.

Atkinson members will send care packages to him and the others in his platoon in time for Christmas. You can take part in this project in several ways:

Lists of items are available in the Dome Room; the incoming donations and gifts will be collected in marked containers in the Dome Room. Some items most wanted are home-baked cookies or Krispy treats (saran-wrapped), good quality socks, playing cards, magazines, handheld video games, Chapstick, liquid tear drops, unscented baby wipes , roll-on deodorant, Or you can knit helmet liners to keep heads warm in the winter and cooler in the summer. Donations toward mailing costs are appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Case or Dolores Heard.

Dr. Seuss Summer RE Program

This summer I took on a new role leading the summer Dr. Seuss RE program. Each group started with introductions, chalice lighting, sorrows and joys. Then we followed a UU Dr. Seuss curriculum, which involved reading a Dr. Seuss book, answering questions and doing an activity which related to the book. Our activities included art, poetry writing, word searches, and writing their own ending for a story.



We had 10-17 kids each week ranging in age from 5 to 12 years old. I thought a large group with such an age range would be challenging, but the children, your children, made it easy and fun! I was amazed each week by their willingness to share ideas, their thoughtfulness, teamwork and creativity. Although I look forward to returning to the nursery, I will greatly miss seeing these amazing children each week.

I would like to thank these volunteers who helped with either the Dr. Seuss program or in the nursery: Morris Henry, Brandy Henry, Barb Pitney, Dawn Middeke, Marie Morel-Seytoux, Faith Leith, Jeannine Smith, Jill DeSantis, Eileen Schmellor, Sheryl Christmas, Kelly Wigmore, Sarah Knaup, Anna Owens, and Darci Tuggle.

I would especially like to thank Kelly, Sarah, Darci, Brandy, Dawn and Annie, who made it possible for me to go on vacation! Thanks also to Margo Bacon and Natalie Fund for their work in the nursery.

–Kimberly Walch, Childcare Coordinator

Cookies & H.O.P.E.

Donations of cookies for the after-church coffee hour are always welcome: just leave them in the small kitchen, or put them directly in the freezer downstairs, for future use. **Please note: we have children in the congregation with severe allergic reactions to peanuts, so please don't bring any cookies or other products made with peanuts or peanut butter.**



Donations for H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Eat), a food shelf program in Oregon City, are always welcome. To help replenish their shelves, bring canned items (tuna, chili, soups, fruits and vegetables) or personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, shampoo, deodorant—any size), which can be left in the orange HOPE food barrel in the Dome Room.

Next News & Views Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is the 15th of this month. Send any Kudos, In the Family news, or articles to Pat Lichen, Office Administrator, at office@atkinsonchurch.org.

Activities and Events Calendar



To access our online calendar, click on www.atkinsonchurch.com/calendar
