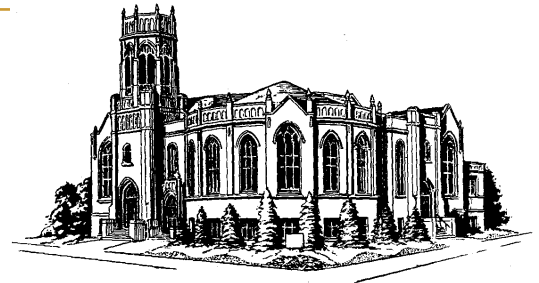


News & Views

April 2011

**Atkinson Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist**



April 2—Cabaret



Come to the.....

C A B A R E T !

when? Sat, April 2

time? 7:00 pm

where? Sanctuary

cost? FREE!!!

purpose? F U N

This year's theme is "The '50s, the '60s and Doo-Wop." Get ready for poodle skirts, tie-dyes, and aqua-colored leisure suits...

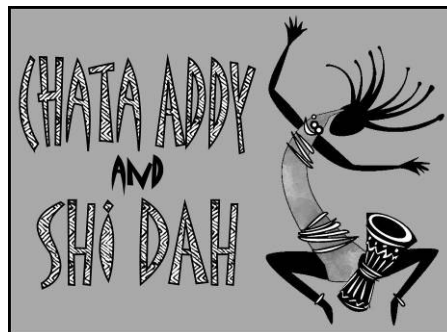
See you there!

April 9—Chata Addy

**The Rhythms of Ghana with
Chata Addy and Shi dah!
Concert and Workshop**

Saturday, April 9 3:00-5:00

Chata Addy and Shi dah blend traditional, contemporary and world beat sounds. Chata's drumming brings plenty of energy to the stage. Visit his website for a sample:
www.chataaddy.com.



The performance begins at 3 PM and goes until 5 PM. Following the concert, Chata will present a drumming workshop. Cost for the concert is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth 12-18, and is free for children under 12. The cost of the drumming workshop is \$15 per person or \$20 for a family. The workshop is limited to adults and youth over 12 years.

April 30—Author Fair

April 30th, from 11:00—3:00 pm in the Bachelder Room.

Featuring many writers from the region, the **Atkinson Authors' Faire** is an opportunity to celebrate the Northwest's rich literary tradition for book lovers of all ages!

This free event will feature signings, chats with the authors and a chance to meet with fellow book enthusiasts in the comfortable environs of the Atkinson Memorial Church. You'll find fiction and nonfiction books and the authors will be here to sign your copy and talk to you about the books you love.

www.atkinsonauthorsfaire.tripod.com/index.html

If you are a published author and want to sell your books with us (no E Books or Kindles, just books) please contact me.

— Rebecca Harrison,



From the Minister

Dear Ones,

Below is a letter that Rev. Peter Lee Scott sent to his colleagues many years ago about a column he wrote for a newsletter about *When to Call the Minister*. It's more than 50 years old, hence a little dated but still fairly apt, and so I share it with you.

Dear Colleagues,

"When To Call The Minister" has been recreated and revised, attributed and misattributed, over the years, as things in our newsletters often do. I wrote it for the Elm City Universalist probably in 1957. It has been a lot of fun, over the years, to see it appear in many other newsletters!

WHEN TO CALL THE MINISTER? Here are a few suggestions:

- When you haven't met me yet, but would like to.
- When you have problems you'd like to discuss -- concerning your children, your job, your marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might be of help.
- When you're going in the hospital or know someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill.
- When you're planning to be married (or might need to be).
- When you have a child to be dedicated.
- When you're pregnant but wish you weren't.
- When you've been arrested (or ought to be).
- When you have a friend or neighbor who would like more information about the Universalist Unitarian faith.
- When you're considering joining the congregation.
- When you'd like to show us what a good cook you are!
- When you have suggestions to make about programs for the church.
- When you have suggestions for a sermon or about the Sunday services.
- When you'd like help with committee work or with other congregational activities.

-When there are community issues you'd like to discuss or would like me involved with.

-When you're mad at me.

-When you'd like to talk religion with me.

These are just a few of the reasons to call the minister. Please feel free to make up more of your own. And it's not that these are times you must call me. This is a serious part of the work I do among you, yet I share it gratefully with many folks -- our Pastoral Associates, your friends from a Chalice Circle, fellow teachers or committee members, the other folks in the choir, someone you worked side by side with on the Holiday Fair. I want to be there for you whenever I am needed, or to make sure that someone is.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Dana

Rev, Dana Worsnop



My Schedule

I am potentially available 24 hours a day if your situation is very serious, but here is my usual schedule: The best days for me are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, afternoons and early evenings. I like to be doing service planning and sermon writing on Fridays and Saturdays, but those days can be flexible. I don't keep specific office hours, but am available by appointment usually within a couple days of your call.

In general, please don't call before 9 am or after 9 pm, but if your crisis happens at 3 in the morning, please don't hesitate to call. Mondays are my day off, and I usually take Sunday afternoon and evening off as well. My cell is *always* the best way to reach me. I have no landline and I don't check my church voicemail every day. REALLY, call me on my cell.

Moderator's Message

At our March meeting, the Board of Trustees had an extensive conversation with members of the Executive Team, largely about the 2011-2012 budget. The discussion was a good one. We reviewed the priorities that the Board had set in January and how these were integrated into the draft budget. Also we were pleased to see that for the first time, we have projected budgets for two more years into the future.

Every member of the congregation will have the opportunity to have that same discussion with the Board and Executive Team on **April 17** after the church service. We will share this draft budget with you and discuss how this budget is a reflection

of our values as a congregation. Also on the agenda of this Town Hall meeting will be the revision of our bylaws. Both of these items will be voted on at the **May 22**, Annual Congregational Meeting. We will serve a light lunch and childcare will be available. So be sure to join us and get informed and involved.

The construction trailer is on site and work has begun on our new addition. Because of the generosity and vision of all of us, this dream of class-



rooms not corners and accessibility for all is coming true. We are still on schedule to occupy the new wing at the beginning of the 2011 church year.

There has been a change of date for our visioning session with Rev. Robert Latham. He will be joining us on Saturday, **May 14**. This session will kick off the process of developing a new five-year plan for our congregation. So please mark your calendars and join us in planning for our future.

And finally, check out the article in this issue of *News and Views* about the Chata Addy concert and drumming workshop. This is the first in a series of concerts that is being

planned by the Fundraising Committee. The hope is that not only will we make a little money for the congregation, but that we will also establish Atkinson as an events venue in Oregon City. So be there on **April 9 from 3 – 5 PM** and share the fun.

Peace to all,

Alice Ericksen, Board Moderator

Get a Sneak Preview

Join us for a sneak preview of two important issues that you will be voting on at the Annual Congregational Meeting in May. Immediately following the service on **April 17**, the Board of Trustees is hosting a **Town Hall meeting** to get your comments and answer questions about the proposed changes to our **bylaws and our 2011-2012 budget**. Our bylaws have undergone extensive revision to more fully reflect how we actually do business here at Atkinson. Also our proposed budget accounts for our new mortgage payment and fair compensation for our staff, and for the first time we are projecting budgets into the next two years.

The Board needs your input before we put these items up for a vote at our Annual Meeting. So please be there to give us guidance and enjoy a **light lunch. Childcare will be provided.**

RE-thinking

I'd expected to return from my medical leave at the end of January. But with complications, it was not clear at all when I would be able to return to work. As most of you know, the church hired retired Religious Educator Lynne Bacon—my friend and colleague—to come in part-time and support the RE teachers and advisors. What a gift she was to many at Atkinson including Dana and me. One of the gifts to me has been hearing her impressions and feedback about our RE program. Here's what she wrote in an email to me,

"Your program has depth, is a well-oiled machine, and the whole atmosphere is positive. It's been such a gift to see that and to get to be part of it. You have something very special there-- treasure it."

Many new families seemed to feel similarly to Lynne, and consequently many of the children's groups have exploded in size over this church year. Next church year we will need more RE groups and thus more RE teachers and advisors. Our program is buzzing with the excitement of new families and children and the anticipation of 6 new rooms that will be ready for us in the fall as our 2011-2012 church year begins. We will have RE Groups in the new wing, in the parsonage and in the main building. AND, every group will have a room and not a corner or a closet to meet in. Hurrah!!!

Sandra Cranston had been attending Atkinson for several years but hadn't found a place to really connect with other people. She decided to join the Fourth and Fifth grade teaching team for this year and she recently sent me a note sharing what made her decide to teach RE. She refers to a sermon I gave last spring.

"You expressed that we all need to find something within the church that suits us, that we can't wait for things to happen. At that time I was feeling a little down because I was struggling in the congregation, I'm not by nature an

extrovert and was going through a period where I wondered if I was not fitting in very well yet I just loved being there. Your talk that Sunday got me thinking that I had not done a very good job trying to find a direction at Atkinson and I couldn't wait for something to happen, I had to find something that suits me, and it got me thinking that perhaps I could also look into children's RE. Soon after, I got a telephone call and it was just what I needed to feel like I really can be a part of things. There may be others fairly new to the church who struggle with their community identity. I have really enjoyed getting to know the teachers and it really was a blessing for me to be asked if I was interested in it."

Sandra has volunteered to teach again next year as have many others. The Teacher Council will be contacting congregants in the next few weeks to extend invitations to join the rich experience that being a part of an RE team can be. Please consider it. There is a wonderful community that develops each year among the thirty some volunteers. To qualify, you need to have been an active participant at Atkinson for at least one year, but you don't need to be an expert on Unitarian Universalism. We believe teaching our children and youth is some of the best adult religious education we do here at Atkinson. Our adult volunteers are not just leading the children and youth groups, they are learning right alongside them.

In the joy of this beloved community,

Annie

Annie Scott, Director of Religious Education



A Farewell Message from Lynne Bacon, Interim Assistant to the DRE

What a delight it was to serve your congregation while Annie Scott, your Director of Lifespan Religious Education, recovered from surgery. I've long suspected that the children and youth as well as the adults who serve in religious education at Atkinson were in good hands. I was right! It is no wonder that new families arrived each Sunday I was there. Together you have created a warm community with children, youth and adults happily engaged in religious growth and learning. There's an attitude of deep caring. Classrooms are skillfully managed in spite of the challenges of limited space. Often my presence seemed superfluous in this smoothly running system. But what a gift it was to play a brief role in your RE program—cheerleading, lending a hand, sharing some of my wisdom while at the same time learning from you as well. Thank you so very much.

Holy Week Vespers – Thursday April 21

Vespers services are a time of reflection and respite in hectic time. Join Rev. Dana Worsnop and Worship Associate Susan Landis Steward in this Holy Week Vespers service on Thursday, April 21 at 6 pm.

In this Maundy Thursday service, we will participate in the ancient rite of communion from a distinctly Unitarian Universalist perspective. We will share food and drink for the body and the spirit as we remember all who share the great community of life. Music Director Kristina Jones will sing “The Crucifixion” by Samuel Barber.

Easter Potluck - Sunday, April 24th - 9:30-10:30

Join us in the Bachelder Room for delicious food and friendly conversation. Please bring a dish to share with others. **Hot dishes are especially appreciated.** We will be contacting volunteers to help make this Atkinson tradition a success.



Instead of an egg hunt this year, children are invited to join us for crafts and other activities after breakfast and before the service starts.

April Events from the Family Ministry Team

Sunday, April 3rd: Family Snack Hour sponsored by Marie Morel-Seytoux & Ron Skoletsy. After the service in the Bachelder Room

Sunday, April 10th: Family Ministry Team Meeting from 12:00-1:30 in the Rainbow room. For more information, contact April Albers.

Saturday, April 16th: Adoptive Family Support Group - 9:30-11:30 in the Martha White Room. For more information contact Kim Walch

Sunday, April 24th: Easter Potluck Breakfast - 9:30-10:30 in the Bachelder Room - For more information or to volunteer, contact April Albers

Coming in May: Watch for info about kicking off "Picnic in the Park." As soon as the weather turns warm and sunny, all families are welcome to pack a lunch and join us in the Carnegie Park across the street after the service. This Atkinson tradition gives kids and parents an opportunity to spend social time together.

Our Congregation's Generosity

This generous congregation gives away all the cash in the collection plate twice each month. Your donations last month totaled:

- \$554.76 to Oregon City Congregations Emergency Relief Fund (OCCERF)
 - \$569.09 for H.O.P.E.
-

Treasurer's Trove

Hooray, construction has begun on our new wing! And our pledge drive appears to be doing very well. Thanks to all whom have worked so hard for so long to get our new building going and to all whom have contributed money and "sweat equity" to get us where we're at.

The Finance Committee has gathered much information for the Executive Team as they are developing the 2011-2012 budget. They are also projecting budgets for two additional years. On Sunday, April 17th, after the service, a Town Hall meeting will be held. We'll be looking at the proposed budget. We will also discuss the revised AMC by-laws the Board has been working on for some time. You are invited to attend.

Nineteen individuals/families are now using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If this fits with your

budgetary plans, you are invited to sign up for this convenient way to contribute funds to your Atkinson Church and community. Debit and/or credit can be used. This helps with our cash flow. It's fast and easy to get started. Just fill out and return the authorization form you can get in the church office, on a table in the Dome Room or by emailing Barb Pitney. In a basket in the Dome Room are some cards printed on both sides with "I give electronically" for those who do so to pick up and put in the collection plate as it goes by. If you have any questions feel free to email Barb or call her .

In Community,



Ron Pitney, Treasurer



A "Lofty" View—Notes from the Choir

Here we are in the middle of springtime! How beautiful, how welcome is the sunshine, the flowers, and, oh yes, The Music!

Easter Sunday is April 24, and it is our pleasure to present our Beloved Community with one of the great treasures of all choral music: "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah."

Do you know it? Have you ever wanted to sing it again?

Now's your opportunity! Come on Wednesday evening at 7:pm and join us... You can be a "short-timer" in the choir and check us out! Warm up your vocal chords, raise your spirits -- if you like to sing, we guarantee you a marvelous time!

You might also like to be part of our next "Music and Worship Service" on May 22. The choir will be presenting several interesting, diverse and beautiful works and you are welcome to join us.

Service through music is a wonderful way to share your worship experience. Please don't hesitate to call for more information,

Love,

Kris



SISTERS

Someone once wrote, "April is the cruelest month." No, wait—maybe it was "September is the cruelest month." No, wait—well anyway—this April is not cruel because I get to hang out with my SISTERS. That makes it a good month! All interested women are invited to come be SISTERS with us. We meet on the second Monday, April 11. This month the meeting will be at the home of Laura Struble. We gather at 7 p.m. for 1/2 hour of social time and then have a program of sorts. What sort is up to the hostess.



In response to the tragedy in Japan, Laura and Candace Solini and going to lead a discussion of emergency preparedness, what we need to have on hand, where to store it, and any other ideas they or you can come up with to help us handle such a dire situation. This could even include an accident on a hike or skiing, or a car accident. Do you know CPR? If not, we'll tell you where you can learn it.

For more information and directions to Laura's home email her

For more information about SISTERS email Marion Minar

UU 201 - Our American Roots

Want to know more about Unitarians and Universalists as an American faith?

New to our faith and interested in our American historical roots?

Been around a while and keep hearing references to Thomas Jefferson being a Unitarian (or not)?

Join Rev. Dana Worsnop using the video curriculum *Our American Roots* on Wednesday evenings in May and June.

We'll meet May 4, 11, 18, 25 and June 8 from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Look for sign up sheets in the Dome Room. For more information, contact Rev. Worsnop .



9th-12th grade YRUU visitors

The Young Religious Unitarian Universalist group enjoyed a visit by 4 Evangelical youths and 2 of their advisors from the Oregon City church on March 6. During the "describe your conversion experience" portion, 3 of our youths also shared their "conversions to the UU church." The Evangelicals spoke of tolerance (a gay man attends their church) and treating others as Jesus would (they spent time on the streets with the homeless without trying to convert them). Overall, it was an enlightening exchange of views.

On April 3 we look forward to another visit from several Muslim youths from the Bilal Mosque in Beaverton. The focus of these meetings is teen-to-teen so the questions tend to be more personal in nature.

"Have you ever visited a Muslim country? Explain your person prayer ritual. Do you remember 9/11 and what kind of impact did it have on you?" Exploring other faiths helps our youths embrace the meaning of the Markham poem – "... we drew a circle that took him in."

Rev. Worsnop's schedule

All,

In advancement of our quest to become more of a year-round church, I am taking my study leave/vacation time throughout the year rather than all over the summer. My next time away will be March 24-April 11. The last time I tried this, pastoral concerns whittled it down to just about one week. This time, I'm hoping to get more time fully away. I have a couple of projects in mind - including a study of the mystical humanism of Walt Whitman and Kenneth Patton and finishing Mark Twain's Autobiography (started in January). The vegetable garden I share with my neighbor also cries out for some tilling and tending - so I will be deepening my spiritual practice of noticing the rhythms of the season.

I am very much hoping that this new schedule will give me the time I need for study, reflection and rest and serve the needs of the community more fully.

Dana

50th UUA General Assembly June 22-26

This year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, our 50th, will be held in Charlotte, NC on June 22-26. This historic General Assembly will feature Karen Armstrong, one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs. She is a best-selling author whose works on the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam as well eastern religions have been translated into 45 languages. This 5-day event will also feature many other inspiring speakers and informative workshops dealing on topics such as anti-racism, anti-oppression and multiculturalism.

This year Atkinson has been allotted 5 delegates to the Assembly who will vote on a Statement of Conscience, UUA officers, and bylaw and rule changes that effect our congregations throughout the nation. So please consider joining thousands of other UUA members from around the USA for this exciting and up-lifting event. Everyone who has ever attended will testify as to how life-changing this experience can be. Early registration rates apply until May 1. Contact Board Moderator, Alice Ericksen for more information.



Chimes Choir



Calling all teens and adults with an interest in music! Atkinson has the opportunity to form a Chime (Bell) Choir. With help from First UU Portland (training) and Savage Memorial Presbyterian (loan of a two octave set of chimes) we will make our beautiful sanctuary ring. If interested, please use the contact link below. We will have an organizational meeting after church on Sunday, April 10th to determine a convenient rehearsal time & space. Questions? Contact Joyce Gifford.

Volunteer with The Living Room

The Living Room, a Safe Haven for GLBTQQ Youth in Clackamas County is looking for volunteers to work with youth at the drop-in center, which meets at Atkinson on Wednesday evenings from 4-8 pm. If you are interested in this important and gratifying work, please come to the volunteer training on Saturday June 4 at Atkinson, times TBA. For more information call Rev. Dana Worsnop.



Your help needed!

Hello Atkinson Family,

April is a busy month here at Atkinson! The Family Ministry Team is coordinating several events and we need your support to make things happen.

RE Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - after the service on April 17th. FMT sponsors a delicious potluck lunch for our fabulous RE teachers to enjoy during their meeting. We need the following support:

1 person to bring bread

2 folks to bring salads/sides

3 folks to bring an entree/main dish

2 folks to bring dessert

4 folks to serve food/clean-up from 11:45-12:45 on April 17th



Easter Morning Potluck - from 9:30-10:30 on April 24th. This is a popular annual tradition at Atkinson. Bring a dish to share (hot dishes are especially appreciated!) and visit with old friends and new faces. We need the following support:

3 folks to help set-up on Saturday, April 23rd from 12:30-2:00

3 folks to monitor the serving line during the breakfast - 9:15-10:15

3 folks to assist with clean-up during the service - 10:15-11:15

Please check your calendars to see when you might be able to help. If you like, you can email me now and sign up for your preferred date/time/activity. The FMT team will start calling folks next weekend to see what times will work best for folks and finalize our volunteer help.

Thanks for all your support. The Family Ministry Team is looking forward to a great month at Atkinson!

April Albers (on behalf of Family Ministry Team)

Lost and Found shelf

Yes, we do have a Lost and Found! One of the shelves in the church office has been designated for that purpose. If you lose something, look for it there, or call the church office at 503-656-7296.

Save the date, Saturday, May 14 for an ALL-CHURCH visioning session with the Rev. Robert Latham.

Stewardship update

The generous and enthusiastic response to our pledge drive this year has been truly inspiring. With 57% of pledges in our total is just over \$210,000 and the average pledge is up nearly 20% from last year.

We are well on our way to meeting our budget goals for the coming year, but we're not there yet. We still need to hear from nearly 70 households before we can wrap up this pledge drive and begin to budget for the coming year.

If you haven't turned in a pledge card or spoken with a member of the Stewardship Committee please contact us as soon as you are able. We really need to hear from you soon.

You can contact Floyd by email or by phone.

Thanks again to all for your continuing generosity and support—AMC Stewardship Committee: Floyd Roell, Jim King, Jim Grant, Richard Powell

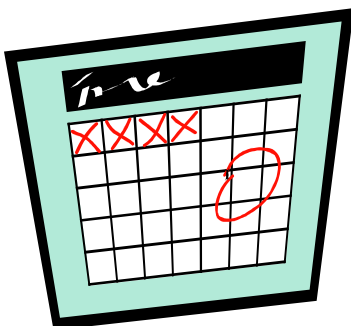


Calling All Adoptive Parents



Join other parents for an informal gathering to discuss the joys and challenges of raising an adopted child. Whether your child is a toddler or a teen, adopted domestically or internationally, all are welcome! We will be meeting the third Saturday of each month. The next meeting is April 16, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Martha White Room. If you are interested or have ques-

Activities and Events Calendar



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