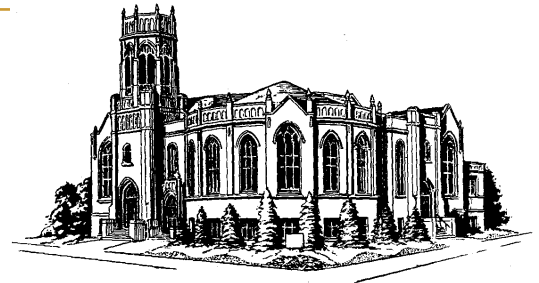

News & Views

January 2011

**Atkinson Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist**



We're moving forward!

I have **wonderful** news! The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a recommendation from the Build the Future Team and the AdHoc Financial Planning Committee to move forward with signing a contract for our new addition with Bremik Construction. The contract is now being reviewed by our attorney and officials at Key Bank and we expect it will be finalized in the next week or so.

However in order to get the project within our budget, some features had to be cut from the original plans, and others we will be completing ourselves—an opportunity for “sweat equity.” These changes will save almost \$95,000 and allow us to keep our construction contract at \$770,000 and our mortgage at \$300,000.

And so another major step in realizing our dream of adequate RE space for our children and youth and accessibility for all has been achieved.

We owe a debt of gratitude to members of the Build the Dream Team: Dean DeSantis, Mick Mortlock, Vanelle Peterson, Eddie Sheufelt and Charlotte Sinclair for shepherding this project along the way and bringing us this far. It's now time for us as a congregation to do our part. With construction expected to begin in February, and completion of the addition expected for the beginning of the next church year, we will begin payments on our mortgage in July. As you recall in order to meet the monthly mortgage payments, we voted to increase our pledges. Please keep this in mind as you watch our addition going up and as you consider your up-coming stewardship pledges.

In gratitude to all, I look forward to an exciting 2011 for our Atkinson community.

Alice

Alice Ericksen, Board Moderator

Christmas Services



Some photos removed to protect privacy.

From the Minister

- ✧ Imagine a church that gives more than any other area church to the local food pantry.
- ✧ Imagine a church that is also the financial anchor for a coalition of churches who band together to give vouchers for gas, food or shelter to people in need.
- ✧ Imagine a church that was the catalyst for founding the first PFLAG Chapter (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) in the county. That for years has sponsored an Alternative Prom for area GLBTQQ youth. That inspired the creation of a drop-in center for GLBTQQ youth and recently opened its doors as the first home of that Center.
- ✧ Imagine a church that was one of the founding congregations for a partnership of churches coming together to create a winter shelter for homeless families.
- ✧ Imagine a church that hosts a lively and crowded AA meeting every night of the week.
- ✧ Imagine a church that sent care packages to the troops in Afghanistan including dozens of hand knit wool helmet liners and socks.
- ✧ Imagine a church that serves at a local soup kitchen throughout the year.
- ✧ Imagine a church that invites families and friends to a Day of Service on the Martin Luther King Holiday and canvasses the neighborhood for food for the local food pantry.
- ✧ Imagine a church that twice monthly donates the cash in its collection plate, and gives generously to many causes from local women's services to international aid.



Rev. Dana Worsnop

You don't have to imagine this church – because you are this church.

The Board wrote Ends Statements that answer the question how is the world changed because Atkinson exists. One reads, “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.”

And you do all this not for recognition, but because your religious values and your mission as a church inspire you and call you to. You do it all quietly and devotedly.

Yet right now, in this new year, I want to blow your horn just a little. While many churches contribute both time and money to the HOPE Food Pantry, your donations provide fully 40 percent of all collections for HOPE and the largest chunk of any of the partner churches. The same is true of OCCERF – the Oregon City Congregations Emergency Relief Fund – which let’s us give vouchers for shelter, gas and food to people in need knocking on our doors.

You stepped up as part of the Sheltering Our Neighbor Homeless Network and housed a homeless family for two weeks last winter, and this year (when we just don't have any “room in our inn”) you have volunteered to help other churches.

I can't tell you what a delight it is to see the GLBTQQ youth and allies who are showing up on Wednesday evenings at The Living Room Drop-In Center. For me this is a quintessential expression of our deepest religious values. At the first open house, many community leaders came to show their support including

Continued on next page

From the Minister con't from page 2

County Commissioners Lynn Peterson and Ann Lininger. When I looked around the Bachelder Room that night, tears came to my eyes.

The only word in our Ends Statement that doesn't always apply is "visible." Sometimes I don't think you are aware of all this community does. And if it's not visible to you, then we have work to do to make it visible in the community. But my, what good work that is. Read on in this newsletter to see more opportunities to reach out and serve the community through the efforts of Atkinson Memorial Church.

I am so profoundly proud to serve such an active, loving, committed and strong community.

Happy New Year.

Dana

Rev. Dana Worsnop



Minister's new study leave/vacation schedule

I have been talking with the Worship Associates, the Committee on Ministry and the Board about adjusting my yearly schedule among you. As we move more and more to becoming a year-round church it makes less and less sense for the minister to be away all summer. To that end I will out of the pulpit for three Sundays from Jan. 23 through Feb 6 on study leave/vacation and another three weeks March 21 to May 12. I will take the better part of July off and be back full time in August. This will be a new rhythm for my ministry and church life. We will evaluate how things have gone next year and adjust as feels most effective for the church.

Minister Seeks a 21st-Century Amanuensis



In the 19th century, Elizabeth Peabody served William Ellery Channing, father of Unitarians, as amanuensis. Essentially she became his secretary and scribe and some say something of a muse for him. Sermons of the day were often more than an hour long, and so Peabody helped Channing write. In truth, Peabody was an intellectual light in her own right, but there were no opportunities for women in the ministry in her times. In serving Channing, Peabody came as close as she could.

Now, I am no Channing, but I could use an amanuensis anyway. The main issue for me is to get my sermon texts up on the website. It's not a wildly complicated task, but the way my writing and preaching process works, there are a couple of steps to it that loom like great obstacles to me. What I need is someone to take my text and get it in a useable form for posting on the web.

If you can be my amanuensis, please call or email.

Many thanks,

Dana

Moderator's Message

It's hard to believe that it's already 2011. It certainly is true that "time passes quickly when you're having fun" or maybe that should be "time passes quickly when you're busy." And what a busy and productive year 2010 was at Atkinson.

- This year we experienced our minister's sabbatical leave. Throughout Dana's absence, both she and we learned a great deal and grew stronger in our commitment to Atkinson.
- Because of the generous support of those of us who pledged to the Capital Campaign and the hard work of the Build the Future Team, we are now closer than ever to realizing our dream of giving our children their request of "classrooms not corners."
- Implementation of the new Policy Governance model of how we do our work at Atkinson, has streamlined decision-making and has allowed the Board to focus on creating and refining the vision of our church.
- Although we started our church year with an austerity budget, because of a generous gift from one of our families and the support of so many of us for our fundraising efforts, we were able to restore staff salaries to their previous levels.

So what's on the agenda for 2011?

- This will be the year that our education wing is built. We expect to start our RE classes in the fall in our new classrooms.
- Because of the work of a new ad hoc financial planning committee, we plan to develop strategies that will enable us to meet our mortgage payments and pay fair wages to our staff.
- The Board will begin the process to develop a new 5-year plan.

- The Board will focus the energies of the church toward our End Statement for how we envision our growth among us all, i.e., *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.*

So as busy and exciting as was the year 2010, it looks like 2011 will be even more so. Please join in the work of our beloved community in whatever way suits you. I promise you that you'll be glad you did.

I wish all of you a new year that brings you happiness and peace.

Alice

Alice Ericksen, Board Moderator



A sincere thank you from the staff and minister of Atkinson for all your hard work and generous donations that have restored our salaries in this new year!

Annie Scott, our Director of Religious Education

Info removed to protect privacy.



Holiday Visit from Young Adults

It was lovely to have four young adults return to Atkinson over the holidays.

Social justice issues that concern them include diversity and healthcare. And here are some movie recommendations from this generation: *The Science of Sleep*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *True Grit* and *I'm Not There*.

Some photos/info removed to protect privacy.

SISTERS



January was named after the Roman god, Janus, who had two faces because January faces the old year and also the new year. I'm sure you all know this, but I had to start this item with something to catch your attention, didn't I? At the December meeting we talked about starting a UU holiday of our own, either for SISTERS alone or sharing the idea with others. We will be continuing this conversation at the January meeting. Which way will you face--forward toward the future or analyzing the past or both?

However there will be other things going on at the January meeting, too, so come to Janet Asparro's home at 7 pm on January 10 and find out what's going on with your SISTERS! All interested women are welcome. Call Janet for directions.

Treasurer's Trove

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season. Happy 2011!

Our Holiday Fair in December was certainly great fun and a wonderful success. So far we have netted a bit over \$6,000 for the Holiday Fair and more than \$650 for sales of the Chinook coupon books! This, along with a very generous \$10,000 gift, will allow us to re-instate the previous staff salary cuts beginning the first of 2011. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the Fair. Thanks to everyone who participated in the festivities.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) both debit and credit helps with our cash flow. It's fast and easy to get started. If this fits with your budgetary plans

you are encouraged to 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 check sized 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, Treas-



urer

A "Lofty" View—Notes from the Choir

And NOW we are engaged in the creation of a New Year! One of my resolutions is to talk with you more about music and to continue to invite you to participate in this loveliest of activities.

Educators tell us that we all use many parts of our mind to create our realities. Mostly, in our country, we are focused and somewhat trapped in linear and sequential thinking as the goal of education. But research at MIT and Harvard over the last 20 years, has discovered that we also need spiral, parallel and reverse thinking. We are enriched by our creative endeavors and working with them, dreaming and playing help to make them part of our reality.

So, we come to music. Like art and literature, music takes "another head." It uses many parts of ourselves. It awakens unknown and unexperienced senses and emotions and truly, it accesses realms of spirituality for all of us. How often have you found your life transformed by hearing a beautiful piece of music? How much more gratifying is it to actually perform music? Ask any musician. A look of peace and satisfaction and delight comes over their faces.

One of the finest aspects of being a Unitarian Universalist is in exploration of the known and unknown universes within. Won't you join us? We'd love to share this beautiful experience with you.

Love,

Kris

Kris Armetta, Music Director

new website: spiritualsinging.org



Adult Faith Development: Coming Up in the New Year



Have you made a New Year's resolution to try something new? Consider some of these:

Chalice Circles

Process Theology Book Group led by Rev. Dana Worsnop

Make Your Nametag Necklace led by Sally Betser

Family Movie Night sponsored by the Family Ministry Team:

Kids come in jammies and sleeping bags to watch a kid flick.

Grownups watch a documentary and discuss.

Popcorn and desserts, coffee and hot cocoa will be served.

Movies start at 6:30pm.

A Saturday in February, date TBD

Yoga sessions led by Brandy Henry:

January 16 to February 20.

\$15 fee goes to Atkinson. Childcare available.

Sundays 12:15-1:35.

Limited to 12 participants. Sign up in the Dome Room.

Beginner through Intermediate Hatha Yoga

Contact Brandy at 503-481-1101 or henry.brandy@gmail.com with questions.

Stay tuned! More classes and details to follow...

It's Not A Day Off, It's a Day Of Service! Monday, January 17th



Join other Atkinson members of all ages to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's memory and gather canned goods for the HOPE Food Pantry. The Family Ministry Team is hosting this day of service to our community.

9:00 am: Meet at the church for the opening circle led by our Jr. High Youth.

9:15 am: Organization of teams, distribution of routes, and safety talk. Teams depart.

11:45 am: Gather back at Atkinson for warm bread, homemade soup, and fellowship.

Bring wagons, strollers, or other wheeled contraptions to collect food as you go.

People of all ages are encouraged to join us. **Please RSVP** (so we know how much soup we need!) **to April**

Want to help but would rather not walk in the winter weather? We need donations of soup and volunteers to set up lunch. Contact April if you can help.

Sunday, January 30 - Help Feed the Hungry

It's 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 at 503-522-6063.

Are you in?

Atkinson has two email lists you may want to be a part of (if you're not already). The first, **AMC-Announcements**, is used by the minister and office administrator to send out periodic reminders of special dates, events, or updates, as well this monthly newsletter. Regular attendees and those who have filled out a Visitor Card (in the pew pockets) should already be on this list.

The second list is **AMC-Tidings**, which is open to all members of the congregation to post events, things for sale, services for hire, etc.

To join either group, you can contact Office Administrator Pat Lichen at office@atkinsonchurch.org OR go to [Google Groups](https://www.google.com/groups) (groups.google.com), search for the AMC groups and join up.

And then there's **Facebook**. If you're a part of this social-networking website, we'd like to add you to Atkinson's Members and Friends page. This is a private group, meaning that to see it you must be a member of the group—this allows us to safely share photos of our children. You can find the group by searching for "Members and Friends of Atkinson Memorial Church" and then requesting an invitation, or you can contact Office Administrator Pat Lichen at office@atkinsonchurch.org.

Thank you!

Our Senior High Youth will see that all the warm mittens, mufflers, hats, coats and blankets you donated will be given to those who need them. Thank you for your generosity over this holiday season!



UU're Home! Bed & Breakfast

The UU bed and breakfast directory **UU're Home** (formerly "Homecomings") offers a network of Unitarian Universalists hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit www.UUreHome.com or write to info@uurehome.com

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.**

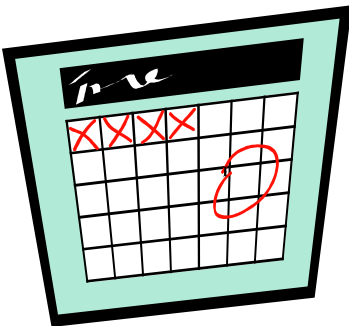


Donations for H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Eat), a food shelf program in Oregon City, are always welcome. To help replenish their shelves, bring canned items (tuna, chili, soups, fruits and vegetables) or personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, shampoo, deodorant—any size),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

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Office is closed Wednesday
