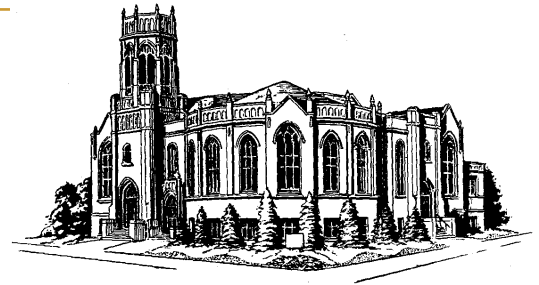


News & Views

March 2011

**Atkinson Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist**



You're invited to Celebration Sunday, March 13



When we stand together, we change lives, grow more deeply intertwined as a religious community, and make a difference in the world. Stand with us now as we grow our future.

Sunday, March 13 is Celebration Sunday, when we make our pledges for the coming year, reaffirming our commitment to this community.

After the service, join in the party downstairs—a luncheon celebrating all we have accomplished and all that is to come!

Groundbreaking!

Photos removed to protect privacy.

On Feb 27, we broke ground for our new wing!

Our Dream is coming true: we will soon have new classrooms and an elevator!



From the Minister

My big contribution to possible themes for our stewardship drive this year was “Springing Forward.” We actually managed to schedule Celebration Sunday for the first day of Daylight Saving Time and I wanted to be sure that everybody remembered to set their clocks ahead an hour so they wouldn’t miss church – or the party to follow. Wiser heads prevailed.

While there are so many ways that we are springing forward as a congregation, *Growing Our Future* is a much better theme. What we give to the church in this and coming years, is not just for ourselves but for the future. For the congregation that will be. Once our building is at last up, we will continue growing into the future that people dreamed of more than a decade ago.

Our kids were so excited about our recent ground-breaking ceremony – which they had dubbed Shovel Day. At the groundbreaking, some thought we should give all our children and youth a chance to dig a shovelful of dirt. Wiser heads again prevailed. As much fun as that could have been (especially for the kids), the elementary school teacher in me shuddered at the thought of managing 60 to 70 excited kids with shovels.

Instead we asked them to answer this question. “Eighty years ago people in Atkinson built the church for us that we’re using, and we’re building our building for people to use eighty years from now, so what are our hopes and dreams and wishes be for those people in the future?” They wrote their answers on rainbow ribbon and wove them into the construction fence around the building site.

The construction of this building, moving into it, inhabiting it, maintaining and caring for it, filling it

with our spirit are all ways in which we are growing our future, growing as a congregation. We are living through one of those turning points in the history of a church. It’s not all that often that we get to know we are making history.

Atkinson continues to look to the future. The new wing is about our younger generation who need classrooms, now, and our older generation who need an elevator, now. And it is about being a liberal religious beacon for people to meet. It’s about

We are living through one of those turning points in the history of a church. It’s not all that often that we get to know we are making history.

all the people who need a safe haven – from the AA group to Planned Parenthood to The Living Room Youth who know that there is a church where GLBTQ folks are welcome. And it is

about making sure that kind of beacon and haven will continue to exist eighty years and more into the future.

Now is the time that you can continue to *Grow Our Future*. Yet it will take your on-going generosity and commitment. We’ve been so focused on getting this wing built, and now we need to turn attention to having it help us grow into the future we envision, the future that was the whole point of the building in the first place.



Rev. Dana Worsnop



So come to Celebration Sunday, March 13. Come prepared to pledge generously to the continuing life of the church. And remember to spring forward with your clocks so you don’t miss a great service and a great party.

Dana

Rev. Dana Worsnop

Moderator's Message

So much is going on at Atkinson! At our February meeting, your Board of Trustees was very busy advancing the cause of "Growing Our Future". Here's a brief summary of what we talked about.

Although this message will come to you after the fact, we held a ground-breaking ceremony for our new addition on **February 27**, although the contractors won't be on site for a week or so after that. (This delay is due to minor revisions of our contract with them to assure that the project will stay within budget.) We are indeed moving forward. Our dream of classrooms, not corners, for our children and youth and accessibility for all is coming true. We still plan to occupy the building at the beginning of the new church year in the fall.

The Board completed the revisions to our bylaws. They are now in compliance with the way we have evolved over the past 9 years. You will be receiving a copy of these revisions via e-mail and copies will also be available in the Dome Room. We will hold a town hall meeting and lunch on **April 17** so that you can give your input about the changes before you are asked to ratify them at our Annual Meeting on **May 22**. Also at our **April 17** town hall meeting and lunch, you will have an opportunity to look at a preliminary draft of next year's budget. We want to have a conversation about this budget as a moral document. So mark your calendars for this important meeting.

As some of you may know, our current 5-year long-range plan expired in 2010. So we are kicking off our new long-range planning process with a visioning session led by Rev. Robert Latham on **April 30**. Perhaps you will remember that a couple of years ago Rev. Latham helped us jump-start our move to policy governance. You are all invited to attend and give your input into the vision we will hold for Atkinson into the future. We will then call a Long-Range Planning Committee to use this vision to devise a new long-range plan. Please be thinking about you can get involved in this process.

And finally we, of course, discussed the future finances of the church. Celebration Sunday is coming up on **March 13**. This is the day that we all celebrate the generosity of all of us – a time for us make our pledges for next year – a time for us to continue to "Grow Our Future".

So in case you didn't exactly know what the Board does, I hope that this report gives you a hint about all that your Board is working on. However, we can't do this alone. There are many opportunities for you to get involved in the work of our wonderful community. Your involvement is vital!

Peace to all,

Alice

Alice Ericksen, Board Moderator

Newcomer Dessert Potluck—Sat, March 6!

We welcome you to meet our minister, Rev. Dana Worsnop, and other church members over coffee and potluck desserts Sunday, March 6 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the church Library.

For childcare: contact our Childcare Coordinator Kim Walch to reserve space for your child/ren.

Contact Patti White Seminario or Maggie Kalil

for more information.



RE-thinking

How does the story of David and Goliath speak to you and your life? That was the focus of the discussion of the February Teacher/Advisor meeting. We agreed that to be good teachers and advisors, the adults must be engaged in the curriculum as deeply as the young people. The adults need to reflect on the same issues we are raising with our young people. So at each monthly meeting we discuss the story that will be the focus for some or most of our religious education groups the following month.

The Teacher/Advisor Council has collected stories that are drawn from our six sacred sources. We have chosen compelling and complicated stories with issues to reflect on and discuss. We believe that simple moral tales misrepresent what Unitarian Universalism is all about. We have a complicated faith, one that we must bring our hearts, minds and hands to. We choose stories that we have to grapple with, and after reading the story we ask questions like:

Who did you identify with in the story?

What was your favorite part?

How do you think the king's daughter felt about being a reward?

Are there times in life when it is better to run away from something you fear?

Why do you think we chose this story to share with you?

What is religious about this story?

Does the story inspire you to do something?



Obviously, the high school advisors choose different questions than the third grade teachers do, or they take a different twist to them.

Storyteller Michael Parent wrote "When we tell and listen to stories, we can almost feel our souls breathing fully and deeply. Our capacity to see options, to visualize possibilities, to imagine expands and we are somehow more alive."

I asked the teachers to reflect on what is currently a Goliath in your life and what personal attribute or characteristic you need to face your Goliath.

Maybe you'd like to pull out a Bible or Google it online and read the story (1 Samuel, chapter 17) –ask yourself the questions listed above and see what David, Goliath, or maybe King Saul might have to say about your life.

Annie

Annie Scott, Director of Religious Education



Treasurer's Trove

Snow is falling outside my window as I write this. Winter is "going out like a lion" this year for sure. But Spring will come and with it the start of the construction of our new Religious Education building. After completion will come a monthly mortgage bill of about \$2,750 which will become part of the overall operating fund.

The Finance Committee and other AMC committees continue to gather information for the Executive Team that is in the process of developing the 2011-2012 budget. Two big priorities the AMC Board has identified are to pay the mortgage and to pay our wonderful staff fairly.

Stewardship time is here. We hope that if you are able, you will increase your pledge to support these and a multitude of other important activities and functions within, among and beyond our church community. Barb and I are going to increase our pledge by 20%.

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 at barbp@atkinsonchurch.org. 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.

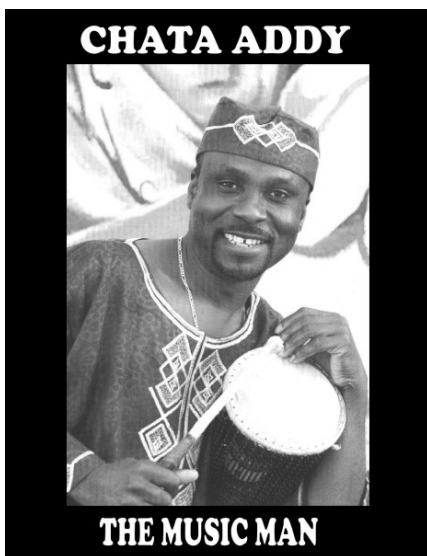
In Community,



Ron Pitney, Treasurer



Discover the Rhythms of Ghana at Atkinson



Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 9 to hear Chata Addy and Shi dah who blend traditional, contemporary and world beat sounds.

Chata's extensive background in drumming brings plenty of energy to the stage. Whether Chata is singing in his native language Ga or in English, listeners understand the joy in his music. Chata promises that the audience will take home an experience to remember. For more information about Chata Addy, visit his website www.chataaddy.com.

Chata's April 9 performance at Atkinson begins at 3 PM and goes until 5 PM. Refreshments will be served during intermission. Immediately 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.

So please join us at this family friendly event and bring your friends. The Atkinson member who brings the most guests, will win a fabulous prize.

For more information contact Margi McCue or Diane Benya.

A “Lofty” View—Notes from the Choir

Dear Music Lovin' Congregation,

We've got a whole lot of shakin' goin' on regarding your musical opportunities over the next couple of months... here they are:



1. Our Annual **CABARET!** will be on **April 2nd** (yes, friends, one day behind April Fool's Day) and this year's theme is "The '50s, The '60s and Doo-Wop." Time to pull out your poodle skirts, tie-dyes, aqua-colored leisure suit and wigs... All are invited to participate, including kids. If you're interested in performing one of these deathless numbers, please contact me right away. Kids are required to have the sponsorship of a choir member. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, March 2nd at 8:00pm. Instrumentalists, singers, dancers, come one come all – this event is for FUN!
2. Did you ever sing the "**Hallelujah Chorus**" from Handel's "Messiah"? This is your opportunity to be a choir "short-timer." Every year we present this wonderful choral piece that has withstood the vicissitudes of time to engrave itself in all our hearts and minds. When do we do it? Why, on Easter! Rehearsals for the "Hallelujah Chorus" begin next Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:pm. Celebrate Easter with us in style.
3. Our worship team is working on a **Music and Worship service** to be held in May. This will be our second year of presenting the Beloved Community with a service completely devoted to inspirational readings and choral music from around the world. The theme of this year's Music and Worship service is "Nature In All Her Glory." If you would like to join us as a singer and/or instrumentalist, please contact me.

Thank you, too, for your many personal inquiries.

Please call or write and let me know what YOU'd like to do in support of our shared music in service!

Love,

Kris

Kris Jones, Music Director

Our Congregation's Generosity

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

- \$554.76 to the Oregon City Congregations Relief Fund (OCCERF)
- \$414.09 for H.O.P.E.
- \$373.31 for Guest at Your Table—Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Green Sanctuary

FREE Nativescaping and Rain Garden Workshops

As you think about gardening this year, consider **adding native plants to use less water** and **provide food and habitat for wildlife**. Or learn how to **design a rain garden to reduce the amount of stormwater** leaving your property. Or learn about **invasive weeds**.



March workshops are scheduled weekends and/or weekday eves in **Oregon City (at the John Adams Fire Station near the church), West Linn, Molalla, Estacada and Canby**.

Brought to you by the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District.

More info and dates at www.conservationdistrict.org or call 503-210-6008 to register.

Church Recycling Update

Wonder where to put recyclables at church? Containers are all downstairs in the alcove by the stairway near the women's restroom. Please help us reduce waste at church and increase our rate of recycling. You can bring some items from home that you can't recycle at your curb. **Here's what we can accept:**

Paper, metal, plastic containers, cardboard, glass

Batteries (no car batteries)

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)

Printer cartridges (from home printers only; better yet, you can refill – more info in recycling area)

Newspapers (please put in large dumpster in parking lot to benefit the local senior center)

Thanks for helping us do the right thing for the planet.

Want more info on Green Sanctuary activities?

Contact Kathy Shinn

An hour with the babies

Atkinson toddlers and their parents need our help. It means a lot to young parents of infants and toddlers to be able to sit through the Sunday Service knowing that their children are well cared for downstairs. Kim Walch does a wonderful job looking after the little ones, but she can't do it alone. I have been helping once a month and enjoying it very much – I encourage others to contact Kim and sign up to help. Kim is there and she takes care of any little difficulties that occur, so as her helper you can just sit in the rocking chair and play with our adorable and happy children. Smiles and hugs will be your reward.

—Christine Ehlert

SISTERS

What can I say about March?! We have Mardi Gras and St Pat's Day, and Purim begins at sundown on the 19th. None of these dates really does much for a dedicated U.U. The best day by far in my book is "Daylght Saving Time" which begins on March 13 (the day before the SISTERS meeting). Though days are darker then (spring ahead), still we know that real spring cannot be far behind!



SISTERS meeting will be Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m.. at the home of Mary Knight. This is a new venue for us as Mary and her husband have recently moved into their new home. Topic of discussion has not been decided yet so come and be surprised! I will send instructions to the house the week before the meeting. Call me or Mary if you don't hear from me.

Marion Minar

All Ages AMC Movie Night!

Saturday, March 5 at 6:30 pm downstairs in the Bachelor Room

(enter by the lower parking lot door)

Adults will screen & discuss the documentary: **"Garbage Dreams"**
Get a preview at www.garbage dreams.com/

**Children will be supervised to watch "Over the Hedge"
in the Elevator Room**

You may want to bring jammies and blankets or sleeping bags to lie on.

Popcorn, juice, coffee and tea provided \$3 donation suggested for adults

Sponsored by the Family Ministry Team

PLEASE RSVP to Linda McComiskey

Here is an article by Rev. Peter Morales on waste pickers from New Delhi that is on the UUA website:

international.blogs.uua.org/2011/02/28/waste-pickers-of-new-delhi/

Atkinson Authors Faire: April 30



Atkinson Authors Faire will be held April 30th, from 11-3 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 with 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 Atkinson Memorial Church. Fiction and nonfiction books will be available and the authors will be here to sign your copy and talk to you about the books you'll love.

Visit with these writers who are eager to talk about (and sell) their books; come and see what books are available to have signed and purchased. See more at 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

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 first meeting will be on **Saturday March 19th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Martha White Room. If you are interested or have questions, contact Kim Walch. Childcare will be provided.



A fun Team to join!



The Family Ministry Team helps connect families and integrate them into the community here at Atkinson. We have many ideas for projects and events to meet our goals, but few volunteers to help carry out the work. Please consider joining the Family Ministry Team at our next meeting on **March 13th** from 12:00-1:30. Childcare is available (but you must contact Kim Walch). Less than three hours a month is all it takes to make a difference and contribute to this important work. For more details, talk to April Albers at church.

Make a lanyard for your nametag—March 27

Is your church nametag looking a bit dowdy? Dress it up with the beaded lanyard you make in this workshop and you'll be the envy of your pew. Materials provided. The class will be held Sunday, March 27th from noon until 1:30 in the South Room.. There is a \$5 fee for adults and \$2.50 for children. The class is led by Sally Betser. Sign-Up in the Dome Room.

Parenting support and play group



Every parent needs support. Please join us weekly Wednesdays 10:30-12:30 in the Bachelder Room for Family Support and Play Time. We welcome seasoned parent-mentors to help us with the struggles, enjoy the highlights, and help connect UU Principles to parenthood. Coffee, regular of course, and tea provided. Please watch for future weekend family support play group and Dad's gatherings. Contact Brandy Henry with questions.

Welcome new Members!

On February 27, we had SEVENTEEN new Members who joined Atkinson!

Welcome to: Angela and Eric Arterberry, Kristen Belt-Shaaban, Toni and Steve Bergeron, Louisa Gonyou,



Kathy Hicks, Danielle Lancaster, Jim Litton, Felicia and Heather Molatore, Brenda Niedert, Roxanne Palmer, Alice Powell, Juma Power, Candace Solini, and Marissa Solini.

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.**

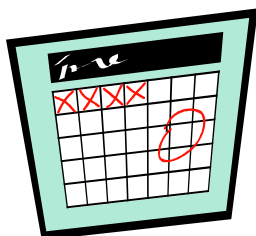


Donations for H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Eat), a food shelf program in Oregon City, are always welcome. To help replenish their shelves, bring canned items (tuna, chili, soups, fruits and vegetables) or personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, shampoo, deodorant—any size),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