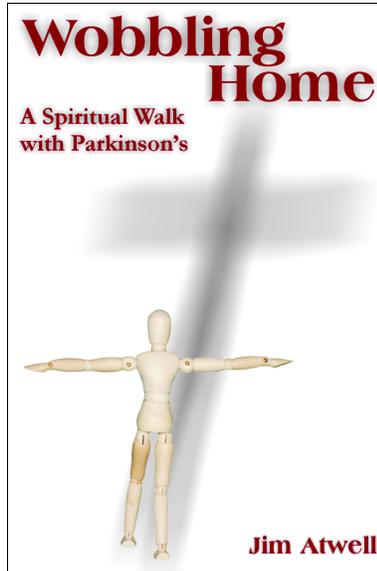


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PUBLICATION
INFORMATION
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Title: Wobbling Home: A Spiritual Walk with Parkinson's
Author: Jim Atwell

Publication Date: August 21, 2011

ISBN-13: 978-0-9833897-2-9

ISBN-10: 0-9833897-2-1

LCCN: 2011930412

Retail Price: \$17.95

Physical: 5.25" x 8"; 204 pages; softcover; perfect binding

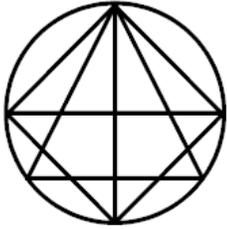
Retail Distribution: Lightning Source/Ingram; North Country Books; Square Circle Press (40% publisher discount)

Library Distribution: Lightning Source/Ingram; Square Circle Press (25% publisher discount)

Book Summary: Upstate New York farmer and philosopher Jim Atwell has been living the dream life in Fly Creek since his retirement in 1993. His award-winning weekly newspaper columns about rural life and his past as a teaching monk, professor, and college administrator led to his successful first book, *From Fly Creek: Celebrating Life in Leatherstocking Country* (North Country Books, 2005). But his life took a dramatic turn in 2007 when he was forced to deal with a neurological disease diagnosed first as Parkinson's, then as Parkinson's Plus, and most recently as Parkinson's: unknown. He has been told by his doctor that a positive diagnosis of this odd family of diseases is best done by autopsy—a strategy that Jim stoutly rejects.

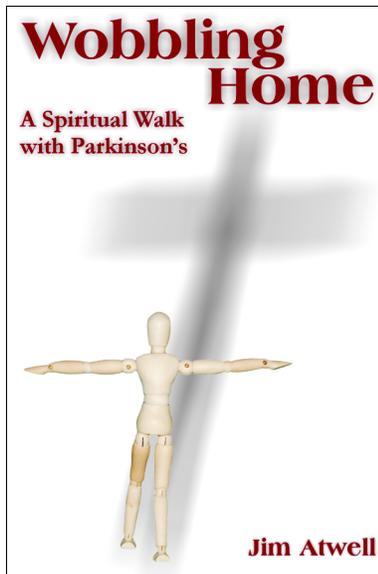
This second collection of columns, *Wobbling Home*, is a deeply insightful meditation on his illness, his Christian faith, and his journey's end. Raised a Roman Catholic, Jim has been a Quaker for forty years. Viewing his life as a "Parkie" through the lens of Quakerism, he sees the disease as emanating from the same loving Source that gives him life—a Source which also manipulates his body and brain at random times and in mysterious ways. He shares not only his own thoughts and reactions, but also those of his loving wife Anne and other Parkies and their spouses as well. Interspersed with tales of daily life and ritual in one of New York's most bucolic small towns, Jim's writings are shot through with the warm humor that is a mark of his personality and his masterful style.

Author Bio: A Maryland native, Jim Atwell spent thirteen years as a Catholic teaching monk in the Christian Brothers religious order. In 1969, he returned to life as a layman and took a faculty position at Anne Arundel Community College, where he served in various capacities for twenty-three years. His personal spiritual development now marks him as being a practicing Quaker for forty years. Jim owes his deep love of Upstate New York to his late first wife Gwen, who grew up near Cooperstown. After her death in 1989, he moved north to start life again in the 18th-century farmhouse they had bought for a retirement home. In 1997 Jim remarried; he and Anne Geddes-Atwell still make their home in Fly Creek, raising sheep and chickens, and pursuing writing and graphic design, respectively.



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REVIEWS



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Jim has taught me a lot about the “non-motor” symptoms of Parkinson’s disease, the cognitive, perceptual, and emotional changes we doctors may not pick up on when we look for the physical signs of tremor, stiffness and slowness, which are the hallmark triad of Parkinson’s. Jim tells us about Parkinson’s “from the inside.” This is a great gift for a neurologist to receive—and for patients, spouses, and care givers as well. After an appointment with Jim, I’m the one who feels much better!

—Paul M. Deringer, MD, Chief of Neurology, The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, NY

Don’t for a moment think this is a book about Parkinson’s. It is so much more—a primer on life, a glimpse into a remarkable and resilient soul. All of us have wondered what we might do if faced with the challenge of a terminal illness. Jim Atwell used his disease as a gift, and shared it with us in this marvelous book. His legacy is found not just in those he loved, but between these covers, too. Each page is a witness to wisdom, pluck, and good humor. When it comes my time to wobble home, I hope I do it as well as Jim Atwell.

—Philip Gulley, author of *The Evolution of Faith*

Grace is everywhere in the beautiful and poignant prose of Jim Atwell. This gifted storyteller recounts his grace-filled life with Parkinson’s in this collection of stories. Atwell is attentive to the profundity of everyday life, and to God’s presence and wisdom hidden in conversations with beloved friends, as well as in the bouts of pain and disorientation. Rollicking laughter, bittersweet tears and glimpses of glory: these are Atwell’s gifts to his friends and readers.”

—Father Mark Michael, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, Cooperstown, NY

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