

# Whac Focus

WOODLAND HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH (UCC)

A JUST PEACE, OPEN AND AFFIRMING,  
AND PROGRESSIVE CONGREGATION

JULY 2010

## Stewardship in July ?

By Rev. Craig Peterson

July 2010



Many of us in the mainline church have grown accustomed to thinking about Stewardship only in the months of October and November: times when the annual pledge drive usually culminates. This year, I'd invite you to think about stewardship in the month of July.

Why is that? Two Reasons:

**First**, I want to commend you for your outstanding generosity during the first six months of the year. When we passed the deficit budget last January 31, church leaders expected that as of May 31 we would be \$6,574.75 behind the projected needs of the church. On that date, however, we were only \$835.62 behind. That means each of you helped close the projected gap by \$5,739.13 in just five months. Your generosity has been amazing!

That amount is the same for each day – whether the day falls in July or December. In order to make it as easy as possible for you to support the many ministries of the church, we are in the process of adding a button to the church's website that will allow you to contribute to the church online. If the button is not yet up and working when you visit the church's website, keep checking back through the course of the summer. It will be available soon!

**In closing**, I want to thank you all for the amazing generosity you have already shown – and the generosity you will continue to show over the summer months. Your support allows us to have a vital presence in the Valley that embodies Just-Peace, Open & Affirming and Progressive values!

Peace,  
Pastor Craig



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**Second**, I want to encourage you to remember to support the many ministries of the church during the summer months when many of us are traveling. Each day the church opens its doors it takes \$307.22 in contributions to allow us to meet our obligations.

# People in the Parish

By Signe Hardesty, Pastoral Assistant

When I was a kid growing up in Chicago, music was a given part of the school curriculum. I remember learning composers in the fourth grade - that wild-haired Paderewski! Was part of your experience singing the “yo-o heave ho” of the *Volga Boatmen*? As public school students, we were all exposed to a broad background in music. Those of us who were fortunate to go to summer camp had further and repeated exposure to life-enhancing tunes.

One such morning greeting goes like this:

*God has created a new day,  
Silver and green and gold.  
Live that the evening may find you  
Worthy the gifts to hold.*

Like all of us, as a younger person, I had my share of “change” in the world, personal and family. Adapting to change is not as easy as I get older and I continue to look for new ways to cope. A continuing strong support for me is to sing. It is difficult to be angry or frightened when I am singing aloud or singing the words in my mind. Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki suggests that you “wander into these words that wait for you. You will go beneath the surface of things and come up with new wisdom.”

In the newborn nursery, moments after he was born, I sang this hymn to now 17-year-old grandson Jeffrey:

## **Beauty of the Earth**

*For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies,  
God of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.  
For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light,  
God of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.  
For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
Pleasures pure and undefiled,  
God of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.  
For each perfect gift of thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
God of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

**May you all have a blessed July.**

## July Pulpit Replacements

### **Rev. Cohen ~ July 11th, 2010**

Rev. Al Cohen is the Executive Director of the Southern CA Ecumenical Council; he has a great deal of knowledge and experience in respect to Environmental issues, and is fully aware of the importance of a Theology of Ecology. He plans to have Allis Druffel the director of California Interfaith Power and light, accompany him to WHCC



### **Maria Barbee July 25th, 2010**

Maria Barbee is a member of WHUCC who holds a masters degree in anthropology from UC Berkeley and has led many adult classes here at the church. She has also been involved in Youth Musical Theatre for over 30 years. Her topic will be "Questions and Answers." Hope to see you there.

# Moderator's Moment

Moderator's Moments for July 2010—

I begin with this quote that leaves me full of gratitude for those who give their time and talent to enrich the life of WHCC. "It seems to be a law of life that we enrich ourselves most when we give ourselves most fully and freely."—David Dunn

On June 13, WHCC held our Annual Congregational Meeting to elect our 2010-2011 Church Officers. I would like to thank our Vice Moderator, George Snode, and the Nominating Committee (Lou Benedict, Mert Burkhard and Warren Ringer) for their work in filling the slate of nominees. Thank you to those who said "yes" when asked to participate in the life of our church as a Church Council member. Please see the list of church officers as approved by the congregation included in this issue of the FOCUS (page 5). The installation of church officers was held during church service on June 27.

Also on June 13, we had a wonderful music celebration of "Peace and Love." Thank you to everyone who participated in Music Sunday and thank you especially to our Music Director, Dianne Meyer, for her talent, dedication and leadership throughout the year. Items from our Church Council meeting on June 8:

**Olde Tymers**  
**8-20-2010**

The Olde Tymers' "Pizza, Spaghetti & Salad" dinner night. Will be held one week later than the original Date of August 13th and is now rescheduled for Friday Augusts 20th.

This August Old Tymers dinner night will be held at the Huzel Home. More information and invitation will be mailed out in mid-July.

This will be the Olde Tymers, 27th year for this very special and always enjoyable event. Please mark the new August 20th date on your calendar.



There was discussion on the need for the church to be able to accept electronic online donations. It was approved that we offer this option through Vanco eService.

There will be more information to tell you about this service, when we have it set up.

We will reintroduce Dinner & Discovery nights on a monthly basis. Beginning this fall in October we are planning on serving dinner at 6pm and have several programs from 7pm until 8pm. We will offer Dinner & Discovery on the second Wednesday of each month. Look for more details on Dinner & Discovery soon.

"Welcome Sunday" will be held on September 12. We will also have a collection of waters from members and friends during the church service. The tradition is that whether you travel near or far, you collect water from places you visit. On Welcome Sunday, you will be invited to bring a small amount of the water that you collected and offer it to the church to use during the year as our baptismal water. It's wonderful to hear about where the water offerings have come from.

Blessings, Lyn Owen

**Super Pot Luck**  
**7-24-2010**

The Pot Luck Supper Club needs YOU to join in the fun of eating and talking and visiting with friends at our July dinner. We will meet at the lovely home of Dick and Kathy Ayers on Saturday July 24, at 6 P.M.

You may bring a main dish, salad, dessert, or appetizer. Just call Kathy at 818-222-8127 by Tuesday July 20 and ask her what she needs you to bring.

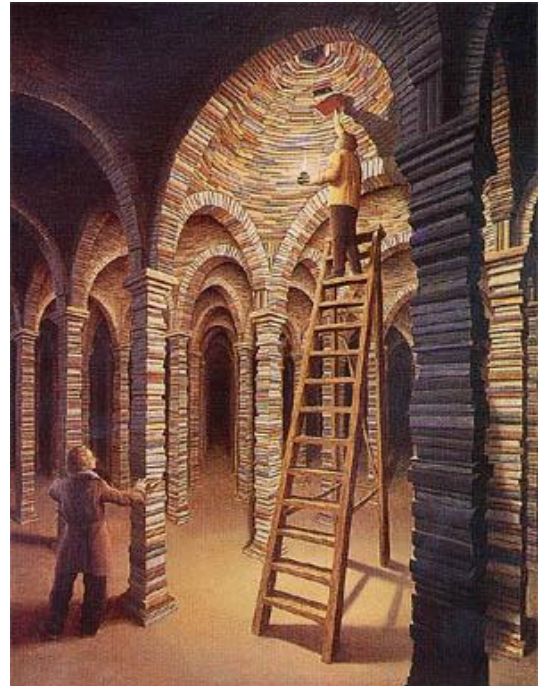
See you there!!!!

# WHCC Book Review ~ July 2010

By Betsy Stock Noorzay

Winnie the Pooh would probably agree with Jon Kabat-Zinn that *Wherever You Go There You Are*, (155.9 Kab) This is a book about Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life. It has 71 brief discussions of meditation tools, tips and discussions. I was introduced to this gem by our own Anne Gessert when she used ideas and practices to our group of cancer patients at the Wellness Community, as one of the tools that would help us to promote healing and wellness in our lives. Kabat-Zinn has been and is a director of the Stress Reduction Clinic at the University of Massachusetts, as well as an Associate Professor of Medicine, and in 1993 his clinic was featured in Bill Moyers PBS Series *Healing and the Mind*. He has also written *Full Catastrophe Living: Using the Wisdom of Your Body and Mind to Face Stress, Pain and Illness*. The ideas and practices in both books may be your first introduction to mindfulness meditation, which is not the same as centering prayer, another important “tool/practice” which is offered by the Holy Spirit Retreat Center. Larry Dossey offers us *Prayer is Good Medicine* (291.4 D) for which he provides scientific and experiential evidence, while dealing with the controversy about its truth. Dossey asks us exactly what do we mean by calling what we choose to do to connect with the source of healing, that is to say “What is prayer?”, an attitude of the heart, ordinary magic? Whatever prayer needs to be, the body does not distinguish between Religion, and Prayer and

Meditation. Prayer is not about getting, but being mindful of the moment and perceiving magic in the mundane. Another comment from the “How to Pray” chapter points out that we need to be mindful that, in praying for a specific outcome for ourselves, we may be unconsciously and indirectly asking that anything precluding our desired outcome, not be positively considered. Prayer, Dossey says, does not always result in positive or neutral results, we need not consider that prayer would cause harm. To find more about this subject, as LeVar Burton says to the kids on PBS-TV, don’t take my word for it! Check it out! (291.4 DOS- Smith Lounge Library Book call number)



**WHUCC slate of officers United Church of Christ  
2010-2011 Church Officers**

**Trustee Officer Titles Elected Officers**

Moderator Lyn Owen  
 Vice Moderator George Snode  
 Church Clerk Kitty Sarkissian  
 Financial Director Joe Schuh  
 Chair Clark McIlvain  
 Vice Chair Colleen Decourvall  
 Personnel Ruth Abel

**Trustee Team Titles Team Leaders**

Property Maintenance Audry Johnson  
 Contracts / Renters Bill Owen  
 Fundraising –Special Gifts Lou Benedict  
 Members at Large David Keddle,  
 Jeanne Mowers

**Board of Ministries Titles Elected Officers**

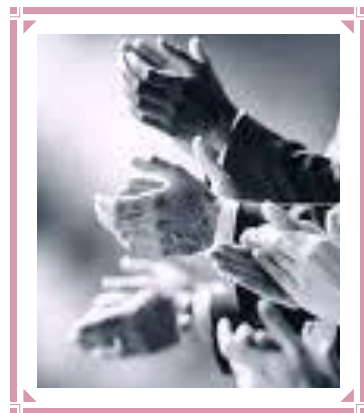
Chair Lyn Owen  
 Vice Chair George Snode  
 Secretary Charly Amico

**Board of Ministries Teams Team Leaders**

Worship & Spiritual Growth Barbara Robinson  
 Adult Programs Zazel Whitney  
 Maria Barbee  
 Child & Youth Programs Kate Bishop  
 Music & Performing Arts Bruce Barbee  
 George Walter  
 Fellowship Groups Kathy Ayers  
 Kathie McIlvain  
 John Smilanic  
 Mission - Outreach Warren Ringer  
 Members at Large Jennifer Walter  
 Betsy Zentner

**Nursery School  
Board Officers Elected Officers**

Chair Sarah  
 Pallett Churchill  
 Vice Chair Jenni Kothavale  
 Secretary Gina Miglas  
 Treasurer Christine Svensson  
 Facilities Lara Starr  
 Hospitality Michelle Krausche  
 Script Tina Kruisheer  
 PR TBD  
 Ice Cream Social (auction) TBD  
 Ice Cream social (Event) Sarah Navrkal  
 Room Parent (ICS) Beth Mellick  
 Room Parent (Classrooms) Chris Boldt



## Registration is now open for Youth Musical Theatre's Summer Workshop

Registration is now open for Youth Musical Theatre's Summer Workshop. Under the leadership of Ray Saar, Artistic Director, and Bruce Barbee, Director of the Youth Musical Theatre program, the workshop will give participants a chance to further develop vocal, acting, and performance skills. Music from 2011's show, "Ragtime", will be previewed.

All who will be entering grades 6 through 12 are welcome.

Workshop dates are July 13, 20, 27, and August 3, and 10. Workshops will run from 7:00-9:30pm each

evening and will be held in the Sanctuary.

Registration fee for the workshops is \$30, with a fee of \$20 for a second person from the same family. Fees may be paid at the first workshop, July 13th.

To register, send the following information to youthmusicaltheatre@gmail.com:

Name, address, phone, email address, year in school this coming fall, school you will be attending.

Questions: Call Bruce Barbee at (818) 884-9909.

## The following were the lucky winners of YMT Raffle Prizes

Backy Valentine	\$500 worth of scrip to use at Yosemite National Park.
Dennis Peterson	Picnic baskets with goodies and \$150 bottles of wine.
Craig Peterson	Picnic baskets with goodies and \$150 bottles of wine.
Laura Paris	Framed Flower Photos by Leslie Gregory Haukoos
Sarah E.:	Picnic Backpack
Creta Council	Child's Cuddle Quilt and Story Book
Nancy Robb	DVD Player and DVD's
Narcy Dann	Sondheim Show CD's
Mert & Mavis Burkhard	Oil by Renee Kuklenski

Youth Musical Theatre thanks everyone who bought tickets for the drawing which raised \$1126 for the production. In addition John Smilinac won a \$50 certificate to King's Fish House in the Food Pantry Drawing. Due to the generosity of our audience, over 100 cans of food were donated to the West Valley Food Pantry.

## Sunday School

Woodland Hills Community Church would like to invite all children to come and join us for Sunday School (10:00am). If any parents have any questions about future activities, please contact - Annette Eddy at 818-854-4005 ext. 103. Have a great summer.



# Letters to the Editor

## Mira Nasarenko writes:

Correction from May's Focus: My husband's Walter Nasarenko's Mother passed away three years ago. I want to thank everyone for your support and your expressions of sympathy after my mother's death, who died in April of this year. She died peacefully at Presbyterian Homes, a very caring facility in Roseville, Minnesota. I was comforted by the words by the door of the Prebyterian. Facility, "I have created and cared for you since you were born. I will be your God through your lifetime. I made you and I will care for you. (Isaiah 46:3b-4a).

## Ruth Abel writes:

Pablo Guerra, Program Director of APECA will be in the US after August 19th for a month or so and will be available for any kind of carpentry work, painting, gardening or repairs while he is here. He has worked for a number of people in the parish and would get an excellent recommendation from Audrey Johnson, Kitty Sarkisian, Bill Owen or me, among others. His work is excellent! They can call me at 818-340-4212 because Gina will be in Peru until then.

## APECA RECYCLING PROJECT

In the jungle of Peru, program efforts for the month of June are concentrated on a much needed Health Campaign to remote villages to test and treat Malaria.

APECA coordinates, provides all transport and accepts financial responsibility for this general Health Campaign while the ministry of Health provides their government supported treatments for Malaria, TB, cholera, etc. thru professional staff that accompany our boat. Thank you for your support, it is vital to the program. Gina Low [www.apecaperu.org](http://www.apecaperu.org)

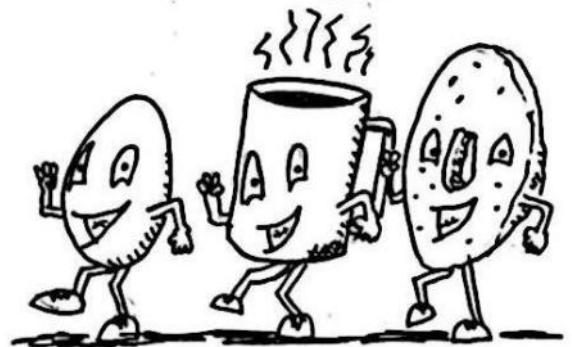
THANK YOU - THANK YOU for all the computer printer cartridges that have been turned into \$\$ for APECA. This recycling project has been successful as a small, yet stable, source of much-needed funds to help sustain Gina Low's work in the isolated villages along the Amazon in Peru.

The "C" in APECA stands for Conservation, and protecting and conserving the Rainforest is a primary goal of APECA. Recycling is good for the environment and is an easy way to support APECA. Please deposit your used inkjet cartridges in the basket in the Narthex.

## Youth Brunch Fundraiser ! July 18th, 11:30 am @ Harter Hall

Youth Group needs your help!

We are doing our first fundraiser! We will be serving brunch after church service. We will also have a raffle/silent auction during the meal. How can you help? Please donate items for the raffle/silent auction or sign up to bring items for the brunch! (Members who donate food do not have to pay for their brunch.) Brunch cost is \$8. Sign up list for brunch items will be with Kate Bishop after church starting June 27th.



# God's Salt - Church life

## Spiritual Deepening Group

For the summer, this group will be meeting on the second Monday during the summer months of July and August at the Nasarenko home.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Planning Event Those individuals interested in serving in a leadership capacity for events connected with next January's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's appearance at Woodland Hills Community Church and Canoga Park High School are invited to attend the next planning meeting on July 22nd from 7:00-8:00 PM in Smith Lounge.

## *Do you Remember When*

July 1949 --- A brief devotional service was broadcast by KFI-TV from the WHCC Sanctuary on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

July 1951 --- Reverend Melvin H. Harter was awarded the "Bouquet of the Week" by the Citizen-News for his leadership in community betterment.

July 1951 --- The WHCC Couples Club officially changed its name to "the Co-Weds." The name was suggested by Mr. and Mrs. Rae McAlisters.

July 1951 --- A record crowd of 2,000 persons attended the Community Center Carnival and Sadie Hawkins Day event. More than 600 dinners were served from a chuck wagon loaned for the event by Ralph McCutcheon, honorary mayor of Sepulveda. There was fun and excitement from 11:00 am until midnight. Marianne Glenn was crowned "Queen Daisy Mae" after catching Bill (Laddie) Robe, who was Li'l Abner for the occasion. Among the celebrity packages auctioned by Fritz Delp was a \$5 bill from President Harry S. Truman. Milton Hodenfield, general chairman of the carnival, Reverend Melvin H. Harter, Howard J. (Cy) Perkins, master of ceremonies, and Fritz Delp, auctioneer were the busiest persons at the fair and did outstanding jobs.

July 1954 --- WHCC's Dr. Marvin McNeil was elected an associate to the Council of Social Action

by the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States at its biannual meeting in New Haven, Connecticut.

July 1954 --- The Reverend E. Ellsworth Smith, founder of WHCC, and for whom Smith Lounge was named, passed away on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at the age of 93. Reverend Smith, who founded 102 churches during his long life, obtained the use of an army barracks at the corner of Canoga Avenue and Dumetz Road for use as a Sanctuary for the faithful. In addition, Reverend Smith established Boy Scout Troop 54, of which he was Scoutmaster.

July 1957 --- Reverend Fred S. Doty was appointed WHCC Pastor. He came to WHCC after a stint as Young Adult Minister at the Lakewood Community Church.

July 1960 --- Reverend Robert Keim joined WHCC as the new Associate Minister.

July 1968 --- Dr. Fred Register became Conference Minister of the Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ.

July 1990 --- Reverend Bob Richter resigned as Pastor of WHCC.

# West Valley Food Pantry

## FOODS OF THE MONTH:

Rice  
Beans  
Peanut Butter

Rice and Beans are still on the most needed list items along with Peanut Butter and Tuna. These protein items are used in each clients monthly allotment of food. ~ Etta Hulett

## Happy Birthday America ~ July 4th~



# July Birthdays

- |    |               |    |                |
|----|---------------|----|----------------|
| 2  | June Goudey   | 17 | Stephen Wegner |
| 7  | Jeanne Mowers | 19 | Hank Petersen  |
|    | Kate Bishop   | 21 | Peggy Schuh    |
|    | Pam McCoy     | 26 | James Palermo  |
| 14 | Randol Eagles | 27 | Allan Comeau   |
| 15 | Von Leeking   | 30 | Mimi Giles     |

### Name left off the list? Contact the Church Office!

◆ Planning to travel this summer ~near or far? Then collect a small amount of water from a place of significance to you and bring it to our annual Welcome Sunday in September. The collected waters will be consecrated for use in our baptisms through the following program year.

Have a great vacation and don't forget the water! ◆



## Check Out Our New Look At

## Visit us on the Web

[www.whucc.info](http://www.whucc.info)

AND

New Email: [webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster@gmail.com)

David Keddle our WebMaster

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Signe Hardesty, Pastoral Assistant  
Dianne Meyer, Director of Music Programs  
Lisa Marlow, Nursery School Director  
Annette Eddy, Children's Program Coordinator  
Judy Jordan, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Lyn Owen, Moderator

# Last, ... But Not Least

## SAVE THE DATES

*Tour of the Pacific Island Luau  
August 21st*

*Welcome Sunday,  
September 12th*

*Dinner & Discovery Nights  
Every Wednesday starting Oct 13th*



**Don't** take a  
**Vacation**  
From **Church**

*No matter who you are,  
or where you are  
on life's journey,  
you're welcome here.*



*An Open & Affirming, Just Peace  
& Progressive Congregation*

***White Focus***

**WOODLAND HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

(United Church of Christ) (818) 346-0820

21338 Dunetz Road

Woodland Hills CA 91364

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

# Woodland Hills Community Church

# JULY 2010

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1 6:30 PM Grief Workshop @ Chapel	2 7:30 PM Youth "Lock in" @ Sanctuary	3
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4 Communion Service 10:00 AM Worship & Youth @ Sanctuary	5 6:00 PM New Membership Class (2 of 3) @ Office 7:15 PM Monday Night Covenant Group, Location call Church Office	6 7:00 PM Sacred Grounds, Starbucks at Topanga & Dumetz	7 10:00 AM Retired Men's Club, SL 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel	8 6:30 PM Grief Workshop @ Chapel	9	10 9:00 AM Grounds Work Day
Pastor Craig on Vacation						

11 10:00 AM Rev. Al Cohen, Pulpit Replacement @ Sanctuary	12 7:00 PM Spiritual Deepening Group @ Nasarenko Home	13 6:30 PM Youth Musical Theatre Workshop @ Sanctuary 7:00 PM Church Council & Trustees, Chapel/Smith Lounge	14 6:30 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel	15 9:00 AM FOCUS Deadline 6:30 PM Grief Workshop @ Chapel	16	17
Pastor Craig on Vacation						

18 10:00 AM Worship & Youth @ Sanctuary 11:30 AM Brunch Fundraiser @ Harter Hall	19 4:00 PM Pastoral Relations Committee @ Office 7:30 PM New Beginings, Location TBD	20 6:30 PM Youth Musical Theatre Workshop @ Sanctuary 7:00 PM Sacred Grounds, Starbucks at Topanga & Dumetz	21 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel	22 6:30 PM Grief Workshop @ Chapel 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Planing Committee @ Smith Lounge	23	24 6:00 PM Super Potluck Club @ Ayers Home
9:00 AM Nursery School Mud Pie Program						
Pastor Craig on Vacation						

25 10:00 AM Worship Service, Maria Barbee, Pulpit Replacement @ Sanctuary	26	27 6:00 PM Facilities Team @ SL 6:30 PM Youth Musical Theatre Workshop @ Sanctuary	28 6:00 PM Liturgical Dance @ Chapel	29 6:30 PM Grief Workshop @ Chapel	30	31
9:00 AM Nursery School Mud Pie Program						
Pastor Craig on Vacation						