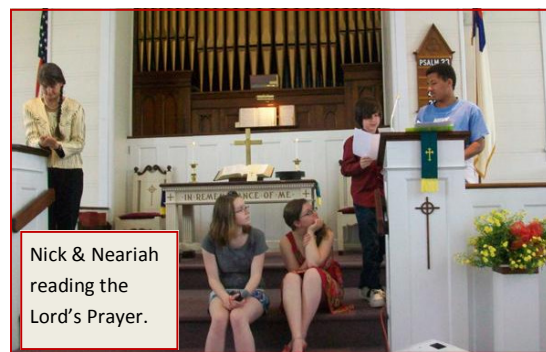




Our first furry hug - of many! We looooved the farm animals!

Co-Op Youth Sunday was during a very busy time of year. Four stalwarts not required elsewhere were able to present a version of The Lord's Prayer, sign "Testify to Love", & present youth-created slideshow of our winter retreat themed "Finding Rest in our Rest-Less World" to PBBC. **Here's Heifer!!!**



Nick & Neariah reading the Lord's Prayer.



Perry made omelets for all!

We arrived at Heifer International's Outlook Farm in MA just in time for a veggie pasta supper, farm raised meatballs, fresh garden variety salad, garlic bread, and beet cake! Skeptical, students soon learned how tasty farm cooking really is! While touring the grounds. We found sweet



Our most successful fire! Our Peruvian lunch was good!



(up) Mt. top Outlook Farm is a summer stunner(Dwn) world market bargainer!



(L) Our Guatemalan Family breakfast. (R) Big sisters keeping toddler at bay!



Bottle feeding lambkins & "running" goats to pasture.

guinea pigs to hug, then played charades 'til bedtime! Our windy mountaintop first night was coooool sleeping in our tent. Our sleep was interrupted by 4:30am rooster 'alarm'. Eventually we admitted morning, packed up and all chipped in to make our own farm yummy breakfast!

Via our joyful Heifer Leader the simplicity & complexity of our lives began to dawn. We learned Heifer's motto 'To work with communities to end hunger & poverty & care for the earth', and the founder's dream that every child should have a cup of milk. We toured Outlook Farm's vast gardens, then helped with morning chores including feeding llamas, & alpacas grain. We milked the goats, then bottle fed orphan goats and lambs. A thrilling mass confusion accompanied running herds of goats and lambs to their separate pastures. We found great joy carrying the lost babes of each herd.

Touring the World Village, we visited Ghana's mud hut, Appalachian Mountain's mobile home, China's yurt (tent of water buffalo blankets), Mexico's tarpaulin & scrap material shelter, Poland's wooden 'A' frame, and made lunch in Peru's lean-to & stone house. Our family roles were drawn by lottery, each taking on their description whole heartedly. Perry the family literate & dad. Lauren the pregnant mom. Noelle the older, Kaitlin a younger sister with a maimed hand, and Kristen the "sometimes bad toddler"!

As a family, we children witnessed our Guatemalan parents struggle (in Spanish) trying to buy food with not enough money, from not enough supplies at the World Market. We children fulfilled mom's market bartering promises, by collecting bundles of fire wood. With great pride, we scrapped together enough for a tortilla and beans supper. We came to rest in our home for the night - Guatemala's plaster & wood home... We felt blessed!

We soon realized making fire was not our forte', tortilla's are better with salt, than sand, and black beans aren't so bad with a bit-o-baby procured cilantro?!? We each shared our perceived blessings - running water, a roof over our head, enough food to eat and electricity - while falling asleep as the sun was setting outside our shuttered home.



Celebrating Co-Op Graduates We are graduating four seniors this year, including Kristin H, Jemma O'D, Brooke K and Neariah J. Two of these students have been very involved with the Co-Op Youth Group. As Youth Ministries Coordinator, I have had the privilege to get to know them! They are the first two students to go thru the Co-Op Youth Group with me from 6th - 12th grade! They have been very busy thru-out their years in the Co-Op Youth Group, NBC Children and Youth Choirs as well as at school! May I offer a bit of what I have learned...



Brooke earned many awards for her outstanding dedication & enthusiasm in Music including; the **Senior Award** for *Most Achievements Throughout HS*, **Spirit Award** for *Overall Outstanding Musician*, and **Most Outstanding Section** of the *Marching Band 'Pit'* (expanded percussion section). These three awards are from the Music Department. **Outstanding New Member** for being a *first year member* came from the (audition only) Women's Choir. Recognition from the Waterford Jazz Musicians was given in April 29th for **Outstanding Musician**. Brooke has been a member of the Fitch HS Marching Band (4 yrs), Women's Choir (1 yr), Jazz Band (3 yrs) and Concert Band (2 yrs), Co-Op Youth Group (7 yrs), and Children & Youth Choir (9 yrs).

Brooke earned two **Honor Cords** for 4 years of "A's" in Music, and 3 years of "A's" Art while accumulating a 3.2 GPA. She is attending Western CT State University located in Danbury where she will play her Baritone Saxophone Brooke will earn her Music Major & Teaching Certificate in order to Teach Elementary School Music. She is working for the summer as a hostess at The Fisherman and bus girl at Par Four. Scholarships earned that will go towards Brooke's education are the John Turco (community service), Groton Board of Education (in-state college choice), and the American Legion (volunteerism). Brooke has been on the Academic Honor Roll (All A's & B's, one C)(2 yrs) and High Honor Roll (all A's, 1 B) (2 yrs). Congratulations in all you accomplished Brooke!!!

Neariah has earned several scholarships that will go toward his college education including The Kiwanis Club of New London / NB King, Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Mystic and the Stonington Lodge of Odd Fellows Scholarships. Neariah has been a member of Key Club where he worked with special children each Friday night (3 yrs), Culinary Club (1 yr), Co-Op Youth Group (7 yrs), and Children & Youth Choir (8 yrs). He earned an **Honor Cord** for 4 years of "A's" in Science, while accumulating a 3.23 GPA. Neariah has been on the Academic Honor Roll (2 yrs), High Honor Roll (2 yrs), while overlapping National Honor Society (2 yrs).

Neariah will attend Southern New Hampshire University to earn his Culinary Management BA Degree with his eye on becoming a Sous Chef where he will be able to work in the kitchen along with his fellow cooks, as well as organize ingredients and manpower for upcoming events. He is working at *Abbot's Lobster in the Rough* for his third summer as well as cleaning the interior of cars, upon request. If you would like to have the cleanest car interior in Noank/Groton/Mystic, give Neariah a call!



Summer is Finally Here!!! Inviting All Incoming 6th Graders Join us for summer !!!

End of the School Year Beach Bash Wed June 29 from 5:15 - 8:30 pm! Inviting Co-Op Youth PAST & PRESENT to join us at Kristen's home to celebrate the 'end of the year'! Let's play volley ball on the beach, badminton, hang out in the hot tub, share a meal, & good conversation! Bring a friend, your bathing suit, hot dog/hamburger for the grill & a side dish to share!

Heifer Presentation! Sun July 3 @ NBC 8:00 - 9:00 for the Early Morning Service and **Sun July 10 @ PBBC 11:00 - 12:00** for the Second Hour Service.

Bike Bluff Point Wed July 20 @ 10:00am - 2:30pm. Wear a bathing suit, bike helmet, bring a heat resistant sandwich, side to share & \$5 in your pocket for Dairy Queen ICE SCREEEEAM!

Car Washes Sat July 9 at the Noank Fire House from 10:00-2:00pm, and **Sat Aug 6 @ PBBC** parking lot from 10:00-2:00pm. Let's have FUN while raising funds for July 2012 trip to Colorado!?!? Our big trip is only one summer away!!!



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