Canterbury

- The city of Canterbury is located in South-East England on the River Stour.
- Canterbury Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion and seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury (it was founded in 597 AD)
- Canterbury became famous throughout Europe as the object of pilgrimage -- Canterbury Tales relate the story told by fictional group of pilgrims.

Geoffrey Chaucer

- Born around 1343 in London d. 1400
- Considered one of the Fathers of English Literature
- Born into a family of winemakers and merchants
- Spent most of his life around the royal court -- page, soldier, diplomat, justice of peace

- Changed History of literature by writing in Medieval English rather than Latin
- The period of the Medieval times spans from 1066-1485
  - Important events: Battle of Hastings, Norman Conquest, Tower of London, Crusades, Domesday Book, Magna Carta, Black Death

Who is the Pardoner, you ask?

Journey:

- Tells a tale about gluttony, drunkenness, gambling, and swearing
  - He himself possess those four things

Characteristics:

- Occupation - priest/indulgance seller (sells fake relics)
- Sermon topic always the same: "greed is root of all evil"
- Preaches only for money
- Hypocrite, feminine, corrupt, immoral

Travel Companions:

- Attempts to sell pardons to the other pilgrims
- Violated the Host's notion of fellow=ship on which pilgrimage is based
  - Thus, least respected man on the trip

The Pardoner today... Pat Robertson

- Televangelist, ex-Baptist minister, and businessman
- Denounces other religions -- "Democratic"/"satanic"
- Condemns feminism, homosexuality, abortion, and liberals
  - Blame these groups for september 11th
- Had financial ties to former presidents of Liberia and Zaire -- both denounced for human rights violations
- Makes a large fortune (billionaire)
- Gambles - owns a racehorse - "Mr. Pat"
  - More than $500,000
- Hypocrite
- Makes crazy predictions (hurricanes, wars, etc.) then retracts his statements after proven wrong

"Greed is the root of all evil"