

First Presbyterian News

May 2014

Volume 52 No. 8



from the Pastor's desk

Spring will soon be in the air – perhaps by the time you read this column. We had a taste of it last week, but I write this during a brief, unwelcome return of winter. Spring will come: the sun will shine, birds will sing, tulips will bloom, buds will appear on trees and bushes. After a long, cold, hard winter, we are more than ready for spring. As we prepare to welcome new buds on trees, new blossoms on flowers, new green in lawns, it is appropriate to ask, “What is your growing edge?”

I have a friend who sometimes asks me that provocative question. It makes me pause – what *is* my growing edge, other than my expanding waistline and bald spot? It is so easy for me to fall into a rut of just getting by, day-by-day, doing the stuff that needs to be done (that I can't put off any longer), much of it routine. And it's so easy to just fritter away any spare time. Do I even *have* a growing edge?

How about you? What is *your* growing edge? Where do you sense growth in your mind, your spirit, your faith, your relationships, your joy?

The wonderful Howard Thurman once wrote:

Look well to the growing edge. All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new lives, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!"

In this Eastertide, we celebrate that ours is a God of new life and new birth. The *Glory to God* hymnal includes Natalie Sleeth's beloved hymn:

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

If our faith is alive, then it has growing edges as well. As 2 Peter says, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* What are the growing edges in your faith? If you can't readily name them, then perhaps you haven't been tending your faith, watering it with prayer, scripture, and spiritual conversation.

Growth is a sign of life in churches as well. What are our growing edges? Growth is not only in numbers; it can also be in spiritual depth, in mutual love and care, in service to the community, in joyful worship. I rejoice we have growing edges in all these areas as well. This spring, as we focus on preparing to search for new pastoral leadership, we will be exploring some of these things together.

In this Eastertide, this spring, may we continue to grow in grace, in faith, in caring for one another, and in serving our community. I look forward to growing with you.



Prayer Group.

We meet to unite in prayer. Our meetings vary in locations and last approximately one hour. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman or Betty Favorite. {prayer: answers to, daily, for growth and change, for our enemies, power of...Prayer} Please contact Janet for details. jfree930@aol.com

National Prayer Day Thursday May 1, Investing in Hope...Transforming our Nation Through Prayer!

*Get out your gardening gloves and tools and **lets get the church grounds looking their best.** Bring along some basic gardening tools and plan to spend some time communing with Mother Nature. Be there on **Saturday May 3** and we will start at **9:00 AM** and work till noon when a light lunch will be available. We will be cleaning up leaves, weeding flower beds, trimming bushes, trimming trees, mowing grass, and spreading mulch among other things. If you have a special project in mind and need materials contact any of the building and grounds committee members or leave a note or message for the church secretary to pass on. Rain date will be May 10. *Building & Grounds Committee**

Treble Clef Singers

- 1. TCS will be singing for worship May 4. Please come and enjoy a new generation of singers as they share their gifts with us this Sunday. This will be a great day to invite friends to worship and to welcome the students and their families.
- 2. Spring Awards Concert on Sunday, May 4 at 5:00. There will be pieces from the Circle the State With Song festival at Goshen College, a few favorites of the TCS, a batch of American favorites and fun sing-along songs. There will be a reception for choir and audience following the concert.

Adult Sunday Morning Class: Starting on Sunday, May 4, we will view Bruce Feiler's *Walking the Bible* video. As a follow-up to his book of the same name, Feiler takes us on location for some of the areas of Old Testament stories. He offers a fascinating glimpse of both the past and the present. Join Steve Braden in the Small Dining room for the class. Note: the class will not meet on May 18 due to the session meeting. When we meet on May 4, we will decide whether or not to meet on Mother's Day. The class will last until mid-June, when we will take a summer break.

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

Both classes of the pre-school will have a special day touring the Potawatomi Zoo on the 2nd, parents and siblings are welcome for this field trip. The 3/4 year old class will have a special program in honor of Mother's Day on Wednesday May 7th.

This year's 4/5 year olds will have Graduation on Friday May 30th.

Thank you First Presbyterian Church for all your caring and donations to our program.

This summer PWNS will have a six week summer school filled with highlights and reinforcements of the fundamentals to help the children get ready for kindergarten. If there is a small one who you think could enjoy this class please refer them to the church office for more information. *The PWNS staff*

Buy Stamps! Why wait in line at the post office? You can buy your postage stamps during Fellowship and support the Deacon's Christmas project! One of the Deacons will be selling stamps the second Sunday of every month. **(May 11th for this month's sale.)** What a great way to purchase what you need and give back to the community at the same time! Don't wait, get them now before they are all gone.

 * Mother's Day, May 11th, will be a special day at the church. Please join us this special morning.
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2013-2014 Book Club

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book & Author</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Snacks</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
5/18/14	Mennonite in a Little Black Dress (Memoir) by Rhoda Janzen	Judy S	Dyan P	Darlene
9/21/14	The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh			

**Book Club is at 2:00 p.m. Every one who enjoys a good read is welcome, come monthly or whatever your pleasure, even if you haven't read the book.*

We take the summer off from meeting but are always open to a new good book. Share with me any of your summer readings that you think might be enjoyed by us. Once again the book swap basket will be in the lobby at the church for any and all readers. Share a book, give a book or take a book.

Contact person is Judy Green- mtcgjag@aol.com

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for a night of fun and fellowship at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6 pm to 11 pm. Provided is the set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware. The cost is \$5. If able, please bring a snack to share. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on...knitting, cross stitch, crochet, scrapbooking, card making, painting...I am sure there are many more that can be named! The list of dates for 2014 are below, mark your calendars!

Looking forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net

May 23rd June 27th Aug. 29th Sept. 26th Oct. 24th Nov. 21st

June 8: Pentecost

Investing in our Greatest Resource

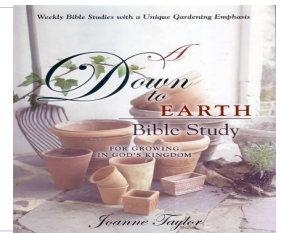
Giving to the Pentecost Offering makes it possible for the church to encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. A large portion of this offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community.

Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering help support: [Young Adult Volunteers](#) | [Ministries for Youth](#) | [Child Advocacy](#)



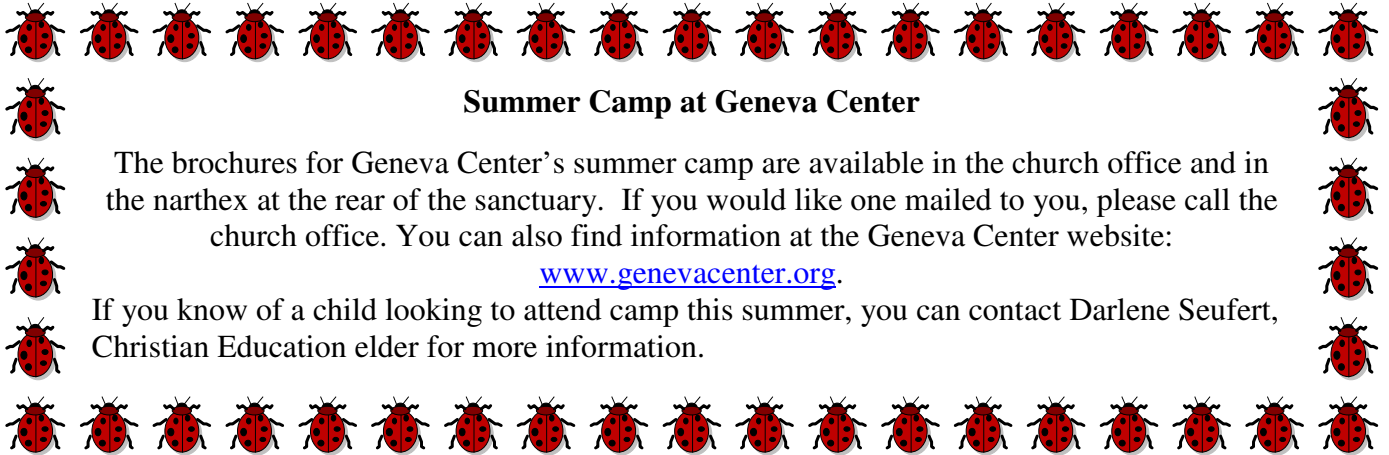
Christian Education is offering a Summer Bible Study

Looking for God? Step Outside! Joanne Taylor is the author of *A Down to Earth Bible Study for Growing in God's Kingdom* which uses nature and the Bible as the instructors. The hope is that after the Bible Study, participants stay to work in the church's flower/herb gardens. If interested sign up on the clip board marked Summer Bible Study. Darlene Seufert, CE Chair



Potential Wedding Ministry

On occasion our church has been approached by wedding reception venues as to whether we are open to doing weddings for non-members. The session has approved exploring the possibility of developing such a wedding ministry. We have a beautiful sanctuary (with a center aisle!), a convenient location, excellent organ, piano, and sound system, parking, and other amenities. This could be a helpful revenue source for our church, but we would need to develop a team of people to make it happen, each of whom would be paid for his/her work. This would involve being present on Friday nights and Saturdays, particularly during spring, summer, and fall. We would need several people to fill each of these slots, so that we could be assured of having someone available: wedding coordinator, sound technician (when Dave Sulak is not available), and custodian (to do Saturday night clean-up). In addition, we need to find several reliable pastors, as Steve Braden does not want to do such weddings. Are you interested in any of these roles, or know anyone who is? Please contact Pam Camren or Steve Braden.



Summer Camp at Geneva Center

The brochures for Geneva Center's summer camp are available in the church office and in the narthex at the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the church office. You can also find information at the Geneva Center website:

www.genevacenter.org.

If you know of a child looking to attend camp this summer, you can contact Darlene Seufert, Christian Education elder for more information.

Help is needed in the Library

Help is needed in the Library. If you have time once a month, or even more, the library at the church is in need of some TLC. Please contact Darlene S. if you would like more information.

Have you checked your church Mail Box?

Most church members have a mailbox in the C.E. Office that many committees, offices, members use to communicate within the church. See Sue Rice if you have any questions.

Presbyterian Women 2014 CALENDAR

Gifts of Women April 28 Vicki Garrett will be preaching. Join us for a special service The Presbyterian Women will wind up their year with a **Calendar Meeting & Supper** at the Church on June 4, 5:30 p.m. This will be the last meeting until Fall.
Have a safe and blessed summer.

Darlene*Teresa*Dave*Carole*Marc*Tom*RoseMarie*Gordon*MaryAnn*Dick*Judy*Michael*Mikey*Victoria*Dave*Bill

Presbyterian Women's Basement Sale 2014

Another Basement Sale has come and gone! Always a big and busy week for PW. We were a little short on 'treasures' this year; but we still had some great finds! Yarn and fabric were the big draws this year, plus a quilting frame that found a good home! Carole Polk wore her Deacons Hat and sold stamps for the Deacon's Christmas shopping too! We served lunch this year, which was a first for us and did quite well; especially on Thursday which was cold and rainy and our soup warmed some tummies while shoppers took a break from shopping! As always it's about the new friends we meet, the old friends that look forward to our sale every year, the stories we hear and the families that are helped with the donations that we bring to make this event a success! This year we sent items to the following organizations; YWCA, Helping Hands, Better World Books, and the FEW boxes that were left after the sale, went to Goodwill & Habitat. We couldn't have done it without all the 'helping hands' throughout the week; from set up to tear down, lifting and toting, vacuuming, unpacking and packing up again, serving lunch and all the hard work in-between. After expenses (this does not include what Deacons made from the sale of stamps) \$1514.72! Thanks again to all the helping hands for another great week!

John*Sue*Katie*Justin*Janet*Lynett*Esther*Jeff*Ida*Margaret*Ethan*Angela

I am searching for people who would like to help Greet on Sunday Mornings. Greeters are stationed at the East Door and would need to be available around 9:30-9:40 to greet. If you would like to help with this task please let me know and I will put together a schedule. If there are dates that are better for you or you cannot do, please let me know. Thanks for considering this service. Lynett Heritz, Deacons

Church Office hours: 9:00 to 12:00, Monday thru Thursday
 Pastor hours: Monday and Wednesday
 Financial Secretary hours: Monday and Thursday mornings.
 Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or Fax (574) 259-1948
 Email us at www.fpcmishawaka.org
 mail address: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka
 P.O. Box 744
 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-0744



CHURCH STAFF
Transitional Pastor

Steve Braden
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Church Secretary
Debra Leonard
 Debra@fpcmishawaka.org
Financial Secretary

Joan Horvath
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Choir Director
Susan May
 sfmay72@gmail.com
Organist Michael Duryea
 mduryea@nd.edu
Custodian Ken Vargo
Pastor Emeritus
Franklin W. May

Church Officers and Committees

The Session: Pam Camren,
 Mary Ann Dentino, John Martz,
 Stan May, Bruce McClure,
 Darlene Seufert
Board of Deacons: Bill Bellairs,
 Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole
 Polk, Bill Walter, Chris Wukovits
Facilities and Operations
 John Martz, chair (elder)
 Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,
 Chuck Wukovits
Christian Education: Darlene Seufert
Finance: Stan May, Chair
Mission and Evangelism:
 Mary Ann Dentino, Chair
Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair
 (Elder)
Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair
Presbyterian Women: Judy Green
 and Darlene Siefert
PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair
Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair
Stewardship: Ron May, Chair
Worship and Music: Pam Camren, Chair
Book Club: Judy Green
Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz
Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice

The next **Newsletter deadline is May 17** at noon. Please send information for June and July, as this will be a double issue for the summer. You can email Sue information at suce@aol.com or you can mail information to the church. Thank you to all the special helpers who submit the many articles that keep our church family close and in touch.

New Church Directory
 We are considering the possibility of preparing our own photo directory, using low-cost software and our own photographic skills. Watch for further details.

To the FPC Congregation:
 Thank you for the lovely and unexpected gift. I remember you all fondly! Kathy Darr

Presbyterians Today
 pick up a copy today!
 Free copies in several spots through out the church.


A special thanks to Canticle Ringers for the prelude on Palm Sunday. It was great to have them ringing once again for the glory of God. The inclusion of violin by Brittany Rice added to the fullness of the selection.

The 60th Annual Mishawaka **Memorial Day parade** starts at 9:30 a.m. at 3rd and Main streets, and will turn left at Mishawaka Ave. and end at Battell Park. This year's theme is "All Gave Some; Some Gave All." This year, there will also be two flyovers by the Mishawaka Pilots Club.

PICTURES FOR WEBSITE
 We are seeking pictures of recent church events.
 If you have any, please bring or email them to the church office.
 We also seek photographer(s) to take pictures of church activities.
 If you are interested, please speak to Steve Braden.
 We are continuing to prepare to set up a new website



May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544				1 National Day of Prayer	2	3 Church Clean Up 9 am to noon
4 <i>Mike and Mikey Green, ushers</i> <i>Eric Kiama, Acolyte</i> <i>Stan May, Worship Leader</i>	5	6 7:00 Finance	7 1:30 Worship & Music See note below	8	9	10 Church Clean Up rain make up day
Mother's Day 11 8:30 Choir/special music Carole Polk & Bill Bellairs, ushers Chris Kiama Acolyte Chuck Wukovits Worship Leader communion	12 7:00 Deacons & Trustees	13	14	15 7:00 Choir 7:00 Ruth Circle	16 1:30 Esther Circle	17 FIRST PRES NEWS <i>DEADLINE</i> (June & July)
18 8:30 Choir Judy Sulak & Neil Seufert, ushers Emily Krafft, Acolyte Chris Wukovits Worship Leader 11:10 Session	19 7:00 Elizabeth Circle	20	21	22	23 PWNS Graduation 6-11 Scrapbook & Crafts in Fellowship Hall	24
25 Ethan DeMaegd & Dan Bruner, ushers Chris Kiama, Acolyte Lynett Heritz, Worship Leader Alan Camren, Preaching	26 MEMORIAL DAY <i>All Schools closed</i> Office & Building Closed	27	28	29	30	31

June 1st
 Mike and Mikey Green, ushers
 Eric Kiama, Acolyte
 Joseph Kiama, Worship Leader

Worship 10:00 Fellowship 11:00 Church School 11:15

Worship and Music will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. May 7th in the office to discuss and plan worship for the summer. If there are elements of worship that you would like to see included, please share them in writing with RE Pam Camren, W & M elder, for consideration.

Window into World Mission**The Vulnerability of Poverty****March 2014**

This letter was written last November by Cobbie Palm, who serves in the Philippines. You can read the entire letter at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/palm-cobbie-2013-112/>

Typhoon Yolanda remains very present in our lives as each day the death toll rises and institutions that were once able to offer help are forced to close. As of November 2013, the death toll had risen to 5,235 with 1,613 still missing, and 23,501 under treatment for wounds, infections, illness and other injuries related to the typhoon.

The reality is the sad awakening that poverty is vulnerability. The question has been raised many times about why so many people and families living in the 555,514 homes that were totally destroyed, many of whom are now counted among the dead, did not evacuate. The answer is poverty. These houses are simple *nipa*, bamboo houses with no metal locks or grills on the window to protect the very few special items inside. These families had worked years to pay off or may still be paying for the one television set or the coveted stove oven in the home. To leave the home could mean the possibility of losing everything, not from the storm but from a break-in robbery. The loss would be so much to these families and would be devastating. This is the vulnerability of poverty.



Bethany Hospital, set up by Presbyterian Mission in 1918, which has served the region with healing for 95 years, had to temporarily close. This hospital, which had lost most of its equipment and had suffered so much damage now can no longer maintain the salaries of employees. It was left with no option but to close for a period of rehabilitation. Volunteers are set up and functioning in the parking area of Bethany Hospital with tents and are responding to the flow of patients, but this is not a sustainable solution over time. This is the vulnerability of poverty. Silliman Water Ministry, a project to provide clean drinking

water to communities in need, is presently constructing portable water filtration systems and will send the first unit this week to filter the well water of Bethany Hospital, where larger and larger crowds are gathering for treatment.

People are finding their ways to survive, but it is fragile and desperate and often dependent on outside institutions and organizations. The road to recovery will be sure, but long and winding. Your prayers and support will continue to be our strength.

For more information about supporting mission co-workers serving in Presbyterian World Mission, please contact Bruce Whearty at 1-800-728-7228, ext. 5157, or at bruce.whearty@pcusa.org

Dear Friends

April 6, 2014

Cistern building season has arrived. During the next two weeks, our Presbyterian partners, both American and Mexican, will work with six families in the village of Polo Norte to build six cisterns. God willing, by July, we hope to have built twenty cisterns. Most of the families with whom we will labor together are not Presbyterian; so there will be ample opportunity for us to create with our hands, love with our kindness, and hopefully win their respect. Our cistern building foremen are men of faith with a casual and easy going way of sharing their trust in the Lord. Aside from providing clean water, technical vocational training, and a taste of what can happen when a community works together, who knows what else might happen?

During Holy Week, two of the cisterns we will build are funded by money raised by a teenage Girl Scout from Nevada. Very briefly, here's how that happened:

Thirty-five years ago, two couples became friends through fellowship in a suburban Chicago Presby. church.

Thirty years ago, one of those couples moved to Las Vegas.

Ten years ago, the Vegas couple visited Chicago and met up with some old church friends. Stories were shared over dinner. Experience with the cistern ministry in Mexico was one of them. The Vegas couple returned to Nevada, and shared the story with their friends, some of whom were Rotarians.

Eight years ago, nearly twenty cisterns were built with money raised by Las Vegas area Rotarians—several of whom traveled to Xpujil to help build—including that couple that used to live near Chicago.

One year ago, the teenage Nevadan Girl Scout was searching for project ideas to earn the Gold Award—the highest achievement in Girl Scouts. She learned of our ministry from the Vegas couple. After researching the matter, she concluded that it fit well with her interests and abilities

Next week, after *one full year* of persistent work, she will be in Polo Norte with her father, working side by side with the families that will build the cisterns that she worked hard to fund. Truly, God works unexpectedly through relationships. Suddenly, a spark is kindled (or rekindled), intentional actions are taken, work opportunities are created, and lives change. I pray the Lord continues to bless our conversations.

Blessings to you. Todd Luke

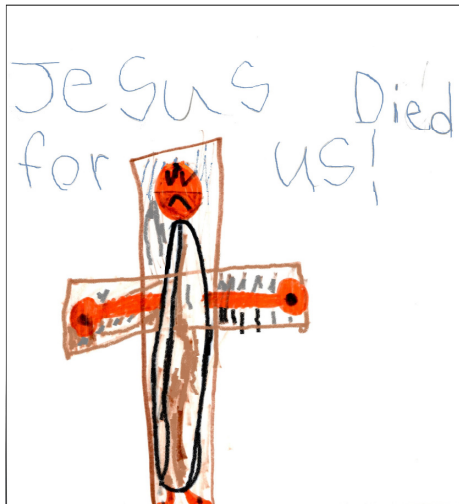
Rev. Carol McDonald Retiring

Rev. Carol McDonald will be retiring in June from active service to the Presbyterian Church, USA where she has served in many capacities the latest as Synod Executive for the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Carol's long history as a member of Presbytery Wabash Valley includes Director of Geneva Center, Moderator of the presbytery, session designer/leader for classes at Synod School and pulpit supply for many, many PWV churches. She has served at all levels of the church and has been a leader on many fronts at the General Assembly level.

Carol will be recognized by the Presbytery of Wabash Valley during the Assembly on May 20th at Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, Crawfordsville. Ruling Elder Pam Camren will be attending as elected commissioner from FPC along with Pastor Steve and would be happy to deliver cards, notes, etc. to Carol.

We wish Carol God's richest blessings as she moves into this new phase of her after so many years of faithful service.

While watching her mom practice on Palm Sunday, Juliet Rice drew the Holy Week. This is her first publishing of her works. What a great story to start with!



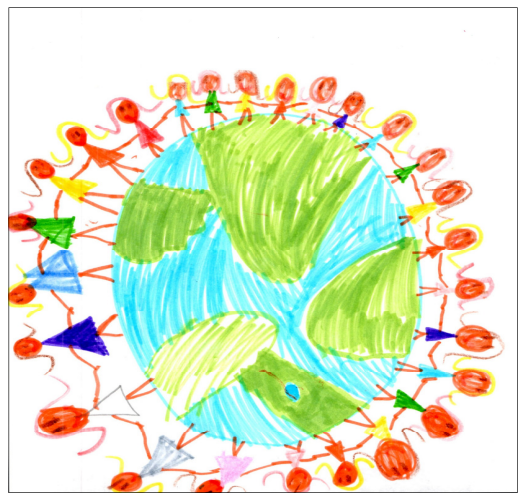
Jesus Died for us!



He got sent in to a cave.



And then he rose agen! Jesus is ausum!
And then he rose again! Jesus is awesome!



HALLELUJAH