

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY CRAFT BOOK



SIMPLE CARDS



Burton Everist

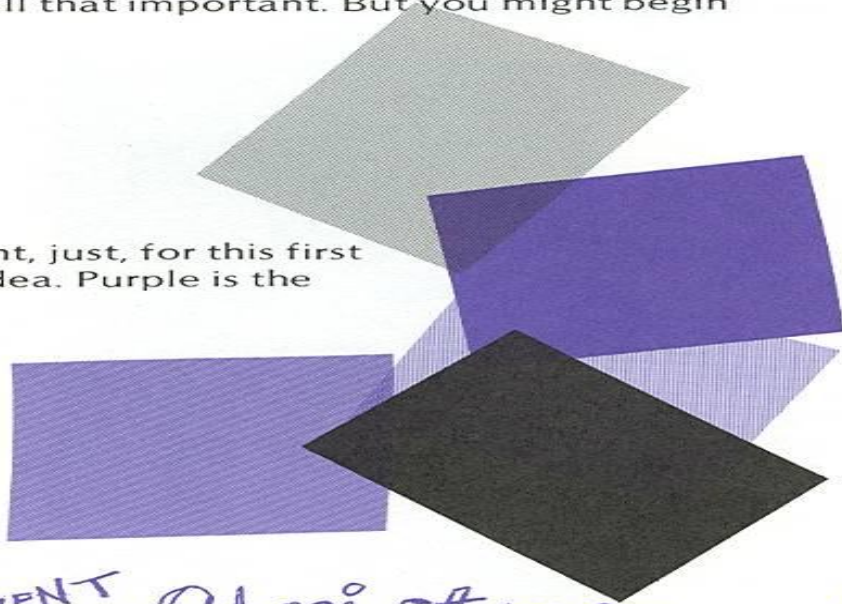
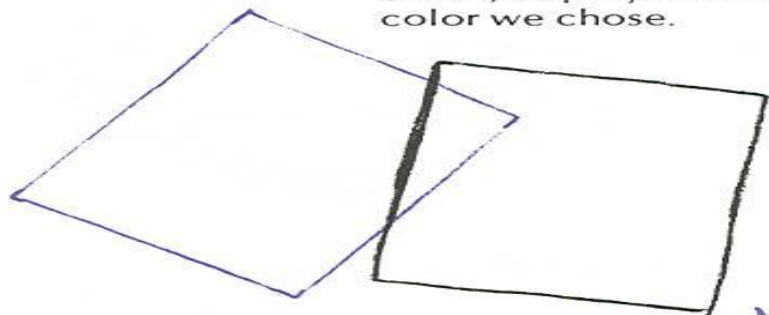
SIMPLE CARDS

CONSTRUCTION PAPER CARDS

Almost every school and many homes have construction paper. Such paper comes in all sorts of colors these days, not just dark purple, brown, red, orange, yellow, and blue. But also purple, flaming red, cerise, bright blue, shocking pink, and more . . .

A typical size of construction paper is 9" x 12". It comes in many other sizes as well. The size really isn't all that important. But you might begin with the 9" x 12" dimensions.

Select any color you want, just, for this first effort, to play with the idea. Purple is the color we chose.



Pick your theme. Is this to be a Christmas card? Or for a birthday? Whatever you decide, stick to the theme you have chosen and finish it out.

Anniversary

VALENTINES

Baptisms
Birthdays

Weddings

ADVENT

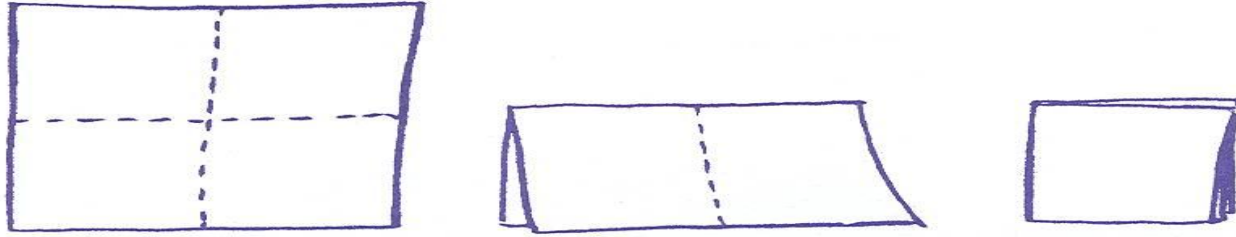
Christmas

New Year's

Name of Jesus

PENTECOST

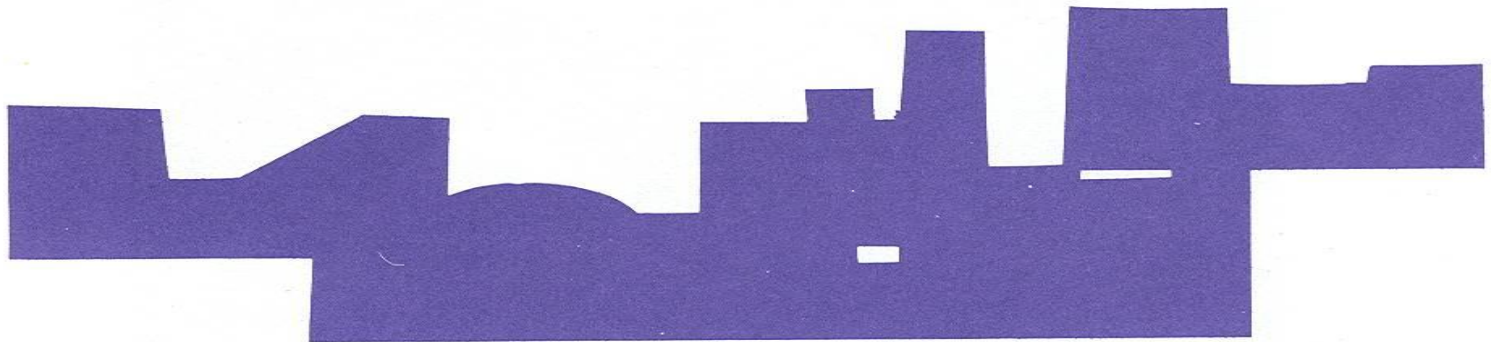
We chose Christmas. We folded the paper over once (either way is all right), and then once more the other way.



What can we do with a purple card at Christmas-time? A look at the beginnings of the Gospels helps. John 1:9-18 strikes home. Especially 1:9.

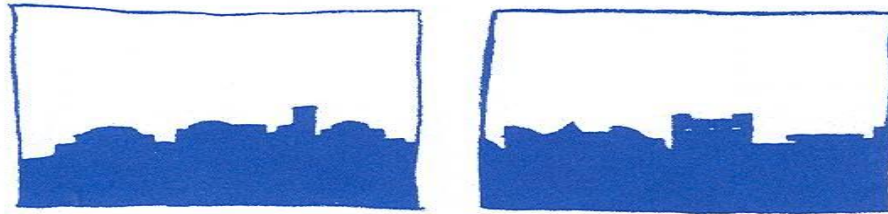
“The true Light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.” It makes me think of Jesus’ words, quoting Isaiah, “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light!”

Darkness and Light! That will fit the card well. Why not a dark red for part of the city.



City outlines are easy to do. But should it be Bethlehem, or New Haven, or Chicago?

New Haven on the inside, Bethlehem on the outside!

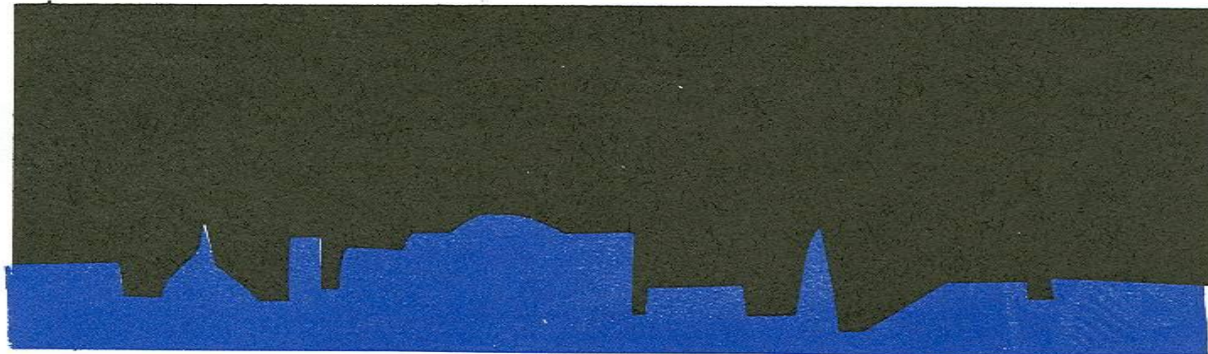


No, the other way round. A darkened New Haven skyline on the outside . . .



And a brightly lit Bethlehem inside.

(I finally decided on the same inside as on the outside.)



We could type the words,
or print them,
or cut them out,
or cut blocks *and* print them.

THESE are
THE

WORDS

WORDS

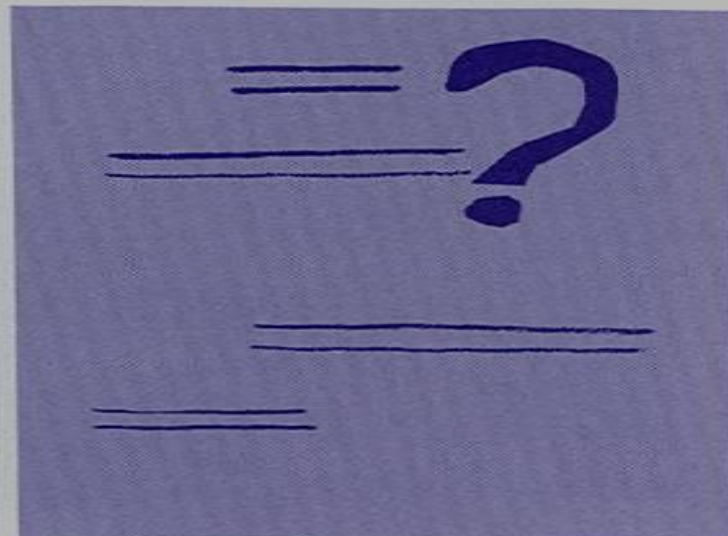
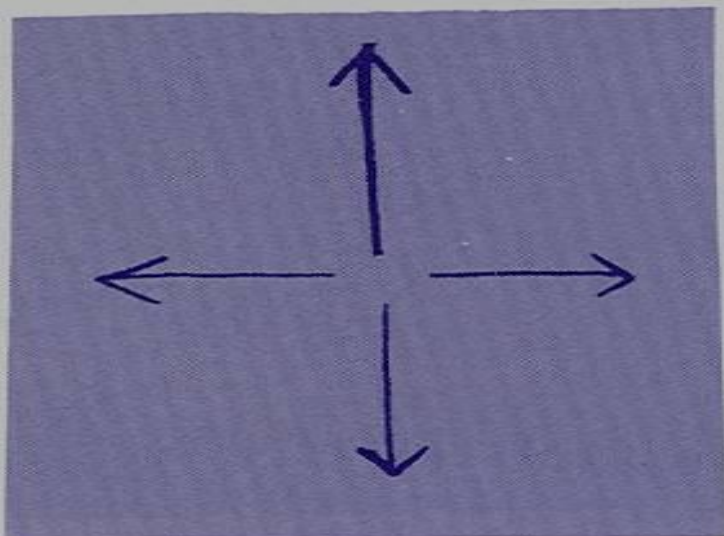
WORDS



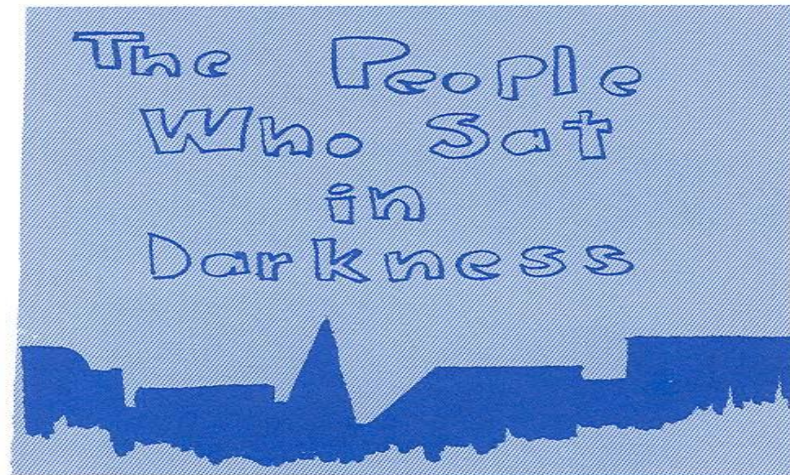
to



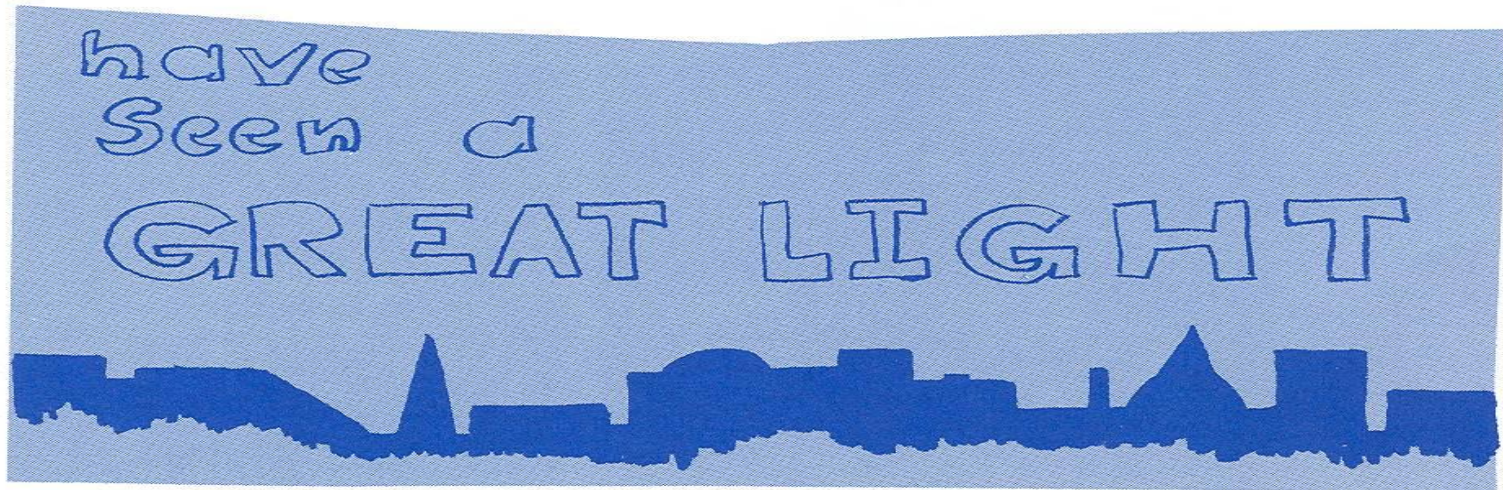
Where should the words go on the paper?
And what colors might they be?



“The people who sat in darkness . . .” that does fit the cover of the card quite well.



And “have seen a great Light” on the inside!



A deep red for the cover words, and gradually brighter letters on the inside. They lead up to a bright foil manger in the heart of dark Bethlehem.



I hope people will like the card; I hope it will speak to them. But I still wonder, maybe it should show that the Light is ours today in New Haven, too! I think we should do the next one with Bethlehem on the outside, a light glowing out somewhere, and on the inside, all the way across, the New Haven skyline, with a smaller Bethlehem skyline against the darker New Haven skyline, and the manger bursting with light for everyone.

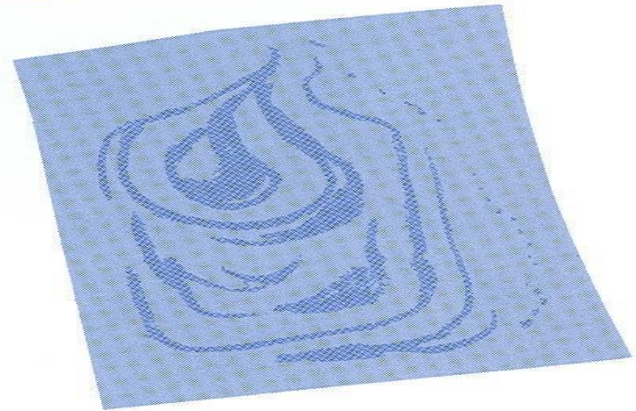


CRAYON-RESIST CARDS

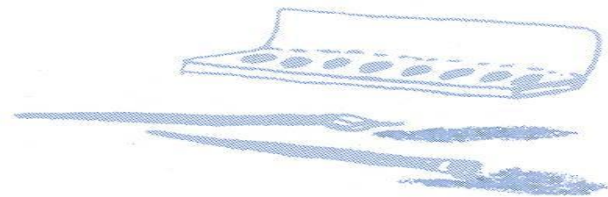
Most families have seen crayon-resist art. Their primary-school children bring it home from school, usually around grade 3 or 4. Most often it is a 9" x 12" size, predominantly black with vividly glowing simple outlines shining through. I have one stapled to my attic study wall. It occurred to me that this would make a lovely, simple way to create family greeting cards. And then Joan, the illustrator of this book, created some designs that proved me more right than I could have imagined!



I learned that the crayon-resist method didn't have to be dominated by black, although black does give strikingly lovely results. Any color may be chosen for dominance. The method itself is simple: with crayon draw on any white paper, except glossy paper, [the kind of paper you choose creates interesting differences in the card]. Use as many colors as you wish, draw as narrowly or as broadly as you wish. When you are done with your basic picture, take any water color and broad-brush across the whole paper.



You will see that the crayon has resisted the watercolor, while the paper has absorbed it! If you have chosen black or another deep dark color, the crayon colors will leap out at you. Their contrasts will stand out boldly. (Of course, crayon the same color as the watercolor will not show up).



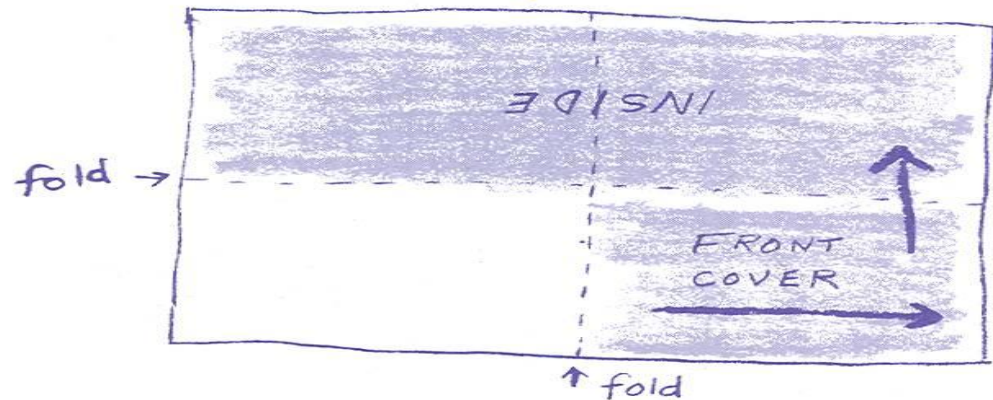
Pentecost is a good time to do cards such as these! I'm not very good at drawing people, but we don't do family crafts to display our abilities. We do them to share Christ's love.



The colors of Pentecost are deep reds and bright oranges, and that's what I think I'll pick for my watercolor wash. That means I'll draw my design with blacks and dark blues and perhaps a rich green, and a frisky yellow.



Of course, this design is done all on one side of the paper, laid out with one-quarter for the cover, and "upside down" the "bottom half" all the way across for the inside. Then, when I have brushed my bright orange and rich reds across the black outlines, brown doors, and white robes, and the water has dried, I'll fold the paper into final card shape.



I like the Pentecost Gospel: Jesus appears to the fear-filled disciples, locked away behind closed doors. He breathes upon them, sending them out as the Father sent Him. He tells them they now can share forgiveness — His forgiveness — with others. I think of not being forgiven as being locked behind closed doors.

On the evening of that first day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear...
Jesus came and stood among them, and said to them,
Peace Be With You!

St. John



So, I'll begin with Jesus, robed in white, standing within the door, reaching out his hands to the disciples. And this cover picture will say: "OPEN UP!"

OPEN

UP!

CHRIST'S SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN YOU!

Inside, where I have more room, the greeting will continue: "Christ's Spirit lives within you!" And the picture will show many open doors, flame-touched, with people streaming out to life.

