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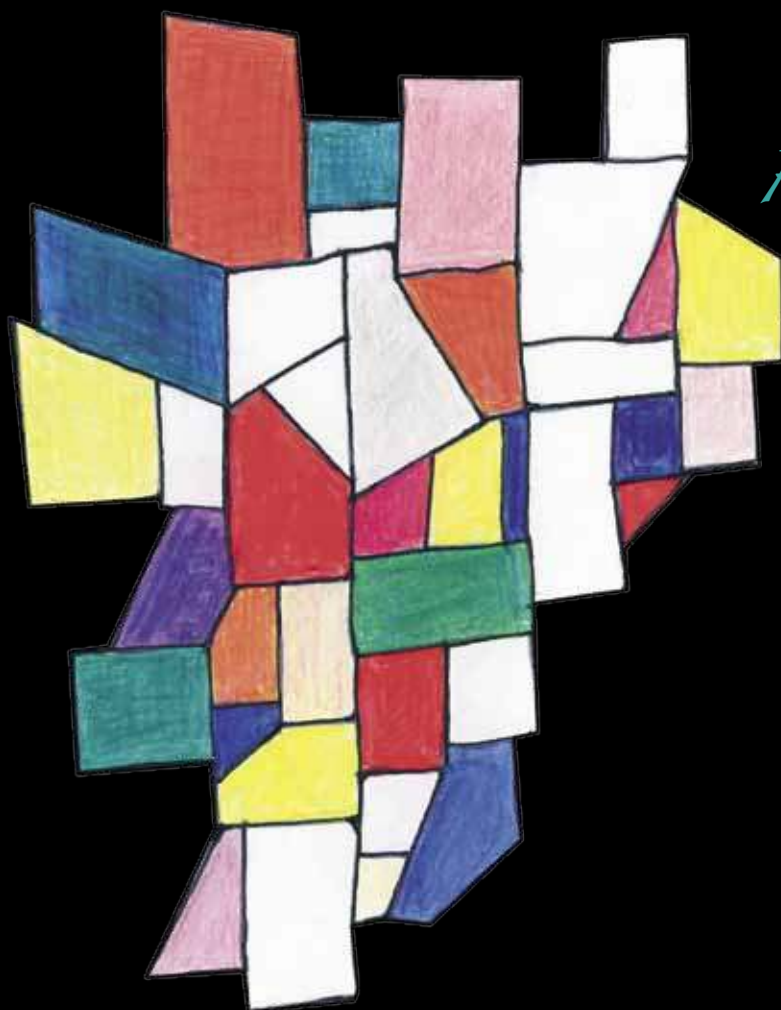
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Hospital Chapel

The hospital chapel is nearly full today.
I wonder why; maybe the staff layoffs.
Prayer requests tell the stories.
Layoffs, test results, mother upstairs,
Daughter's surgery in Detroit,
Grandson in Afghanistan,
Granddaughter on drugs.
Wednesday noon and fears will not
Wait another four days.
The chaplain raises her voice
In prayer; we respond in song.
At one pm she sends us out
To find our way.

Richard Frank Gillum, MD, MS

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Illustration by Jim M'Guinness