| PRESCHOOL NEWS | |
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| ST STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL | APRILS 2011 |

DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 13 & 14: Easter Chapel Time**

**& Easter Parties**

**April 18-22: Easter Vacation**

**(SCHOOL CLOSED)**

**April 24: Easter Sunday Services**

**@ 9am & 11am**

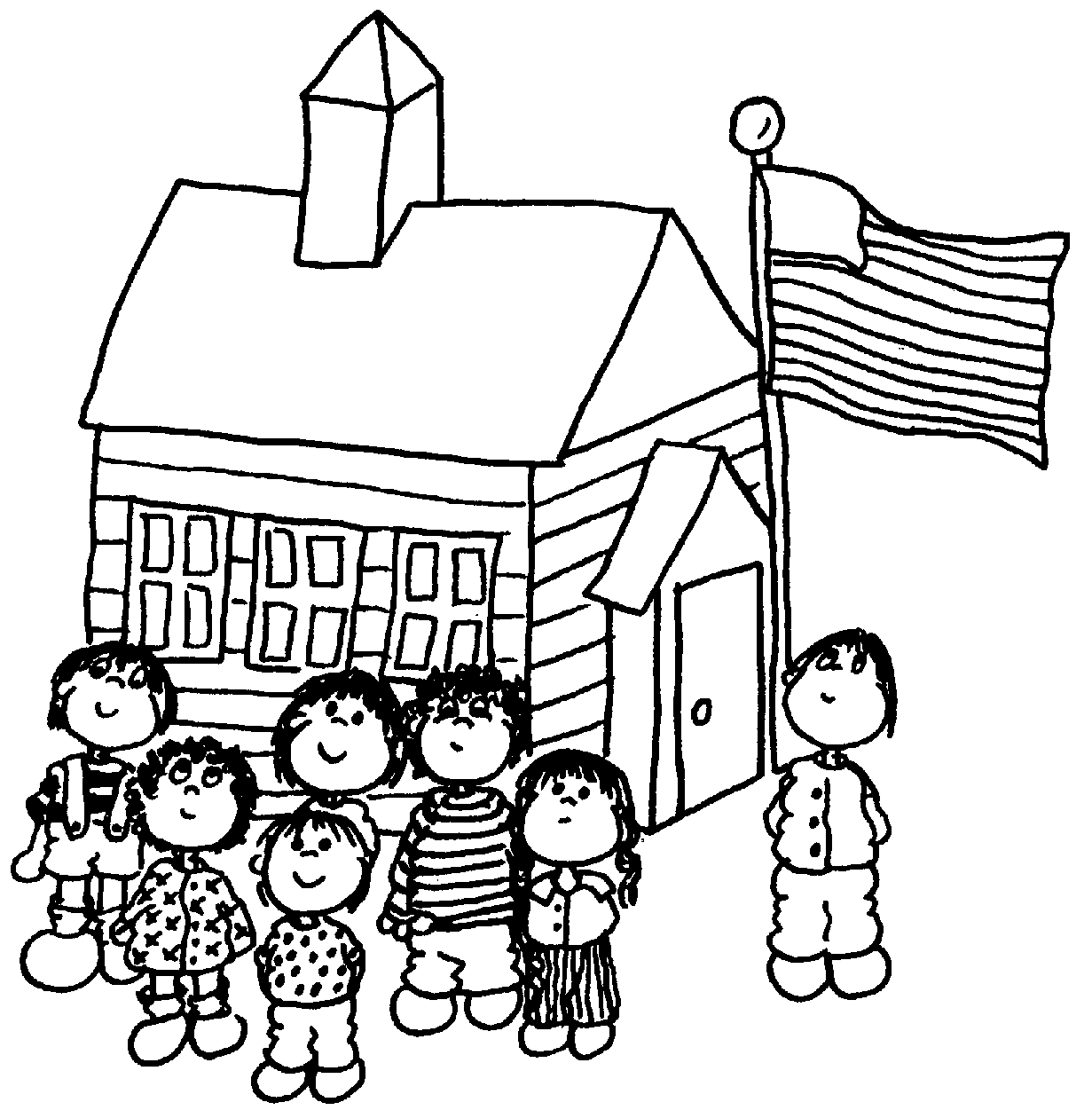
**Children’s Choir Performance @ 9am service**

**Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:30am**

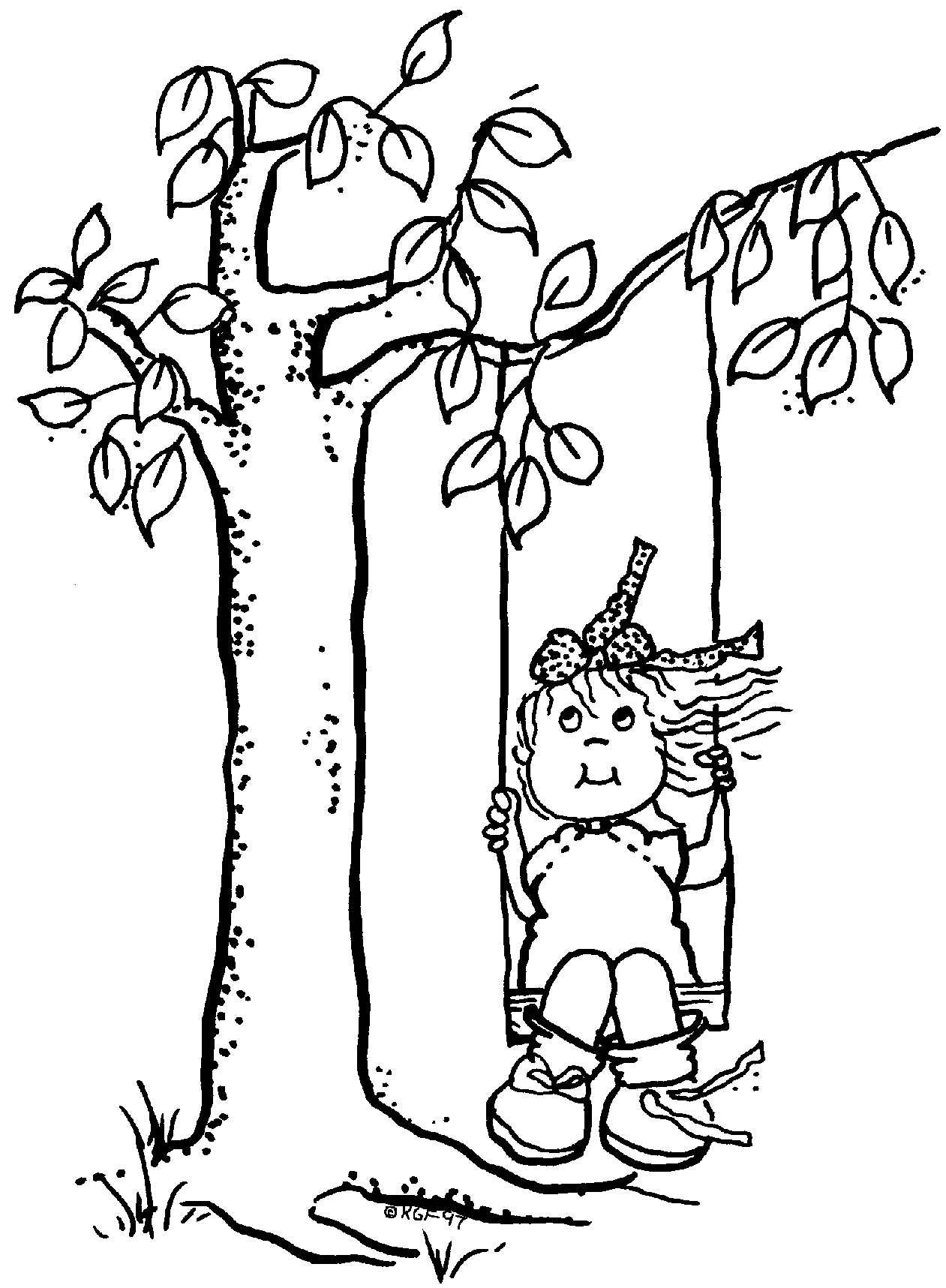
**April 27: “Just The Two Of Us”**

**Spring Sessions Begin**

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** SUMMER CAMP**

Did you know that St. Stephen Preschool transforms into a fun-filled Summer Camp beginning on June 21st? Summer camp is in session on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9:00am – 12:30pm for 4 weeks. There is one enrollment paper to complete to save your child’s spot. Please stop in the office and speak with Leslie or Tara to enroll your child.

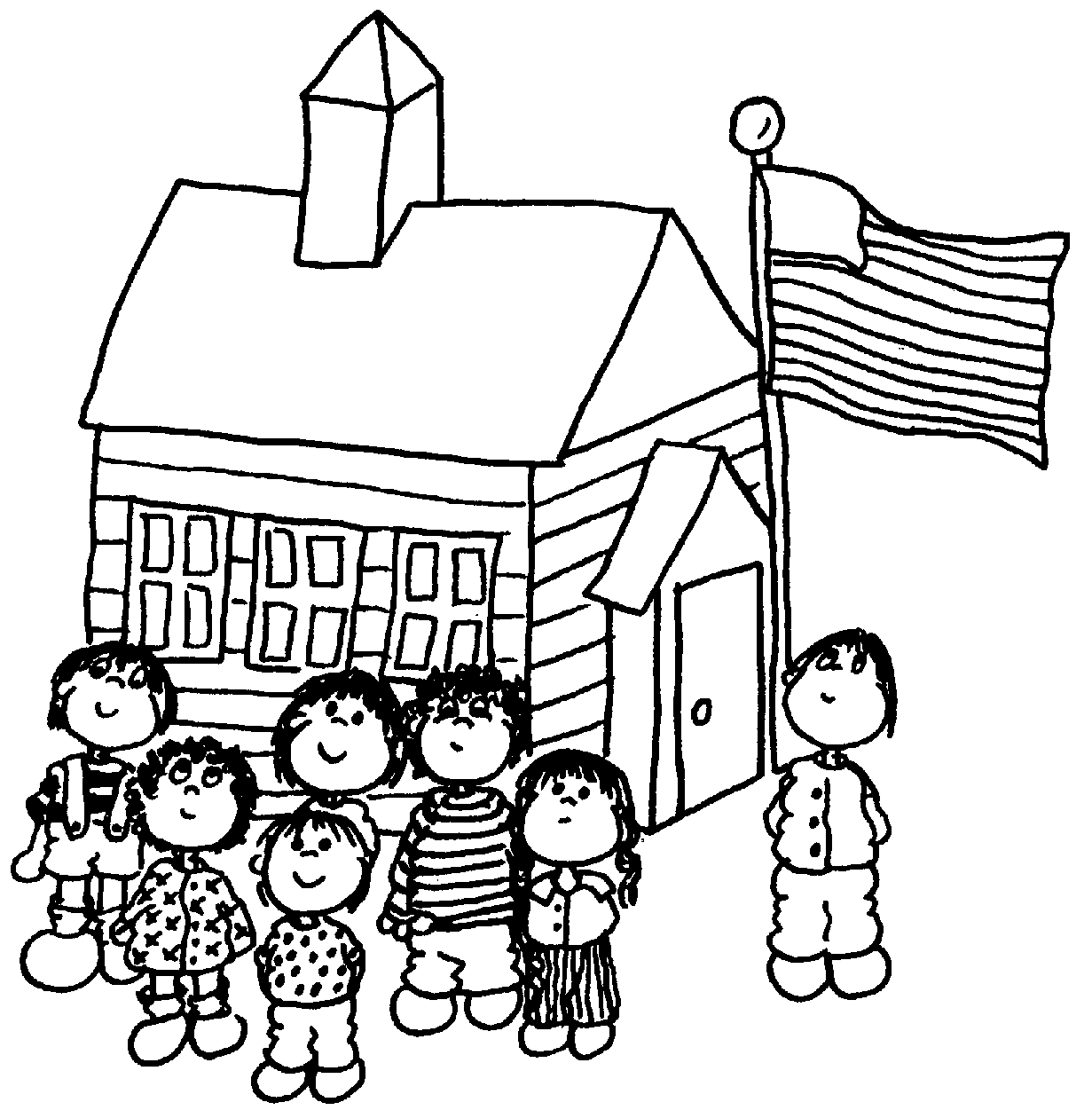
**WEEK OF THE YOUNG**

**CHILD**

**APRIL 10-16**

In honor of the Week of the Young Child, College of the Canyons and the Southern California Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (SCVAEYC) will host the eighth annual "Play Day," offering a free day of fun and developmentally appropriate activities for children. Established in 1971 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the Week of the Young Child helps bring attention to the needs of young children and their families.The goal of the College of the Canyons Play Day is to bring the community together by providing high-quality, developmentally stimulating play experiences that children and families throughout the community can enjoy. This free annual event also provides families with young children an opportunity to explore the many valuable resources that are available to them both at the college and in the community.

Presented by the SCVAEYC and co-sponsored by College of the Canyons, Play Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, in the COC Honor Grove, located on the college’s Valencia campus.

** PRESCHOOL**

**REGISTRATION**

We are currently taking registrations for the 2011-2012 school year. Enrollment packets are available in the Preschool Office. Please keep in mind that in order to attend St. Stephen’s you must register each year. Do not assume a space has been saved for your child. Please stop in the Preschool Office if you have any questions.

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**SPRING/SUMMER**

**SUGGESTIONS**

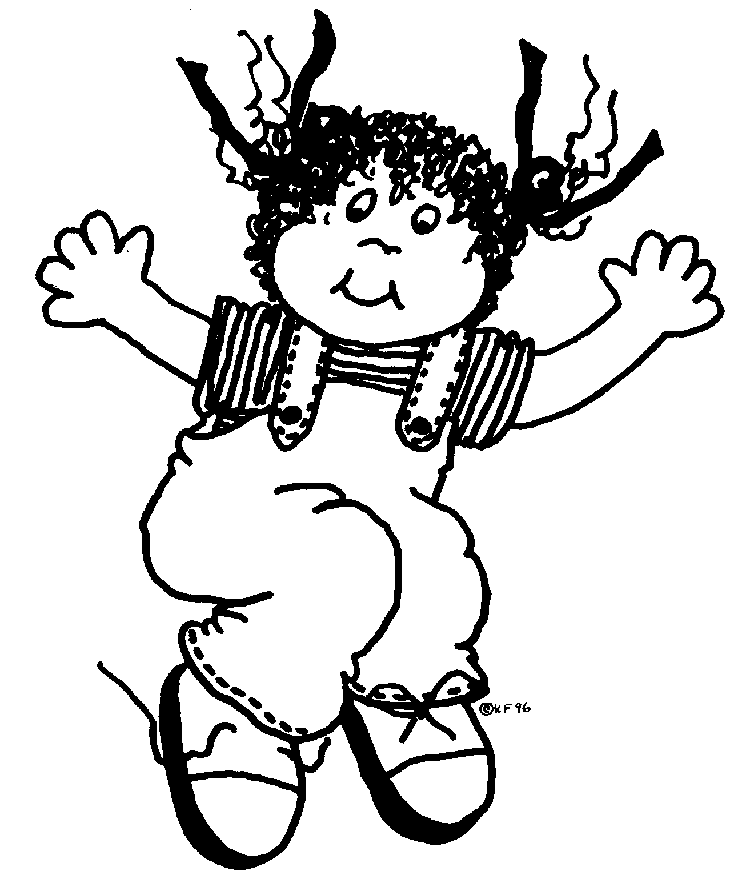
With Spring here and Summer just around the corner, warmer temperatures can’t be far behind. Learning takes place outdoors as well as indoors. Water and sand experiences give children sensory pleasure and aid in key developmental areas. Here are a few suggestions that will help your child participate fully in these play experiences:

* **Don’t forget to put sunscreen on your child before school.**
* **Dress your child in clothes that they don’t have to worry about getting messy.**
* **Dress your child in layers. As the day gets warmer, your child can take off the top layer in order to be more comfortable.**
* **For your child’s safety, send him/her to school in socks and rubber soled shoes.**
* **Keep a change of clothes handy in your car in case you have to go somewhere after school.**

**WE’RE ON FACEBOOK!**

In addition to getting informational updates from our website, [www.ststephenkids.com](http://www.ststephenkids.com/), you can also “Like” us on Facebook and share the good news of St. Stephen Preschool with your Facebook friends.

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**“JUST THE TWO OF US”**

Our “Just the Two of Us” program will resume after Easter Vacation under the leadership of Chantal Wolff. We currently offer *Wednesday* classes. The class starts at 9:15am and runs until 11:15 am.

The program is designed for Moms or Dads, Grandparents, or Caregivers and their toddlers, aged 18 months to 2 ½ years. Our program provides preschool style activities, in a secure environmentwith a caregiver there, making it a great stepping stone program for children before they start preschool.

We offer free choice activities, art projects, outside time, music movement and finger plays, stories, and a separated time for parent discussions.

If you or someone you know may be interested in the class, please speak with Leslie or Tara in the preschool office.

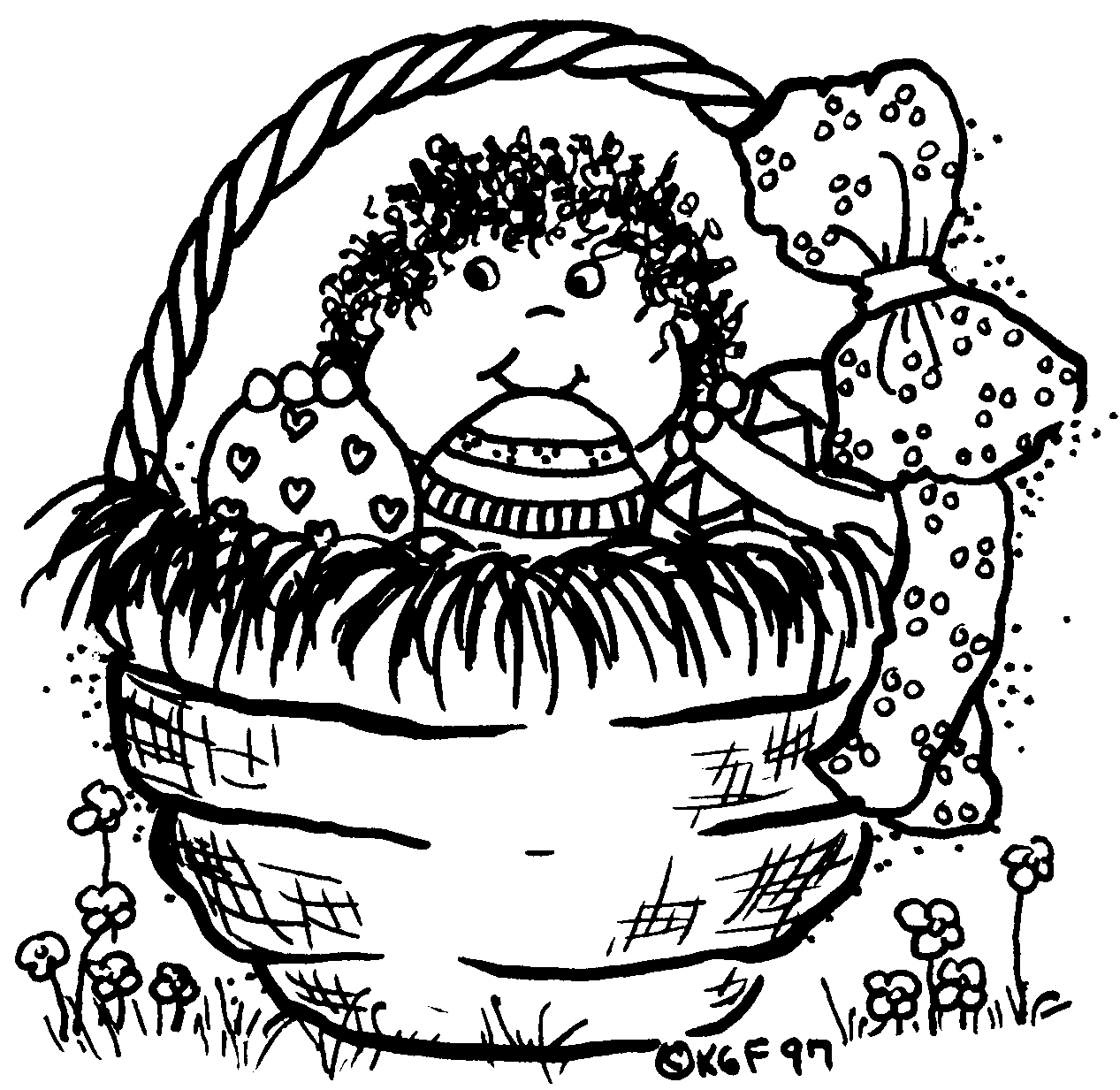
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**SAVE THE DATE –**

**MOM ‘N’ ME DAY**

On May 5 & 6, we will have our Mom ‘N’ Me Day during school hours. Be sure to save the date and check for further information in the May newsletter and on the Parents Board outside each classroom.

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**HAPPY EASTER!**

All family members are invited to join us for our ***Easter Chapel Time*** with Pastor Daniel on Wednesday, April 13 and Thursday, April 14 at 9am in the St. Stephen Sanctuary. The children will gather in their classrooms at 9am, then meet parents and family members in the church at 9:15am. In addition to Chapel Time, the classrooms will be celebrating Easter with a special snack on April 13 and 14. Check the Parent Information board outside your child’s classroom for sign-ups.

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**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Please join us for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the big grassy yard at St. Stephen Church on Easter Sunday at 10:30am sharp! Don’t forget to bring your Easter baskets to collect your eggs. The Egg Hunt will take place between the 9 am and 11 am Easter worship services. Our Preschool & Children’s Choir will perform during the 9 am service.

** CLASSROOM NEWS**

**Room 1**

We are very happy to welcome Spring! It’s such a fun, busy time. We’re watching the changes taking place in nature, leaves growing on trees, flowers blooming, and the ever fascination of our creepy, crawly friends – the bugs and insects. When we return from Easter Vacation the Monarch Butterfly larva will be here and we will watch their life cycle as well as that of the silk worm.

It was great to see all our dads and grandpas who were able to join us on Dad n’ Me Day. Please come into the classroom to see the photos captured on that special day.

Love, Miss Maria & Miss Sherry

**Room 5**

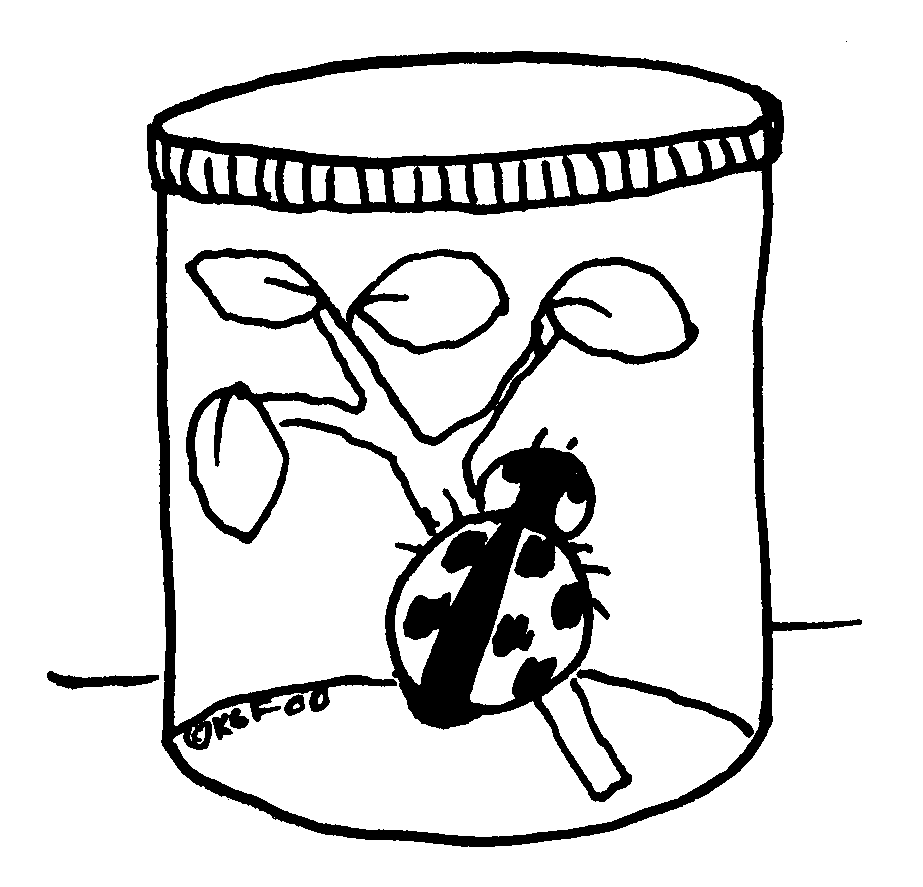
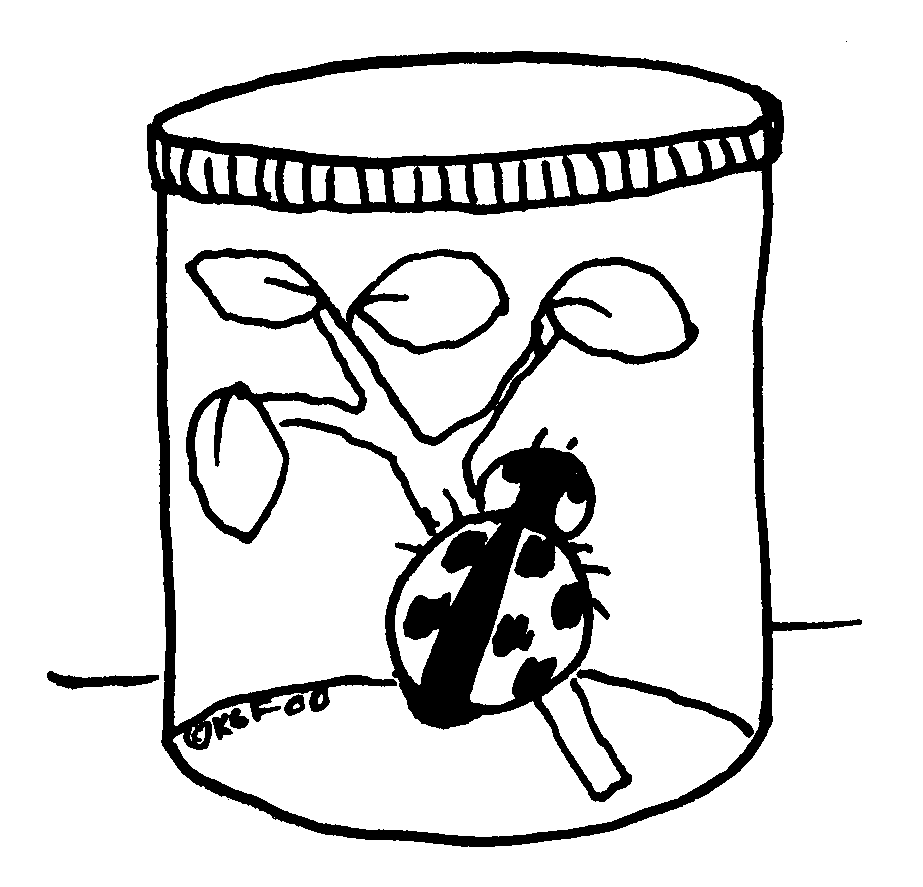
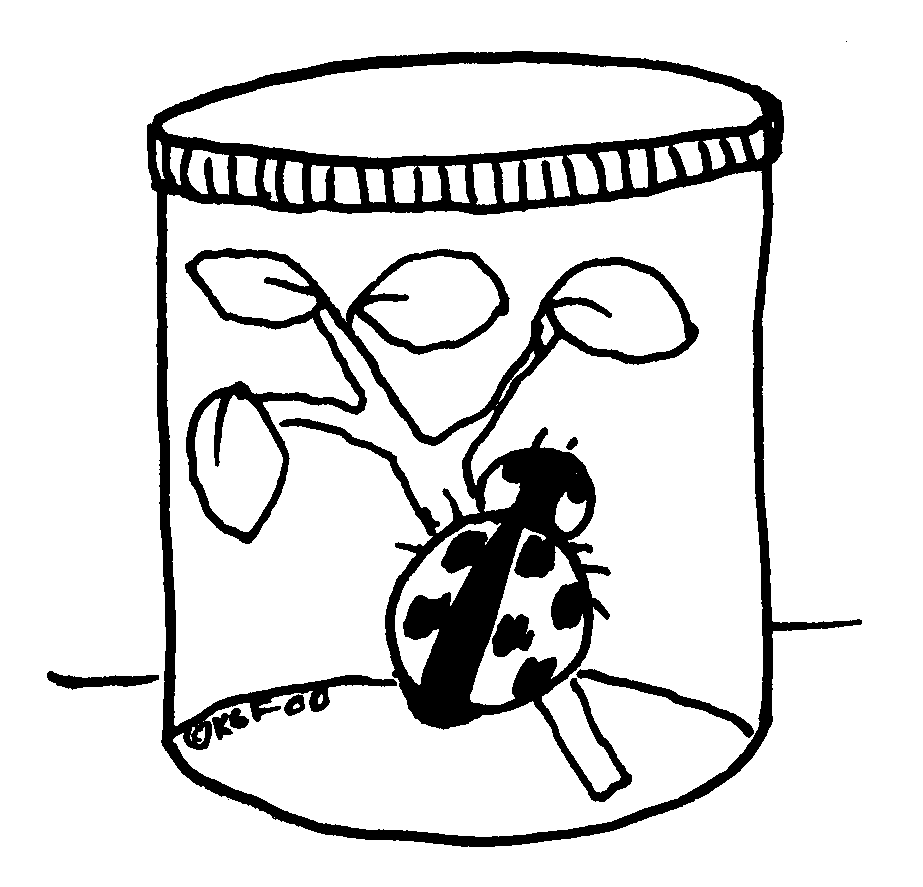
Have you seen our strawberry pot just outside our door? We’ll have quite a bumper crop this year and the children are really enjoying caring for them and watching them transform from a white flower to a red strawberry. We have tomato and green bean plants growing, too. On our science table in our room, our grapes have turned to raisins, our Amaryllis has bloomed, and we have silk worm eggs that will hatch soon.

There’s been a lot of activity and imaginative play happening with our city blocks and doll houses. The houses are used for everything from a fire station to a car wash (and of course as just a house). Opportunities are always popping up for the children to practice their team work and problem solving skills and we must say they’re getting pretty good at it. We have also been busy using sequencing cards to tell stories, finger puppets for math activities and little bears for patterning.

We would like to thank Shannon Martin (Rheanne and Larissa’s mom) who came into our room to talk about the healthy food rainbow and for the yummy snack she provided. The children really enjoyed it!

This month we will be busy with Easter activities and even make rainbow toast! We’re looking forward to conferencing with you about your awesome children. Have a wonderful Easter.

Love, Miss Sheryl and Miss Vickie

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**Room 2**

The leprechauns of March filled our room with every color of green imaginable! And how could we forget their fun and mischievous antics which brought many giggles from old and young alike? But now, the sea of green has been replaced by the bright and happy colors of Spring! Oh, how we look forward to the many delights that only April showers followed by sun filled days will bring us; flowers blossoming, birds sweetly singing and the numerous opportunities to witness nature's wonders, as we observe the metamorphosis of caterpillars to butterflies and silkworms to moths. This, in addition to longer days of sunlight, playing outdoors and enjoying the company of family, friends and pets! Life is good, and we are truly blessed!

Speaking of blessed, we were blessed to have met with all our families during Parent Conferences. What a joy it was to discuss all the wonderful growth we've seen in your children over the past 6 months. We realize that your time is valuable and your days are filled with much activity, and we thank you for meeting with us and for being such loving, caring and involved parents. Though conferences are behind us, our interests and observations are ongoing. We still have April, May and part of June left before school concludes, so if you ever have any questions, thoughts or concerns to share with us, please feel free to do so. We will be more than happy to set up a time to meet with you. Our door is always open as are our hearts.

Easter is fast approaching and many of our activities and lessons will revolve around the beauty and spirituality of this glorious holiday and season. We'd like to wish all our families love, happiness and serenity. And be sure not to eat too many chocolate bunnies!

Love, Miss Jeanie and Miss Toni

**Room 3**

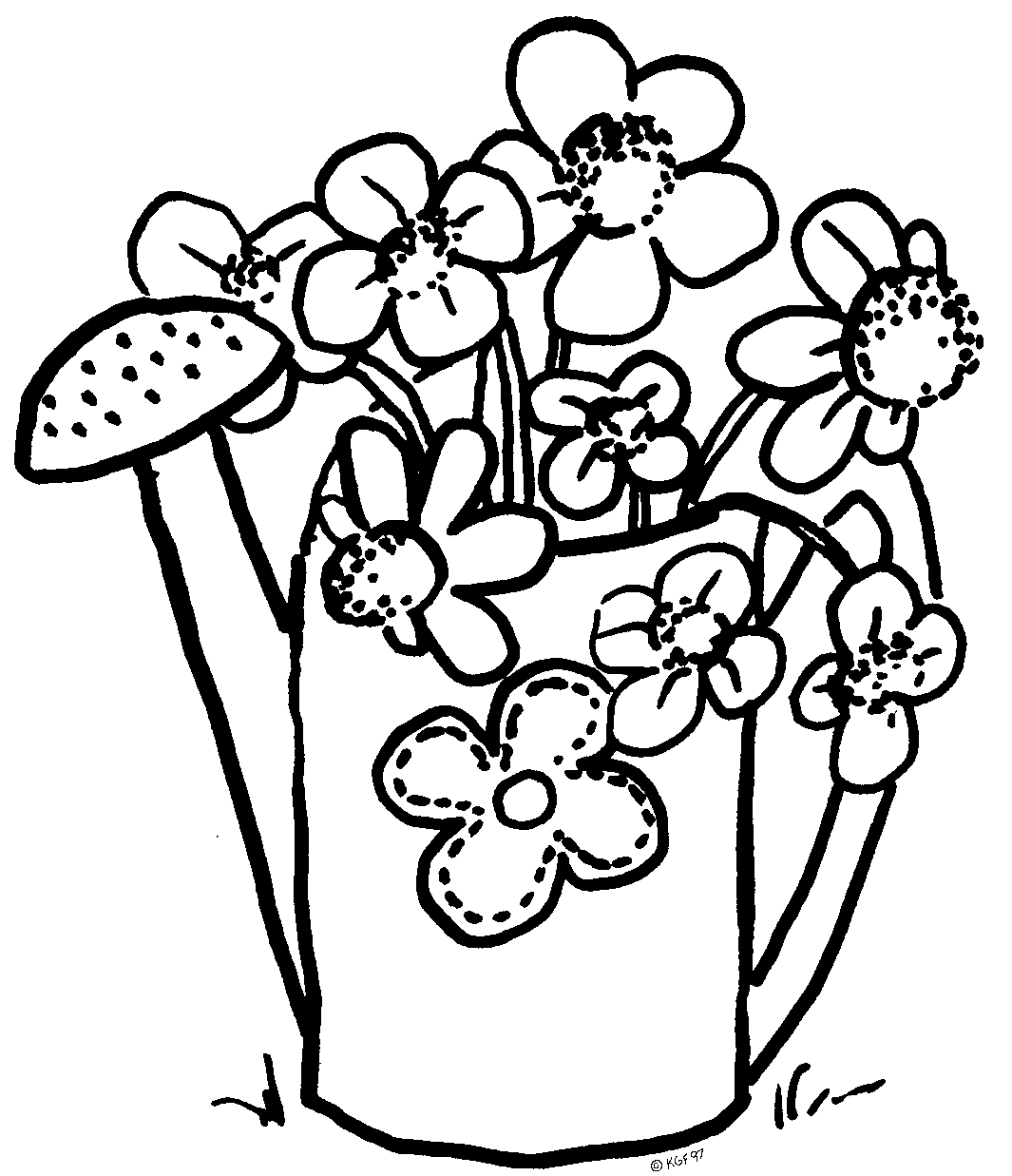
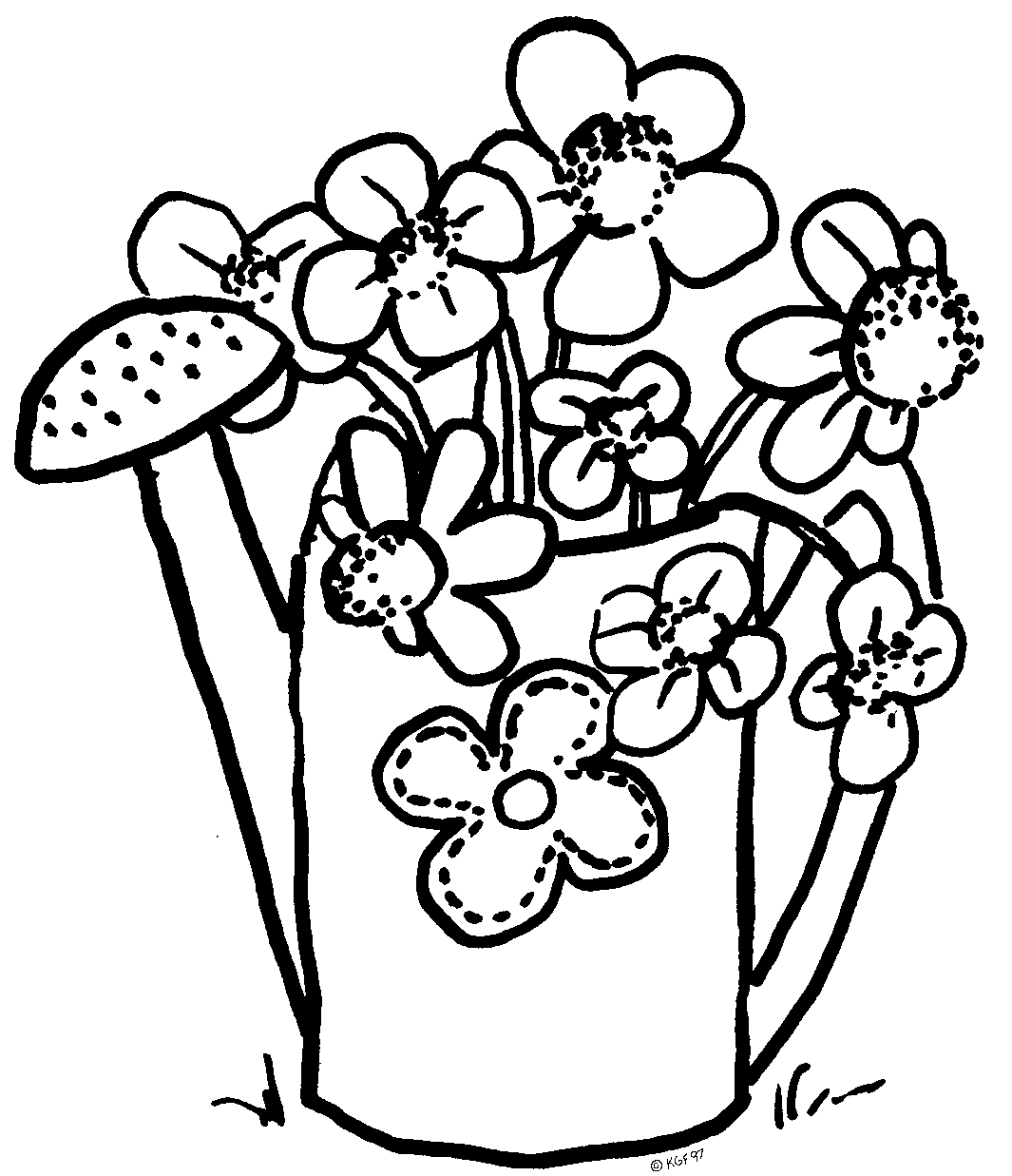
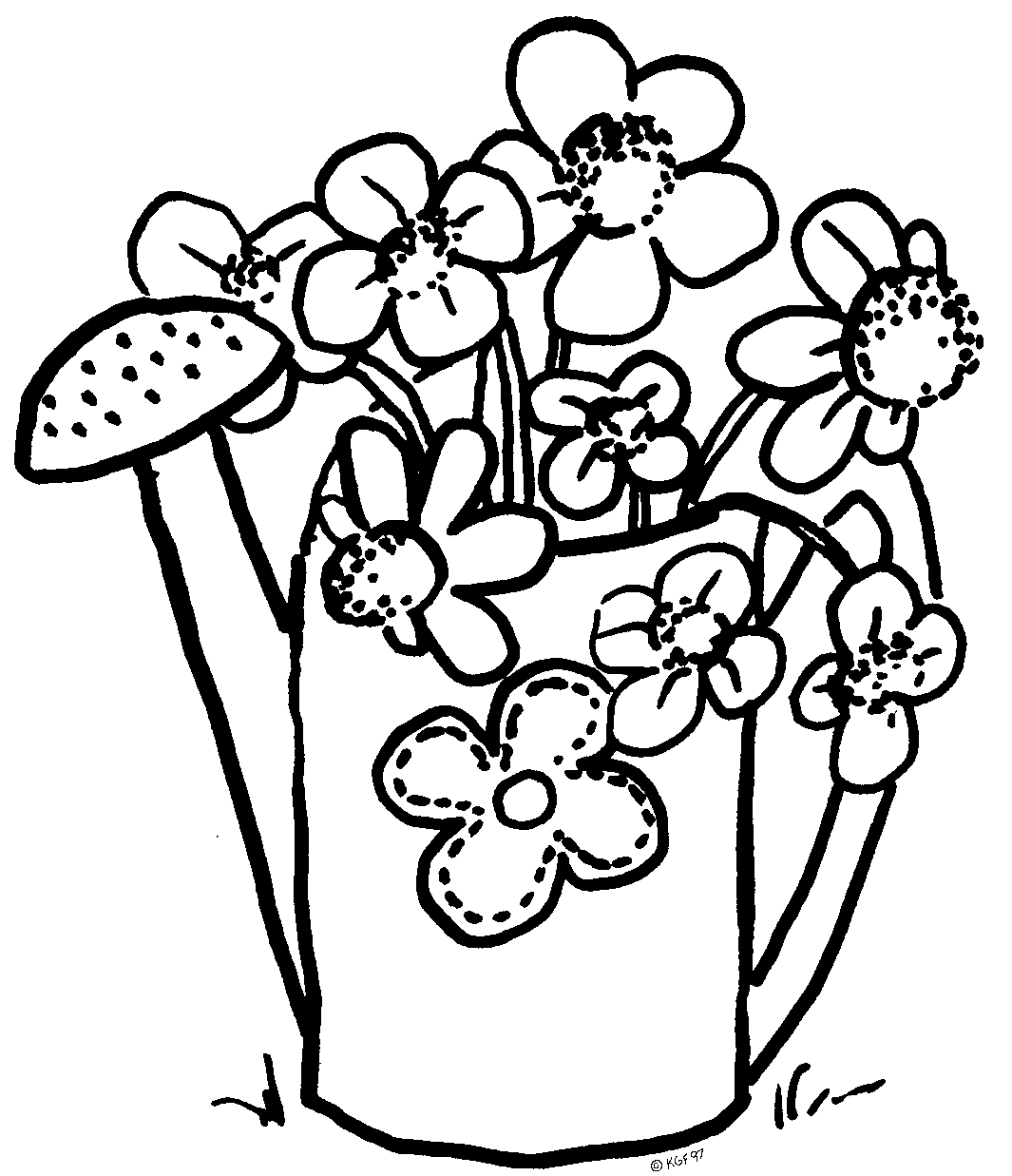
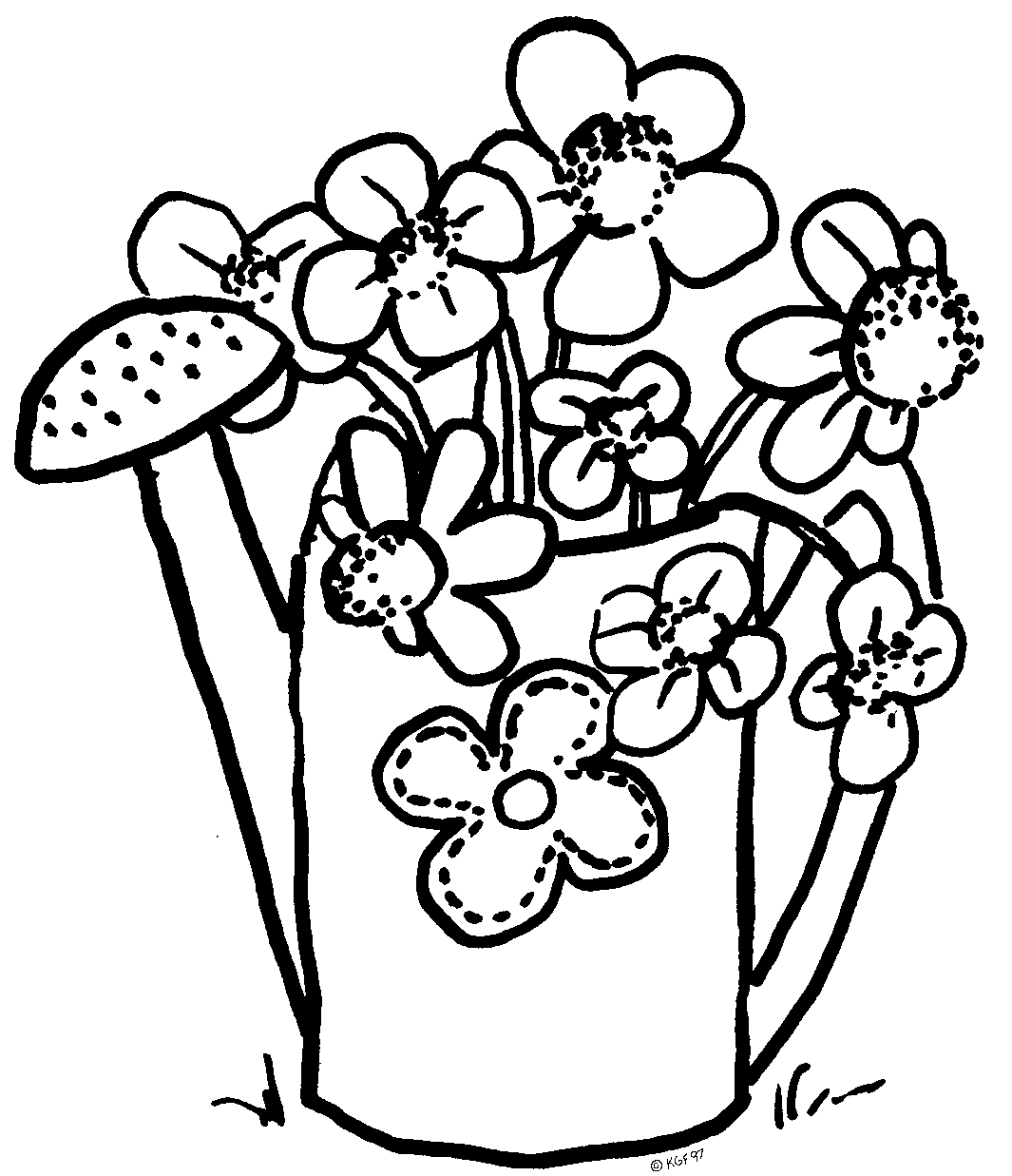
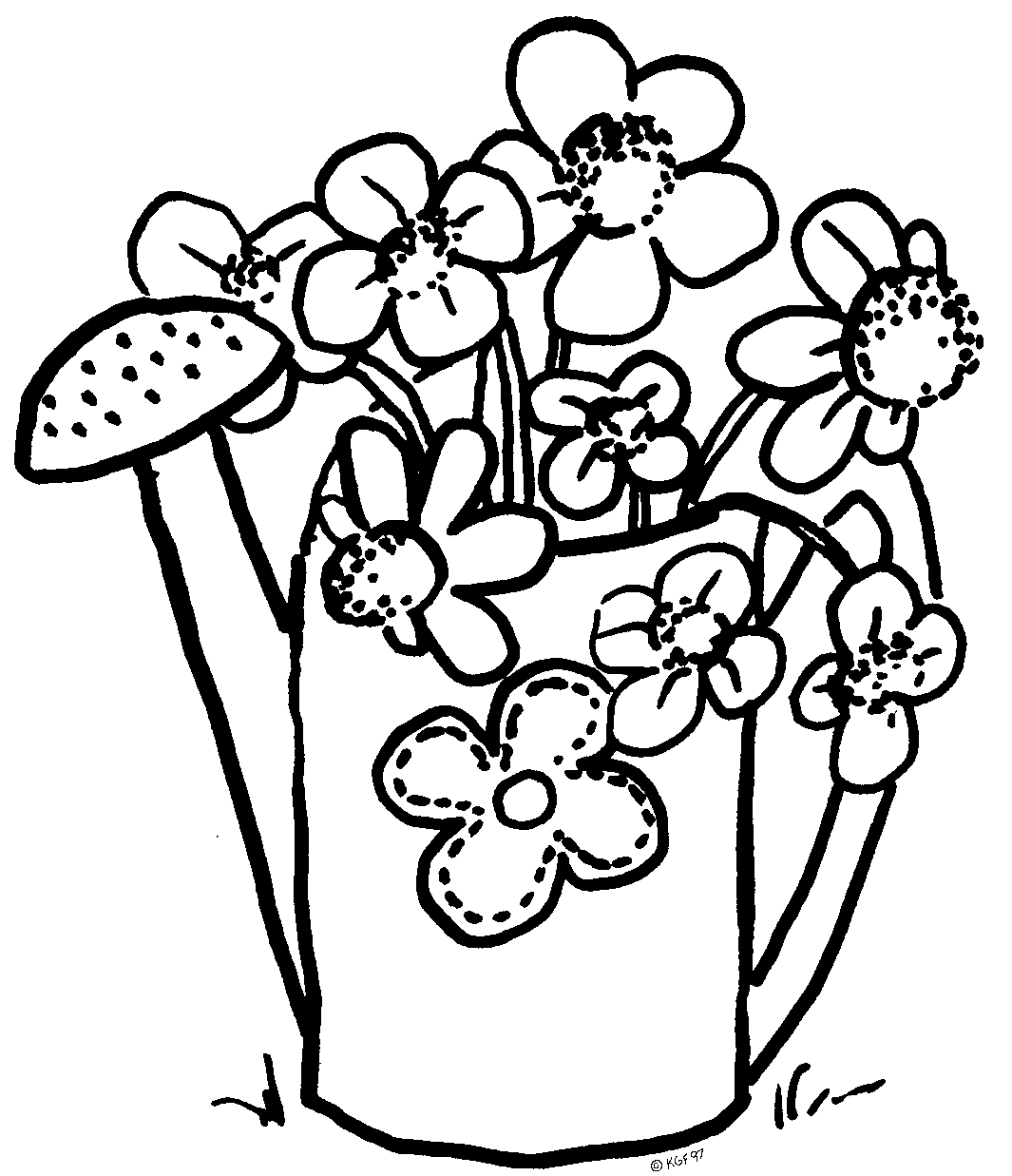
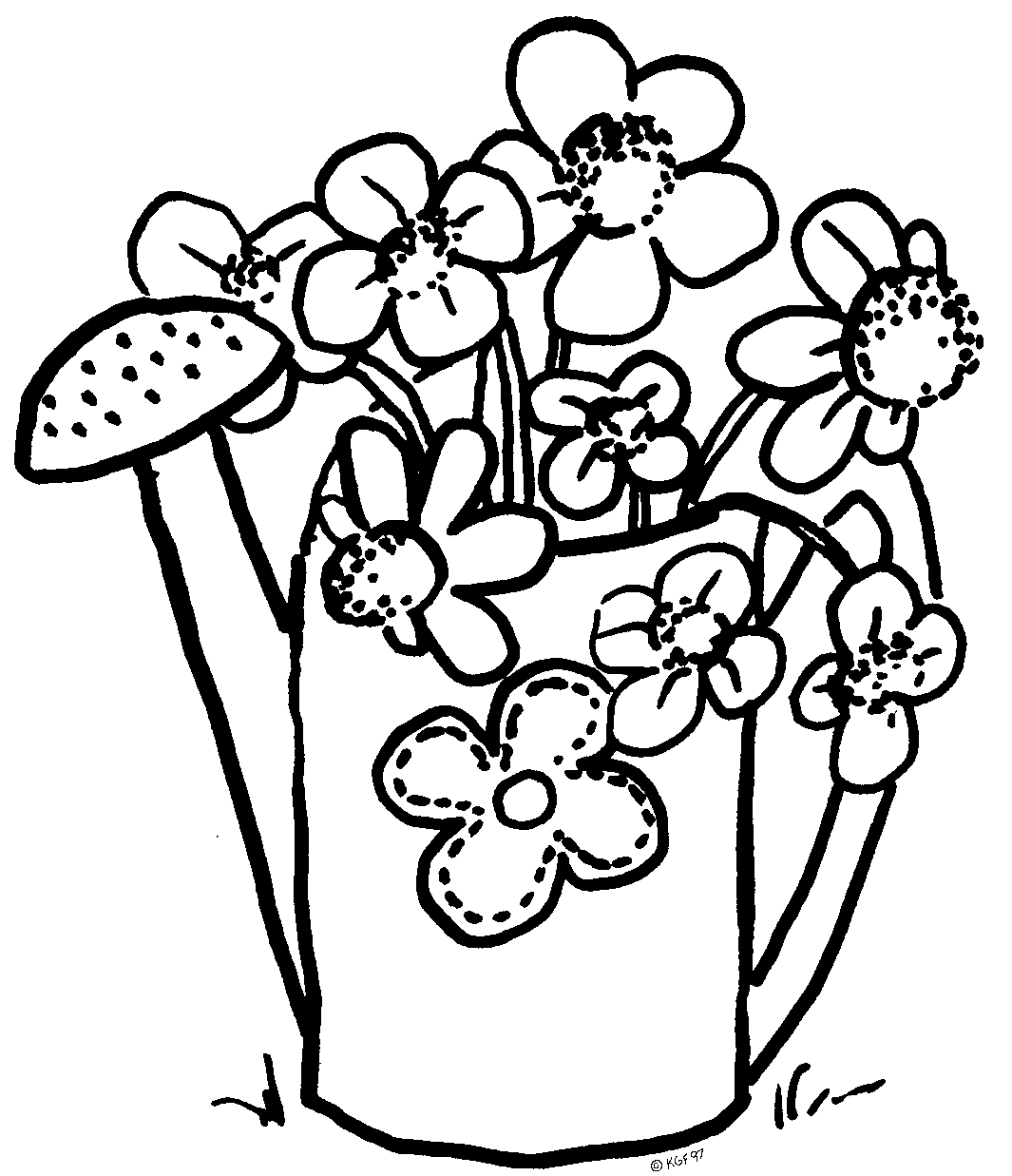
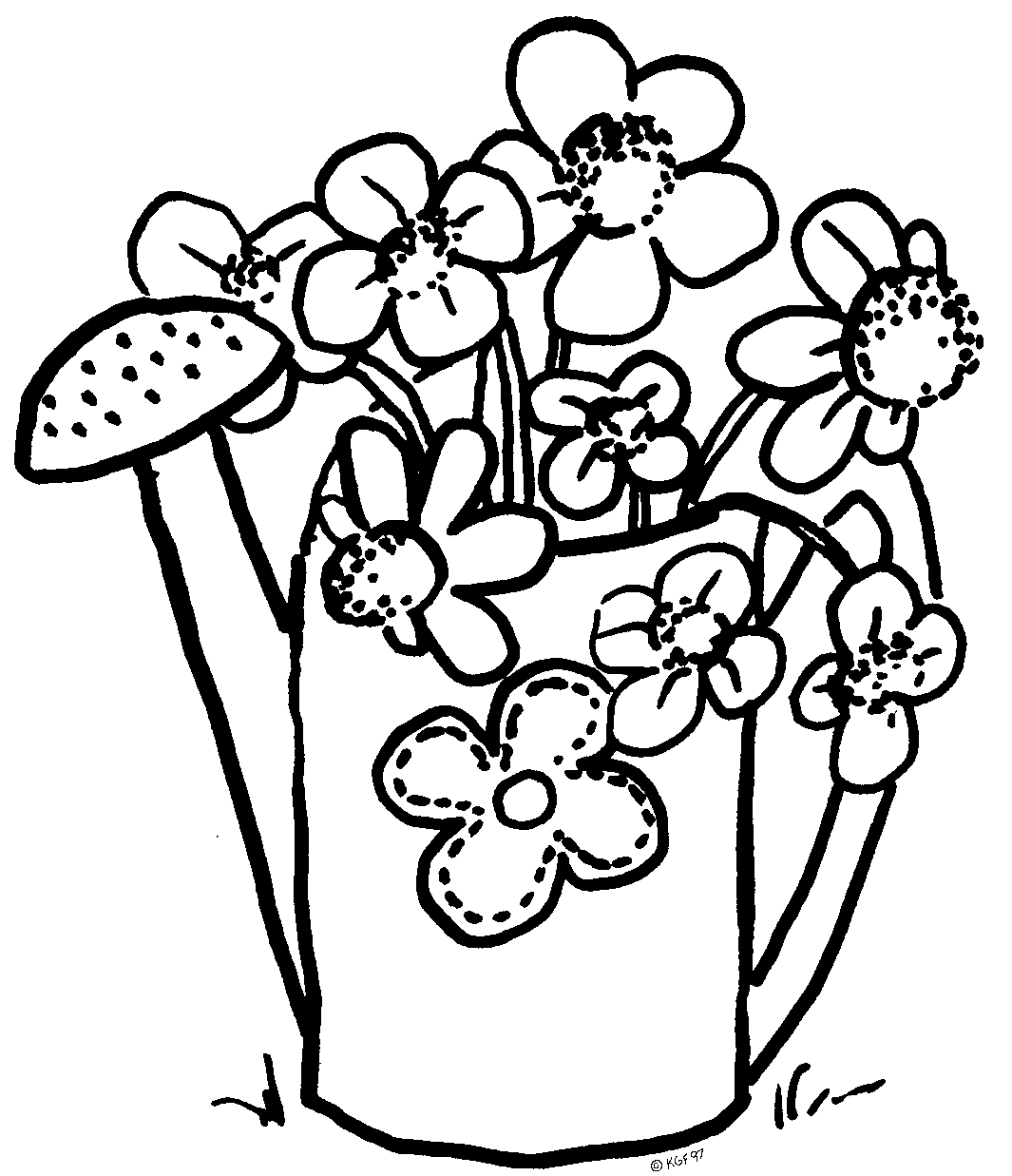
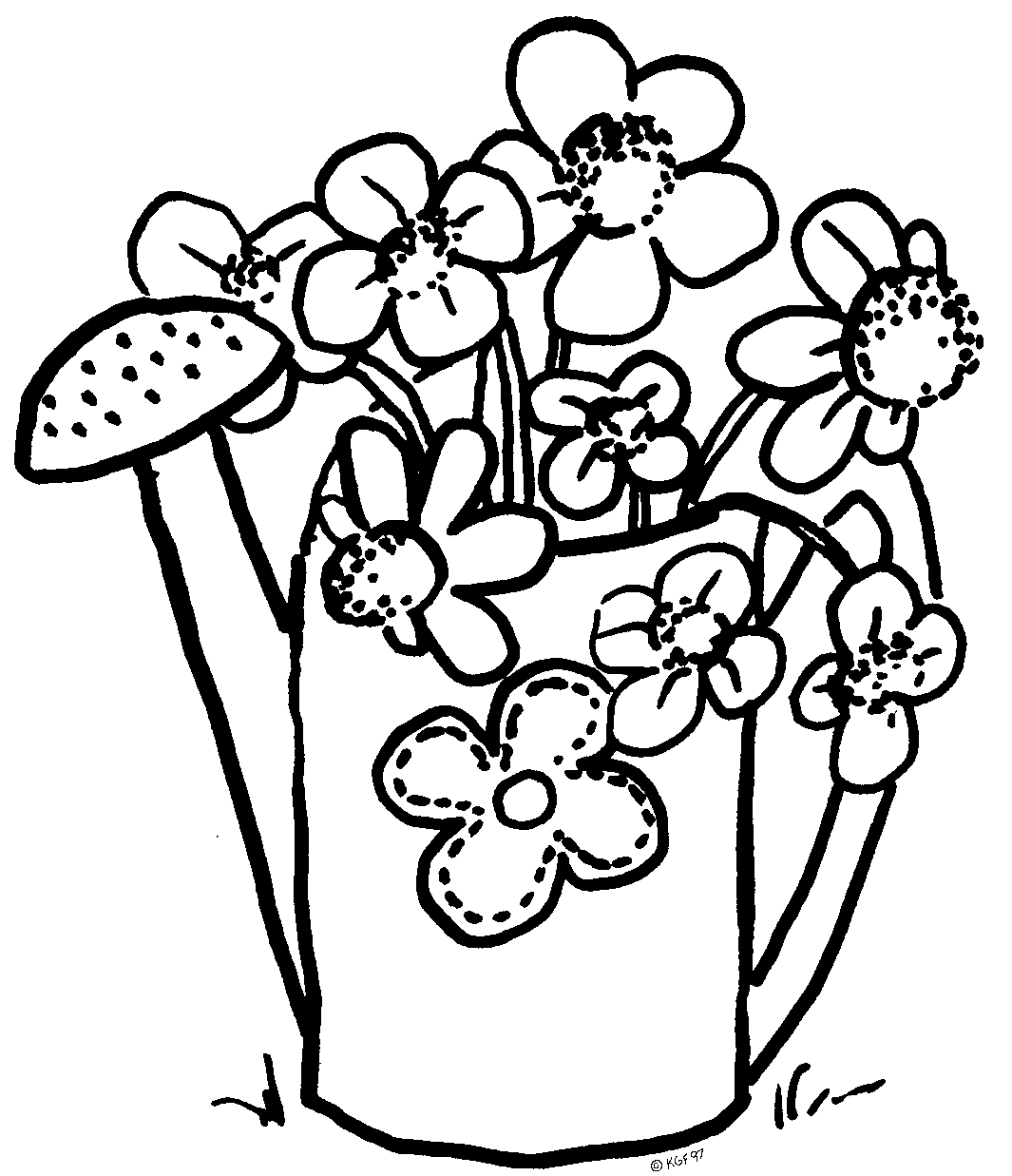
March was a busy month in Room 3!  Sand delivery, an impromptu wedding (planned by the children), playing restaurant, and individual assessments added to the busyness.   We planted marigold seeds and also are sprouting lima beans. The cooler, damp weather has lead to some discoveries about mold!  As the days start to warm up, we expect the children to benefit from more outside time and our budding naturalists will be able to enjoy more exploration of the outdoor environment.  We will look forward to raising and taking care of silkworms and butterflies towards the end of the month.

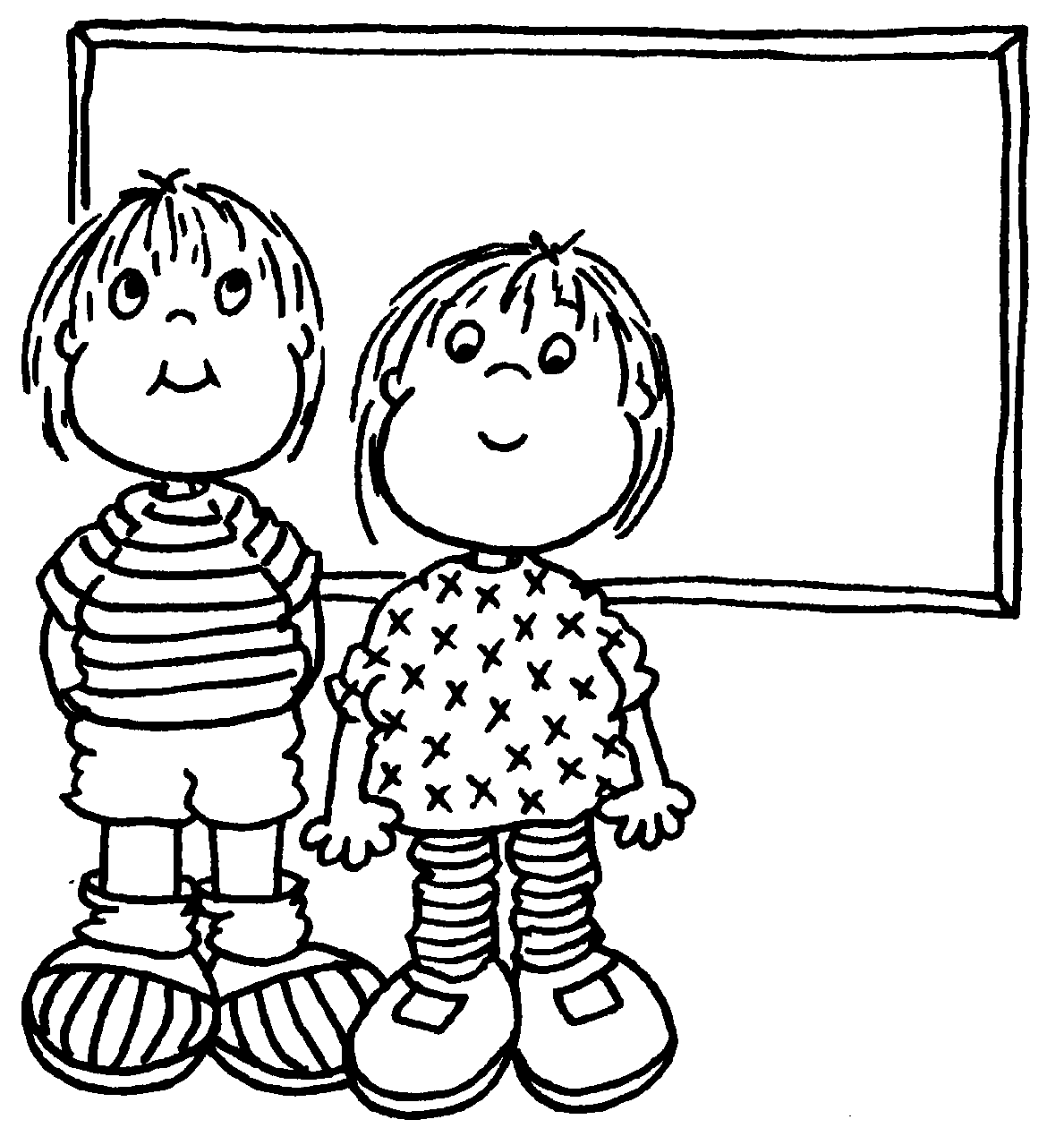
The children have been showing more interest in letters, their curiosity supported by our “Letter of the Week” activities. Please encourage your child to bring items to share for our morning circle time whose names begin with the letter/letters of the week. In this way we will continue to develop their listening skills, verbal skills and letter recognition skills. We also will continue to practice writing our names, with special emphasis on using lower case letters after the first letters of their names. You can help by encouraging this at home, too.  Additional alphabet activities will include puzzles, songs and games.

We enjoyed talking with everyone during parent-teacher conferences in March and we thank you all for making time to talk with us about your children. It is a privilege to spend our days with such delightful and energetic young explorers! We will be happy to talk with you more if you have any other questions or concerns as we progress through the next 2 ½ months of school.  In June you will receive another written assessment about your child and you will be able to note the progress he/she has made.

We will have Easter/Spring parties on April 13th and 14th so please look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.  There will also be chapel time the mornings of the 13th and 14th with a story read by Pastor Daniel.

               Love, Miss Betsie & Miss Carol

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**STILL MORE CLASSROOM NEWS**

In March, we felt **LUCKY** learning the following:

**Room 1:**

Pre-Math: Made color patterns with pegs and boards

(patterning and sequencing)

Pre-Writing: Made dinosaur fossils with clay

(coordinate small hand muscles and develop body awareness)

Pre-Reading: Listened to *Green Eggs and Ham* and discussed rhyming words

(memory skills and auditory discrimination)

Pre-Science: Observed an ongoing experiment with an egg in vinegar

(observe chemical and physical reactions over time)

Intelligence: Finger painted with blue and yellow to make green on St. Patrick’s Day (awareness of holidays)

**Room 5:**

Pre-Math: Baked cookie bars for Dad and Me Day- measured, poured, & stirred

(concepts of volume and measurement)

Pre-Writing: Painted with jewelry and jacks for the Letter of the Week: “Jj”

(exercise finger dexterity & letter recognition)

Pre-Reading: Chanted “Jack Be Nimble” while jumping over a pretend candle

(consciousness of rhythms & music)

Pre-Science: Painted with magnet balls using magnet wands

(observe magnetic reactions)

Intelligence: Planted and watered green beans

(awareness & nurturing of nature)

**Room 2:**

Pre-Math: Participated in a survey about our favorite ice cream

(comparison of likes/dislikes with graphing concepts)

Pre-Writing: Practiced letter formation by tracing and stenciling on mini chalkboards

(develop small hand muscles & letter recognition)

Pre-Reading: Cut out circles and triangles to make ice cream cones

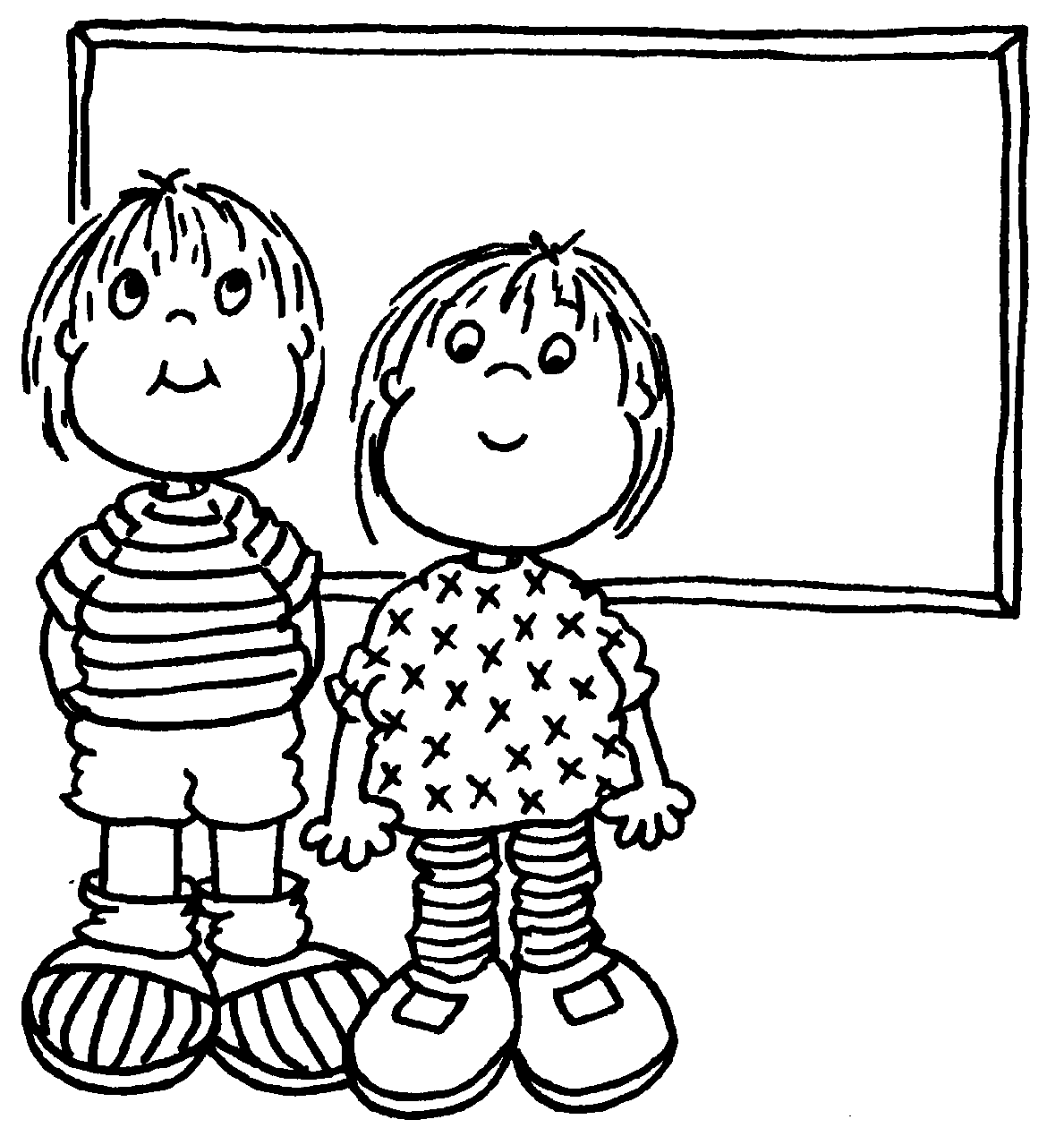
(distinguish and arrange shapes on a background)

Pre-Science: Learned about condensation using a jar of ice

(observe changes in our world)

Intelligence: Painted with lemons and squeezed lemons for art and fine motor activities

(“Ll” is for Lemon – connections to Letter of the Week curriculum)

**STILL MORE CLASSROOM NEWS (cont.):**

**Room 3:**

Pre-Math: Made predictions about the pattern on the monthly calendar

(develop guessing and estimation skills)

Pre-Writing: Practiced our cutting skills to cut out an oval “puzzle” and reassemble it

(strengthen small hand muscles)

Pre-Reading: Worked cooperatively to assemble the alphabet floor puzzle

(patterns and left-to-right progression through the alphabet)

Pre-Science: Conducted experiments to sprout lima beans and grow mold on bread

(observe physical reactions over time)

Intelligence: Created an “Ice Cream Shop” for the letter “Ii”

(incorporate real-world activities into the academic curriculum)

