

## CREATIVE ARTS

It is a joy and an honour to serve God and the church in this season of my life. I am so thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such a great team at Mapleview, especially in the creative arts department. Chase, Tony and I work closely together with our various teams and giftings to visually, musically and artistically worship God.

### CREATIVE TEAM

Our theme “Miracles” provided many opportunities to think outside the box in the creative department last year. From our theme song “Miracle Power”, to our prayer wall where we posted our needs and answers to prayer, we were constantly reminded that we serve a God who is still in the business of doing the impossible.

Each month I endeavour to present a visual message to go along with Pastor Jay’s sermon series and to help us to dig a little deeper in our Christian education. The display case, and the stage backdrop, are the main canvases for this ministry. The “State of the Church Address”, the “Benchwarmer” series, and the “Miracles of the Messiah” kick-started our year with inspiring messages of the miracle-working power of our God.

We headed back outside this summer for our annual “Summer of Love” series where we focused on getting connected to the family of God. It’s always a big project to move everything outdoors, but we have a strong team of volunteers

who come together to make our summer series super colourful and fun!

Missions Month is always one of my favourite visual displays to produce. Flags, globes, missions boards, where we feature all of the amazing global workers that we support both financially and in prayer, are just a few ways we celebrate what God is doing around the world.

Christmas is always a big project in the creative department. It is a great joy to work with Chase and Tony to produce a musical and visual presentation that celebrates the wonder of the Christmas season. This year, I researched the origin of some of the most famous Christmas carols and wrote a show that reflected how God uses ordinary people to declare His glory in powerful ways. It was a great way to cap off an amazing year of miracles at Mapleview.

### BROUGHT TO LIFE (B2L)

2024 was the fourth (and the start of the fifth) season for this ministry. The spring session of B2L focuses on the creative arts in a “making” style class, where students in grades 2-8 learn new skills and are reminded that God can use the gifts that He has given us to create, and bless the world around us. It is always fun introducing children to new creative skills, and I always enjoy seeing what their imaginations come up with. We worked with many different materials, such as clay, wood, string, paper and we even learned how to sew our own stuffed toys.

The fall session of B2L is production and performance-themed. This year, the students created their very own Christmas show, making various musical instruments, and using them in their performance. They also performed in their very own music video, which was featured in “The Sound of Hope” musical celebration.

## **PAUSE**

Worship is, and always will be, a big part of my life, so it is a pleasure and a joy to get to lead this worship night on the last Tuesday of each month. Attendance has been steadily growing over the last year as people are seeking to draw near to God and to spend time in His presence. I have a fantastic team of musicians and fellow worship leaders who consistently give of their time and talents to make this night the very special evening that it has become.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve at Mapleview. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this team and community of believers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Carla Small  
Director of Creative Arts