

CREATIVE ARTS

I get to do this! After 25 years in ministry, I am still amazed that I have been given the opportunity to serve God in ministry every day. I am so thankful for this season at Mapleview, and I am blessed to be a part of such a great church.

CREATIVE TEAM

One of the perks of being a part of the Creative Team, is that we get to know the coming years' theme ahead of time. I was genuinely excited when Pastor Jay shared the theme "Holy Pursuit" with us. This, after all, is what we are called to do as followers of Jesus: passionately pursue the heart of God in our daily lives. From the Radical Rooster to the Indoor Bethlehem Christmas, we have had some fun creating visual and physical displays to help people explore what it means to pursue the heart of God.

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.

I also enjoy partnering with Joanna in the KidLife to help our youngest church members connect with their faith. It is my pleasure to help with the creation of her stage set for Kids Camp, and to teach art to the campers.

We also embarked on a refresh of the KidLife wing. If you haven't taken a walk through KidLife lately, you need to. Joanna's vision and my paintbrush came together, to make a fun and engaging space for kids to come and encounter God. It also

serves as the space for Mapleview Christian Academy, so it gets lots of use.

Missions Month is always one of my favourite visual displays to produce. Flags, globes and 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 wrote a production that told the whole Gospel story from Genesis to Jesus, using the words of the Old Testament prophets. We wove it together with music that helped to tell the story of God's great plan of salvation, and staged it by bringing key elements from our previous outdoor Bethlehem set, inside. It was a little funny watching kids try to eat the fake fruits in the atrium. Hopefully it reminded all of us of the humble little town that God used to give us the gift of His Son more than 2000 years ago.

BROUGHT 2 LIFE

2025 was the fifth (and the start of the sixth) 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 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, performing fun Christmas songs, designing their own set, and creating their own decorations.

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. Looking forward to all God has in store for 2026!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Carla Small
Director of Creative Arts