

CREATIVE ARTS

What a great year of ministry at Mapleview Community Church. I am so blessed to be a part of such a strong and committed team. It is always such a pleasure to reflect on God's blessings over the last year.

CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team works over the course of the year to reflect the various themes and topics both visually and audibly. It is a great joy to be able to use the creative arts and the talents of the creative arts team to illustrate and teach God's word and spiritual disciplines. We really do function as a team, and I am blessed to be able to work with Chase and Tony on all of the projects that we undertake. Each of us bring our unique set of skills to the table, and God uses us to work together to create, and produce elements of worship and expressions of His character in the things that we do.

Last year's theme was "Wind and Fire" which challenged us to think outside the box and ask God how He may want to challenge our faith and use us to proclaim His goodness in new ways. We kicked off the year with the Benchwarmers series, which had us digging into what it meant to "strike the match" of our faith. From there, we moved into "Lord Set My Heart Ablaze" with the week of prayer and Easter's message of "Burning Hearts."

The Summer of Love took us back outside under the tent, until we came back in the fall with the themes "Living with the end in mind", "A taste of Missions", and our "Month to Remember." I learned

some new skills with these series, carving a ten-foot-tall statue out of styrofoam, turning vintage globes into lights, and setting up our museum-style Remembrance Day display. I truly enjoy learning how to create new things and use new materials, so this was both a challenge and a joy.

This past Christmas season took us back to the golden age of Bing Crosby and White Christmas, with our Vintage Christmas, which celebrated a simpler time of family and faith around the holidays. The whole team really embraced the theme and had a lot of fun bringing it to life with music videos and a big live celebration.

We also brought back Bethlehem Drive this year. I'd like to say a huge thank you to the many volunteers who sewed, built, directed traffic, acted, baked, and danced for three nights in the rain, snow and sleet. Your smiles and warm welcome told the story of Bethlehem, and the arrival of the Messiah, so clearly to the hundreds of cars of people who travelled back in time to our little town. Your sacrifice proclaimed the Christmas message to Barrie and the surrounding area, and I am so grateful.

BROUGHT TO LIFE

2023 was the third (and the start of the fourth) 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

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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 we embraced the whole church vintage theme and learned songs from days gone by. The students produced their own show, which they performed for their families, as well as participating in the Sunday morning Kid Life Christmas with their own songs and choreography. It is always wonderful to see students who start in B2L move into using their gifts to bless the larger church body by joining the worship team and creative team as leaders and volunteers. I believe that they are both the future, and the now leaders, of the various ministries of our church. It gives me great joy to be able to pour into them week after week.

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
Creative Arts Director