

CREATIVE ARTS

Thank You Jesus for another great year of ministry alongside the team at Mapleview! Looking back over the past twelve months, I can't help but give praise to God for His faithfulness through every season.

CREATIVE TEAM

The creative arts department really does flow in a seasonal rhythm. Much of what we do is based on the church calendar and the various seasons and themes that guide us through the year. 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 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 all that we do.

The theme for 2022 was Rise Up, and we tried to reflect that theme throughout the year in a variety of ways. "I Can Do All Things", "Raising the Bar", "Out of the Grave", "Courageous Generosity" and "High and Lifted Up" were just some of the themes that we illustrated in music, visuals, videos and displays in the atrium. We are always thinking ahead to new and creative ways to teach and encourage the church body to dig into the themes that Pastor Jay presents in his preaching. My role, in many of these projects, is to build and create physical props and displays that further illustrate the messages communicated in the sermon series.

Some of the bigger themes of the year were "Summer of Love", "Holy Week", and "Missions Month." As a creative team, we built sets, stage pieces, and display units to enhance the expression of the theme and instruct the church body in their understanding and experience of the monthly theme.

This past Christmas season, I pushed myself in a new direction by writing and producing the "Spectacular" on the theme "Let There Be Light." It was a great learning experience, and I look forward to writing other productions in the future. I am currently working on a summer evangelistic production that I hope to bring the rest of the team in on as we prepare for this exciting event. My heart in this event, is that we as a church would put "feet to our faith" and make a difference in the lives of those in our community. Music and production are a strong area for us as a team and I believe that God can use our gifts to proclaim His name to the world around us.

ANNIVERSARY

September was a very busy and exciting month for the creative team. We really wanted to provide an atmosphere of celebration and excitement each week, so we provided a special opening effect for each service. From beachballs, to confetti cannons, to balloon drops and the grand finale curtain drop; we built, sewed, and created special effects to bring the anniversary atmosphere each week.

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I also created the gallery walls to display memorabilia that people had collected over the last 25 years of church history. It was a great celebration of God's faithfulness over the past 25 years of Maplevue.

BROUGHT TO LIFE

2022 was the second (and the start of the third) 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 give us to create and bless the world around us.

"Beautiful chaos" is a good way to describe the experience of 20 students all wielding hammers at the same time. It brings me great joy to see children learning how to use their skills to glorify God and to think outside the box.

The fall session of B2L is production and performance themed. This year we took on the theme of "Christmas Around the World". Each week we learned a song from another country or culture, made a decoration or set piece that reflected that culture and worked on our dramatic skills to create our own Christmas production. I was very proud of how the students learned to sing in several languages and created a fun and entertaining production which they performed for their friends and families in December. 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 Maplevue. I feel truly blessed to be a part pf this team and community of believers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Small