

PASTOR'S WORD: LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEAR 2025

“HOLY PURSUIT”

This past year marks mine and Jody's 28th year serving the incredible people of Mapleview Community Church—a journey that has been one of the greatest joys of my life. From Mapleview's early beginnings in living rooms, hotels, agricultural centers, and sprung structures, to worshipping in this incredible God-given facility for the past 15 years. This may sound a little dramatic, but it really has been an amazing adventure.

The Scriptural Directive I chose to start the 2025 year came from the Book of Colossians: “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, SET YOUR HEARTS ON THINGS ABOVE, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² SET YOUR MINDS ON THINGS ABOVE, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will share in all his glory.” (Colossians 3:2-5 NIV and NLT) This verse, I felt, described the set of instructions that, if followed, would lead to spiritual metamorphosis.

Our 2025 theme became the year of “HOLY PURSUIT”; a year-long transformative journey in becoming more like Christ. Only eternity will reveal how successful our year was in accomplishing our goal. Yet, this is what I can tell you. Through your faithful partnership in the gospel—over 250 people of all ages placed their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ in 2025. These are not mere statistics; they reflect lives, families, and eternal destinations changed and secured because you were willing to participate in the mission and ministry at Mapleview Community Church.

Yet, this is only part of the story - there is so much more. Through your efforts and generosity, more than 300 global workers were financially aided as they carried the name of Jesus into nations around the globe. Your willingness in investing and involvement also made possible the launch of M.C.A. - Mapleview Christian Academy. M.C.A. is a Bible-believing, Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered school shaping the faith of the youngest members of our church family. A big shout-out to Graham McKee, Brooke Godmere, and Ron Quinn for their efforts in getting the academy established.

Together, you all helped advance the gospel locally with the long-anticipated launch of our Southeast Campus on Easter Sunday 2025. Another big shout-out to Pastor Will and Taylor Ferguson along with the entire launch team who worked so hard to turn this vision into a reality.

There has also been your passionate support with the strategic partnership with the city of Barrie for a one-of-a-kind faith initiative in seeing the Mapleview Community Church Affordable Housing Project moved forward. In earnest, an initiative the Lord has brought great favour upon our church body by opening up the city of Barrie in sharing significant municipal funds in support of this housing project.

Your generosity in 2025 extended even further - providing benevolent care within our congregation for those in need. Thanks be to God for it extends even beyond! This year you have enabled children's camps, youth retreats, men's and women's retreats, pastoral care, in addition to sustaining our M.C.C. internal food bank called The Food Source.

You also empowered our tech and media teams to extend the reach of the gospel well beyond our walls through our growing livestream ministry.

Looking at 2025 from a stewardship standpoint, your faithfulness has also allowed our Church Board to manage church resources wisely. By God's grace, our mortgage has been paid in full this past January—four years ahead of schedule—saving approximately \$275,000 in interest.

So, I quote with all authenticity regarding your partnership in the gospel this past year, the Apostle Paul's words from Romans 10:15 "... 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

As most everyone who has attended the church of Maplevue knows - I begin each year with a theme that loosely sets our destination for the coming year. And at year end, I assign a one-word summation that reflects my sense of the over all year in review. If you take the time to read through each one, you'll be reminded of the Maplevue journey through the years. The testimony being - Jesus has brought us safely this far, and we can all trust Him that the best is still to come.

The Yearly One Word Pastoral Summation

- 1996** - "Agalliao"- Greek for "Rejoice greatly" (The Word in Pastor Jay and Jody's year of transition)
- 1997** Theme **Catch the Spirit**
Biblical Word Summation: "L' Chayim" - *Hebrew for "To Life"*
- 1998** Theme **Tsunami of Souls**
Biblical Word Summation: "Ado" - *Greek for "sing praise"*
- 1999** Theme **Show me Your Glory**
Biblical Word Summation: "Doxa" – *Greek for "Glory"*
- 2000** Theme **Living in the Land of Galatia**
Biblical Word Summation: "Shigga'own" - *Hebrew for "furiously"*
- 2001** Theme **In Pursuit of W.O.W. (Winning our World)**
Biblical Word Summation: "Hamah" – *Hebrew for "Uproar"*
- 2002** Theme **In Pursuit of W.O.W. Pt.2 (Winning our World)**
Biblical Word Summation: "Zakar," – *Hebrew for 'remember.'*
- 2003** Theme **In pursuit of the Spirit-formed Life**
Biblical Word Summation: "Pale" – *Greek for 'Wrestle'*
- 2004** Theme **Year of unreasonable intentions**
Biblical Word Summation: "Braduploeo" – *Greek for 'sail slowly'*
- 2005** Theme **In pursuit of Vital Living**
Biblical Word Summation: "Zoë" – *Greek for "Vital spiritual life"*
- 2006** Theme **Time to Shine**
Biblical Word Summation: "Öerets – *Hebrew for 'soil'*
- 2007** Theme **The Kindness Revolution**
Biblical Word Summation: "pol-em-os" – *Greek for "Battle"*
- 2008** Theme **Beauty for Ashes**
Biblical Word Summation: "hoop·om·en·o" *Greek for "Perseverance"*
- 2009** Theme **Exceeding Joy**
Biblical one Word summation: "ap·ok·al·oop·to" *Greek for "Reveal"*
- 2010** Theme **Patterns for Living**
Biblical one Word summation: "prok·op·ay" *Greek for "Advance"*
- 2011** Theme **Kingdom of God**
Biblical one Word summation: "kat·ab·ol·ay" *Greek for "New foundation"*
- 2012** Theme **Faith Expedition**
Biblical one Word summation: "yaw·lak" *Hebrew for "Walk"*
- 2013** Theme **The Door**
Biblical one Word summation: "Chadash" pronounced "khaw-dash" *Hebrew for "Renew"*
- 2014** Theme **With All My Heart**
Biblical one Word summation: Mišpāḥâ pronounced "mish·paw·khaw" *Hebrew for "Family"*

- 2015 Theme The Return**
Biblical one Word summation: Gk. περισσός pronounced per-iss-ós
Greek for “Abundantly” (Over and above, more than enough)
- 2016 Theme The Great Invitation**
Biblical one Word summation: Gk. καθεύδεις pronounced kath-yoo'-do
Meaning: “Asleep” (I sleep, am sleeping)
- 2017 Theme The Great Awakening**
Biblical One Word year end summation Heb. רוּחַ רִיּוּחַ pronounced “roo'-ah” *Meaning: breath, wind, spirit.*
- 2018 Theme Let there be light**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Gk. ἐπιμένω epimenó pronounced ep-ee-men'-o
Meaning: to remain, to persist in, to tarry
- 2019 Theme “Refresh”**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Heb. “Aliyah” Pronounced al-ee-yaw' *Meaning: “ascent or going up”*
- 2020 Theme “NOW ETERNAL”**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Universal word - “COVID-19
Gk. (παιδίον του) apollumi: Pronounced (ap-ol'-loo-mee)
Meaning: to destroy, destroy utterly
- 2021 Theme “The Body, The Bride, The Church”**
Biblical One Word summation: Heb דְּבָרִי pronounced “dō·w·dī
Meaning: “Beloved” From the Song of Solomon 2:16a “My beloved is mine and I am his;”
- 2022 Theme “RISE UP!”**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Gk. περισσεύω pronounced (per-is-syoo'-o)
Meaning: “exceed the ordinary, abound, overflow” From 2 Co 9:8
- 2023 Theme “WIND AND FIRE”**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Heb. אֲנָחָה pronounced (‘an·naḥ)
Meaning: Delight Soft: To be delicate and pleasurable. From Ps.37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 2024 Theme Miracles**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Heb. פְּלִאָה pronounced peh'-leh
Meaning: “Wonder, Marvel, Extraordinary” From Psalm 77:14 “You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.”
- 2025 Theme Holy Pursuit**
Biblical One Word year end summation: Heb “Emunah” אֱמוּנָה pronounced eh-MOO-nah
Meaning: “A steadfast trust, reliability proven over time.” From Deuteronomy 32:4 (NIV) “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful (אֱמוּנָה) God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for all your faithfulness shown to our church family in years past and in our year of “HOLY PURSUIT.”

As we move into 2026 under our new theme “**Thy Kingdom Come,**” I invite you all reading this to consider once again making Jesus Lord of your life and Maplevue Community Church your home to grow in and serve.

Finally, as I close my 2025 report, I am filled with gratitude for the stories that have marked this year. I want to express my deep gratitude for the men and women, (staff) and their families, whom God has granted me the privilege to serve with here at Maplevue Community Church. They all serve with such joy knowing they are supported by the prayers and faithful generosity of their church family. Thank you!

As always, the last word goes to my biggest blessing through the years and the greatest miracle in my life—my family.

Jody, you are my heart, my partner, and my most treasured gift from the Lord. Every morning that I get to sit with you, drinking coffee, followed by our early morning walk, and every night that ends with you being next to me is more than I could have ever imagined.

To my three incredible daughters (Brooke, Taylor, Cassidy), my three wonderful sons-in-law (Chase, Will, Ben), and my nine beautiful grandchildren (Nova, Haven, Mayer, Ryatt, Ivy, Theodore, Oakley and the twins, Eden and Farrah) — you are living reminders of God’s miraculous favor in my life. Our family continues to grow, and with it, so does the love and laughter. (Sometimes the dogs make me want to cry—but they, too, are part of the adventure.) I cherish it all, knowing that these are the miracles that truly matter.

As we step into the future, I hold onto this truth - the same God who has brought us this far will continue to lead us forward.

בְּרוּךְ הוֹבֵא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה

Baruch ha-ba b’shem Adonai - “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.”

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James (Jay) Davis
Lead Pastor