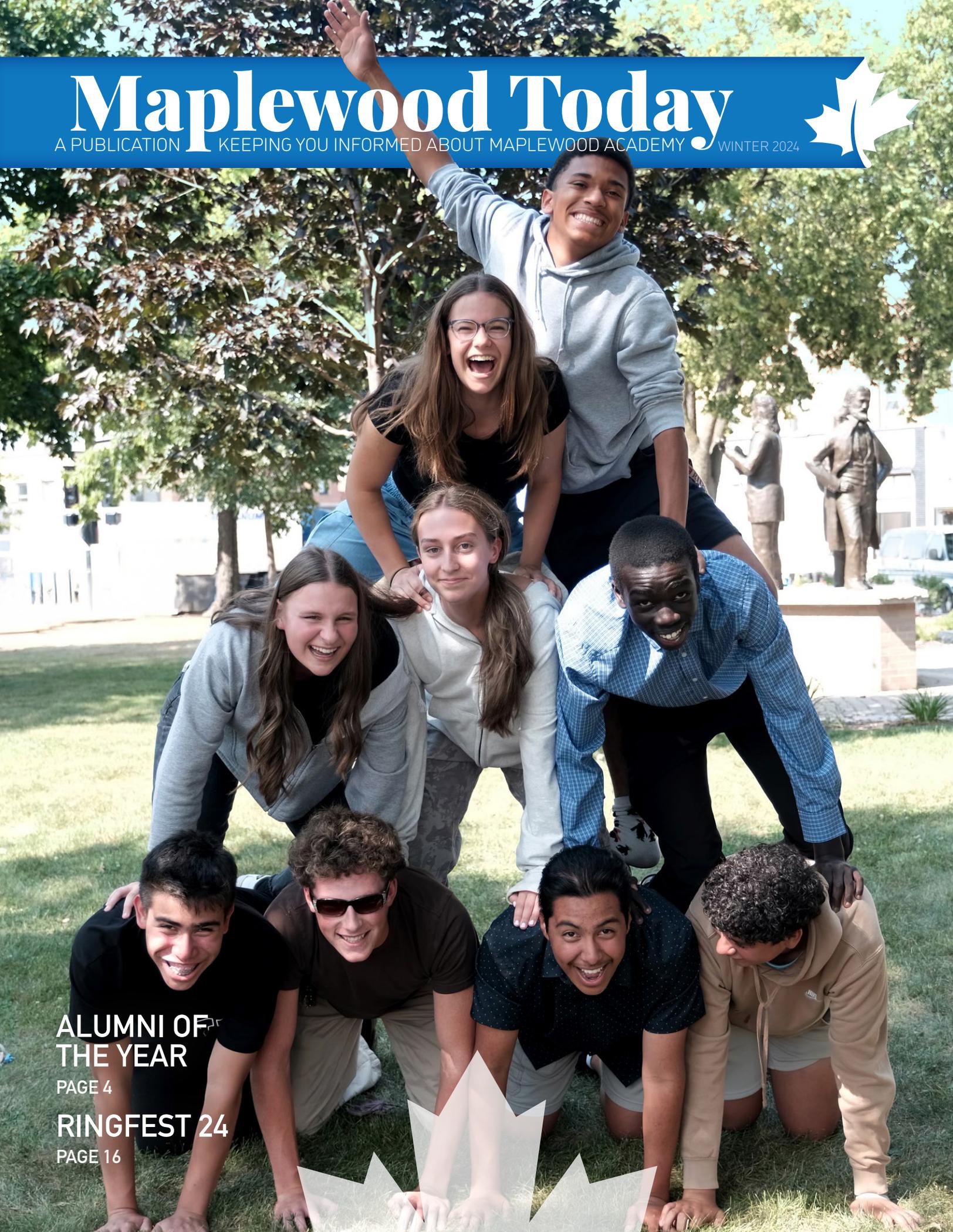


# Maplewood Today

A PUBLICATION KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY WINTER 2024



**ALUMNI OF  
THE YEAR**

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# From the Principal

Dear Maplewood Academy Family,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year at Maplewood Academy, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible ways God continues to work through our school and our students. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in shaping the lives of young people who are not just excelling academically but are becoming beacons of Christ's love in our community and beyond.

## God's Hand at Work

In recent months, we've been blessed to witness God's transformative power in the lives of our students. Their actions and attitudes reflect not just the values we hold dear at Maplewood but, more importantly, the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

## Witness-centered Programs

Our students have enthusiastically embraced various witness-centered programs, not because of any special initiative on our part, but because of their genuine desire to share God's love.

## We've seen them...

- Organize spontaneous prayer groups for their peers and community members
- volunteer for local outreach programs without prompting
- Initiate Bible study groups in their dorms

## Exemplary Conduct

At the "Ignite Your Future" College Fair, our sophomores' behavior was a testament to God's guidance. They engaged respectfully with college representatives, demonstrating a maturity that comes from a Christ-centered worldview.



This wasn't about Maplewood being "better" but about God's work in these young lives.

## Alumni Weekend Engagement

The warmth our students showed during Alumni Weekend was a beautiful display of Christian fellowship. Their genuine interest in connecting with alumni across generations reflected the timeless nature of our shared faith and mission.

## Spiritual Leadership

At the multi-school music festival, our students' willingness to lead in prayer, Scripture reading, and praise teams wasn't about showcasing Maplewood; rather, it was a humble response to God's call to service. We're grateful for how God is using these experiences to deepen our students' faith and prepare them for future ministry.

These moments aren't about Maplewood doing something "better" or "different." They're beautiful examples of God's own plan of salvation at work in the hearts of our young people. We're simply blessed to witness and nurture the spiritual growth that God is orchestrating in their lives.

## Nurturing Future Leaders

These experiences highlight the importance of our focus on character development and soft skills. As we prepare our young people for service in these final days of earth's history, it's clear that God is working mightily through the comprehensive education we provide at Maplewood.

Our new student spiritual leadership program, spearheaded by our dedicated Chaplain, September de Franca, and our Campus Ministries Team, is already bearing fruit. This initiative, supported by the Maplewood Fund, is equipping our students with the tools they need to be effective leaders in their faith communities.

## Your Impact

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors who faithfully support our mission. Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of our students. In just the last couple of weeks, we've received over \$20,000 to the Maplewood Fund, which not only covers general expenses but also fuels innovative programs like our spiritual leadership initiative.

## A Call to Action

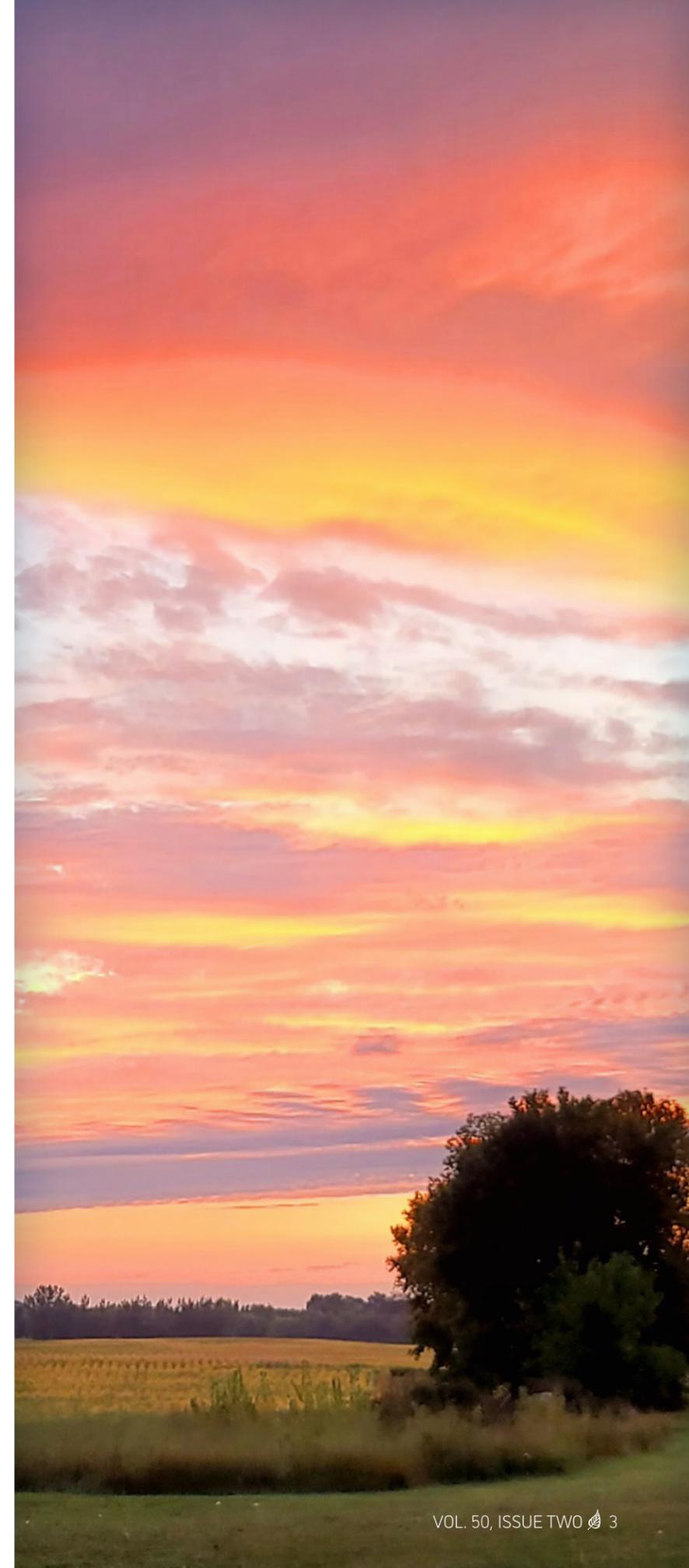
As we look to the future, I invite you to consider how you can continue to support Maplewood Academy. Whether through prayer, financial contributions, or volunteering your time and talents, your involvement is crucial in preparing our church of today for the times we are living in.

Remember, the worth of each student at Maplewood Academy far exceeds any monetary value. We are not just an educational institution; we are a ministry that intentionally centers on Christ in everything we do, nurturing our young people 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, for 9 months of the year.

As Christ's return draws near, let us unite in our commitment to Adventist education in Minnesota. Together, we can ensure that Maplewood Academy remains a beacon of hope, preparing young hearts and minds for eternity.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. May God bless you abundantly.

In His Service,  
Jeremy Everhart  
Principal, Maplewood Academy



# ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

One could say that Adventist education is literally in this couple's blood. Both grew up with parents who dedicated their lives to teaching in several Adventist schools here in Minnesota. Their early years were spent in different parts of the state, one in northern Minnesota and the other in central Minnesota. Despite the distance, their paths were destined to cross at Maplewood Academy.

Their relationship began in a rather unique setting—with a van full of Maplewood students traveling to a Bible conference in the fall of 1989. She, a freshman, and he, a sophomore, ended up sitting together during the long journey. They discovered many common interests, including their love of the Minnesota Vikings. Returning from the conference, their connection blossomed into a romance, and they soon became high school sweethearts.

Both graduated from Maplewood Academy, one in 1992 and the other in 1993. Their journey together continued at Union College, where they pursued their higher education. He graduated with degrees in history and education, while she graduated with degrees in history and English, with an emphasis in writing and speaking. Their bond grew stronger, and, in 1996, they were married in a beautiful ceremony at the Minnesota arboretum, surrounded by lovely springtime flowers.

Brent and Sara moved to the Twin Cities, where she completed a doctorate in jurisprudence and he began teaching at a local Adventist church school. However, their hearts longed for the beauty and, for him, the familiarity of the north, and they made the decision to relocate. After relocating to a peaceful spot in the northern MN woods, they started a family and were blessed with four children who kept the young parents busy. They assisted in restarting the small Adventist church school in their area, and he ended up teaching for several years there while their children attended the school. Three of their four children have now attended Maplewood Academy.

Throughout this time, Maplewood Academy remained close to their hearts. Their kindness and hospitality have been felt by many, as they have hosted multiple groups from Maplewood in their home, including choir members, Choraliers, and various faculty members. They even hosted their daughter's entire senior class for their senior experience. Their support for the academy has been unwavering, whether through participating in mission trips, volunteering at fundraisers, assisting with various school events, supporting students through the worthy student fund, gifting students and staff with delicious treats, or serving on the Alumni and Maplewood Academy School boards.

Brent and Sara have also enriched the spiritual life of the Maplewood community by leading Sabbath morning worships, preaching at church services, and speaking at various chapel events. Their dedication to service and their love for Maplewood Academy are truly inspiring.



From October 30th to November 3rd, we had the privilege of bringing the senior class to Union Adventist University for their Preview Days event. Although the travel was a bit challenging due to wind and rain, the journey there and back was smooth—something we were truly grateful for!

The seniors had a packed schedule during their visit, starting with several hours of classroom visits on Thursday, followed by group activities with other seniors from across the Mid-America Union on Friday. Saturday was more relaxed, an outreach activity after lunch, with the gym and pool open for leisure activities in the evening. Overall, the weekend went smoothly, and the seniors had a memorable time.

One standout feature of our visit was the strong presence of Maplewood Academy alumni on Union's campus. Everywhere we turned, we saw recent graduates taking on leadership roles. During the Thursday classroom visits, one of our 2024 graduates was among just four students helping lead a group challenge in the science department. At the basketball game that evening, four former Maplewood students were on the team, including the captain.

The Maplewood influence continued during Vespers, where three former Maplewood students from the classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022 led praise

and worship. Two more alumni from the class of 2022, involved in Campus Ministries, engaged with students in a creative way by interviewing random UAU students before the service. They encouraged enthusiasm and participation by offering fun incentives like gift cards for students who could guess different aspects of the service. These interviews were later turned into weekly recap videos for the campus community—a fun and interactive way to bring the students together!

Later that evening, while chatting with Maplewood alumni in the church lobby, the UAU chaplain joined our conversation. When I mentioned we were from Maplewood Academy in Minnesota, he smiled and remarked, "I have yet to meet a bad person from there." It was such an encouragement to hear that even the UAU chaplain recognizes the exceptional qualities of our Maplewood students!

On Saturday morning, more Maplewood alumni led the church service, and on Saturday night, five of the seven song leaders for the VR2 worship service were from the Maplewood classes of 2023 and 2024.

There is no doubt that Maplewood Academy is a place where God is shaping lifelong leaders. As Buell Fogg said, "Maplewood kids hit our campus and always impact it so nicely." If you ever visit Union, ask the professors—they all know who came from Maplewood Academy!

Our God is planning a gathering, a gathering that will free us from this world of sin and a plan to be with Him throughout eternity.

Gatherings are special, whether they are with family during the holidays, with work colleagues at special events, or with friends, old and new,

graduation. The topics spoke of prayer, of being a leader, of working in the mission field, and of how challenges are opportunities.

For me, this was a highlight of the weekend, as it helped the students understand that God is always there, and their life moving forward may not always

that moment. The divine appointment could also be for you. Every day we have these opportunities, when God uses us to touch the lives of others.

I could write much more about the church service in the gym, the Choraliers concert, haystacks for Sabbath lunch, and the student/alumni basketball

game Saturday night, but it would fill up the whole Maple Log.

Alumni weekend is an experience not to be missed. It is more than reminiscing with old friends and classmates. It is also a time to meet new friends or to have a divine appointment. And it is especially a time to know that God is always with you and always with Maplewood Academy.

# HOMECOMING

**GOD HAS TOLD US HIS REASON FOR SENDING CHRIST, A PLAN HE DECIDED ON IN MERCY LONG AGO; AND THIS WAS HIS PURPOSE: THAT WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE HE WILL GATHER US ALL TOGETHER FROM WHEREVER WE ARE—IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH—TO BE WITH HIM IN CHRIST FOREVER.**

Eph 1:10

talking about memories, life experiences, or just laughing together.

Alumni weekend 2024 was a gathering of old friends, but also a gathering for meeting and making new friends.

It was a time to meet my classmates and relive memories of what it was like 50 years ago and how times have changed over the years; however, one thing was a constant, the desire to have Jesus come soon and take us home.

Alumni weekends are a time to relive the past, but also a time to experience the future. God was at Maplewood Academy 50 years ago, and He is still there today, touching the lives of students and teachers in their daily activities.

One planned event was a new event called "Maple Talks" (held in the chapel). It was a time where alumni would speak to the students about God leading in their lives during the years since

be perfect, but staying in touch with God will give them the strength and answers they need to continue to grow in life and their relationship with Him.

I cannot pass up writing about the special Friday evening dinner of cinnamon rolls and soup; it was chili 50 years ago. How we anticipated the cinnamon rolls. It was great to still see the tradition continued!

Vespers was also a special time. It was a time to reminisce about where you sat in the church and who you sat with. You may not remember any talks at vespers, but you do remember the music. Singing the old hymns and songs from our era helped us relive those special times.

The words spoken at vespers this year were about divine appointments, how events happen in our lives that lead us to a specific point in time with someone new or someone we may not have had contact with for a long time. God's appointment is a special time where you are given an opportunity to help the individual with what they are needing at

# 2024 Save the Date! Alumni Weekend September 25-28, 2025



1949



Ronald Dickie



1954

Diane Johnson Vyskocil

1959



Back Row: Elmer Sundean, Joanie Campbell Swanson, Rita Morse Tasche, Alvina Russell Peterson, Erika Hubin Guptill, Floyd Andersen

Front Row: Eunice Hensel Rogers, Marlene Ellstrom McDonald



# 1964

Back Row: Harold Burgeson, Jim Johnson, Kenneth Pierson, Kenneth Ellstrom

Front Row: Brenda Christensen Duerksen, Richard Lamon, Marnelle McNeilus, Roger Lonnstrom, Mary Weisner Anderson, Roberta Johnson Christensen



# 1979

Back Row: Lois Jacobs Dassenko, Pamela Rudolph Wilkinson, Tammy Peterson Yocum

Front Row: Cynthia Guptill Emerson, Wayne Ellstrom, Margie Momb Hohnadel, Tammy Latessa Christensen

Valerie Stotz Larson, Doug Eno, Cheryl Hubbard Burishkin, Denise Haugen Wandersleben

# 1969



Back Row: Daniel Jensen, Mary Hesper Modina, Randy Borg, Heidi Crane Villalva, Mary Vevang Anderson, Michael Hatcher, Jeffery Cleveland

Front Row: James Kilgore, David Polensky, Ken Bacon, Angelena Harner Hoffmann, Jill Sindelar Borg, Kari Peterson, Jill Swanson, Tammy Olson Barnes, Robert White

# 1974



Back Row: Thomas Russell, Bernie Wiedmann, Kevin Lehman, Roger Ellstrom, Brien Knudson, Eddie Kemper, Arthur Schwarz, Stephen Wilmot

Middle Row: Bruce Bacon, Eleanor Barnaby VanGundy, Sharon Madsen Baxter, Marilyn Hewes Kemper, Jeri Lyn Bray Grindley, Paul Parry

Front Row: Kimberly Howard Russell, Virginia Hainey Rood, Debbi Wadsworth Furrie, Janet Bell Griffith, Rebecca Heitner-Horn, Jolitta Binder-Naef, Randall Reimer

# 1984



Back Row: Melanie Graham Condado, Wayne Trana, Jonathan Lund,  
Michael Fogg Jr, Jennifer Simpson Helen

Front Row: Wendy Ellstrom Porter, Trista Nelson Ybarra,  
Margaret Thompson-Choi, Julienne Brauer,  
Mindy Simpson Carlson, Adrian Donovan

1994



1989

Jody Skelley Bertness,  
Brenda Quaale Kuchynski



2004

Back Row: Chad Chaffee, David Wasemiller, Kurt Rudolph, Nicholas Hodges, Karl Wooster, Matthew Johnson

Middle Row: Robert Carlson, Jason Mayer, Anjuli Kaldahl Mayer, Tiffany Unterseher Saxton,  
Alyssa Morrison Vliet, Esther Shields Shaw, Hannah Hillard Johnson

Front Row: Jessica Livingston Honer, Anita Anderson Eichstadt, Kristen Burdorf Kuehmichel,  
Laura Emerson Skelley, Heidi Anderson Gonzalez



1999

Back Row: Nathan Shields,  
Andrew Larson, Cortney Buchholz

Front Row: Amy Kruger Doeun,  
Dixie Mitchell Fly, Rhyannon Kahle,  
Kirk Pettis

2014



Back Row:  
MaryAnne Birai,  
Nicholas Morrison,  
River Renk-Mason,  
Marc Valleramos

Middle Row:  
Jesse Evert Tasche,  
Jonathan Cevallos,  
Joel Guptill, John Lyons,  
Greg Learned

Front Row:  
Alexis Amaya, Samuel  
Bustamante,  
Alexa Hammer,  
Ariana Burnett Guptill

# PROGRESS REPORT

ON SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES  
DEVELOPING MISSION SKILLS



As we journey through this semester, Campus Ministries, together with the faculty and staff, is thrilled to share the incredible ways our students are growing spiritually and missionally. At Maplewood Academy, we believe that faith is not just something to learn but something to live—and this year, our focus has been on equipping students with mission skills that will serve them for future church leadership and responsibilities.

Through a range of experiences—Biblical values & concepts in Bible class, practical service, evangelism, and discipleship initiatives—we're equipping our students to live out their faith in impactful ways. Each initiative has been prayerfully designed to nurture their faith, leadership, and compassion. Here's a detailed update on how our students are embracing these opportunities to develop into confident ambassadors for Christ.

## Every Other Wednesday Bible Study Sessions

Every other Wednesday, students and faculty come together for a time of spiritual reflection and learning. These sessions, led by both peers and teachers, focus on studying scripture, sharing

insights, and leading discussions. The impact has been remarkable, as students are becoming more confident in interpreting scripture and taking the lead in group discussions.

## Mission Training in Bible Class

Our Bible classes go beyond traditional learning, equipping students with practical skills for ministry. From delivering mini-sermons to leading Sabbath School discussions, students are discovering new ways to share their faith. Even those who were initially hesitant to participate are now stepping forward to share testimonies and lead spiritual programs, showing an eagerness to serve.

## Community and Church Outreach

Practical mission work is at the heart of our spiritual program. Students have participated in various outreach activities, such as "Feed My Starving Children," can-collecting for Thanksgiving baskets, and church visitations to diverse communities, including Hispanic and Asian congregations. Students are also divided into 3 groups in rotation to visit the Litchfield Church each Sabbath we can. These experiences are fostering compassion, teamwork, and cross-cultural awareness while igniting a passion for evangelism.

## Media Ministry Training

In today's digital age, media is a powerful tool for evangelism. Students are learning to create faith-based content, including devotionals, podcasts, and video testimonies. While equipment needs have delayed the launch of our content, the groundwork has been laid, and @MWA\_CampusMinistries is now active on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. These platforms will soon showcase student-created content, highlighting their growing technical and communication skills.

## Peer-Led Small Groups

Small groups have become a vital space for mentorship and accountability. These student-led gatherings, often held on weekends, allow participants to study the Bible, discuss personal challenges, and pray for one another. The result is a stronger sense of belonging and the development of

leadership and discipleship skills essential for church and community involvement.

## Praise Team and Guitar Lessons

Music continues to be a cornerstone of worship at Maplewood Academy. Guitar lessons are helping students gain confidence in their musical abilities, while the praise team provides opportunities for them to lead worship in outreach events and local churches. The blend of skill-building and practical application is fostering a deeper connection to worship through music. We are grateful to the Scoggins family for helping us out with our guitar lessons almost every Friday afternoon.

## A Promising Start

These initiatives are already yielding encouraging results, with students growing in their commitment to service, faith, communication, and leadership. While adjusting to this mission-oriented approach has presented challenges, the progress is clear, and we are excited to continue building on this foundation. Together with the Campus Ministries, we are grateful for the solid support from our faculty and staff, Hutchinson Church members teaching our kids "Praise Team" skills, and the Conference leadership and their families in rallying the spiritual growth of our students.

## Looking Ahead

Our next steps include increasing student leadership roles in spiritual activities, enhancing media ministry resources, and integrating more hands-on training in Bible classes and Sabbath services.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we nurture the spiritual growth of our students and prepare them for a lifetime of faithful service. Together, we are empowering the next generation of Christ-centered leaders.

# WEDNESDAY WORSHIP BIBLE STUDY

Boarding academy can be a very busy place and finding time to add anything into the schedule can be challenging. However, creating opportunities for students to study the Bible with each other must be a top priority if Adventist ideals are truly being promoted. Pastor Abner has been leading wonderful baptism studies on Sundays, which students have been coming back to the dorm raving about. And every other Wednesday at Maplewood we offer what we call the Wednesday Worship Bible Study.

Wednesday Worship Bible Study was designed to be student-centric, as a way for students to take ownership and interest in their relationship with Jesus. The study is not required, yet still has an attendance on average of between 15 to 25 students attending each time. Light snacks are provided, and we meet in the library for a more relaxed atmosphere. We live-stream the study on the Maplewood Academy Campus Ministry Instagram page for those students who might feel more comfortable watching from the comfort of their dorm rooms, and some do! We also have a WhatsApp group that we post in throughout the week with sermon links and Bible verses and Happy Sabbath messages.

But by far, what sets these Bible studies apart from the rest is that we have a student leader. Iosif Dubreuz, a Junior at Maplewood, has a unique teaching style and very clear connection to Jesus. His peers know that Iosif isn't just a Christian during the Wednesday study hour and that makes a difference to how the material he presents is received. When he is speaking, they listen and respond. Even though they already sat through classes all day and are likely tired, and they haven't eaten supper yet and are likely hungry, they voluntarily come to Bible study to learn more about Jesus with Iosif. And that is a beautiful thing that I am humbled and glad to be a part of.



# Maplewood Outreach

## Coming Together in Song: A Heartwarming Experience

As a volunteer with Common Cup Ministries, I have the privilege of witnessing the incredible ways our local community comes together to support those in need. This year, we had the joy of involving Maplewood Academy students in a special community fundraising concert called Coming Together in Song. The concert brought together church choirs from Hutchinson, Glencoe, and other towns in McLeod County, with the goal of raising funds for Common Cup's vital work.

Maplewood's participation in the choir not only enriched the sound but also brought an energy and spirit that deeply moved the audience. Several of my fellow volunteers approached me afterward, some with tears in their eyes, expressing how touched they were by the students' heartfelt praises to God.

One moment that stood out was when a local pastor approached our music director after the performance. He shared his gratitude for our students and mentioned how inspired he was by their talent and commitment. He even expressed a desire to encourage the youth in his congregation to consider attending Maplewood Academy—a testament to the positive impact of our students' involvement.

Beyond the music, this event highlighted what makes Common Cup Ministries so special. By pooling resources and talents from churches across the county, we're able to make a greater difference in our community. Whether it's through meal packing for kids, coat giveaways, or school supply drives, our shared mission is to serve and uplift those in need.

Seeing the joy and hope our students brought through their singing reminded me why I'm so passionate about both Maplewood Academy

and Common Cup Ministries. It's about coming together—not just in song, but in service and love for our community.

## Operation Christmas Child: Bringing Hope and Joy Worldwide

For over two decades, Maplewood Academy has had the honor of serving as a drop-off center for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse that brings joy and hope to children in need around the world through shoebox gifts. This year marked an exciting milestone for us as we became a central drop-off location, playing an even greater role in this impactful ministry.

As a central drop-off center, we not only collected shoeboxes from our local community but also received contributions from surrounding towns within our district. Volunteers worked tirelessly to pack and load these boxes onto semi-trailers, which were then sent to Chicago as the next step in their journey to children worldwide.

We are thrilled to share that, this year, we collected an incredible 4,080 shoeboxes! Each box represents love, care, and the joy of the holiday season, offering children not only gifts but also the knowledge that they are cherished.

This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our students and the many volunteers who devoted their time and energy. Their efforts exemplify the heart of service that is central to our mission at Maplewood Academy and in our Hutchinson community.

Operation Christmas Child continues to be a shining example of how small acts of kindness can make a global impact. We are grateful to be a part of this ministry and look forward to seeing how God uses these shoeboxes to bring smiles and hope to children around the world.

Getting up before the crack of dawn, I gathered my luggage and headed out to the girls' dorm parking lot, ready to load the van. We were all exhausted, some of us had some sleep, some no sleep at all; I was part of the no sleep team. We were blessed to have Marshall and Lois Bowers drive us to our anticipated destination. Mrs. Basco, the Music Director, and her usual cheery attitude energizes us, even though we know once we get on the road, we'll be knocked out cold. I was looking around and noticed we had a lot of people new to bells. I felt excited at the fact that this would be their first RingFest ever, including for Mrs. Basco. After we did a headcount, made sure that everyone was present and accounted for, we gathered around and prayed for safe travels. We got into the vans and headed for RingFest in Toledo, Ohio.

RingFest was established by David and Janel Ashley in 2000. It was developed out of a desire to learn more about handbells and what they can do. Each year, repertoires are announced ahead of time so students can be prepared. Maplewood, along with 18 other schools, traveled to Toledo, Ohio, for a couple of days of intense rehearsals, which led up to the long anticipated concert Friday night.

My group experience included the following: eating pizza the first night we got there, calling random rooms just to say hi and ask which school others came from, waking up early just so we could get to breakfast and church on time, talking to people from other schools under the tables in between practices, and so much more.

This year was my fourth and last year at RingFest, so it was quite the experience for me. I learned and knew all the pieces from the previous years, so to think this would be the last year for me was quite the feeling. I met people, especially seniors, who also picked up bells their freshman year and attended ringfest all those years. I've had the opportunity to be part of the Festival Choir ensemble, which consists of 19 students (one student represented their respective school and practiced a piece to play together for the first time, practicing for only a couple of hours and performing the piece at the concert). After performing, we waited outside or in the lobby and found ourselves talking. We talked about our schools, RingFest from the previous years

and just being nostalgic, in general, knowing that this was most likely our last encounter. Right after that, we went back to our spots to perform the last piece, The First Noel.

Since The First Noel was our last song, our clinician decided it would be cool if we had an encore. And so, as we played the last note of that piece, I could feel myself and my fellow ringers sharing the same adrenaline rush, knowing what was to come. Funny enough, we didn't wait for his signal and went for it! He started laughing and looked at us as he continued to conduct us anyway. We were all filled with excitement and, the next thing we knew, he was sitting down as we continued to play for the encore. It seemed like we didn't need a conductor, since it felt like we were united and in sync with each other. That proved to be one memorable experience!

RingFest was such a life changing experience and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to use my gift of music to serve him in one of the best ways possible. I met lots of Adventist students, who share the same experience and passion for bells as me. I had a great time sharing stories during car rides and hanging out with my fellow ringers and sponsors from Maplewood.

The overall mission of RingFest is to improve musical skills, join in concert with other students, and celebrate handbell music by learning new pieces, attending workshops, and performing together, all while enjoying fellowship. It's also an opportunity to be inspired and use the gift of music to appreciate and build up one another in worship and for service.



# MAPLEWOOD ACADEMY: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN CHRIST



In Mark 16:15, Jesus commissions us with a timeless mission: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” This divine call transcends age, race, knowledge, and gender, inviting every believer to actively participate in sharing His love. At Maplewood Academy, this mission forms the foundation of all we do. Guided by our Core Values—Courage, Support, Justice, Innovation, Spirituality, Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Excellence, Leadership, and Responsibility—we are dedicated to nurturing young lives and preparing our students to be Christ’s ambassadors and future leaders in their communities.

## A Call to Renew Our Campus

To sustain and enhance this vital work, we must ensure that Maplewood Academy provides a campus that supports both spiritual and academic excellence. Our facilities are integral to fostering faith, learning, and community, but urgent improvements are needed to meet the growing needs of our students.

## Current Projects

- Bathroom Renovations in the Boys’ and Girls’ Dormitories: Enhancing comfort, safety, and dignity for residential students by updating heating systems and modernizing eight bathrooms.
- The Cafeteria Project: Addressing critical infrastructure issues, including underground

plumbing repairs, water runoff solutions, and updating the kitchen’s exhaust system.

- Core Values Display in the Administrative Building: Honoring our guiding principles with inspiring displays on both floors of the building. This project has already received partial support from the Class of 1974.

These updates go beyond physical renovations—they are investments in creating spaces that inspire faith, foster meaningful relationships, and support academic and spiritual excellence.

## Why Your Support Matters

When you contribute to these projects, you are investing in the lives of young Christian leaders. Your generosity helps us create a campus where...

- Students grow closer to God in an environment that reflects His love and care.
- Mutual respect, service, and support thrives in a vibrant community.
- Academic and spiritual excellence become hallmarks of daily life.

As Philippians 2:4 reminds us: “Let each of [us] look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.”

Every contribution, large or small, helps us move closer to our goal. With your partnership, we can complete these vital projects and continue equipping students for lives of purpose and service.

- Online: Donate securely at [maplewoodacademy.org](http://maplewoodacademy.org)
- By Mail: Maplewood Academy  
700 Main St N, Hutchinson, MN 55350

*Please indicate which project your donation is intended to support.*

We are profoundly grateful for your generosity and prayers. Maplewood Academy remains a vibrant center of Christian education, preparing students to shine God’s light in the world. Join us today in building a future rooted in faith, love, and service. Together, we can create an environment that empowers students to grow in Christ and lead with His light.

# My Testimony

Even though I grew up in the Adventist Church, I was never really Adventist. I want to tell you my testimony and how God changed my life.

I never thought about Jesus growing up. He was always an afterthought. As someone who was living for the world, I started doing everything to please it.

My two older sisters, my younger sister, and I all grew up raising each other because my parents were busy working, and because of that, we grew up close-knit together. It was us against everything. As they grew older, my two older sisters had to leave the house more often, and I started feeling alone at home. My parents and I started fighting, and because of that, I started hanging out with the wrong crowd.

As I spent more and more time with my new crowd, I started not caring about school. I fought more and more with my parents, which brought me closer to my friends. I wanted to do cool stuff for them, and I gave in to a lot of peer pressure.

Something bad happened as high school was about to start, and I ended up more depressed. I started doing more daring stuff and much more dangerous stuff, and I didn’t care for my life a lot. Of course, nobody could tell because they just thought I didn’t care for school, so nobody was there to help me. I had to start staying home more for my little sister, and I ended up fighting with my parents more. I hated being at home—it felt suffocating.

As April approached, another big bad thing happened: they told me I would be sent to Maplewood Academy.

I started isolating myself from everyone at school and spending more time in my room, but it was different this time. I felt some presence of God there with me. Out of nowhere, I started thinking of Him. I started taking God more seriously, but I still didn’t prioritize Him as my #1.

The summer passed, and it was time for me to go to Maplewood. My relationship with my parents had gotten a little better, and I felt my life turning around a little. When I arrived at Maplewood, I was still living for the world, but the more I experienced Maplewood the more I started letting my old world go. I saw the effects of God on this campus, and I wanted that for myself as well.

I started working on my relationship with God and prioritizing Him. He taught me forgiveness, love, and rest. He gave me a peace I never knew I could have. He made me aim for better, for more in my life. He gave me the peace I’ve been looking for my whole life, more peace than even my sisters gave me.

God is my Savior and my Messiah and always will be. He is what I aim for and who I strive to please. I will forever thank God!



MAPLEWOOD  
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700 MAIN STREET NORTH  
HUTCHINSON, MN 55350

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## SOCCER TOURNAMENT

One of the true joys of watching sports is seeing teamwork in action. Any one person performing to the best of their ability is inspiring, but well coordinated effort takes the experience to a new level. During last weekend's soccer and volleyball tournament, one team stood out not just because of teamwork on the field, but between schools.

Three students from Dakota Adventist Academy wanted to play soccer in the tournament, but their school couldn't field a full team. Maplewood Academy offered the DAA guys spots on their team. In the photo above, they're all wearing Maplewood jerseys, but three of the players are from Dakota.

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