

creative call GALLERY



Lisa Bodkin

The New Hope Church family and local community were invited to enjoy works of art displayed at "The Creative Call Gallery" this past April prior to the Andrew Peterson concert. A variety of pieces from watercolor to ceramics to photography and more were shown by 18 different artists.

Why show art? That was a question posed to me when we first discussed the idea of offering a gallery. It was a good question and one that needed some thought and a good answer!

I love the following quote from Madeleine L'Engle's book "Walking on Water." It helps describe why I believe art can be an integral aspect in the life of any body of believers.

"The journey to the coming of the Kingdom. That's probably the chief difference between the Christian and the secular artist, the purpose of the work, be it story or music or painting, is to further the coming of the Kingdom, to make us aware of our status as children of God to turn our feet toward home."

As Christian artists, we can play an important role in society by delivering the gospel through art. Particularly in this image saturated world, visual representations of God's truth can be tremendously powerful in pointing people toward "home." But once the art is created, artists need a platform from which to share these images that glorify God or reveal his character. That is why I was so excited that our church graciously opened the opportunity for a gallery.

The purpose for the Creative Call Gallery was not necessarily to give face to the artist, but to give face to the work they do. These works have the potential to speak on behalf of God when sometimes words aren't enough. While the exhibit was meant to edify, encourage, challenge and bless the viewer; we also desired to recognize the unique role creative people play in the Kingdom of God. We wanted to give them a place to do what they were created to do! Ultimately, we wanted this to glorify God.

While Christian themes were not immediately present in some of the exhibit pieces, all of the works were vibrant representations of God's creativity that can work itself out as Christians attempt to make artwork in tune with their Christian faith. The Creative Call was just another way of expressing his creativity in and through us and the enthusiastic response was fabulous.

Do you paint, draw, shoot photos or video, throw pots, tell stories, dance, act, write or express your faith through some other creative medium? Consider, brainstorm and pray about how God may want you to share these gifts with the church and surrounding community! For more information about communicating the gospel through creative expression, visit newhopechurchmn.org/worshiparts/creativearts.php.

