

2009-2010 ms staff bios

Justin Bennett – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Justin has been both working (Outreach and Missions Administrator) and volunteering (Middle School Ministry) at Grace for the past year. He loves playing basketball and putting overconfident 8th grade boys in their place on the court...just kidding! He is grateful for the chance to get to know these kids and hopefully help speak into their lives during a formative time.

Jason Bryant – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Jason is originally from Concord, NC. He is the middle child in a sweet family with one beautiful sister on each side. He became a Christian at Appalachian State University after spending quality time with a bunch of goofy yet sincere guys. Jason is the Middle School Assistant here at Grace and enjoys helping students connect with God. Some fun facts are: He hiked 90 miles of the Appalachian Trail, he likes Taco Chicken (mom's recipe) and he likes reading Systematic Theology.

Rhiannon Baker – Wednesday Nights

Rhiannon recently moved to Massachusetts from southern Pennsylvania where she had been the Director of the Outdoor Education and Ropes Course programs for the past 5 years at a Christian camp. She is currently seeking out what God has planned for her and is excited to serve Him where ever that may be. Some things she enjoys doing in her spare time are knitting, reading, skiing, making cheese and spending time with friends.

Alisha Cargill – Sunday Mornings

Alisha became a Christian when she was young but really made her faith her own when she was in middle school. She grew up in Southern New Hampshire and now lives in Beverly, MA. She graduated in May of '08 from Gordon College with International Business and Economics. She has been a counselor at Camp Berea and got involved with Grace Chapel through that connection.

Michele Carr – Wednesday Nights

Michelle works as a tutor at the Children's Hospital in Boston, helping inpatients with their school work. She also has been volunteering there for many years now. Michelle grew up in Canada and has been married to her husband Michael for 11 years. She loves working with kids and has volunteered with the Breakout girls on Wednesday nights. She loves having fun with the Middle School kids in a God-centered environment.

Peter Contompasis – Sunday Mornings

Peter is a retired internist who volunteers teaching med students. He accepted Christ back in '93 and was baptized at Grace Chapel. He began volunteering with the Middle School Ministry to encourage his grandsons to get involved and has been on staff ever since. Peter is passionate about continuing to learn about God and enjoys traveling, exercising, continuing education, reading and watching sports.

Paula Doherty – Wednesday Nights

Paula is wife to Chip and mother to Kayla, age 11, and lives in Westwood, MA. She has been attending Grace Chapel for 20 years and has been a Grace Chapel partner for 15. For many years Paula was a volunteer and then leader for the girls' elementary midweek program. She is passionate about helping young people, especially girls, see themselves through God's eyes, so they can develop their "God-confidence" to face everyday situations and challenges from a Christian perspective. Paula works as an office manager for an educational consultant in Westwood. She is an avid football fan who enjoys NFL Network, and loves to spend time with family, scrapbook, and do anything craft-related.

David Doyle – Wednesday Nights

David enjoys playing games with his nieces and nephew. They are younger than the middle schoolers but he hopes to be an example to them as they grow up; just as he hopes to be an example to the students on Wednesday Nights here at Grace. As of Oct 19, 2009, he will be unemployed but he sees this as a blessing and a time to grow in his faith and relationship with God.

Jim Figucia – Sunday Mornings

Jim Figucia lives in Woburn with his wife Colleen and children Sarah and Andrew. The Figucia family has attended Grace Chapel since 1993. Jim has been involved in men's ministry and Upstreet elementary school ministry for that last few years. Jim is an independent software consultant who develops measurement and automation applications for high tech companies in the area. He enjoys sending lots of time with his family and also enjoys exercise and home projects.

Mary Fong – Sunday Mornings

Mary is a stay at home mom to Matthew (age 12) and Daniel (age 10). She did not grow up in a Christian home but came to know Christ in her 20's. In the last 12 years she has served in various roles in Kidstown and as a core leader in Joy Bible Study.

Barbara Franks – Sunday Mornings

Barbara is a mother of four; Nick, Ben, Allie and Vicki. She has been attending Grace Chapel for over 20 years with her husband, Glen. She teaches middle school science at Covenant Christian School in Arlington. She leads and attends Joy Bible Study on Tuesday mornings and also loves to run, bike and hike. Barbara is looking forward to partnering with the Middle School Ministry this year.

Micah Gertson – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

After growing up and attending college in Texas, Micah moved to the Boston area in July of 2006. This will be his third year on the volunteer staff. It's amazing to him how much his guys have grown up in the past three years. (Micah started with them when they were in 6th grade and they are now entering their 8th grade year.) He gets paid to design micro-processors, but when he is not at work he loves to play basketball and snow ski.

Jennifer Harris – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Jen is 22 years old and has been attending Grace Chapel for just as many years. She went through the Middle School and High School programs here at GC. Jen is a teacher at a day care and recently graduated from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy. She is currently living at home with her parents and sister. Jen is looking forward to helping out with the Middle School Ministry and serving on the Worship Team.

Jannat Lebbos – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Jannat is a 27 year old pharmacist. She grew up in a Christian home in Egypt but rededicated her life when she was 24 after graduating from college. She has been on an amazing journey ever since! The most recent trial Jannat has been through was God delivering her from Hodgkin's Lymphoma and seeing Him work so closely in her life. She loves working with middle school kids because that's when they develop who they are and it's when God can mold and shape them. She is excited to be a tool that God can use in the Middle School Ministry!

Daniel Lee – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Daniel is currently a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He absolutely loved working as the Summer Intern and hanging with the kids this past summer. Daniel likes to spend time with his dog, Jenny, and his friends in his spare time.

Peter Manougian – Sunday Mornings

Peter is a senior at Gordon College majoring in Business Administration and History. He has been volunteering with the Middle School Ministry for over three years and has enjoyed spending time with the students very much. Peter's interests include cars, football, trains and skiing.

Sandra Manougian – Sunday Mornings

Sandra is the general manager of Fun World. She became a Christian and was baptized at age 12. She has two sons, Peter – 21, and Michael – 19. She enjoys riding roller coasters with her sons as well as going on business trips with them.

Cheryl McKenna – Sunday Mornings

Cheryl is originally from Florida and has been serving in the United States military for almost 20 years. She is currently stationed at Fort Devens, MA. A graduate of Northwestern College in Minnesota with a Bachelor's Degree in Ministry, she is currently working on a Master's in Christian Leadership at Liberty University. Cheryl has three daughters; an 18 year old and 16 year old twins. Before coming to Grace Chapel, Cheryl has served as a volunteer in youth ministry as a small group leader for several years and as a Sunday school teacher in the children's ministry prior to that. She has also served on mission trips to Africa, Guatemala and the inner city.

Jon-Mark McLaughlin – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Jon-Mark is married to Kirsten and is a project manager in the construction business. He loves to hang out with kids and get to know them. He was saved as a child but it wasn't until 7th grade that he started to own his faith. Jon-Mark loves to play soccer, basketball and be outside.

Kirsten McLaughlin – Sunday Mornings

After three years in the ministry, Kirsten will be working with 6th grade girls this year. She always feels very blessed by forming relationships with the kids and seeing them grow as young people. She is a grad student at BU, studying occupational therapy. While that keeps her pretty busy, she also enjoys running, being outdoors, cooking, music and theater.

Joanne O'Donnell – Wednesday Nights

Joanne is new to the Middle School Ministry staff. She is excited to participate in Wednesday nights. She is married to Rick and is mother to three wonderful children.

Rick O'Donnell – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Rick has enjoyed working with the Middle School Ministry for several years. He loves the kids' enthusiasm and honesty. He became a Christian at a young age and grew up in a Christian home. He loves sports and his work as a software engineer. He is a husband to Joanne and a father to Luke (14), Amanda (12), and Jake (10).

Angela Rogers – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Angela grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan and has lived in the Boston area for 9 years. She has enjoyed being a part of the Middle School Ministry for a number of years as a volunteer and as the Youth Ministry Administrator. She has been witness to the way God moves in the lives of the students as they are part of the ministry and is humbled to be a part of something so great. She loves to go running, try new recipes, hang out with friends and mentor middle school girls.

Nate Wan – Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Nate first accepted Christ in 3rd grade at Camp Berea. He plays guitar and is passionate about music and equipment. He loves working in youth ministry and seeing God work.

Katie Whallon – Sunday Mornings

Katie is a student at Gordon College. Her hometown is Bedford, MA, where her family still lives. She grew up at Grace Chapel. God used the Middle School Ministry here to start her spiritual journey. She realized her life was no longer about her but about God. She loves fun, teenagers and God.