

# Middle School Ministry Bio's 2007-2008

## **Paul Bammel**

Paul is a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He was saved in sixth grade and has a passion for Middle School Ministry. Paul has two younger sisters, a fiancée and two loving parents back home in Kansas. He also served as the mascot at the University of Kansas (Big Jay).

## **Jason Bryant**

Jason is the Middle School Ministry Assistant and is a part-time landscape engineer. He entered into a relationship with Christ in college with some guys who he hung out with. He is from North Carolina and he likes eating ice cream. He really enjoys sharing life and Christ with others. Due to his "big kid" attitude, he loves spending time with youth and seeking Christ with them.

## **Emily Carroll**

Emily is a senior nursing student at Northeastern University in Boston. She lives in Wakefield with her husband, Sean, who also works with the middle schoolers. She looks forward to graduating in May and learning how to continue to bring God glory in everything she does.

## **Sean Carroll**

Sean graduated in May 2007 from Gordon College with a degree in Bible and Youth Ministry. He currently works as a waiter at the 99 in Danvers. He enjoys doing anything to help out with Middle School Ministry and especially enjoys soccer and Frisbee.

## **Peter Contompasis**

This is Peter's 14<sup>th</sup> year volunteering with the Middle School Ministry. He is retired and his interests include travel, art, exercise, reading, watching sports, family (4 children, 10 grandchildren!). He was baptized at Grace Chapel in 1993 and then became a member of the church. His wife has been a member since the 1980's. They volunteer together as ushers and with the hospitality ministry.

## **Heather Dietz**

Heather is excited to be on Middle School staff for her sixth year. She loves spending time with her small group girls and going on Missions trips, retreats and camp. She has been married to Brian for three years and has a one-year-old daughter, Abigail.

## **Natalie Ferjulian**

Natalie became involved with the youth as a staffer at Camp Berea during her high school years and would say that she's been hooked ever since. Currently she is a student at Gordon College majoring in communications. Growing up on a farm was likely the root of her passions for any and every kind of outdoor activity. She is looking forward to becoming involved in the lives of Middle School students while helping them strengthen their walk with the Lord.

## **Glen Franks**

This is Glen's second year on MS staff. He has four children, including two middle schoolers. He has been married for 18 years and has attended Grace Chapel for over 30 years. Glen enjoys ministering to this age group and believes they are the most formative years in developing a heart for Christ

## **Andy Gardner**

This is Andy's tenth year on MS staff. He and his wife, Dawn, have been serving together for the past three years. He works for a plumbing and heating company and enjoys activities outside, such as hiking, swimming, running, and biking. Andy loves sharing Christ with middle school kids and helping them grow in their faith.

**Dawn Gardner**

Dawn is currently the Regional Assistant to the Northeast Collegiate Ministries of the Navigators. She is married to Andy and this is her third year on staff. Dawn has 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls this year and loves spending time with them.

**Bonnie Gatchell**

Bonnie is a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary toward her MDiv. She has returned for a second year at Grace Chapel as the MS drama team intern.

**Micah Gertson**

Micah grew up and went to college in Texas before moving to the Boston area for a job as a chip designer at Advanced Micro Devices in July of 2006. He's been going to Grace Chapel since last fall and is looking forward to getting to know your kids and showing them who Christ is to him. In his free time he likes the outdoors, especially skiing in the winter, exploring new places in Boston and trying to find good Mexican food.

**Mark Lamberti**

Mark became a Christian when he was four years old. He learned to make his parents' faith his own in middle and high school and his youth group was instrumental in the process. He studied business at Boston University and holds a Masters Degree in Counseling from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He currently works for a pension consulting firm in Cambridge. He is 6'5", has a fraternal twin brother and loves all types of sports.

**Nick Love**

Nick is a student studying theology at Gordon-Conwell. He is originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan (which he considers to be the best state that starts with the letter M). He is 25 years old and has been a Christian for about three years. One of his passions is teaching.

**Peter Manougian**

Peter is from North Andover. He grew up at Grace Chapel and is currently a sophomore at Gordon College where he studies business. He became a Christian in Middle School with Brian Dietz as his pastor. Some hobbies he enjoys are watching football and Red Sox, working on his BMW and 1963 Catalina. He wants to work with the youth group in order to make an impact on their lives as well as to have fun with them.

**Jon-Mark McLaughlin**

Jon-Mark is married to Kirsten and lives in Wakefield. He is a carpenter in the greater Boston area. He loves to interact with the kids at their level and to learn from them.

**Kirsten McLaughlin**

Kirsten is a research assistant at the Boston University Medical Center working on a project related to extreme longevity and healthy aging. This is Kirsten's second year on staff with the Middle School Ministry and she is excited to be working with 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls this year. In her free time you can find Kirsten singing, enjoying the outdoors, running and baking. It is Kirsten's prayer that the Lord will graciously continue to reveal Himself to her in order that she may serve Him with a growing sense of humility and an increasing passion for his purposes.

**Rick O'Donnell**

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 (12), Amanda (10), and Jake (8).

### **Bianca Oglice**

Bianca is originally from Romania and is now living with her husband, Emanuel, in Newton. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in piano performance at Boston University. This will be Bianca's third year serving in the Middle School at Grace Chapel. Ever since she became a Christian ten years ago, it has been her passion to share God's love with other people.

### **Emanuel Oglice**

Emanuel has been involved in the Middle School as an administrative assistant and is in his third year of leading a small group. He enjoys hiking, skiing, reading and co-leading a Life Community group. He also serves on the North Africa/Middle East team at Grace Chapel. He is super excited about all the upcoming MS events and retreats!

### **Jonathan Paige**

Jon really enjoys working with the students and seeing their growth; physically, mentally emotionally and spiritually. He's energized and excited to begin his third year with the Middle School Ministry. He enjoys outdoor activities including hiking, biking, skiing, and going to the beach. He also enjoys spending time with friends and family.

### **Angela Rogers**

Angela lives in Wakefield and has been involved in the MS ministry for six years. She recently joined the Grace Chapel Staff as the Youth Ministry Administrative Assistant. She enjoys spending time with friends, watching movies and learning to cook better.

### **Deb Russell**

Deb is starting her fourth year in the MS ministry. She is very excited to work with a great group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. She lives in North Andover and is a Special Education teacher in the Haverhill Public Schools. Deb is looking forward to seeing all the kids grow in their love for Christ this year.

### **Jodi Sunderman**

Jodi is a born and raised Michigan girl and has been in the Boston area for just over 3 years now. Jodi is excited to be working with Middle School students again for her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Grace Chapel. Her desire to serve Christ and to serve at Grace has fallen right along with her passion for kids. Jodi is a Special Education and Art teacher, and she is currently working at the North Shore Education Consortium in Beverly, MA. She lives in Ipswich and loves spending time with her husband TJ, running, staying active and doing lots of "artsy" things.

### **TJ Sunderman**

TJ grew up in the land of ten thousand lakes (aka Minnesota) in a Christ centered home. He enjoys the outdoors, playing athletic activities (especially football and basketball), and spending time with his wife of two years, Jodi. TJ graduated from Gordon-Conwell in May of 2006 and is currently working with adolescents as a psychotherapist on the North Shore. He feels offering kids a positive role model with whom they can feel connected can serve as a building block in the establishment of a solid Christ-like identity.

### **Karmen Tam**

Karmen is a freshman at Gordon College and is very excited to be working with the Middle School Ministry this year. She was a part of this ministry while in middle school herself and became a Christian during her time here. She is so glad to be able to give back to a ministry that has made such a difference in her own life. Additionally, she has a brother in High School, loves archery, reading and missions! She looks forward to working with all of the students this year.

**R. Nick Ventresca**

Currently, Nick attends Northeastern University pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has a strong passion for working with kids and teaching the word of the Lord. He has always loved the energy and character kids have and finds himself feeding off of that. He grew up in the church and became a true Christian in his freshman year of college, three years ago. Since then he has found the importance of ministry and spreading the word to others.

**Katie Whallon**

Katie became a Christian when she was five years old. However, her faith did not become real until she was in middle school on a youth retreat in New Hampshire (7<sup>th</sup> grade at Camp Brookwoods). She saw the speaker's faith and his passion and zeal for God. She prayed that weekend that God would take her and use her for His glory. God has put into her heart the desire to serve Him by loving others. This is why she is at Gordon College and serving on staff for the MS Ministry. Fun facts about Katie: She has played on five different kinds of sports teams, likes the Arts, taken Sign Language for six years, her dad is a pastor and his dad was a pastor and so on dating back to the Civil War. She loves to laugh; she is twenty years old, loves popcorn and is a dyslexic learner.

**Renato Zeppi**

Renato is a CPA working in Burlington. He is married to Sue and they have four children including Rachel, who is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader this year. He came to know the Lord in 1981 and was involved with the youth at church until he married Sue in 1993. He has also been involved with Evangelism Explosion and has continued to be involved with the youth. He loves music, plays guitar and enjoys camping with his family.

**Sue Zeppi**

Sue is a part-time mortgage broker and a full-time chauffer to her 11 year old daughter, a figure skater. She, along with her husband Renato, has been on Middle School staff for about 15 years in total. They have three adopted daughters who are in their twenties and have enjoyed watching the Lord work in their lives through the Grace Chapel Middle School ministry. They are being blessed again with their 11 year old daughter benefiting from the discipleship program the ministry has implemented. Sue accepted the Lord at 14 years old and has attended Grace Chapel for about 17 years.