

Upper Room Board Bios - January 31, 2011

Nan Bertelson

Several factors came to play in bringing me to UR from its inception: my husband and I were members of CPC, I loved praising God through contemporary worship, we had a teenage son who preferred to sleep in on Sunday mornings, and that son loved worshiping in a young, vibrant, hands-on community (and having teenagers that WANT to go to church is a gift!) I've enjoyed leading international and local mission experiences, sharing my story, attending woman's events, supporting staff and UR community, and serving on the Board. It is my prayer the Upper Room would continue to be a community of imperfect people who seek Biblical truth, desire to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus, and serve others with reckless abandon. I'm a lover of my family and friends, people with disabilities, travel, and the great outdoors.

Paul Bertelson

Our family had the pleasure of being at the very first Upper Room. (Sure beat trying to get a teenager up and going on a Sunday morning.) Being in the "missions business", service environments have always been highly valued to me and my family. I was born, raised and lived my whole life in Minneapolis and suburbs. Married to Nan for 31 wonderful years, with two sons Drew (24) living in Colorado and Brett living, dancing and eating pasta with Jesus in heaven. Housing rehab is a "hobby", I love to ski with family in the mountains, reading and entrepreneurial ministry. I see Sunday nights as just the whipped cream on the Sundae(y) - real worship and ministry is what happens Monday - Saturday as the Upper Room community loves and serves the world in the name of Jesus.

Jay Chapman

I have been attending the Upper Room since its inception back in November of 2001. I have had the privilege of serving on the UR Resource Team since 2004 and the UR board since 2009. God has done some amazing things in the community over the last 9+ years. I feel humbled and inspired to a part of a community that so genuinely focuses on the needs of others. From the vibrant kids ministry to the Minneapolis Market, the ripple effects of what God has started and continues to do in this place are exciting to me and I feel honored to be a part of it. Outside of the UR, I enjoy playing golf, coaching youth hockey, and I love doing anything and everything with my wife, Angie, and daughter, Ellie.

Andrew Hardacre, Secretary

My wife and four kids have been attending Upper Room for the last six years. Throughout the years we've been witness to the dedication and love the staff has exhibited for the entire community. From a single service with a few attendees, to two services, to a Children's ministry to a Junior High ministry, it's been amazing to see how God has worked in people's lives over the years. And how this community has become close-knit through the transition and move out of Christ Presbyterian. I've had the opportunity to serve on the Board the last two years and volunteered in other ministries. The passion Upper Room exhibits to serve others in Minneapolis and abroad through our missional partners has impacted my life. Outside of church I'm active in raising my children, participating in their activities through coaching, entering an occasional running race or triathlon and finding time for an occasional "Dinner and a Movie" date with my wife.

Allen Lemay

I first attended Upper Room in November of 2005 and was immediately drawn to the community and the various initiatives they were embarking on. After attending a handful of services I felt God calling me to become more involved in the community and to share my spiritual gifts with the others around me. My heart was hit hard when Upper Room brought in the one of the producers of the documentary "Invisible Children." After watching segments of the documentary I felt compelled to expose myself to a world that was completely foreign to me and something I had only seen on TV. This idea became a reality in the summer of 2007 when I traveled with a group from Upper Room to Heal Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I feel as though God has really pulled my heart in a direction of "Acts of Service" and that energy is something I hope to bring with me to the Board of Directors. I've been involved with meal groups, UR Groupies, UR Junior High, Men's Bible Study, and various Next Step environments. Outside of Upper

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Room I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, cabin in Wisconsin, traveling, running marathons, and sadly...my job at Oracle.

Peter Pascale, Board Chair

Since first attending in 2006, I've continued to be struck by the special community and capacity that is Upper Room. Meal groups, men's bible study, and volunteering in the babes ministry have been great opportunities to practice caring and encouraging one another. I love the community's passion to minister to each other and the world. I've served on the board since 2008, and it is a privilege to support the direction of the staff and community in this way. It is my passion that the Upper Room is challenged to live in community with each other and the world, and that we grow to rely more fully on the Holy Spirit to energize and direct our lives. I attend with my wife Kathy and three awesome kids who keep me on my toes! Outside of Upper Room I enjoy time spent with them, especially travel and trying new things together. Personally I love music, good food, and coffee, and as a bit of a geek - technology.

Susan Schmidt

I grew up in the Twin Cities and have been part of the Upper Room community since its inception. It's been amazing to watch us grow and change over the years, and I am honored to be part of this amazing community! My involvement has ranged from being on set-up and greeting teams, to going on the RV Road trip to Graceland in 2002, to visiting our friends in El Salvador in 2004, 2005, and 2008, to leading a running environment and more. The Upper Room community played a major role in shaping my faith during an important season of life, and continuously helps me experience Jesus in ways I haven't before. I enjoy running and biking, getting new stamps in my passport, cooking, laughing, telling long and detailed stories, and spending time with friends and family. I'm passionate about our community continuously learning how our lives can more closely reflect Jesus so we can better love each other and our world.

Laura Shaffer

We began attending Upper Room in 2005 and when the kids program was in place it became our church home. My husband Chris and I have three great kids; Joe, Eric and Nora. I have always been drawn to Upper Room by the presence of the Holy Spirit and how authentically the community seeks to love others as Jesus did. I have had the privilege of experiencing this through meal groups, serving on the prayer team and participating in some of the women's events. My prayer for this community is that we would continue to passionately live out our mission to each other which in turn models an amazing kind of love to the world. Outside of Upper Room I love to watch my kids play hockey, show horses with my daughter and read a good book.