

Get to know some members of Heartland

Rich, Kym, and Ashton Nelms

Family Basics

The Nelms live with two dogs named Pepper and Annabelle in south Springfield. Kym and Rich attended the same church in high school. They didn't become acquainted until college, when she joined the choir and he was the sound tech. Kym is a reading coach at Weaver elementary and also teaches at Drury University. Rich is Heartland's worship leader, and also works at Sounds Great – where he assists churches and schools with sound systems.

Mann Trivia

Rich may be the only person in the church who has spent a week in a rural cabin with the pastor. “One year at church camp, Brad was my counselor,” Rich explains. He recalls that Brad's innovation caught the attention of youth leaders and teenagers across Southwest Missouri. “I can remember getting flyers that said who the speakers were going to be, and that the event would feature ‘Brad Mann's crazy games.’”

The Nelms were active in the formation of Heartland. They attended Bible studies and initial meetings in the basement of Kelly Mann's parents' home.

What's Cooking

One of the Nelms' favorite places to spend time is their newly renovated kitchen. “We bought this house with the intention of remodeling. We've always got two or three rooms that we're working on,” Rich said.

Everybody loves to cook in this household. Lately, they've had fun learning to roll their own sushi. It was exciting when they discovered a new fish market on Republic Road. They've made crab sushi and tuna sushi. So far, no squid!

Music Makers

Rich, Kym, and Ashton love instrumental and vocal music. Rich tinkers with recording software and is working on a CD of Heartland's youth group band. Rich and Kym also enjoy concerts. They've seen The Police, Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, jazz bassist Wayman Tisdale, bassist Victor Wooten, Acoustic Alchemy, and others.

Kind Advice for Newcomers

“It's tough to tell new visitors to join in the activities and get involved, but there really *are* some incredible people here. If you take the time to get to know these people, it is really worthwhile,” Rich said.

