

A RETREAT FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

SPARK 2023



LORD, MAKE ME
AN INSTRUMENT

“ WE ARE ONE TEAM FROM DIFFERENT CITIES AND DIFFERENT DISTRICTS BUT ALL CALLED TO SERVE GOD, CHILDREN, AND THEIR FAMILIES. ”



We are so glad that you are at SPARK 2023! Wow...this has been a year of much change in the life of our family and of Equip to Engage! It seems that God often asks his people to step without knowing what they are stepping on, and then we get the details. This has been true for us each step of the journey. Candice and I are excited about these new days for Equip to Engage and we are happy you are part of it. We know you will enjoy being with and getting to know Beth, the new SPARK Director, and her husband, Jeff! You can learn a little about Beth below.

Our prayer for you this weekend is that you will find time to rest and relax and that you go home recharged and ready to do what God has called you to do. We truly do believe what the statement says above...we are one team from different cities and on different district, but all called to serve God, children, and their families! Our hope is that this weekend you are reminded of this, that you reconnect with friends, and that you make some new ones as we sow into one another!

Serving together,
Trey and Candice Brooks



Beth Bidle-Rush has almost three decades of experience ministering and discipling children and their families. Beth is passionate about sharing God's Word with children of all ages (0-109). She is an Ordained Elder, a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary. She is working on a doctorate at Trevecca Nazarene University. Currently, she serves as the North/East Texas Children's Ministries District Director and as SPARK Director. Her career as a Children's Pastor extends from Michigan to Texas (and several states in between), directing Children's Camps, speaking at Children's Camps, and leading workshops. Beth is excited about her new position with Equip to Engage to encourage, equip, and support the local children's leadership. In her free moments, Beth enjoys spending time with her husband, Jeff, laughing and telling stories, playing board games, and is an ice cream connoisseur.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

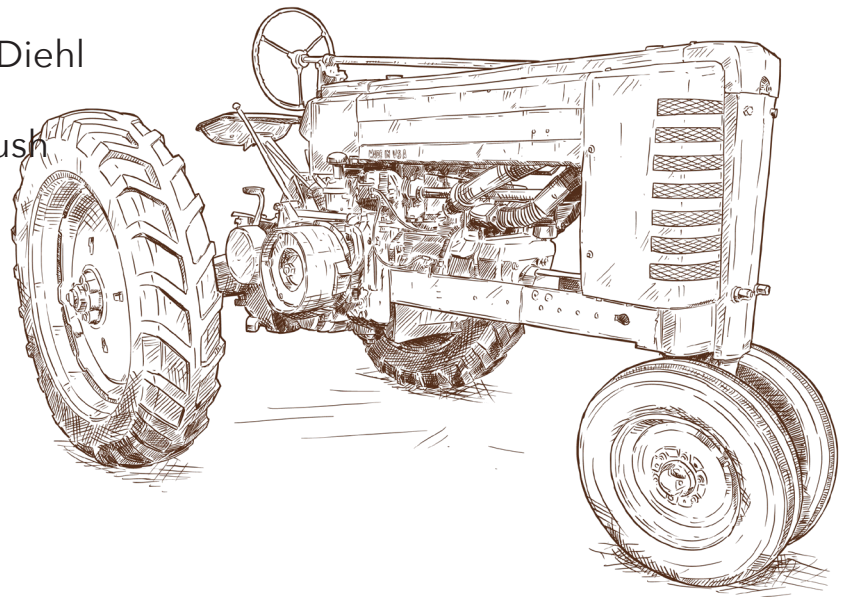
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dewey Litl Loj)
- 7:00** - Down on the Farm Party (Lakeside)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dewey Litl Loj)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (Lakeside)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
Classroom Management
// Cindy Knudson
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dewey Litl Loj)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
The Bubbling Ministry // Rob and Deb Diehl
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
Leading into the Futhre // Beth Bidle Rush
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dewey Litl Loj)
- 7:00** - Team Building (Lakeside)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dewey Litl Loj)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
Technology in the Classroom
// Michael and Kari Byrd
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
Spiritual Formation // Mickey Cox
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (Lakeside)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Dewey Litl Loj)
- 1:30** - See you next year!!



PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE
WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;
WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;
AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.**

**O DIVINE MASTER,
GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK
TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;
TO BE UNDERSTOOD, AS TO UNDERSTAND;
TO BE LOVED, AS TO LOVE;
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED,
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN
TO ETERNAL LIFE.
AMEN.**



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@EQUIPTOENGAGE**

November 6-8, 2023

**Mustang Church of the
Nazarene**

Mustang, OK

**More Information, visit
equiptoengage.org/story**

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MANAGING THE KIDS DURING KIDS MINISTRY

Cindy Knudson

How do you keep the kids engaged in kids' ministry and avoid chaos? It's a balancing act. We'll share ideas to help each other in a classroom or in Kids' Worship setting.



A BUBBLING MINISTRY...TEACHING WITH BALLOON CREATIONS

Rob and Deb Diehl

This is a great way to teach a story or draw a crowd! The uses of balloon twisting are neverending...neighborhoods, malls, parks or wherever you go! Learn some simple Balloon Bible stories. This is a "hands on" beginner session - lets all twist together!





Second SPARK Day

On the **Second Day** of camp...wear your favorite **SPARK** shirt!
Take a picture and tag it on social media as #seconddaySPARKday!



NazaZoom

January, March, September, November

Coaching for Children's Leaders

January, October

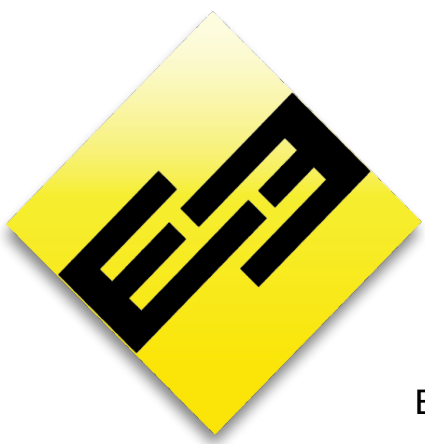
Equipping Conversation

February, April, August, October

District Children's Director

January, March, May, September, November

NazaZoom, Equipping Conversations, & District Children's Director - FREE



Equip to Engage Regional Connectors

Southeast - Shaun Stevenson
AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

North Central - Mary Sims
IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI

South Central - Diane Solberg
AR, LA, OK, TX

Northeast - Nathan McCarthy
CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV

West - TBD
AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

North - Sheri Lynne Martin
AB, BC, MB, NB, NS, NL, ON, PE, QC, SK, YT

East Central - Evan Offutt Boesiger
IN, MI, OH

Nazarene Kidmin Meet-Ups

Hosted by Equip to Engage



D6 Conference

April 10-12, 2023 | Orlando, FL
d6conference.com

Child Discipleship Forum

September 21-22, 2023 | Nashville, TN
childdiscipleshipforum.com

The KidzMatter Conference

September 12-14, 2023 | Nashville, TN
thekidzmatterconference.com

Children's Pastors Conference

January 9-11, 2024 | Orlando, FL
childrenspastorsconference.com

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

LEADING INTO THE FUTURE

Beth Bidle Rush

In a post-Christian world, how do we effectively reach kids and their families to impact today and prepare them for the future? In this session, we will explore how we can make a difference in the lives of children, their families, and their community through discipleship to build a solid foundation for the future.



TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Michael and Kari Byrd

Learning how technology helps you teach, plan and save hours off each week in prep work!

BREAKOUT SESSION 4

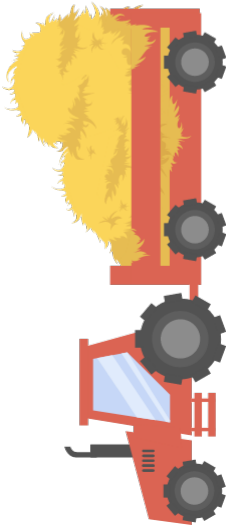


BREAKOUT SESSION 5

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Mickey Cox

Dallas Willard says, "Spiritual formation in the tradition of Jesus Christ is the process of transformation of the inmost dimension of the human being, the heart. It is being formed (really, transformed) in such a way that its natural expression comes to be the deeds of Christ done in the power of Christ." In this session, we will look at spiritual formation and what it means for our lives.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

A decorative green vine graphic with leaves and small flowers, curving around the text.

Eric Skelton - Lead Pastor
Kissimmee First Church of the Nazarene

Eric, his wife Angela and their six children have served at Kissimmee First Church of the Nazarene since the summer of 2016. He enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, getting to the theme parks wherever he can, and cheering for the Chicago Cubs!

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

MICHAEL & KARI BYRD

Founders

Live Church Solutions

CINDY KNUDSON

Children & Family CoPastor

Spring Hill Nazarene

MICKEY COX

Youth & Discipleship Pastor

Kissimmee First Nazarene

BETH BIDLE RUSH

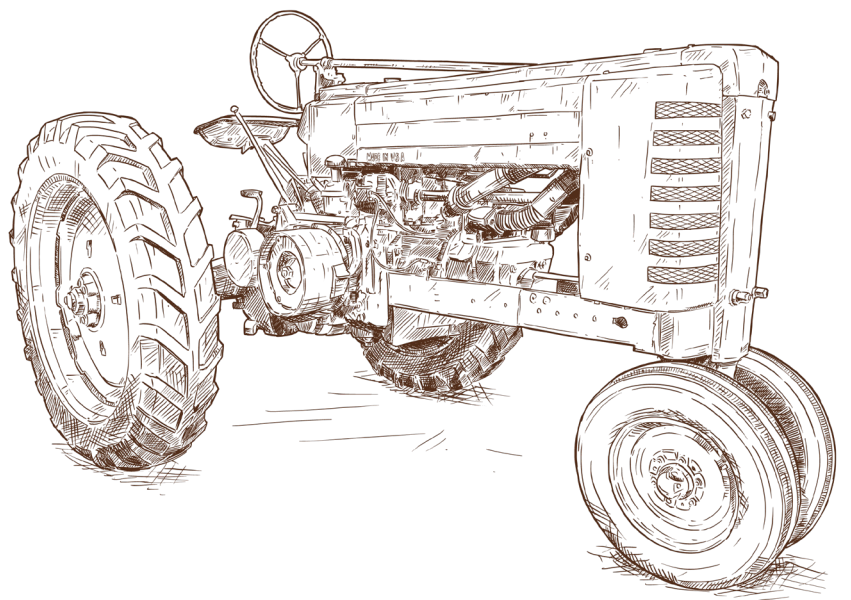
SPARK Director

Equip to Engage

ROB & DEB DIEHL

Evangelist

Church of the Nazarene



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Arizona
Toni Henry
Canada West
Sheri Lynne Martin
Eastern Michigan
Linda Loudermilk
Florida
Missy Segota
Georgia
Mike Smith
Indianapolis
Jill Farmer
Intermountain
Connie Blastock
Louisiana
David Craig
Michigan
Kelly Downs
MidSouth
Shaun Stevenson
North Arkansas
Elizabeth Karlowski
North/East Texas
Beth Bidle Rush
Northeast Indiana
Cortney Coombs
Northwest
Cindy Reynolds
Northwest Indiana
Shane Guldi
Northwest Ohio
Britni Dooley
Northwest Oklahoma
Dorothy Whipp
Oregon Pacific
Becca Notbohm
Pittsburg
Tonya Hockenberry
Sacramento
Cathy Scharf
South Texas
Tracey Gosnell
Southern Florida
Robin Campbell
Southwest Oklahoma
Kym Drabenstot
West Texas
Jennifer Sommers

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North/East Texas
Northeast Indiana
Northwest
Northwest Indiana
Northwest Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon Pacific
Pittsburg
Sacramento
South Texas
Southern Florida
Southwest Oklahoma
West Texas

SPECIAL THANKS

1230Kids
Adrian Camp
Arrowhead Camp
Bible Story Maps
Easy Risers
D6 Family
David C. Cook
Doorpost Songs
FourFiveSix
Go! Curriculum
GoodKind
High Voltage Kids Ministry
Kellogg Springs Camp
Kidmin Creatives
Lake Placid Camp
Lexham Press
Pinerock Camp
Scripture Union
Shiloh Park Retreat Center
StorySticks
Yancy Ministries
Wesley Seminary



LAKE PLACID

Camp and Conference Center