

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

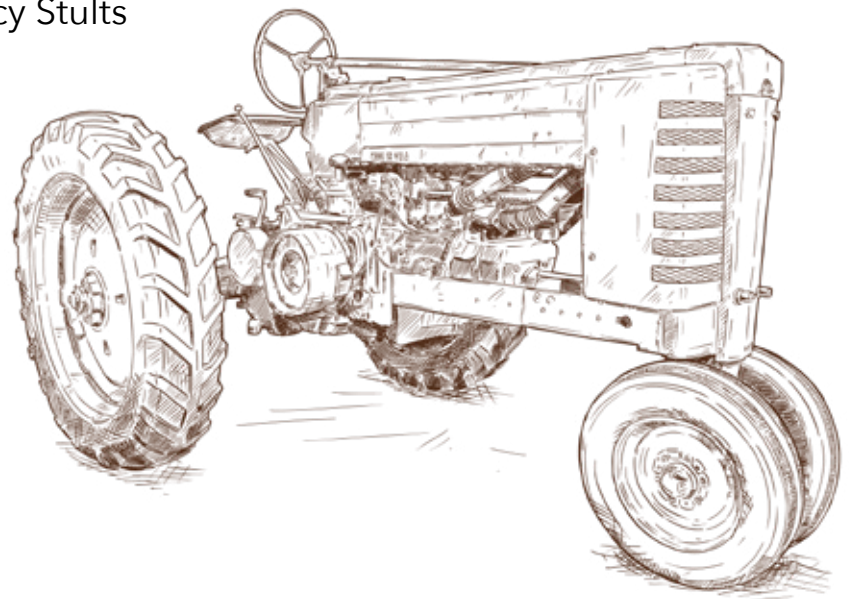
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 6:00** - Dinner (Lahey Hall)
- 7:00** - Down on the Farm Party (Lahey Hall)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Lahey Hall)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (Lahey Hall)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
How Do You Cast Vision? // Aaron Perry
- 12:00** - Lunch (Lahey Hall)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
Option 1: Discipline and Church // Tracy Stults
Option 2: Q&A // Cortney Coombs
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
Not Just Children's Ministry
// Michele Henry
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 6:00** - Dinner (Lahey Hall)
- 7:00** - Team Building (Lahey Hall)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Lahey Hall)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
Leading into the Future // Beth Bidle Rush
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
Option 1: Personal Pals
// Taryn Bendes and Staci Miller
Option 2: Catch and Release // Shane Guldi
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (Lahey Hall)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Lahey Hall)
- 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**

Tell THE Story Training

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ENGAGE**

HOW DO YOU CAST VISION?

Aaron Perry

Some leaders shy from casting vision because we only have one model in mind. This breakout focuses on different ways to think about casting vision.

DISCIPLINE AND CHURCH

Tracy Stults

Discipline and Church are not typically two things that are discussed much together. But I would like us to take some time to talk and dialogue about the two of these things and how they go together. I would like us to talk about today some strategies that we use at church, how it differs from a school classroom, how we can improve, and what we can learn from each other.

Q&A WITH PASTOR CORTNEY

Cortney Coombs

Are there questions you have about something happening in your church and you don't see a breakout session that will address it? Bring those questions, issues, and situations to this session and Pastor Cortney will lead a time of discussion for some solutions. You will walk away with some new ideas, resources, and tools to use in your local church.



THE JOURNEY FROM Saint TO Santa



Available
December 1 - 23, 2023

A journey of the historical Saint Nicholas as he transforms through centuries of legend and folklore into today's Santa Claus. An interactive event for all ages that shares about Saint Nicholas' dedication to God, generosity, and love for others, and that we can be inspired to do the same.

Equip to Engage can help...

Gingerbread BASH

Celebrating the birth
of baby Jesus

...you host a Gingerbread Bash





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

NOT JUST CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Michele Henry

Reaching a child for Christ is important, but when we set our aim at the core of the family, the impact is much deeper and longer lasting. Aiming for the spiritual transformation of the home is the most powerful way to minister to a child.



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.





GA Kids

An intentional ministry for kids and families...includes age-specific services for early childhood and elementary, an intergenerational service, and engaging opportunities for the entire family to connect with the Global Nazarene Family.

June 9-11, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN

Register your family at ga2023.nazarene.org

There are many volunteer opportunities available.
For more information, email trey@equiptoengage.org.



LET ALL THE CHILDREN COME

Taryn Bendes and Staci Miller

Let ALL the Children Come: A look into a new program whose goal is to support specific needs of children and youth. An estimated 80-85% of churches don't have any level of a special needs ministry. Anderson First fell into that statistic for quite some time until very recently. Listen as Staci Miller and Taryn Bendes, an elementary music teacher and special education teacher, both passionate about serving under-served children, and both church members of Anderson First, share their vision of their newly established program, Personal Pals - a support system for children and youth. Time will be set aside for question and answers as well.

CATCH AND RELEASE - BECOMING A RECRUITING AND DELEGATING NINJA

Shane Guldi

When you think of "Catch and Release," you might think of fishing. But in this session, it is going to be about catching volunteers and releasing them to do their jobs. It's the only way to grow your ministry and make your volunteers turn into volunCHEERS for your ministry. Come catch a new idea and release one of your own back into the wild.

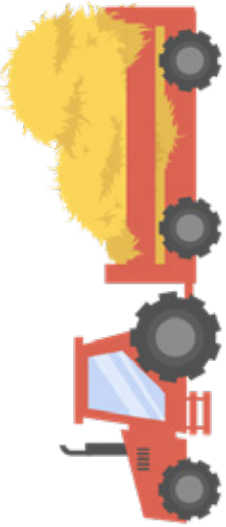


KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Abby Schnepf
Worship Leader

Anderson First Church of the Nazarene

In May of 2019, I said goodbye to my teaching career of 15 years, as the Lord so clearly prepared us for a shift in our lives. After leading worship during an interim time, the Lord turned that into a more permanent role. I have a heart for leading others into worship. It has been, and continues to be, a joy to lead worship in the church I grew up in and the one where I accepted Jesus. In Him, all things are possible...and I'm so thankful to be a part of this ministry team and church.



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



TARYN BENDES

Personal Pal

Special Services for
Children's/Youth Ministry



STACI MILLER

Personal Pal

Special Services for
Children's/Youth Ministry
staciMiller2@gmail.com



CORTNEY COOMBS

Children's Pastor

District Children's Director

Anderson First Nazarene
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AARON PERRY

Associate Professor

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MICHELE HENRY

Children's Ministry Pastor

District Children's Director

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Crossroads Wesleyan District
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BETH BIDLE RUSH

SPARK Director

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SHANE GULDI

Children's Pastor

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TRACY STULTS

Children's Pastor and Administration

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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

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