

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

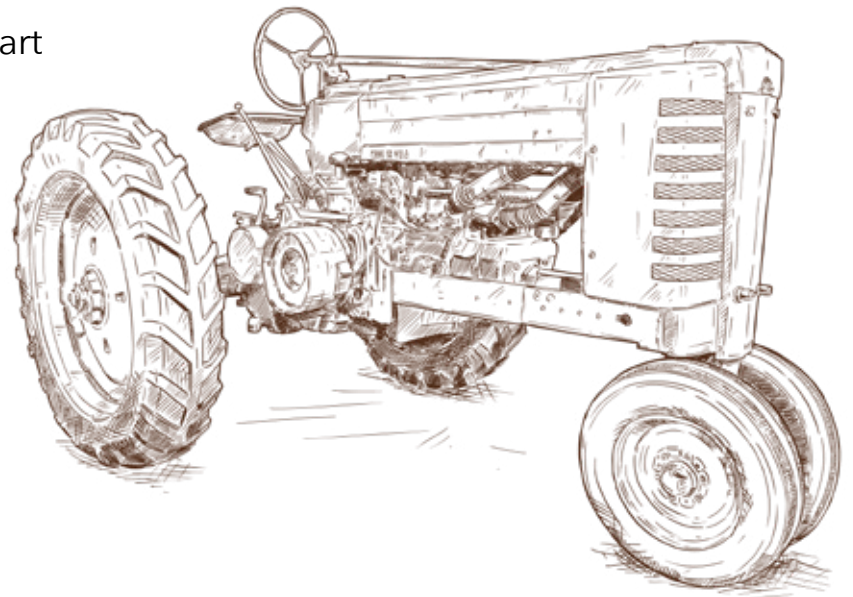
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Down on the Farm Party (Chapel)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (Chapel)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
Leading From a Place of Rest
// Marianne Howard
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
Option 1: Make Language Strategies Part of Your Special Needs Ministry
// Laura Deeken
- Option 2:** Leading into the Future
// Beth Bidle Rush
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
Option 1: Setting Scripture as a Guide
// Matt Gorman
- Option 2:** Events // Hannah Martin
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 4:00** - Group VBS Preview
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Team Building (Chapel)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
Finding and Keeping Great Volunteers
// Mary Sims
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
Option 1: Spiritual Prayer Stations
// Mary Brewer
- Option 2:** Virtual Small Groups
// Jen Sommers
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (Chapel)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Dining 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

Yancy Ministries
YancyMinistries.com

Save \$100
**ON UNLIMITED KIDS
MEDIA DOWNLOADS**
from **|twelve:thirty|KIDS**

Plus every purchase using
Promo Code **ETE** supports **EQUIP TO
ENGAGE**

The advertisement features a collage of colorful children's media covers. Visible titles include 'KIDS CAMP', 'PIZZA PARTY Come Grab a Slice!', 'WHO WILL WIN MONSTER TRUCK EDITION', 'SUMMER', 'BACK TO SCHOOL', 'PROMOTION SUNDAY', 'NINE CHURCH', and 'PALM SUNDAY'. The background is dark with various icons and text elements.

LEADING FROM A PLACE OF REST

Marianne Howard - Chapel

Spiritual fatigue and burnout are a real threat to you, your family, your ministry, and your church. Learn strategies for how to Biblically rest as you lead, and learn practical ways to protect you from ministry burnout.



MAKE LANGUAGE STRATEGIES PART OF YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Laura Deeken - Chapel

Learn how to teach The Gospel to all children. Children who have trouble understanding and expressing ideas need extra support. Learn how to identify which children need language supports and how to offer those supports with free and practical verbal strategies that volunteers can easily implement. Build children's understanding and expression of Bible concepts starting on Sunday morning!

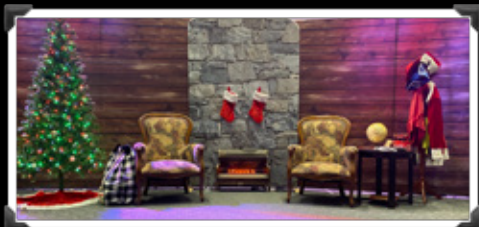
LEADING INTO THE FUTURE

Beth Bidle Rush - Jones Center

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.



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

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

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

East Central - Evan Offutt Boesiger
IN, MI, OH

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

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

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

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

SETTING SCRIPTURE AS A GUIDE

Matt Gorman - Chapel

The number one predictor of the spiritual health of a young adult is that they regularly read the Bible as a child. Yet, research reveals as children grow up, they are spending less and less time engaging with Scripture. With a host of other benefits, it's crucial to identify, understand, and develop new ways to help this generation hunger and thirst for the truth of God's Word - to grow in their faith and choose to love and follow Jesus for a lifetime. As a result of this interactive breakout, you will walk away equipped to consider and implement tangible steps to further deepen Scripture engagement in the lives of children.

EVENTS: THE PREP, THE MAIN COURSE, AND THE AFTERMATH...

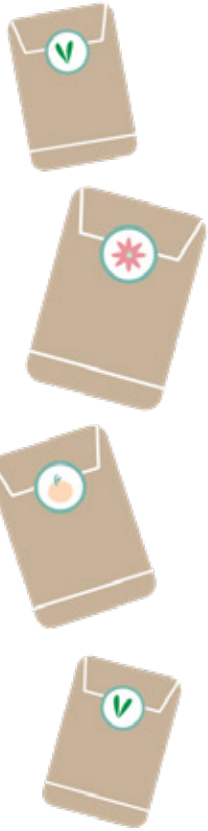
Hannah Martin - Jones Center

Come and join us as we talk about events from start to finish. The why, the how and the what next.

FINDING AND KEEPING GREAT VOLUNTEERS

Mary Sims - Chapel

Can't find enough volunteers? Give life to your ministry by finding the right volunteers for each service opportunity. This workshop will lead you through the LIFE (Look, Invite, Familiarize, Encourage) process of finding, matching, and keeping great volunteers. Discover how to invite someone to volunteer in just 90 seconds! You'll learn how to create a magnetic culture by staffing your ministry with the right people for the right positions.





JESUS IS LORD

GENERAL ASSEMBLY **KIDS**

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.**

VIRTUAL SMALL GROUPS

Jen Sommers - Chapel

How to connect across a large district or a busy ministry using social media and the resources it can provide. Come and see how we've creatively built community when meeting in person is not always an option.

SPIRITUAL PRAYER STATIONS

Mary Brewer - Jones Center

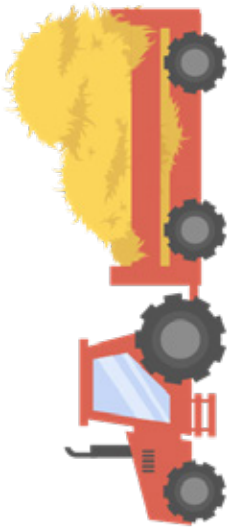
In this session, you will receive an outline for fun and spiritual prayer stations for all ages. Experience this a three day event all compacted into this one hour session.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Keven Wentworth
District Superintendent
North/East Texas District

After graduating from Olivet Nazarene University with a BA in business administration and accounting, Keven felt a call to ministry and accepted a ministerial and served Lombard, Illinois; Odessa, Texas; Jasper, Alabama; and Conway, Arkansas, as well as at Conroe, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; and Beavercreek, OH. He currently serves as District Superintendent of the North/East Texas District Church of the Nazarene. Wentworth also earned a Master of Ministry from Southern Nazarene University and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Mount Vernon Nazarene University.



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



**MARY
BREWER**



**HANNAH
MARTIN**



**LAURA
DEEKEN**



**BETH
BIDLE RUSH**



**MATT
GORMAN**



**MARY
SIMS**



**MARIANNE
HOWARD**



**JEN
SOMMERS**

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

DISTRICT PARTNERS

Arizona
Canada West
Eastern Michigan
Florida
Georgia
Indianapolis
Intermountain
Louisiana
Michigan
MidSouth
North Arkansas
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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