

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

SUNDAY

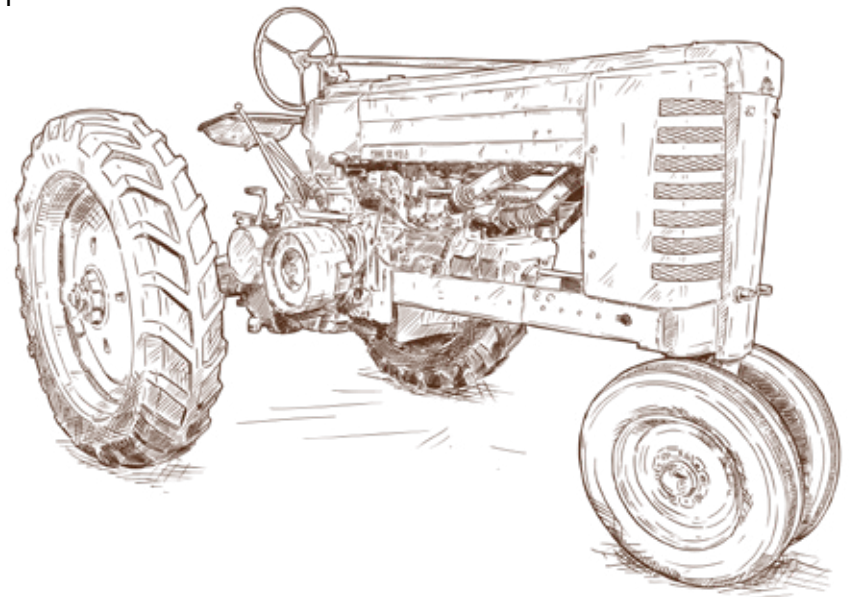
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 5:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 6:00** - Down on the Farm Party (Cullumber)
- 8:00** - Fellowship

MONDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (Cullumber)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
- Option 1:** Leading into the Future // Beth Bidle Rush
- Option 2:** Inclusion in the Church // Kayte Sanford
- Option 3:** Teaching Biblical Theology for Kids to Understand // Joey Norris
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
- Option 1:** Event Planning // Tina Wilson
- Option 2:** Supports for Children and Families // Kayte Sanford
- Option 3:** Classroom Management vs Discipline Plan // Carla Durby
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
- Option 1:** Finding Your Community // Amy Abrahamson
- Option 2:** When Difficult Kids Come to Church // Clint Augustyn
- Option 3:** Five-Minute Lesson Prep // Shauna Hanus
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 5:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Team Building (Cullumber)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

TUESDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
- Option 1:** Mapmaking 101 // Denise Burns
- Option 2:** Connecting Kids with NMI/Missions // Cheryl Gosnell
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
- Option 1:** Self Care // Tina Wilson
- Option 2:** Engaging Kids in Prayer // Cheryl Gosnell
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (Cullumber)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Cullumber)
- 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

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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', 'BACK TO SCHOOL', 'SUMMER', 'SEE YOU AT THE P...', 'PROMOTION SUNDAY', 'NINE CHURCH', and 'PALM SUNDAY'.

LEADING INTO THE FUTURE

Beth Bidle Rush - Cullumber

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.

INCLUSION IN THE CHURCH

Kayte Sanford - Vanderpool Conference Room

In this breakout, we look at the importance of inclusion within the church for those with special needs. Oftentimes, we lack training on how to support children with special needs and are left feeling at a loss for how to include these children in our ministry. During this session, we will be doing a basic overview of how to support and include children with special needs and their families within the church.

TEACHING BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR KIDS TO UNDERSTAND

Joey Norris - Tabernacle

Let's explore some ways to teach biblical theology for kids to understand in the local church. No matter your educational background, teachers are theologians who minister to our children. We'll explore practical tips for doing this for those using published curriculum and for those thinking about developing supplemental workshops for their kids.

EVENT PLANNING

Tina Wilson - Cullumber

What does it mean for your church to be involved in your community? Where do you start and how can you even pull this off? This session will offer event ideas with organizational planning where you can learn more about how to enter the common good for your neighborhood, city, and church family.

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Kayte Sanford - Vanderpool Conference Room

In this follow up to "Inclusion in the Church", we will dive deeper into how to support specific disabilities and needs that may arise. We will also have a time to brainstorm and help each other come up with creative solutions to include the children and families in our ministries.

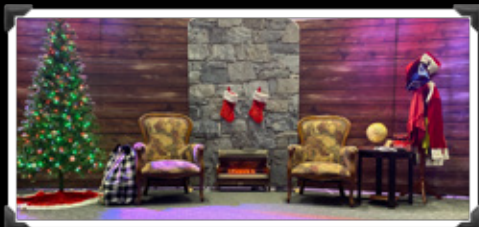
CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT VS DISCIPLINE

Carla Durby - Tabernacle

When you think of your Sunday School class or Children's Church group, do you react with anticipation or with dread? Are you seeking a workshop that sees the possibilities and potential of learning outcomes from an organizational perspective? Join us at SPARK! This session will be about looking how we manage our classes, how we prepare and what we can do to maintain their attention while we teach and reach.



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



FINDING YOUR COMMUNITY

Amy Abrahamson - Cullumber

Feeling lonely and burnt out? Let's talk about ways to fill our cups, find proper support, and live within our strengths.

WHEN DIFFICULT KIDS COME TO CHURCH: WHAT ALL LEADERS SHOULD KNOW

Clint Augustyn - Vanderpool Conference Room

Less than 3% of children ever experience the struggle of being placed into state care. Ultimately, this means that roughly 3% of the U.S. Population (including adults) has experienced foster care by way of removal from their family home. When he was an active foster parent, Pastor Clint often brought foster children who were emotionally unstable - even violent - to church. This session seeks to open the discussion about what happens when difficult kids come to church and what one foster parent wishes all leaders knew about these kids: especially when they are throwing the chair across the room.

FIVE-MINUTE LESSON PLANNING

Shauna Hanus - Tabernacle

The phone rings; it's one of your children's leaders; they won't be at church today. Now you're teaching and do not have time to prepare. In this session, learn and practice techniques for planning and presenting a lesson on the fly.

MAPMAKING 101

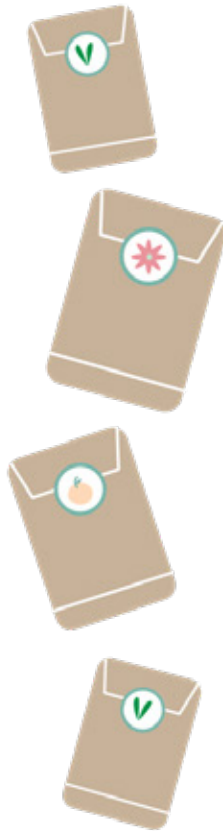
Denise Burns - Vanderpool Conference Room

Have you ever been stuck trying to teach a class on the fly or asked to lead a group on a scripture you cannot find a lesson for anywhere on the internet? Learn how to create a lesson plan for any age group (including adults!) from any scripture. In this session we will do just that!

CONNECTING KIDS WITH NMI/MISSIONS

Cheryl Gosnell - Tabernacle

Helpful tools and brainstorming together on how to engage your kids with NMI (Nazarene Missions International). We will be discussing Alabaster, NMI Resources and activities that can be done without leaving your church building. If you have material/resources to trade/give away please bring them.





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.



SELF-CARE

Tina Wilson - Vanderpool Conference Room

Self-care is an important component of our mental health, but there are misconceptions about what it is. It's common for those in ministry to dismiss the self-care movement as "selfish" or "superficial." But for children leaders' self-care is so much more than breakfast in bed (ok, is this really happening for you?!) or treating yourself to a spa day. Come prepared to be pampered and encouraged.

ENGAGING KIDS IN PRAYER

Cheryl Gosnell - Tabernacle

Prayer is a VITAL part of every Christian's spiritual life. We will be sharing some tools that can be used to teach kids to pray based on their learning style. We will also be experiencing prayer through prayer stations/activities that you will be able to replicate in your local church. This will be an interactive session, so come ready to participate.

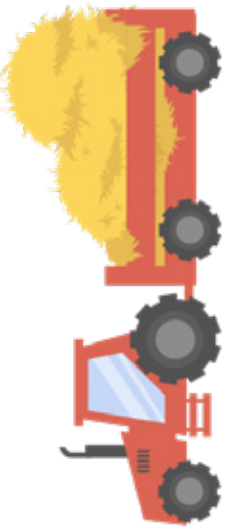


KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Clint Augustyn
Lead Pastor

Desert Grace Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Clint Augustyn has served as a Lead Pastor at Desert Grace Community Church of the Nazarene since 2013, where he was instrumental in the church founding Jessie's Closet Foster Child Resource Center. He has served in various paid and volunteer ministries including lead pastor, associate pastor, youth pastor, and as a committee leader for children and youth. He has been married to Carissa for more than 25 years. They have an adult son and six adopted children and fostered many more. He serves as the President of Arizona District Nazarene Discipleship International.



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



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DENISE BURNS
Retired Lead Pastor
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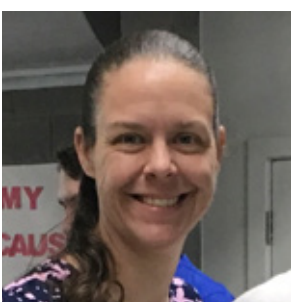
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Maryvale Nazarene



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Owner
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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

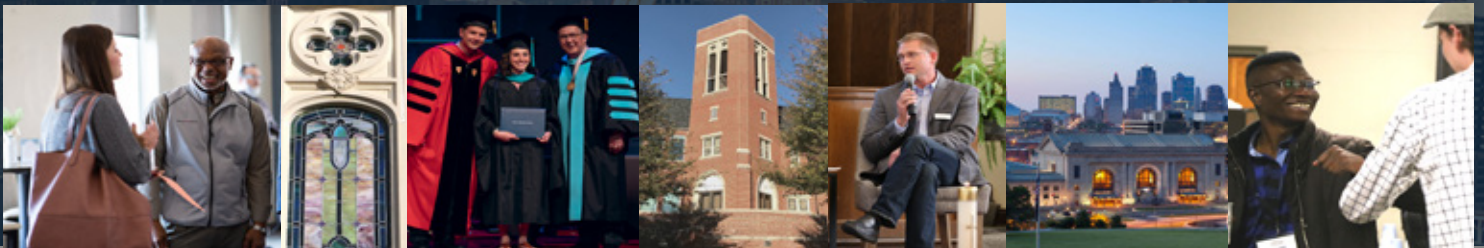
DISTRICT PARTNERS

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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
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