

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

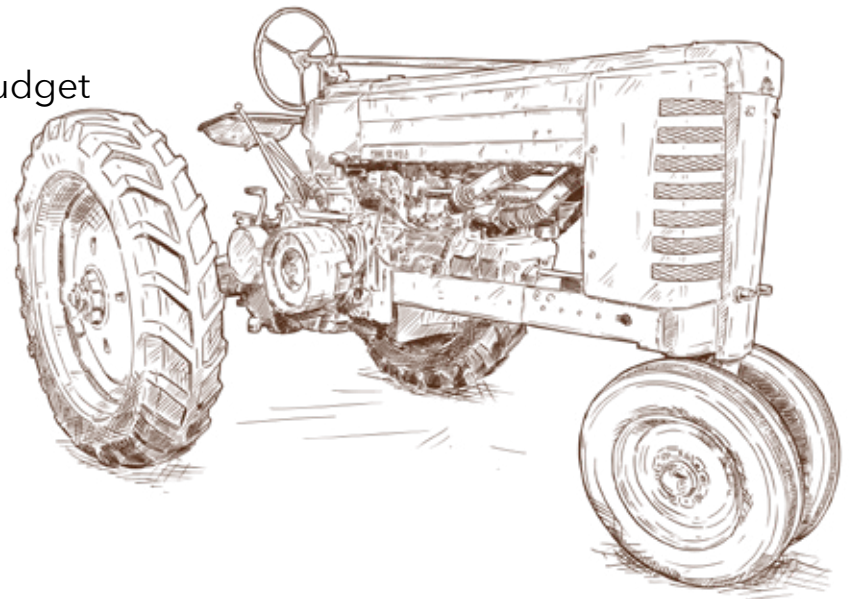
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Down on the Farm Party (PRCR)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (PRCR)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
- Option 1:** The Yard Sale Gospel
// Kaleb Harper
- Option 2:** Music & Drama // Jered Curl
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
- Option 1:** Creating Community on a Budget
// Erika Perry & Jean Thomas
- Option 2:** The Discipleship Journey
with our Kids // Connie Blastock
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
- Option 1:** PIVOT // Kym Slater
- Option 2:** Envisioning the Future
// Beth Bidle Rush
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 6:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** - Team Building (PRCR)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
- Option 1:** Good Pictures, Bad Pictures
// Erika Perry
- Option 2:** Classroom Management and Kids'
Ministry // Karen Hancock
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
- Let's Connect! // Heather Pillers
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (PRCR)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Dining Room)
- 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!', and 'WHO WILL WIN MONSTER TRUCK EDITION'. Other background text includes 'BACK TO SCHOOL', 'SUMMER', 'SEE YOU AT THE P...', 'PROMOTION SUNDAY', 'NINE CHURCH', and 'PALM SUNDAY'.

THE YARD SALE GOSPEL

Kaleb Harper - Meeting Room 1

Have you ever heard the good news of Jesus told through a Rubik's cube, chicken nuggets, or Finding Nemo? We will spend time listening and practicing how we can connect the most random items you could think of to better help us see, encounter and live out the love of Christ more personally.

MUSIC & DRAMA: HOW TO INCORPORATE TRUE WORSHIP INTO OUR PROGRAMS

Jered Curl - Meeting Room 2

This session is designed to discuss how true worship can better be incorporated into our programs. This is often done through music. As we know, music does not equate to worship, but one of many tools we use to worship. We'll talk about how we can use music perhaps a little better than what we are currently, and how to include new programs such as drama to help teach kids that literally anything they do can be an act of worship. We'll explore how drama could be used, either with adults, or the kids themselves while making sure that the kids feel like a part of the program in some way to help them own the worship experience.

CREATING COMMUNITY ON A BUDGET

Erika Perry & Jean Thomas - Meeting Room 1

Families need each other - friendship, encouragement, prayer partners, etc. In the midst of busy schedules, it is hard to get people to connect. At this workshop, we will talk about how to create and build community for families and kids within your children's ministry on "small" to "non-existing" budget.

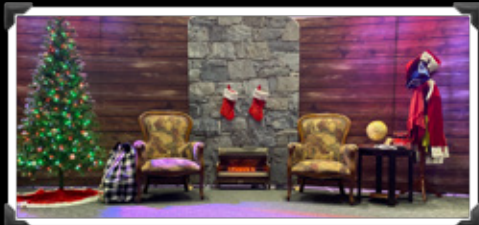
THE DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY WITH OUR KIDS

Connie Blastock - Meeting Room 2

Leading our kids toward Jesus- what does it look like? How is going? Let's dialog about the next steps we can take to lead our kids closer to Jesus- at home and in our ministry areas.



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

PIVOT

Kym Slater - Meeting Room 1

Does your budget you've been given keep you from dreaming and vision casting? Do you find yourself trying to figure out how to make it possible to get your kids to camp or on a mission trip? Fundraising doesn't have to be a chore. Come and learn simple and crazy fun ways to raise \$ to make your dreams a reality!

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Beth Bidle Rush - Meeting Room 2

Before we know it the children in our churches will be the leaders tomorrow. What can the Body of Christ do to help the children and their families establish a firm foundation in Christ to weather a changing culture? Together we will explore how to make an investment in the future we may never see but have a lasting impact for generations to come.

GOOD PICTURES, BAD PICTURES

Erika Perry - Meeting Room 1

In a very digitized world, access to pornography is not difficult and kids are being exposed to it at tender young ages. Let's talk about pornography and the digital issues our kids face today. We will look at resources to protect their eyes, minds and hearts as well as how to equip families to have age appropriate conversations about pornography.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND KIDS' MINISTRY

Karen Hancock - Meeting Room 2

Creating a safe learning environment that resembles God's love for our kids. The heart of our ministry is to teach kids about God's love for them. We have the fun crafts, the exciting games, the engaging curriculum--but what about the classroom management? Classroom management and the learning environment we create for our kids impacts their understanding of God's love. Together, we'll learn tools, resources, and practices from the education world that will help us create a learning environment for our kids that exemplifies God's love for 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.



LET'S CONNECT

Heather Pillers - Meeting Room 1

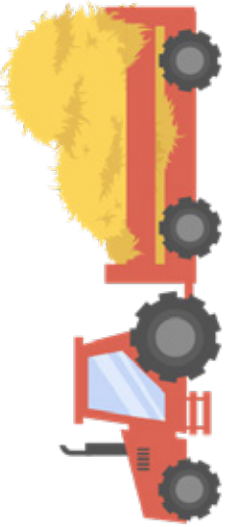
One of our favorite things to do across the district is to connect with other ministry leaders- encouraging and learning from one another. We want to wrap up our time sharing, listening, and making one last connection together.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Pastor Scott Shaw
District Superintendent
Intermountain District

Pastor Scott oversees the ministry of the Intermountain District by encouraging and resourcing pastors and churches so that the good news of Jesus may be planted in the lives of people and communities, take root through discipleship, and thrive as we live out God's vision and mission. Pastor Scott has a deep desire that people everywhere will know Jesus and experience the goodness of God through life in Him, giving hope as we look at our past, present, and future.



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



CONNIE BLASTOCK
Children's Pastor
Ontario First Nazarene
cblastock@ontariofirst.org



HEATHER PILLERS
Children's Pastor
Nampa College Church
hpillers@nampacollegechurch.com



JERED CURL
District Quiz Co-Director
Intermountain District
kidsquizzing@gmail.com



BETH BIDLE RUSH
SPARK Director
Equip to Engage
beth@equiptoengage.org



KAREN HANCOCK
Early Childhood Director
Nampa College Church
khancock@nampaccn.com



KYM SLATER
Family Ministry Pastor
Bethel Nazarene
pastorkym@bethelnazarene.org



KALEB HARPER
Children's Pastor
Bethel Nazarene
pastorkaleb@bethelnazarene.org



JEAN THOMAS
Early Childhood Pastor
Nampa First Nazarene
jthomas@nampafirst.org



ERIKA PERRY
Children's Pastor
Nampa First Nazarene
eperry@nampafirst.org

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

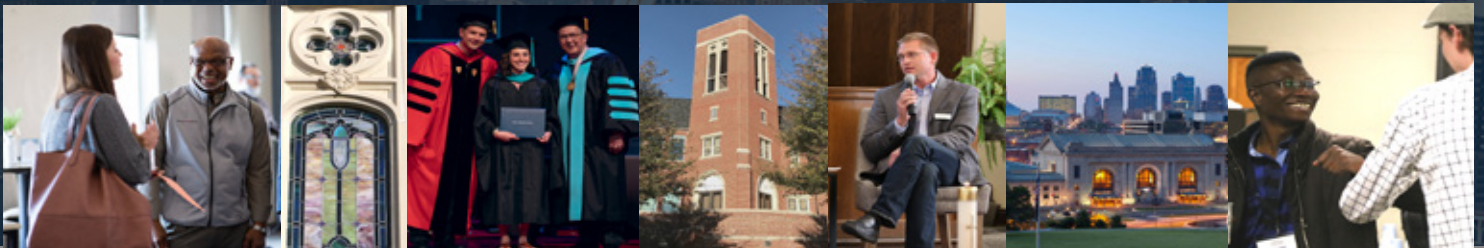
DISTRICT PARTNERS

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

NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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DESIGNED TO DEEPEN FAITH AND
EQUIP LEADERS FOR MINISTRY

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