

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

FRIDAY

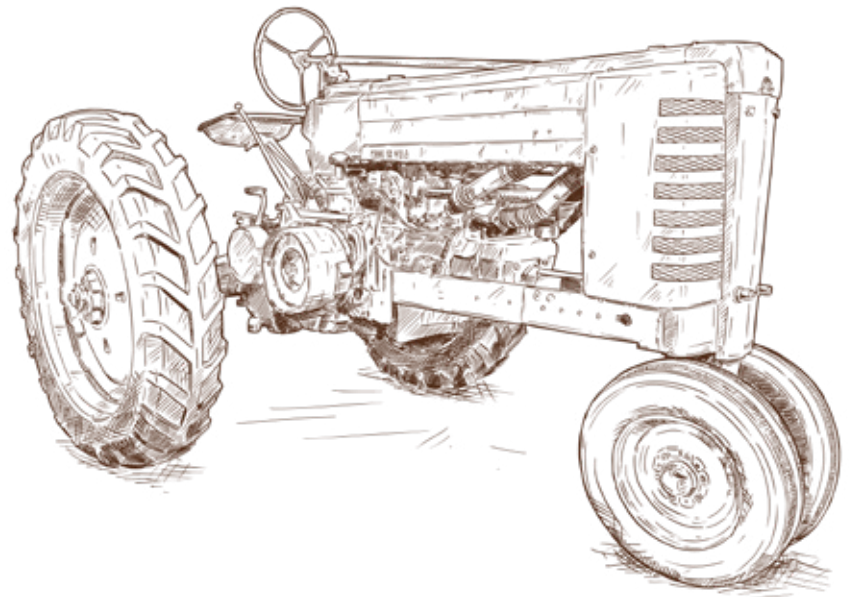
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 5:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 6:00** - Down on the Farm Party
- 8:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
Incorporating Children into Worship
// Toni James
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
How Trauma Affects the Kids We Love
// Kayla Smith
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
Option 1: In Your Backyard
// Rebecca Gentzler
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 5:00** - Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 6:00** - Team Building
- 8:00** - Fellowship

SUNDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
One Day Ministry
// Beth Bidle Rush
- 10:00** - Breakout Session 5
Tell THE Story
// Tonya Hockenberry
- 11:00** - Worship Session 2
- 12:00** - Lunch (Dining Room)
- 1:00** - 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**

INCORPORATING CHILDREN INTO THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Toni James

It can be a shock for children when they leave children's church and have to start attending the service in the sanctuary. In this session, you will hear ways to incorporate children and families into the sanctuary service on a regular basis which can help make the transition easier and make the service more family-oriented as well

HOW TRAUMA AFFECTS THE KIDS WE LOVE AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Kayla Smith

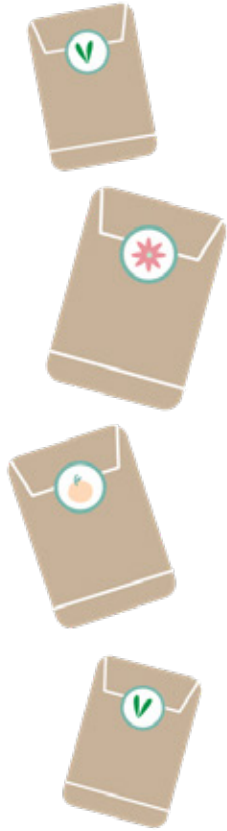
From abuse, neglect, and divorce to lockdowns, social isolation, and civil unrest, childhood trauma is on the rise. In this session, you will learn how trauma touches the children in your ministry and what many churches get wrong when it comes to teaching and disciplining hurting kids. Make sense of the most frustrating, confusing, and heartbreaking child behaviors, and discover practical, research-based strategies to help children who have experienced trauma heal and succeed at church.



IN YOUR BACKYARD

Rebecca Gentzler

In this session, you will find exciting ways to impact your neighborhood children for Christ.



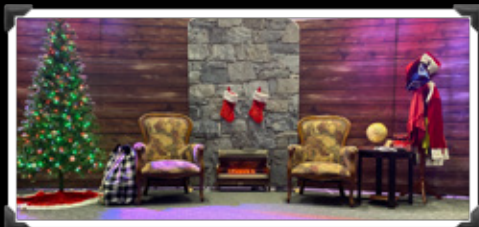
ONE DAY MINISTRY: MAKING A LASTING IMPACT ON A CHILD'S LIFE

Beth Bidle Rush

Investing in the future begins today. How do we as the Body of Christ form lasting foundations of faith in the life of a child? What could the church do to best use the time we have? Together, we will examine and discuss options to lay a framework for shaping 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



BREAKOUT SESSION 5

TELL THE STORY

Tonya Hockenberry

People of all ages love stories. That's one reason Jesus told stories! Come and experience a simple yet amazing relational, discipleship tool to share God's Word called Tell THE Story. You will engage in it first hand and receive practical tools and tips that can be used to implement this model with children, teens and adults.

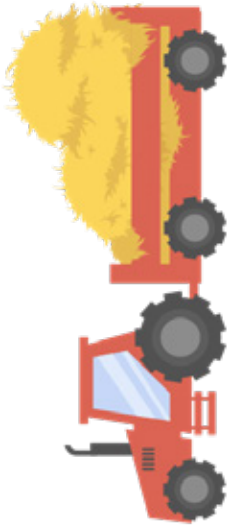


KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Rev. Mark Smith

Pastor
Norwin Church of the Nazarene



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 patterns and colors.

BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



**REBECCA
GENTZLER**

Women's Ministry
rebgentz@aol.com



BETH BIDLE RUSH
SPARK Director

Equip to Engage
beth@equiptoengage.org



**TONYA
HOCKENBERRY**

Pastor
Hawthorn Nazarene
Children's Director
Pittsburg District
tlhteach123@gmail.com



KAYLA SMITH
Team Member

Reach Hurting Kids
pastorkaylasmith@gmail.com



TONI JAMES
Transitional Interim Pastor

NXT Step Church Services
pctljames@aol.com

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
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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



MASTERS AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS
DESIGNED TO DEEPEN FAITH AND
EQUIP LEADERS FOR MINISTRY

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NTS.EDU



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VIDEO CONFERENCE



ONLINE



HYBRID

