

Fall 2022



The BLAZE Bulletin

Youth Ministry (Grades 6–12)

Happenings: SQUAD GAME



Have you heard of Nike Blazers?? Well here at THE BLAZE we are crazy about Nike BLAZERS.

And since we're in a season of connecting deeply at the church, we're actively pursuing connecting deeply as a church family. What better way to do that than through games and prizes? Jesus loves to reward His children and so do we!

The Blaze would like to introduce to you:

SQUAD GAME

We will be engaging in a series of games from now until our last Blaze Service in December.

Each student will play in various games on a different squad each week to earn points for themselves. You earn points by winning the games, by attending on Wednesdays, and by inviting friends to service! You also earn points for pursuing connection! (For example, making

a handshake with someone, following a fellow student on Instagram, or going out of your way to invite new friends and encourage the friends you have.)

The Student who has the highest number of points at the end of the year will be rewarded with a custom pair of **Blaze Saint Nike Blazer Sneakers!!** You DON'T want to miss out on this super fun experience!! So come to the Blaze, invite your friends, and make new ones!



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Leader Focus

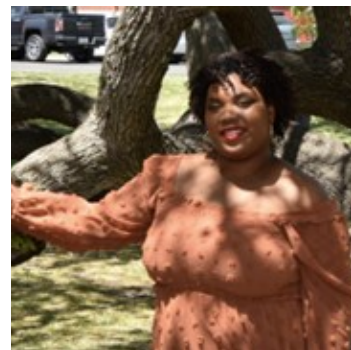
Elizabeth Childs took time to prepare Chips and Queso for the kiddos this week.

She also made a spreadsheet to keep track of all regular students to create a strong system of community and discipleship.

Plugging in students with lead-

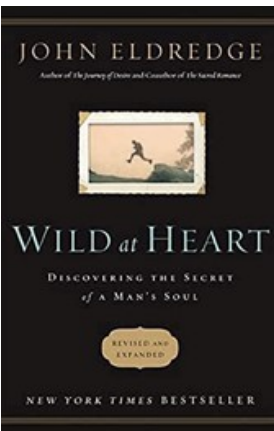
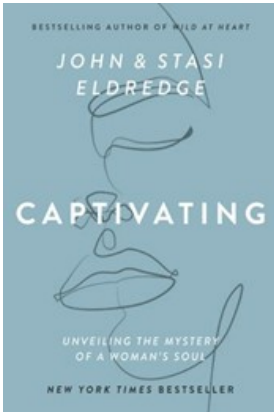
ers. Elizabeth Has a heart for Discipleship. She has the Heart of the Father.

She is a firestarter and a fire sustainer, which is why we are proud to have her join our CORE leadership team. She values the mission of the Blaze which is to help the students look like Jesus!





Have You Read



Have You Heard

“Soul on Fire”

Third Day

“Gospel Song”

Rhett Walker

Letter of Encouragement

I want to encourage us as a church family to choose to connect deeply! Pastor Trey spoke recently about the season we're moving into as a church, a season of *connecting deeply*.

Connecting deeply with God, ourselves, each other, and our city! I want to encourage you whether you're a student or a parent and you haven't fully plugged into the Blaze Community. Now is the time!

To any students who feel hesitant about getting plugged in to community, we're here for you! Maybe you've never been to the Blaze before and are nervous about feeling left out. Maybe you're a student who's come to the Blaze before but you didn't feel super

comfortable yet. I want to encourage you. **Community is cultivated through hard work and consistency.**

If you feel awkward or scared about coming . . . come anyway!

Jesus honors faithfulness. When I first started attending a young adults group in Austin, I didn't know anyone and felt really anxious and frustrated at first. But I knew Jesus wanted me to have community. I knew that His Word says

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desires; he rages against all wise judgment.
Proverbs 18:1 (NKJV)

I decided I wanted to pursue community no matter the cost!

So I kept showing up, and each time I resolved that I would be the kind of friend I was looking for to the people around me! Then I found out that other young adults felt just as awkward as I did and they were so thankful that I pursued relationship with them. I now can testify that I have a core group of trusted saints that I call my friends.

Jesus blessed my faithfulness with a rich community. But it wasn't handed to me—it was cultivated by me partnering with the Kingdom Mission of connection.

Connect deeply, pursue community, do it afraid!

JUST DO IT

Student Focus

One of my favorite moments from a recent service was seeing one of our students, Gabe, begin to really come out of his shell.

Toward the end of the night, we were eating pizza after a spirit-filled night of connecting with our small groups. I heard a “shriek” from one of our leaders and looked toward the sound. One of our leaders must've made some kind of **hilarious** noise because the only thing that I saw after that was Gabe hunched over in

laughter. One of those laughs-so-hard-that-your-voice-just-“disappears” kind of laughs.

I watched in gratitude as I witnessed the joy of the Lord encounter a once intensely shy student. He even had to lean on the wall for the next few minutes because of how hard he was laughing.

That is the power of community. Parents, if you're on the fence about bringing your student to The Blaze, let me tell you that we were created

for relationship. So no matter how quiet or “awkward” a student seems, everyone should be given the opportunity for community.

I urge you to get your kids plugged in! It's what being the Church means.



Prayer Focus

Our generation needs The Gospel more than ever. In an era of mass consumerist new age spirituality, The Gospel has been watered down. Together as a Church Family, we need to wage war in prayer for our students to remember the true Gospel.

That Jesus is God, who came down in Human form, to pay the price for our sins with His life, He was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the scriptures.

We need to pray for our students' hearts to be softened by His spirit to receive the Fire of the Gospel. When we live and breathe the life in His Gospel, we will live from loving Him and our fire will never be quenched.

Parent's Corner

With new students being promoted to The Blaze from eKidz we went back to our roots by diving into a series called "Catching Fire"—exploring our original mission statement for why we're called "The Blaze" by getting into what Scripture says about Fire, specifically:

Song of Solomon 8:6 (NIV)

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.

The #1 way we can "Keep the Fire Roaring" is by constant

communion with Jesus. When we remember the price He paid to pursue each of us, we can't help but fall in love with Him.

I want to encourage parents to do communion regularly as a family. Remembering His body and His blood.

Songs for Communion to sing as a family:

"All Hail King Jesus"
(Bethel Music)

"Son of Suffering"
(Bethel Music)

"Because of Christ"
(The Belonging Co.)

Scripture for Communion:

John 19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

As you practice communion together, remember Jesus's death as the ultimate display of passionate love for us and together thank Him for His sacrifice and praise His resurrection. Doing this regularly floods your family with His presence, bringing unity, wholeness, and hope.

I pray that this practice keeps your lamps burning that way it has kept mine. His presence is so worth it.

Giving & Volunteer Opportunities

Another way that we keep our fire roaring is through spreading His fire. Serving and Giving to the House transforms the heart to beat for His Kingdom.

Maybe you're interested in volunteering at The Blaze, or would like more information about other volunteering opportunities in Church to serve

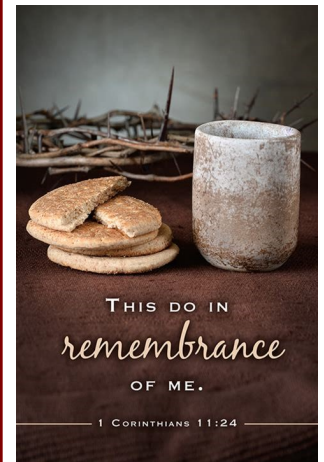
together with your families. As we pour out, He is sure to pour into us. Choosing to give of yourself sacrificially breaks open the Fire of Heaven within you. It's how we become more like Him.

We would love to have you be a part of our mission!

Feel free to email me with any inquiries at

pedro@theexchangechurch.org.

KEEP THE
FIRE
ROARING!



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9:7



Closing Prayer

I pray that we join with our Church in a season of *Connecting Deeply*. We've been taking this season to connect as a Church Family in our Connect groups.

So I pray that all of us will receive the grace from Holy

Spirit to pursue community for ourselves and for our families.

To join into the courage offered by Holy Spirit to take a step of vulnerability and choose to be seen. I pray for vision of the incredible fruit that comes with community.

And the discipline to persist and cultivate intentional relationships.

Jesus, we thank You for community, we thank You for who You are. We love you, Father. In Your name we pray, amen!

COLOR WAR 2022





The Blaze Merchandise



<https://www.bonfire.com/store/awakengreater/>



The Exchange Church

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Connect

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[FACEBOOK](#)

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Who We Are

We exist to see young people transformed by the Presence of God, empowered as a carrier of revival, and infused in a healthy community of believers. All of this is a byproduct of our only goal: To become more like Jesus.

Weekly Services

We meet every Wednesday from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at The Exchange Church in the back the building!



YOUTH LEADERS

Core Team

Addison Rose
Elizabeth "Lizzy" Childs
Pedro Castañeda

Blaze Leaders

Amanda Rigdon / Caleb Breaux / Chase Everts /
David Dinan / Jordan Rose / Mariely Salinas /
Matthew Breaux / Ramona Anderson

Contact: pedro@theexchangechurch.org