

**Don't Forget!!!**

- Register for the Retreat by Sunday, January 13th at midnight
- Join a WOC Bible Study
- Sign up to help with the Hispanic Women's Conference on our webpage
- Missionary Coffee is coming up and we need your help and donations



ENCOUNTERING JESUS  
 FEBRUARY 1 - 3

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Missionary Coffee</i>	2
<i>Hispanic Women's Conference</i>	2
<i>WOC Bible Studies</i>	3
<i>Ladies Connection</i>	3
<i>WOC Book Club</i>	3
<i>WOC Initiatives</i>	4
<i>Save the Date</i>	4

This retreat weekend we will look at Jesus' interactions with women from the Gospel of John. We will see Him enter into and meet us in our desperation, shame, grief and pain, and our worship. Each talk looks at how we misjudge the character of our Heavenly Father, especially in moments of darkness. We will look at how Jesus lovingly enters into these situations and reveals the heart of His Father to each woman and to us. We will see that the only reasonable response to such a Savior is a life completely oriented around him.

This year's retreat will be in Huntsville, AL a short 90-minute drive from Birmingham. Our accommodations will be provided by Element Huntsville. The Element Huntsville is part of the Westin Huntsville located at 6810 Governors West NW in Huntsville.

Our speaker is Abby Hutto. Abby Hutto is the Director of Spiritual Formation at Story Presbyterian Church in Westerville, Ohio. She also works for Parakaleo, a ministry that comes alongside women in ministry, as a group leader and trainer.

Music will be led by our own Briarwood musicians. Baylee Wichlan serves Briarwood as an intern in the Music Department and Elizabeth Jordan is a member of Briarwood's Praise Team.

For more information about the cost, schedule and to register, visit:

[Briarwood.org/wocretreat](http://Briarwood.org/wocretreat)

**Registration deadline  
 extended to  
 Sunday  
 JANUARY 13th**

## Missionary Coffee - February 26th

Mark your calendar for the annual Women's Missionary Coffee held during the Global Ministry Conference.

This year the **Missionary Coffee will be Tuesday, February 26th at 9:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will welcome 18 missionary women from around the globe. Come enjoy light refreshments, prayer, music, and a word from our visiting missionary women.

As part of our time together, we will shower our visiting missionaries with a "favorite things" gift bag. We are collecting "favorite" items such as cute dish towels, books, lotions, stationary, pens, bookmarks, frames, small kitchen items, lip balms, candles, small umbrellas, bookstore gift certificates or other "favorites" they would enjoy.



Please help us fill their bags. Bring items to the Women's Ministry office (A106) by Tuesday, February 19th.

We appreciate any donation of money or items that you can make, and we know that our missionary women will appreciate them also! (Please no used or old items.)

**We want to make sure we have enough tables and food. So, if you plan to attend, please register online at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).**

If you need nursery, please make reservations at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

## Hispanic Congregation Women's Conference

Saturday, February 16th from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm the Hispanic Congregation of Briarwood will be hosting a Women's Conference for women whose first language is Spanish. During this conference the three topics to be covered will include covenant, church, and Biblical womanhood and will be taught from a Reformed Presbyterian viewpoint. The conference will be both evangelistic and discipling in nature. The desire is to provide further teaching and resources in Spanish to our fellow believers. Please be praying for this upcoming conference and the women who will be in attendance.

So, how can we in the Women's Ministry be a source of encourage-

ment and service to our sisters in attendance at this conference?

The Women's Ministry of Briarwood has offered to provide support for this event including providing logistical support and the lunch and snacks for the conference. We need your help to make this happen!

To sign up to help at this event, please go to the women's webpage at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women) and then look under the Community Heading and you will see a link to the Hispanic Congregation Women's Conference. We have set up a Sign-Up Genius link for you to register for how you can help.



We need your help! Please sign up and let's be a source of encouragement and service to our fellow believers in the Hispanic Congregation!

## WOC Bible Studies

There are 9 different opportunities for you to engage in the study of the Word through our women's ministry this Spring.

Most studies will begin the week of January 6-12. However, please note if you are in the Precept study, your class will begin on February 7th.

Study materials for all studies, except Precept and First Principles, are available in the Briarwood Bookstore for purchase.

To learn more about what is being offered, please go to:  
**Briarwood.org/women**



## Ladies Connection - New Members

The Women's Ministry is hosting a dessert for women who joined the church in 2018 or 2019. The dessert will be on Monday, April 1st in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

We are calling this event: **Ladies Connection**. Our desire is that during this time we can help connect new members with other new members, with long-term members of Briarwood, and connect new members to opportunities through the Women's Ministry.

2018 & 2019 New members should receive a postcard about the **Ladies Connection** in the mail in March. It will have information about registering for the dessert.

If you do not receive a postcard invitation or if you have questions about the event, please contact the Women's Ministry Office.



## WOC Book Club - March 11th

**WOC Book Club**  
**Monday, March 11th**  
**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Caroline House**

*Give Me This Mountain* is the autobiography of Dr. Helen Roseveare, graduate in medicine from University of Cambridge in the late 1940's. A well-known missionary doctor and author, she worked in the north-eastern province of the Belgian Congo with the Heart of Africa Mission in the 1950's & 60's. She established a substantial pioneer medi-



cal service and assisted the churches before Congo's independence in 1960, and continued there for some years after, at a time when many had to flee for their lives.

Helen tells her story, from playing cricket for the ladies' university side (a liberated woman even then) to her return to Britain after five months as a hostage in rebel terrorist hands. Her candid account is an antidote to any delusion that missionaries are saints who float

about an inch off the ground and see a blinding light from heaven when they receive "the call." She almost failed in missionary school. Her own admitted stubbornness, pride, know-it-all attitude, and inability to work with others made her a liability. The final decision to send her overseas came when an incident with a broken washing line proved that she at least had a sense of humour in the face of adversity!

Physical dangers and her personal ambition in the Congo often almost sank her, but her faith and hard work brought her through. Her story is one of bright mountains, conquered after experiencing the dark valleys and learning to give the glory to God.

## WOC Initiatives: 2019

For 2019 WOC will continue to provide various opportunities for your personal growth in the Lord. Below are a few initiatives that we have in place. Please see the women's webpage for more information:

[briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women)

### Prayer Walking



Ladies find 1–2 other women in the same neighborhood (or nearby) who will commit to prayer walk a set of streets once a week for 6 months. This will be an op-

portunity to consistently pray for neighbors and specifically for the hearts of unbelievers in the community to be converted.

Please pray for three things:

- Pray for neighbors who are believers that they would grow in their walk; pray for their families and marriages; and that they would be a light in the neighborhood for Christ
- Pray for non-believers to come to know the Lord in a saving relationship
- Pray for opportunities for you to get to know your non-believing neighbors and for opportunities for gospel conversations

The hope is that the women participating will grow to care deeply

about their neighbors as they pray for them each week, and that the Lord might open opportunities for our women to form relationships with their neighbors where the gospel will be shared.

## MV2019

We would like to encourage our Briarwood women to join us in memorizing scripture this year – whatever your memorizing skill may be! Some participants may have been memorizing scripture for years and for others this is a new and daunting adventure. In both cases, we would all agree that it is so valuable and beneficial. The hope is at the end of 2019, each woman participating will have memorized 25 key sets of verses

## Save the Date: Mark your Calendars!



**Thursday, April 11**  
**“An Evening with Friends”**  
**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Watch the women's ministry website for more information in February.



**Wednesday, May 1st**  
**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Chapel**

Ladies join us for a night of worship through music, scripture and prayer.



**Coming in May!!!!**

Once again we will sponsor summer fellowship groups around the Birmingham area. This will be an opportunity to get to know fellow Briarwood women in your area. Start planning to join a group. Also—I will need a point person for the various locations—so if you would like to be a point person for your area, please let me know.