

## September 2019 Newsletter

### COMMUNITY AT BRIARWOOD



"The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the pine, the fir, and the cypress together to adorn the place of my sanctuary." Isaiah 60:13 (NIV)

Have you ever admired a skill, talent or ability from afar, but been scared to actually attempt the task for yourself? Perhaps it was trying

out for a sport, playing a musical instrument, or singing in front of others. Fourteen years ago, I found myself sitting in a church pew admiring the beautiful flower arrangements that adorned our altar each week. I heard rumors that our Flower Guild ladies had actually attended floral training workshops at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Looking at the stunning arrangements week after week, it wasn't hard to surmise that the rumors were actually true and that each woman was a professional designer. I could also only imagine what the arrangements must cost our church budget each week. I could NEVER imagine ever being able to put one of those gorgeous creations together for myself.

I grew up as a middle class steel worker's daughter. Between labor union strikes and periodic plant layoffs, Daddy worked hard and was paid well. During the strikes or layoffs, however, money was tight. My parents lived through the Great Depression and had experienced first hand what bondage debt could bring. My Daddy's folks lost their farm during the Depression. Mama and Daddy were determined we weren't going to live beyond our means. That meant that there wasn't extra money for nonessentials like flowers. Mama planted roses and greenery, but that was the extent of my exposure to gardening or flower arranging.

One Sunday I saw an announcement in our church bulletin that caught my attention. The church Flower Guild was accepting new members. Surprisingly, no experience was necessary and periodic floral workshops would be provided for teaching beginners new skills and techniques. Hesitantly, I attended an informational meeting and decided to give it a try. My fear and insecurity almost got the best of me, but my desire to try and learn the "how to" of basic floral design eventually overcame my lingering doubts. I was assigned a team leader and placed on a team with 3-4 other women, none of whom I knew.

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 4—Fall Studies Begin
- Oct. 1— Sav-A-Life Baby Shower

## ...CONTINUED

At first I was a nervous wreck over cutting flowers, especially the more expensive ones like roses and lilies. My team leader finally told me, "It's like swimming. Eventually you have to get in the pool if you're ever going to learn to swim. CUT and STICK!" And with that, I cut my first rose.

Through the years, I've learned a little bit more about floral design and arranging, but those aren't my most important takeaways from my time with our Flower Guild. Stewardship and building community are my two most important lessons that I've gleaned from my time with the other forty plus women in our Guild. Those "expensive" floral arrangements that I was SURE cost our church a lot of money are more often than not, cuttings from someone's personal garden or leftover/recycled flowers from funeral or wedding arrangements. One of my most memorable recyclable flower stories was from my own daughter's wedding. Some of the hydrangeas used for Meredith's November wedding were amazingly still being used in sanctuary arrangements in February. Flowers used for one event are usually given a fresh cut and placed in our flower coolers to be used for another occasion such as bud vases for our shut-in ministry.

I'm not the only one who has learned valuable lessons beyond flower arranging. I asked a few Guild members to share some of their favorite lessons from their time with the Flower Guild:

*"When "flower buds" are working elbow to elbow with their team, it is impossible not to build stronger personal relationships with one another. We talk as we work, and we talk a lot. This fellowship builds community with women of the church we might otherwise not know." Kathy Lawrence*

*"I love the beauty of fresh flowers and see them as an aspect of worship, much like music in a worship service....We have been taught a lot about different flowers, types of arrangements, color placement in arrangements, types of greenery, containers, height and scale, and so much more. It is interesting and fun, and is also a very creative process, which is satisfying. And I have met a lot of friendly, interesting, creative and Godly women through the guild, and enjoyed working together to make something beautiful." Chris Taylor*

*"The flower guild provides one of the best "small group" opportunities at Briarwood. Our time together in arranging flowers is one of the best illustrations of the many "one another" scriptures. We put on our aprons not only to serve the church, but one another." Margaret Mugg*

*"My favorite aspect of working with flowers is when I have the honor of arranging a memorial for a member. More often than not, the person had a significant spiritual impact on my life. I like to celebrate the sweet memory of the deceased through the beauty of flowers." Jamie Crockett*

Stewardship, community, fellowship, service, and building life skills are all important lessons that I might have missed had I succumbed to my initial fears, insecurities, and doubts. What about you? Is there some aspect of Body Life at Briarwood that you would like to learn but are afraid to try? Maybe it's taking a seminary or counseling class, singing in the choir, or volunteering to lead a small group or Bible study. Briarwood is so blessed to have many mentors and models- folks willing to help you learn, serve, and develop the gifts, talents, and abilities that God has given you. The Apostle Paul was right when he wrote, "From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, *as each part does its work.*" (Ephesians 4:16 *emphasis mine*)

Our God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and discipline.  
**Get involved in Body Life at Briarwood. There's a lot to learn and love!**

Amen and Amen!

Donna



# Women's Fall Studies

## \* TUESDAYS

9:30 AM

*FROM GARDEN TO GLORY*  
BY COURTNEY DOCTOR

- LED BY : KAREN DUFFEY & MARY ANNE TURNBULL
- LOCATION : G-101
- STARTING : SEPT. 10

6:15 PM

*FROM GARDEN TO GLORY*  
BY COURTNEY DOCTOR

- LED BY : LIZ ENTREKIN
- LOCATION : G-101A
- STARTING : SEPT. 10

9:30 AM

*PILGRIM'S PROGRESS*  
BY JOHN BUNYAN

- LED BY : CINDY REEDER
- LOCATION : FH-A
- STARTING : SEPT. 10

10:30 AM

*CAROLINE CIRCLE*

- LED BY : JAN CLARK & NANCY MANSFIELD
- LOCATION : CAROLINE HOUSE
- STARTING : SEPT. 10
- SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

## \* FRIDAYS

9:30 AM

*HEBREWS: DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE GOODNESS OF JESUS*

- LED BY : KRISTIE HARRICK & ELIZABETH BONDURANT
- LOCATION : G-101
- STARTING : SEPT. 6

## \* WEDNESDAYS

6:30 PM

*UNVEILING OF GOD, BY HIS NAMES & COVENANTS*

- LED BY : SUSAN MCCOLLUM
- LOCATION : M-210
- STARTING : SEPT. 4

6:30 PM

*GENESIS: A LOOK AT THE PATRIARCHS*

- LED BY : MICHELE CANTLEY
- LOCATION : M-200
- STARTING : SEPT. 4

6:30 PM

*MALACHI*

- LED BY : KRISTIE HARRICK
- LOCATION : G-101
- STARTING : SEPT. 4

## \* THURSDAYS

9:30 AM

*ROMANS*

- LED BY : DONNA EVANS
- LOCATION : G-101
- STARTING : SEPT. 5

9:30 AM

*PRECEPT - ROMANS PART 3 & 4*

- LED BY : WINDSU KELLY, BINGHAM CARLSON & CASSANDRA BULLINGTON
- LOCATION : FH-A
- STARTING : SEPT. 5

\* INTRODUCTORY CLASS AUGUST 29

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
SEE [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN).

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

# STEADFAST

FAITHFULLY LIVING THE WORD OF GOD

JUNE 11-13, 2020 / INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Mark your calendars and Save the Date

The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference will be held on June 11-13, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN. This year's focus will be on the book of James. Once tickets go on sale we will secure a group rate for you to purchase a ticket at a discounted price. We will not coordinate travel or housing arrangements. However, we would like to have a list of everyone going so that we can coordinate times to meet as a group at the event.

## F.I.T. (FITNESS INSPIRING TOGETHERNESS)



Want to get fit and make new friends? Come join our new fitness class for 50 and beyond starting September 9. This 45 minute Low Impact/Hi fun workout is perfect for baby boomers and seniors who want to stay fit for life! This well rounded class includes easy to follow low impact aerobics , strength training, balance and stretching to help with flexibility, joint stability and overall Health. This class can be done standing or sitting. For women only. Come join us and experience community, fellowship, prayer, and encouragement while we stay fit!

New schedule:

Mondays- 10:00-10:45

Tuesdays- 9:00-9:45

Fridays- 10:00-10:45

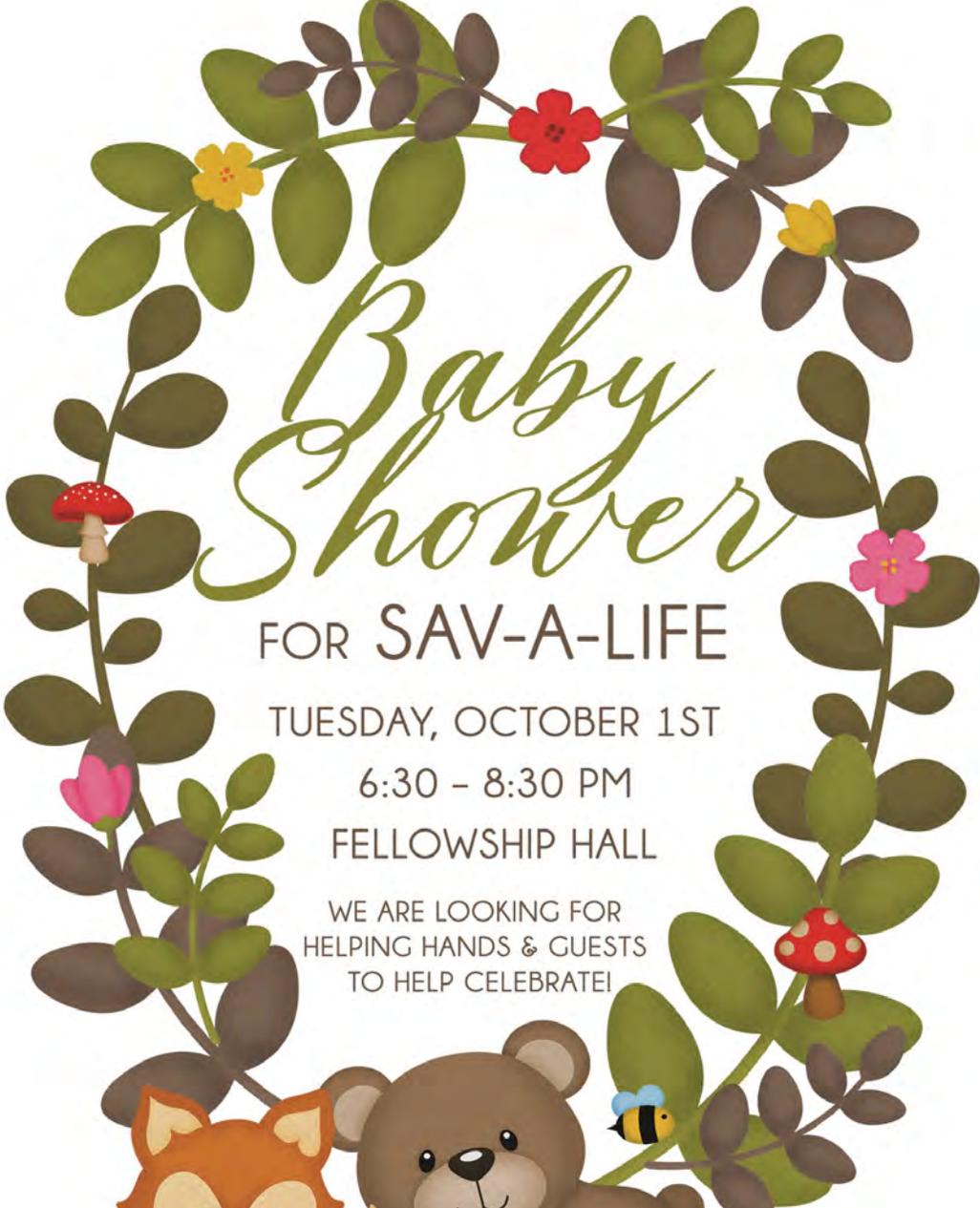
\*Cost \$25 per month meets in ballet room (m111)

Come try us out and your first class is free!

For more information contact Brenda Parks at

[Brendabparks@gmail.com](mailto:Brendabparks@gmail.com).

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY  
INVITES YOU TO A



# Baby Shower

FOR SAV-A-LIFE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

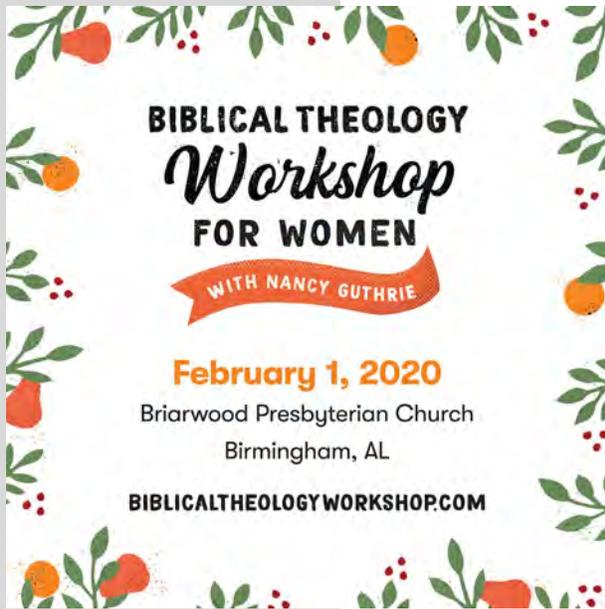
6:30 - 8:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
HELPING HANDS & GUESTS  
TO HELP CELEBRATE!



VISIT [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN) FOR WAYS TO  
CONTRIBUTE, VOLUNTEER, & RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE.



Ladies, it's never too late to sign up!  
The Early Bird special goes through mid-November.  
For more information, please visit [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

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## SAVE THE DATE FOR CHRISTMAS AT THE CAROLINE HOUSE 2019

A poster for 'CHRISTMAS AT THE CAROLINE HOUSE' featuring the song 'What Child is this?'. The background is a sheet of musical notation. The text on the poster includes the number '53', the title 'What Child is this?', the author 'Words by W. CHATTERTON DIX.', the tune 'Tune—Old English—“Greensleeves.”', and the arrangement 'ONE-SOLO-VOICE. SEMI-CHORUS'. The date 'NOVEMBER 19-20, 2019' and the ticket information 'TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18' are prominently displayed. A decorative graphic of a shield with a cross and a crown is centered on the page.

53      What Child is this?  
Words by W. CHATTERTON DIX.      Tune—Old English—  
ONE-SOLO-VOICE. SEMI-CHORUS      “Greensleeves.”

CHRISTMAS AT THE CAROLINE HOUSE  
*What Child is this?*

NOVEMBER 19-20, 2019  
TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 18

Be on the lookout for more information and tickets coming to our website on Wednesday, September 18!