

# MAY 2022

## BRIARWOOD *Women's Ministry*

As we continue our monthly look at the various fruit of the spirit, May brings us to *Patience*. In this month's newsletter, Margaret Mugg and Lacey Silvey have provided insight and devotional thoughts on patience for us to consider. In addition to our focus on patience, the month of May provides us opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day. The following is a blog post from RisenMotherhood which highlights being a mom and exercising patience...but above all points us to the Savior!

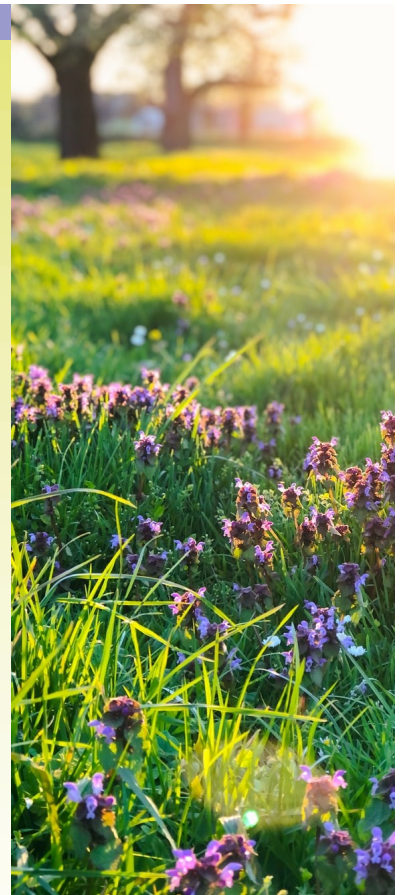
"I'm not exactly sure what a patient parent looks like,' my friend told me. 'My home growing up was so tense. I never knew when my parents were going to explode. Now, I struggle to know how to be patient with my kids.'

Like my friend, many of us feel the lack of role models as we seek to practice patience. If we haven't had a patient mother, a patient neighbor, a patient teacher, or a patient employer, it's hard to know how to be patient when we assume those roles ourselves.

Thankfully, God hasn't left us without an example. In sending the Son to take on human flesh, to live a life of perfect obedience, and to die a sinless death on the cross, he gave us the greatest—and most helpful—example of patience we could ever want. As we seek to cultivate patience in our own lives, we can begin by looking to Christ."

Thanking God for our mothers and praying that all of us would grow in patience.

Kristie Harrick



### Inside this issue

Women's Spring Brunch .....	2
Women's International Tea .....	4
Women's Care Team.....	6
Summer Bible Study.....	7
Nursery Volunteer Team.....	8
Other Announcements .....	10
Community Updates .....	14

### Special points of interest

- Gospel Reformation Network May 4-5
- Summer Bible Study kicks off Tuesday, June 14th.
- Volunteers needed for the nursery and for General Assembly.



# Women's SPRING BRUNCH

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> we had over 80 women gather for our Women's Spring Brunch. The food was fantastic; the fellowship was sweet; and Elizabeth Ellerbee encouraged us to know our season, live in our priorities and be thankful always.

To hear her talk visit:

<https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/women-of-the-covenant-audio/>









## Women's International Tea

On April 7th, God brought together 90 women from 24 countries to have tea and share their stories! Women from Briarwood partnered through prayer, making aprons, helping with set up, welcoming the international women, and much more. Many of the international women that came are involved in our English Language classes or our Friendship Partner program, but others were new to us and work in labs at UAB or are neighbors of some of our Briarwood Women. After a dark and isolating season during the pandemic for many ladies, this event's goal was to shine the light of Christ. From the flowers and table settings to the bright smiles and warm hugs all around the room, every lady left touched by the time together. We know this is just one event, but our prayer is that trust was built and seeds of the beauty of the Gospel were planted in their hearts as we make steps to build further and deeper connections.







Thank you Briarwood for allowing this event to happen! If any of you Briarwood ladies would like to join in on something like this in the future, I would love to talk with you and help you use your gifts with us and the international women that we meet! God is on the move, and it's truly a joy to be on His team.

## Women's International Tea



**Caroline Brown**  
[cbrown@briarwood.org](mailto:cbrown@briarwood.org)



Please visit our  
website for more  
information about the  
Women's Care Team

[CLICK HERE](#)



## Briarwood Women's Care Team

Over the last 12 months, the Women's Ministry has been working towards enhancing how we minister to women. Specifically, church leaders have asked us to develop a team of women focused on serving women in crisis who are also sensitive to the needs of those being helped. We are pleased to announce that in April 2022 we are launching our first Women's Care Team made up of 9 Briarwood women. Over the past few months, this team of 9 women has been reading, praying, and walking through weekly training. And, while each team member fully understands her own limitations, each is confident that the Lord will work in the midst of crisis and each desires to be used to minister.

The focus of the ministry of the Women's Care Team is as follows:

**The Women's Care Team's primary focus is to serve as advocates for women experiencing significant needs and/or in crisis, and to come alongside the staff and leadership as they minister to women in the congregation in difficult circumstances.**

This month you will begin to hear more information about the team from the pulpit, through your congregational communities and through various social media platforms. We know that one of the main questions we will receive is regarding how to connect with the ministry team. Connection to a ministry team member will either come through the request of a shepherding pastor or through the woman in crisis requesting help through our online portal located on the women's page of the church website.

We are thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to expand how we serve the women of Briarwood. We do ask that you pray for us as we navigate a new ministry opportunity.

# Parables *of Jesus*

9:30 – 11:30 AM · Chapel  
Nursery available, Reservations required



June 14 · Amanda Peterson · The Parable of the Sower



June 21 · Denise Hamilton · The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant



June 28 · Susan Bellows · The Parable of the Lost Sheep



July 12 · Annette Blake · The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders



July 19 · Rebekah Vermeer · The Parable of the Ten Virgins



July 26 · Sue Lewis · The Parable of the Weeds

We are working to build teams to provide childcare for 1st – 6th graders. We will keep you posted.  
If you are interested in serving on a childcare team, please visit the sign up genius on our website at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).



To find out more  
about the Nursery  
Volunteer Team click  
below:

[https://  
briarwood.org/  
ministries/nursery/](https://briarwood.org/ministries/nursery/)



## Women's Summer Study Childcare VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This summer the Women's Ministry would love to provide childcare for children 1st through 6th grade during the **Tuesday Summer Studies** on June 14, 21, 28 and July 12, 19, 26, 9:15 am—11:30 am. While nursery is provided for children through age 5, we understand there are many mothers who would love to attend the summer study if there was childcare for their elementary school-aged children. Our desire is to build teams of 4 women who will serve on a particular Tuesday this summer. The hope is that we will end up having 6 teams for the summer studies.

If you are interested in serving on a Summer Study Childcare team, please sign up for the Tuesday you would like to volunteer at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A4A928A1FEC07-summer>

All volunteers must be 18 years of age and will have to be Ministry Safe certified (online certification) about 1 hour. We will provide that information to all who desire to serve.



# Patience

By Margaret Mugg

For seven years my talented, hard-working husband was either minimally employed or unemployed. Our grief, much like a tsunami, crushed our hearts with yet another suffocating blow as someone we loved walked away from the faith and out of our lives. These were not the gifts we would have chosen for spiritual growth. I could not understand why God allowed such a long period of deep affliction. The “rod and staff” seemed unbearable. When the yoke of affliction seemed too much to keep going, my cry for relief was met in ways I could not imagine.



“I waited *patiently* for the Lord. He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of my despair.” God rescued me from the pit and set my feet on a rock. “He put a song in my mouth; a hymn of praise to our God.” (Psalm 40:1-3b) The rescue I longed for was realized in worship. No, our circumstances had not changed, but the circumstances had changed me. I asked the Lord to wake me up with a song each morning. The Lord faithfully woke me with a new song of praise each day. Scripture came alive in me flowing like a life-giving stream. God used the rod of affliction to produce fruit. As the love of God grew, so patience in circumstances and with people grew.

Patience can be described as toughness and defined as “the ability to bear up under”. It is pictured in the New Testament as an ox steadily breaking up the soil of his master’s field under the weight of the yoke. It doesn’t matter if the ox runs into rocks, stumps, or heavy clumps of mud, the patient animal keeps pushing on breaking up the master’s field. What can we learn from this example?

“Come unto Me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-30) Can patience in the *yoke* bring rest for our souls? A yoke is a frame or bar that can be placed on one or two people or animals pulling or carrying a heavy load. Matthew helps us visualize two burden bearers, one stronger than the other. Jesus says to take His yoke. We may think, “I already have enough heavy burdens!” Jesus says in taking on His yoke we learn of Him. In taking on His yoke we move into a position to focus on Him, the patient Savior. In taking His yoke, we lighten our load, and gain a fine-tuned view of the Savior.

We can enjoy the fruit and the Fruit-Giver by choosing to clothe ourselves with his yoke, our weakness for his strength, “putting on the yoke of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience”. The true essence of taking on His yoke is best found in desperate dependency, yielding ourselves to Him.

What about you? Are you desperate for the Savior? Are you putting on the yoke, allowing the Gospel to increase and bear fruit in your life? Are you in the yoke, enjoying a better understanding of the one who says come unto Me? Jesus promises rest for those in the yoke. We all long for it and so desperately need it. Put on the yoke and learn the fruit of patience. You will find rest for your soul.

## PCA General Assembly June 21-24, 2022 Birmingham, AL: BJCC

To learn more and to  
register visit

<https://pcaga.org/>

To volunteer with  
Briarwood Women in the  
Hospitality Room sign up

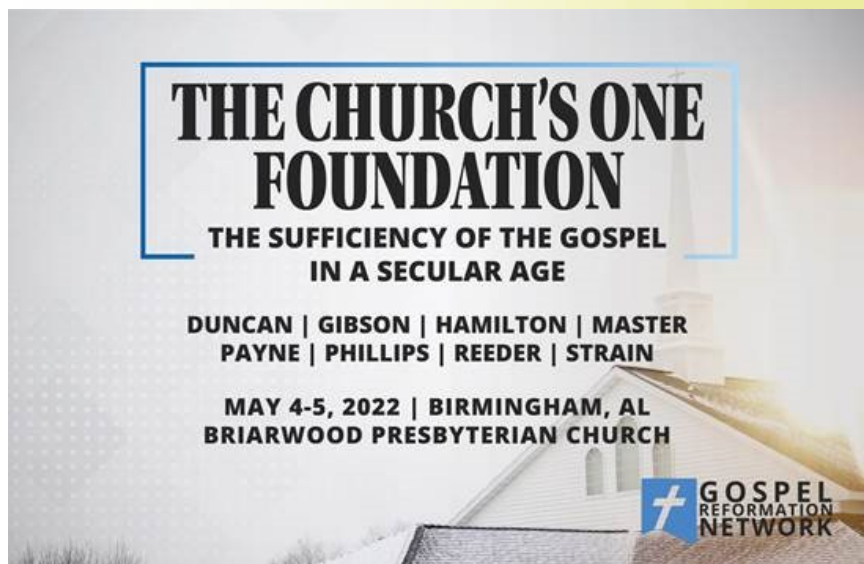
[HERE](#)



## The Gospel Reformation Network is a National Conference coming to Briarwood May 4-5, 2022

The two-day  
conference  
at Briarwood will be a  
wonderful time of  
worship, teaching, and  
fellowship. We hope  
that you will mark your  
calendar today and  
make plans to attend.  
Visit the [GRN website](#)  
for more information.

To register, click [HERE](#)!





## 5 Year Bible Reading Plan

You can download the 5-year plan by visiting:

<https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/five-year-bible-reading-plan/>



For more information and to sign up click [HERE](#)



## Pickleball at Briarwood

Open Play Tuesdays and Thursday nights  
in the Church Gym  
6-9PM

Learn how to play at the next clinic  
Saturday, May 7th  
10AM-12PM

# Patience is a Virtue (of Christ)

By Lacey Silvey



Patience, by definition, is “the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset”. Listed as a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5, we see the emphasis of patience many times throughout Scripture (appearing over 70 times throughout the New and Old Testaments). But as human beings, patience is hard to come by as we consider our selfish ways, stubbornness, and overall bent to impatience itself.

I love the cohesiveness of the fruit of the Spirit because they remind us of how they all work together. Paul wrote in Galatians, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law”. Paul wrote these nine virtues to emphasize the need of restraint we must seek daily. Without this fruit being present in our lives, the works of the flesh will constantly be revealing themselves, which leads to sin. When we abide in Christ Himself, we then will begin to bear much fruit. Often I think that patience goes along with being anxious, which Scripture also warns against. We begin to worry when things do not go our way. We want to believe in ourselves to do things in our timing, when we should be yielding our entire beings and lives to God’s perfect timing, thus being patient. Patience grows during the maturing of one’s faith, which only comes from abiding in Christ.

As I have been reading more about patience, I have been reminded of the perfect harmony of Scripture. So many times, patience is also mentioned among love, gentleness, understanding, slowness to anger, compassion, as well as many other lovely, Christlike attributes. The more we grow in any of these areas, the more we become like Christ. When we are wrestling with impatience, we can pray and allow God to use our struggle to mold us and to draw us to Himself. The more I gaze upon God’s patience with me, which is not deserved, the more I desire to be patient with others who are also undeserving. Ephesians 4:2 is a beautiful reminder of this. It reads, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”. Patience is grouped together (again) with being humble, gentle, and loving. We must view patience through this lens, so we can further understand the heart behind this virtue.

I pray that as my days become challenging, I can remind myself of the harmony that Scripture provides for us. May Romans 12:12 be our guide: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer”. May we seek the Lord in our lives as we pray to be patient, and to tolerate the “delays, trouble, or sufferings without getting angry or upset”. Abiding in Christ is the only way.



Most everyone at Briarwood has seen her. She's pretty hard to miss in her oversized power chair rolling down the Sunday School hall every Sunday morning and then down the center aisle of the sanctuary to attend the 10:55 Lord's Day worship service. She always has a huge smile and greeting for everyone, exuding love, gratefulness, and immense thankfulness to the Lord for His allowances and blessings in her life.

Elizabeth spent many years unable to gather in corporate worship at her beloved Briarwood Church or even go out of her "assisted living" room often. For the last 8 years she has lived with longtime friends from Jr. High school and has been able to be more involved in "life." She even bought an older "handicapped van" that served her well for almost 6 years, allowing her to attend weekday Bible study at Briarwood, physical therapy 3 times a week, swimming on Friday's, and lunches with friends.

Recently, the old van began to have unfixable issues. Not having the financial means to purchase a new van, friends suggested setting up a "Go Fund Me" hoping to help fund a used van. She trusted the Lord to provide the money if He wanted her to have a van, so \$30,000 was the goal and it was advertised over social media. Well...look what God did!! Through the kind and generous gifts of many over 11 days, the "Go Fund Me" account raised over \$45,000! The love of the Body of Christ proves immeasurable and has been an unbelievable encouragement to Elizabeth Ray. Thank you so much!

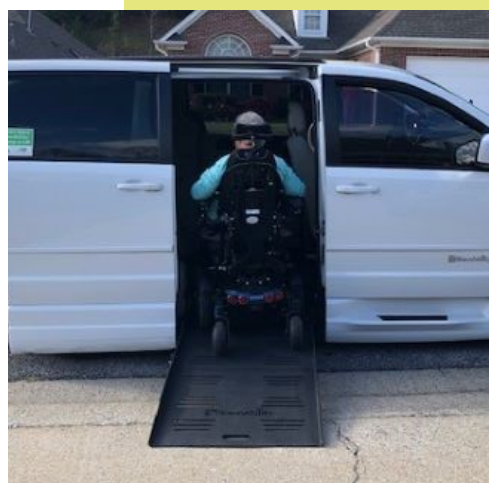
Elizabeth's huge smile in her new van is just a small glimpse into the deep gratitude she feels towards the Lord and to all who helped her have the opportunity to stay involved in "life!" Generous, faithful, kind, obedient, Jesus-loving folks made it possible for Elizabeth Ray to say each time she drives her power chair up into the new, crisp, white van with her beloved Florida State tag on front,

**"Thank you Lord for this provision in my life through the generosity of so many friends near and far."**

Then she shouts to whoever will listen,

**"LOOK WHAT GOD GAVE ME!"**

## Meet Elizabeth Ray



## Briarwood Community Updates

### Growing in Grace:

Members of this Sunday school class enjoyed an Easter brunch and egg hunt for their children at Brooke and Daniel McClurkin's home.



### Heritage Builders:

Women's Night Out



### A night of fun and fellowship:

An 80's girls night at Abby Leib's home



### Abundant Life:

Neal and Doug Haskew celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on March 29th.

