

**JULY 2023**

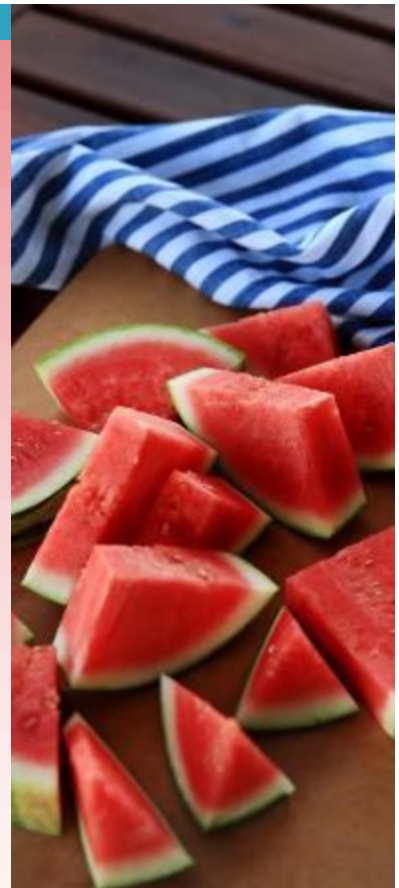
BRIARWOOD  
*Women's Ministry*

Since our church started in 1960 we have had 4 Women's Ministry Coordinators/Directors. Kathy Cheely, Cheri Bachofer, Julie Elmer and myself. As the first leader of the Women's Ministry, Kathy set a high standard. She wanted our Briarwood women to be a group of women who loved God and loved others! And, Kathy wanted us to have fun in the process!

My first meeting with Kathy Cheely was in the hallway near my office after one of my first Sundays at Briarwood. She stopped me and introduced herself and shared that she was the first person to serve in the Women's Ministry Coordinator/Director role at Briarwood. She wanted to encourage me in my new role and she wanted me to make sure I included as many women in the ministry as possible. She talked about the importance of friendliness and a welcoming heart. She then reminded me that it was important to wear my name tag because there might be someone new who would not know who I am. Then she promised to be a supporter and cheerleader for me in my new role. She made good on that promise!

Sunday, June 25, 2023 there was a beautiful Celebration of Life service for Kathy who went home on May 13, 2023. As we were led in worship by her grandchildren and as her family shared beautifully of a life well-lived in service to the Lord, I looked around the sanctuary at the many lives who were touched by a woman whose heart was first for the Lord and then for the others. What an impact for the Glory of God! Well-done Kathy Cheely!

Kristie



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#### Special points of interest

- Summer Bible Studies continue Tuesday, July 11, 18, & 25
- Working Women's Dinner Wednesday, July 12
- Summer Mystery Fellowships July 18, 19, & 20
- Women's Out of Town Retreat September 22-24

## Reflections on the life and ministry of *Kathy Cheely*



Kathy was a woman who loved the Lord and people. To my knowledge she was the first Briarwood Women's Coordinator, and brought to the position boundless energy and enthusiasm. She had an amazing knowledge of scripture and was a great teacher.

She loved getting women together, not only to study the Bible, but also just to have fun and enjoy one another.

She would organize and conduct Christmas parties for all the women who worked at the church, often at her home. She would also occasionally ask the people sitting around her in church to go home with her and Tom to have lunch with them.

Also during her time as coordinator, she organized and held Women's Prayer Retreats at Schocco Springs. Briarwood would pair with ladies from African--American churches in the area for a weekend of prayer and Bible study. It began on Friday afternoon and ended at noon on Sunday. One year there came a tornado late on Saturday night, cutting off power, knocking down trees and blocking the road. With help from the Lord, Kathy and a group of Baptist men clearing the road, we were able to finish the retreat just as we had planned.

Kathy also organized the women to submit their favorite recipes and the Briarwood Cookbook was printed and published. Many of us are still using and enjoying that cookbook. Kathy set a good example for future coordinators to follow.

-Kathleen Bishop

### Memories of Kathy Cheely

All of us loved Kathy Cheely, or at least I did. I remember when the Cheelys first came to Briarwood. I was teaching kindergarten in the old Briarwood which is now Mountain Brook Community, when they all came in the back door. There was Kathy leading the line with the children behind. There was Andy, Becky, and Anna bringing up the rear. That's the picture that comes to mind when I purposefully think of Kathy. She was in the place she usually occupied, at the head of the line.

Another fond memory is of how Kathy loved to entertain with food and games. When we went to the Cheelys, we were sure to be fed well and we would laugh as we played games. Once she invited all the people on our pew and those on the pew in front and in back to Sunday lunch so we could all get to know each other in that setting. She encouraged us all to follow suit.

Her close friend Glenda Wood told me Kathy "HATED" the movie Princess Bride. That must be because not knowing what she had gotten herself into, she went to see it at The Pitcher Show, a bar/theater, and was very uncomfortable.

Kathy was our first Women's Ministry coordinator. She had a heart for ministry, and attending to the various needs of her flock took precedence over procedures. I loved that about Kathy. Also, she sang and taught at General Assembly every year. As the wife of our Missions Pastor, she was committed to praying for the missionaries and especially those involved in Campus Outreach.

Before Kathy's rapid decline my mentor, Sally Scott, and I went to see her. She was beyond thrilled that we came to minister, and joined in when we prayed. I'm grateful for that time before she wasn't the Kathy I remember, the strong, determined, opinionated, exhorter who loved to feed her flock, but who hated the Princess Bride.

-Sue Lewis

Just a few days before Harry died, Kathy Cheely died after many years of poor health. Kathy was in charge of helping new members of the church find a place to start serving and grow when I joined Briarwood. Years later I was doing a private briefing on how technology was going to open up opportunities for the Gospel. Kathy was there and became so excited she burst out with, "Jesus is coming!" What she meant by that was that all the pieces were coming into place for the Gospel to get to everyone in the world. Kathy called it, we are living it.

-Missionary from Ireland

**July 11**

**Rebekah Vermeer**

***Psalm 30:1-12***

**July 18**

**Meredith Hamblen**

***Numbers 11:11-23***

**July 25**

**Yvonne Welch**

***Luke 18:9-14***

# WOMEN'S *Summer* STUDIES

*June 13, 20, 27  
& July 11, 18, 25*

9:30 AM  
IN THE CHAPEL

TAUGHT BY:  
SUSAN BELLOWS  
DONNA EVANS  
CIERRA BRAGAN  
REBEKAH VERMEER  
MEREDITH HAMBLEN  
YVONNE WELCH



Nursery is available. Register online at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

Join us for our **Women's Summer Studies**  
Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM in the chapel

Our theme this summer has been Prayer

As we dive into the prayers of the Old and New Testament, our desire is that we will learn and be challenged to grow in our prayer life.

## Mark your calendars for our July Working Women's Fellowship Dinners

*July 2023*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

We would like to invite you to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, engagement and encouragement from those with shared experiences. Brianna Evans will be sharing a bit of her story. You don't want to miss it!

**Wednesday, July 12**  
**Fellowship Hall E & F**  
**6:00 pm—7:30 pm**  
**Dinner is \$7.00 at the door**

Please let us know you are coming by registering at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women) or email [apeterson@briarwood.org](mailto:apeterson@briarwood.org)





**Women's Summer Bible  
Study  
&  
Working Women's  
Dinner**



# SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

## WITH MYSTERY GUESTS

### JULY 18-20



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE,  
GO TO [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN)

We received great feed back from the women who were able to attend a Summer Fellowship in June. See a sampling below:

"It was so much fun to spend that time with a combination of women that I have never met or have not seen in 100 years. What a wonderful way to encourage building relationships!" -MW

"We all loved it. I sensed the Lords presence among our group...lots of love in the room. I think we were all blessed by being there." -LK

"We had a great evening of laughter, making new friends, and sweet fellowship. So grateful for our church family." -CL

Thank you to the following women who **hosted** a June Summer Fellowship:

Debbie Bellamy	Denise Hamilton	Gale Dorroh	Cindy Ball	Audrey Jowers
Annette Blake	Carla Genin	Kelly Hammonds	Shannon Black	Sheri Selkirk

Thank you to the following women who were a **Mystery Guest** in June:

April Jeff	Elizabeth Buchanan	Jennifer Hay	Lynn Cline	Linda Grinnell
Diane Parker	Ellen Fox	Joyce Ann Jackson	Melody Weaver	Julie Hollon

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We will have **more Summer Fellowships in July** but spaces are filling up fast! So make sure you sign up sooner than later. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A4A928A1FEC07-july>

And, if you have signed up but can no longer attend please make sure to remove your name so that others can join in.



# June Summer Mystery Fellowships







## June Summer Mystery Fellowships





# Women's Retreat

September 22-24, 2023

Shocco Springs Retreat Center

Speaker: Lisa Looper

Theme: Rest

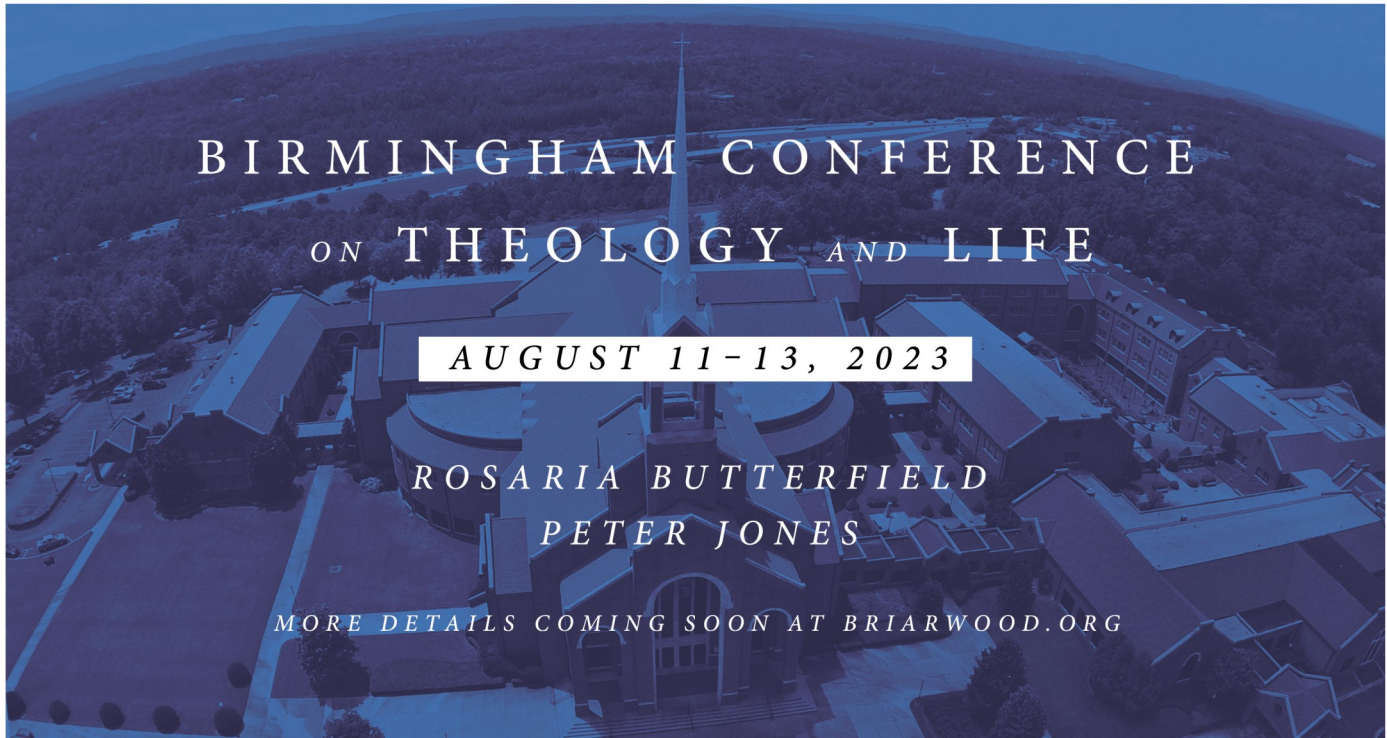
**EARLY BIRD PRICE  
THROUGH JULY 31:  
\$175 for a double room**

**REGULAR PRICE  
BEGINNING AUGUST 1:  
\$200 for a double room**



For more information and to register visit: [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

# Save the Date!



Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming conference on  
Theology and Life featuring:

**Friday evening with Rosaria Butterfield**

**Saturday morning with Rosaria Butterfield and Peter Jones**

**Sunday morning with Peter Jones**

All details will be coming very soon!



# Prayer Walking the Church





# **JESUS IS THE LIVING WATER**

## **SUPER SUMMER '23**

**JUNE 12 - AUGUST 3, 2023**

### **Catechism Camp 1st & 2nd Grade (July 10 – 14)**

#### **Week 3 (July 17 – 20)**

Monday, July 17 (K5): Inflatables & Ice Cream

Tuesday, July 18 (1st & 2nd grades): Defy

Wednesday, July 19 (3rd & 4th grades): Chuck E. Cheese

Thursday, July 20 (5th & 6th grades): Laser Tag

#### **Week 4 (July 24 – 27)**

Monday, July 24 (K5): Water Day

Tuesday, July 25 (1st & 2nd grades): Inflatables & Ice Cream

Wednesday, July 26 (3rd & 4th grades): Laser Tag

Thursday, July 27 (5th & 6th grades): Six Flags

#### **Week 5 (July 31 – Aug. 3)**

Monday, July 31 (K5): Craft Day

Tuesday, Aug. 1 (1st & 2nd grades): Chuck E. Cheese

Wednesday, Aug. 2 (3rd & 4th grades): Defy

Thursday, Aug. 3 (5th & 6th grades): Bowling

[CLICK HERE](#)

To see the  
full brochure  
for Super  
Summer '23



## Community Updates

Threads of Comfort knitting group had a tea party time of fellowship.



The Grace Ladies leadership meeting



Graduate and Careers have been enjoying their weekly Summer Series gatherings.







Thank you to all  
of our VBS  
Volunteers!

# All The Feels

A DEVOTIONAL BY BRIARWOOD WOMEN

We are thrilled to share with you the August 31-day devotional, **All the Feels** that has been written by 29 of our own Briarwood sisters. Each devotion is focused on our emotions and understanding how to navigate them biblically.

Our desire as you read each devotion is that you would see the beauty of our God in His design of us as creatures with a vast expression of emotions. We also desire that you would be reminded that within all of our expressions of emotions, there are biblical truths to guide us in navigating them as believers. We pray that you would gain a deeper affection for your sisters of Briarwood as you read how they were impacted by the Word of God.

**Sunday, July 30th** devotionals will be available for purchase at tables located by the Chapel and by the Bookstore. The cost is \$5 and we can only accept cash or check. We will also have them available in the Women's Ministry Office during business hours the first week of August.

## 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/>



## Briarwood Women's Care Team

The Briarwood 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.

To find out more information, or to request help, visit:

[briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/](https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/womens-care-team/)

