

SEPTEMBER 2023

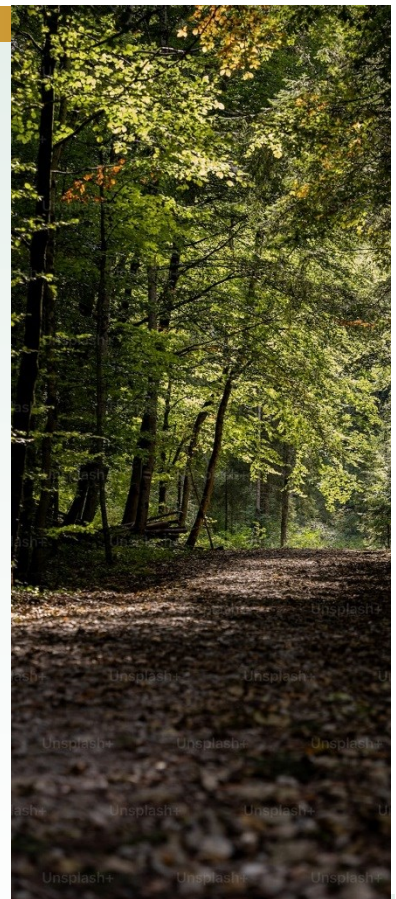


*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

In my childhood church this was one of the songs we sang every Sunday at the end of the service. We would all link hands and sing accapella as we prepared to leave the morning service. As a child I did not think much about the lyrics and the meaning behind what we were singing. I was focused on getting to go eat lunch as soon as we were done. Now as an adult, I realize and appreciate the richness of what these words are talking about. These words are talking about the church and the fellowship we have as a family of believers because of the saving work of Christ. This is a gift of grace, as Bonhoeffer would say, available to us as believers. God has given to us first, Himself, and now a family. What a kindness of our God!

My prayer is that as we consider this fall, we would prayerfully consider where the Lord would have us grow, serve and fellowship as a family.

—Kristie



Inside this issue

Fall Bible Studies	2-3
Christmas at the Caroline House	4-5
Women's Retreat	6
Community Announcements	7-13

Special points of interest

- Fall Bible Studies begin September 5th
- Women's Retreat September 22-24th
- CCH tickets go on sale September 17th

Mondays Starting Sept. 11

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Led by Michele Cantley

Location: A-201 & Zoom

10:00 AM

Tuesdays Starting Sept. 5

1 & 2 PETER (PART 1)

Led by Cindy Reeder & Mary Lou Morrison

Location: Fellowship Hall A

9:30 AM

THE BOOK OF MICAH

Led by Mary Anne Turnbull & Amanda Peterson León

Location: G-101

9:30 AM

HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL IN CONVERSATIONS YOU'RE ALREADY HAVING

Led by Brianna Evans

Location: G-103

10:00 AM

Wednesdays Starting Sept. 6

THE BOOK OF 1 KINGS

Led by Kristie Harrick & Elizabeth Bondurant

Location: G-101

6:30 PM

A COMPLETION OF THE STUDY OF GENESIS

Led by Teresa Caldwell

Location: M-210

6:30 PM

Thursdays Starting Sept. 7

THE RED SEA RULES

Led by Donna Evans

Location: G-101

9:30 AM

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Led by Yvonne Welch

Location: Chapel

9:30 AM

Childcare is available at briarwood.org/nursery. For more details, go to briarwood.org/women.

Women's Fall Studies

In addition to the Briarwood Women's Ministry Bible Studies, we would like to make you aware of other opportunities to gather in study:

Paige Brown's The Book of Jonah

Mondays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm beginning September 11th

Location: M200

Facilitator: Joy Moore

Join a small group of women gathered to listen to the audio teaching of Paige Brown on the Book of Jonah. Discussion and fellowship.

*this room can be cold so bring a sweater.

For more information contact Joy Moore at goodworks.joy@gmail.com



Birmingham Theological Seminary

Check out all the options to continue to grow in your understanding of the Word of God through video classes and in person classes this fall. Consider auditing a course.

<https://bts.education/academics/current-schedule/>



Women Business Leaders

WBL sponsored small groups meet Monday through Friday. In these small groups, the women of WBL can be found in prayer, fellowship, and accountability with groups of businesswomen at various locations around the city. Please contact WBL if you are interested in joining a small group! <https://ybl.org/wbl/>

Home Groups

Various teachers and locations

Home Groups meet regularly and are connected to our Sunday School Communities. They feature growth through the study of the Word, biblical fellowship, and prayer with opportunities to reach others for Christ. Contact your Sunday School Community leaders to find a Home Group for you.

Women's Ministry Online Resources

Previous women's studies have been recorded and are available for you to access as you gather in groups or in your own personal study. You can access the recorded teaching through the Briarwood App or through <https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/archived-bible-studies/>



FEATURING

PORTRAITS OF *Hope*

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES FROM
THE LOVELADY CENTER

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2023

REGISTER AT [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](https://briarwood.org/women)

**Tickets go on sale
September 17th!**

Christmas at the Caroline House is a wonderful event to prepare our hearts for the upcoming Christmas season. As our time together unfolds, we will hear the gospel, see the beauty of design, fellowship with one another and exchange ideas. Our prayer is that this event will bring our focus back to the Heavenly Father's great love for His people in providing our Savior, Jesus Christ.

What happens during this event?

- ▶ **Food and Fellowship.** We will begin our time together gathered around a meal. As you enjoy your meal get to know the women at your table. Make sisterly connections with one another.
- ▶ **Program.** This year we will hear from women from **The Lovelady Center**. Each woman who shares has been transformed by the Lord during their time at the center. Their personal stories will show resilience, faith, hope and courage as they have walked through recovery by the power of the Holy Spirit. Their Christmas' have taken on a new meaning because of the power of Christ to transform His children. Their powerful stories of transformation will be encouraging to all who attend.
- ▶ **Caroline House.** Following the program, the Caroline house tours will begin. The house has been decorated by women in the church to help spark your imagination for ways to decorate. This is meant to uplift your heart and get you thinking about ways to enhance your home at Christmas. This is a fun aspect of our time together. Take pictures and enjoy. How do we go about visiting the house? We will dismiss small groups of women to tour the house to ensure that the house is not overcrowded for each touring group. Keep in mind that you will remain in the fellowship hall as you wait for your time to tour.
- ▶ **While You Wait Opportunities.** While you are waiting for your tour of the house, you will have the opportunity to visit tasting tables and gather recipes for future holiday events. For those who tour the house first, you will be able to participate in the tastings after your tour. In addition to the tastings, you will also have the opportunity to visit **The Lovelady Center** table. At the table you can visit with The Lovelady Center women, and you will have the opportunity to purchase one of their *Portraits of Hope* books.
- ▶ **Gifts.** In addition to all the activities, you will have opportunities to win door prizes and every woman will receive a Christmas devotional written by women in our church. The devotional walks through the full Christmas story and shares the hope we have in Christ.

What are the dates and when should I arrive?

- ▶ November 14th
9:30 am Session – the doors & food lines open at 9:00 am with the program starting at 9:30 am
6:30 pm Session - the doors & food lines open at 6:00 pm with the program starting at 6:30 pm
- ▶ November 15th
9:30 am Session – the doors & food lines open at 9:00 am with the program starting at 9:30 am
6:30 pm Session - the doors & food lines open at 6:00 pm with the program starting at 6:30 pm

Nursery is provided for those who make Nursery reservations by November 8th at briarwood.org/nursery

Ticket Information

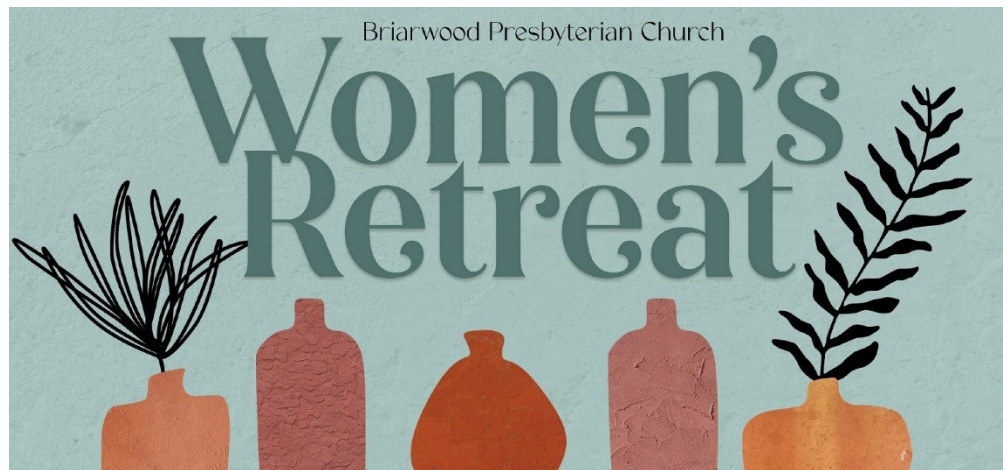
- Tickets will go on sale in the Briarwood Bookstore and online beginning September 17th.
- Tickets are \$18 per person.
- There is no reserved seating.
- There are no refunds for tickets.
- Each session has a maximum of 120 tickets available.

Volunteers

We need your help to make this event happen. Check out our website for volunteer opportunities.



For any questions or concerns about the retreat, please email Amanda León at aleon@briarwood.org



Schedule for Shocco Springs

1314 Shocco Springs Road
Talladega, AL 35160

Friday, September 22

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Arrive at Shocco Springs
Check-in in Bagley Center, third floor hallway
Settle in your rooms in Springview Lodging & Oakridge Lodging
Dinner on your own in Talladega

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Session #1 in Bagley 300

Saturday, September 23

8:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast in Bagley Dining Room, second floor
9:00 am – 11:30 am Session #2 in Bagley 300
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm Lunch in Bagley Dining Room, Second floor
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Free Time
Trails
Disc Golf
Putt Putt
Basketball and Pickle Ball courts

5:30 pm – 6:15 pm Dinner in Bagley Dining Room, Second Floor

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Session #3 in Bagley 300

9:30 pm Bonfire at Lakeside Field

Sunday, September 24

7:30 am – 8:15 am Breakfast in Bagley Dining Room, Second Floor

9:00 am – 10:00 am Worship in Bagley 300

10:45 am – 11:00 am Check out

Map of Shocco Springs: <https://www.shocco.org/campus/?map=campus>



Pathway to Preparation
October 13-14th

Working Women's Dinner
October 17th

Ladies Fitness Class

Want to get fit and make new friends? Come try Fitness Together!

Each 60-minute class will consist of cardio, strength training, balance and stretching all to help with flexibility, joint stability and overall health.

Experience community, prayer and encouragement while we stay fit!

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30am-9:30am (all ages)

\$36/month or \$5/class

Monday and Friday

9:30am-10:30am (format allows use of a chair if needed)

\$25/month or \$5/class

M-111, Ballet Room

For more information contact Brenda Parks

brendabparks@gmail.com



Mentoring Opportunities

(Mentoring, Life-on-Life, Discipleship)

Mentoring, Life on Life Relationships, and Discipleship are all terms that seem to be interchangeable in the Christian world. However, we each come to these terms with very different ideas and expectations. For Briarwood Women's Ministry we are moving towards providing opportunity for engagement in these three areas. Below are the definitions we will use to identify the distinctions and expectations for each:

Mentoring. Pairing based around a book study of a focused topic. There is an expectation that the mentor would influence, provide guidance and direction to the mentee as subjects come up in a book study or through conversation. The relationship is once a week for a 4 month commitment of time.

Recommended Books:

- *Growing Together* by Melissa Kruger
- *Everyday Faithfulness* by Glenna Marshall
- *The Gospel Centered Woman* by Wendy Alsup
- *In His Image* by Jen Wilkin
- *The Gospel Comes with a House Key* by Rosaria Butterfield
- *Crazy Busy* by Kevin DeYoung
- *Growing in Gratitude* by Mary Mohler

Life on Life Relationships. This is an informal introduction to a relationship with someone of another generation. It is built around coffee or lunch, hobbies or shared interests. The pair commits to meet on a regular basis for 4-6 months. The hope is that gospel-centered conversations will naturally occur through a growing friendship.

Discipleship. The disciple is committed to entering into a relationship with a discipler who will help them grow in their spiritual disciplines through weekly meetings with homework and focused discussions related to spiritual growth and vitality. The commitment is one semester at a time through a set curriculum. *We would provide training for those discipling someone.*

This Fall 2023 we are providing opportunities for women to engage in **Mentoring and Life on Life Relationship** opportunities. We are not prepared to offer Discipleship opportunities yet; however, if you are interested in learning how to be a Discipler please reach out to us.

If you are interested in participating this Fall 2023 in Mentoring or Life on Life Relationships, visit our website to [register.](#)

***Pairings will be made by mid-September 2023.

The Impact of PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

IN YOUR
WORKPLACE
AND WORLD

presented by
WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS

featuring
JULIE SPARKMAN



Speaker
Author
Counselor

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

11:30 AM

VESTAVIA COUNTRY CLUB

TICKETS @ WBLBIRMINGHAM.ORG



WBL

Community Updates

Elaine and David Robinson
from Joyful Hearts
will celebrate their 59th
wedding anniversary on
September 4th.



OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Beginning August 13. Our Church Family will gather each Sunday at 5:15 p.m. in A-105 to pray together as we seek the Lord to lead us during this intermediate phase we are in. Email pclaud@briarwood.org with any questions.

Young Families Community Social at the Caroline House



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/

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/>

