

OCTOBER 2023

BRIARWOOD *Women's Ministry*

We had a wonderful luncheon with Mary Beeke on Monday, October 2nd. We had 120 women gathered to hear as Mary encouraged us to be kind and to consider how we can encourage the next generation to develop a strong work ethic. Her books The Law of Kindness and Teach Them to Work were the basis for her encouragement to us. If you were unable to attend, you can listen to her talk on our website by [CLICKING HERE](#).



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Special points of interest

- Pathway to Preparation
October 13-14
- Working Women's Dinner
October 17
- Christmas at the Caroline House
Tickets on sale now!



FEATURING

PORTRAITS
OF *Hope*

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES FROM
THE LOVELADY CENTER

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2023

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

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.



PATHWAY TO PREPARATION

Join us for a hands-on workshop for women who are interested in growing their skills as Bible teachers, small group leaders and/or individuals just interested in enhancing their understanding of how to rightly understand the Word of God in their personal study. We will walk through training that teaches us how to understand the context and structure of a passage of scripture, how to filter the passage through the Gospel lens and then ultimately how to connect to our day to day living.

When: Friday, October 13th at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, October 14th 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Cost: \$15 includes material and Saturday boxed lunch

Visit our [WEBSITE](#) to register.

Working Women's Dinner

October 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.

Tuesday, October 17th

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 or email apeterson@briarwood.org

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





Fill a shoebox and let a child know that someone cares about them and that God loves them! Briarwood participates every Christmas season in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes packed with small gifts – toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to children around the world, some of who may have never received a gift in their life. The boxes are given with a gospel booklet and a gospel presentation and an opportunity to participate in a twelve week discipleship program (The Greatest Journey).

Beginning on October 29, shoeboxes will be available in the Ministries Lobby for you to take home and fill.

Boxes are due back Nov. 5 – 12.

You can also build a box online. Great if you don't want to shop, and online boxes are shipped to hard-to-reach areas. A link will be provided on the Childrens Ministry webpage.

The Trailblazers are having a **packing party on Nov. 7 in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM**, light lunch provided. See the Trailblazer web page for more information (<https://briarwood.org/ministries/trailblazers/>).

Behold & Believe

ENCOUNTERING JESUS AS THE GREAT I AM

The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference (TGCW24)

June 20-24, 2024

Indianapolis, Indiana

Registration opened September 27th

Reduced rates are available through October 11, 2023 with the discount code: 20OFF which brings the opening price to \$179.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/event/tgcw24/>

Briarwomen this is a wonderful conference to attend. The cost only covers the conference fee. Participants are responsible for travel and accommodations. Once hotel options are available we will notify everyone of what hotel we are staying in. If you are able to stay in the same hotel that would be great. When registering for rooms in hotels, please note that not all hotels guarantee double beds.

If you register, please let us know. We would love to find a time during the conference that we could all meet up.



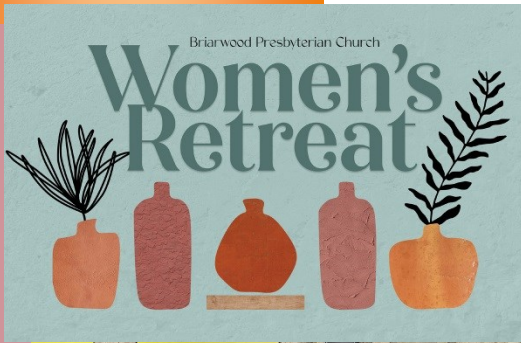
Women's Retreat



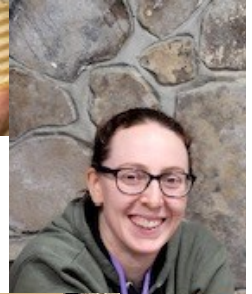
We had about 100 women register to attend the Women's Retreat the weekend of September 22-24. We were encouraged by Lisa Looper to consider The Best Rest through her three sessions: The Justified Rest, The Sanctified Rest, and The Glorified Rest. Each session allowed us opportunity to gather in prayer for one another and then to worship the Lord through the singing of praises to Him, led by Jessica Mayfield. We also had time for some laughter and games. We even played the game Gorilla, Man, Gun. It is a game similar to rock, paper scissors and involves full body hand motions. Our grand winner was Sarah Ivey and in her pre-match speech she shared that this was her greatest dream since she was a child. We also had a few hikers that ended up lost but then experiencing God's providence of water while out on the trail. And, our snack table did not disappoint as all of our participants brought a bounty of food to share. Needless to say, we were encouraged by Lisa's teaching of the word, worshipped as led by Jessica, and then enjoyed great fellowship and laughter with one another!

This weekend could not have happened without the following:

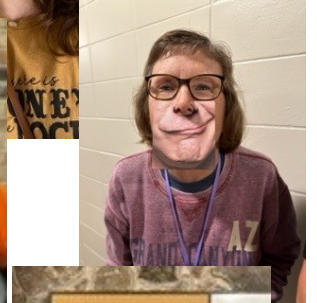
- Lisa Looper leading us in the word
- Jessica Mayfield leading us in worship through music
- Amanda Leon and Leigh Ann Reese handling check in and all other last minute details
- The 10 women who served on the prayer team for the 4 weeks leading up to the event
- Cindy Ball, Sonya Stallings and Belinda Youngblood stuffed the goody bags
- Women's Ministry Team for vetting the topic and location
- Rebecca Galbreath for the retreat graphics
- Shocco Springs Retreat team

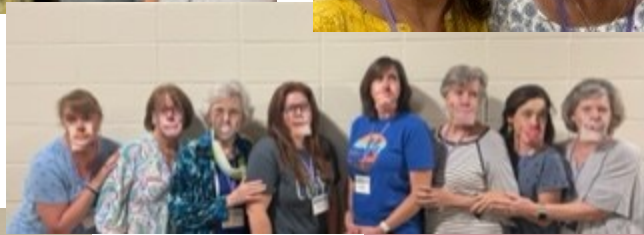
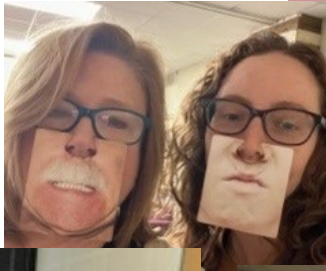


We were encouraged in the Word by Lisa Looper.
We were led in worship by Jessica Mayfield.
We were embraced by our sisters in the Lord.









Thailand Mission Trip

The Women's Ministry has a group of 5 women heading out on a mission trip to Thailand this December 2-10. We will provide a full women's retreat for 38 of the women who serve with Campus Outreach in Thailand. We will provide the speaking, music, crafts and game time. Please pray for us as we make final preparations and for those we will be serving. This is their first women's retreat since 2018. Our desire is that this will be restful and fruitful time for the women.

We would also like to ask you to consider helping us with the purchase of some items needed for the craft and games time at the retreat. All our needed supplies are on the amazon list. Purchased items will be sent directly to our team leader so that the entire team can spread out the purchased items amongst our teammates suitcases.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/GIQ4SIWHP4H6>

THAILAND Prayer Card **(December 2 – 10)**

God would be Glorified. (John 15:8)

Health and safety of women on our team (Psalm 27):
Kristie Harrick, Sydney Marvin, Jennifer Mayfield,
Jessica Mayfield, Samantha Roberts & Melody Young

Encouragement of Women Serving in Thailand.
(1Thessalonians 5:11)

Retreat would be restful and fruitful, and we would love and serve them well.
(Luke 10:27)



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/

