

# JANUARY 2024

## BRIARWOOD *Women's Ministry*



### Happy New Year!

With the start of 2024 we have quite a few changes around Briarwood Presbyterian Church. One of the big changes is that Marie Gathings retired on December 31<sup>st</sup> after 25 years serving as the Administrative Assistant to our Senior Pastor. We want to thank her for her service, her friendship, her delicious food, her story telling, and her faithful service to our pastor all these years.



### Inside this issue

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| In Town Retreat .....       | 4-5 |
| Spring Bible Studies .....  | 6-7 |
| Missionary Coffee .....     | 8-9 |
| Working Women's Dinner..... | 11  |
| Community Updates .....     | 12  |
| Pizza Bread.....            | 19  |
| Mentor Program .....        | 20  |

### Special points of interest

- Women's In Town Retreat  
January 26-27
- Spring Bible Studies Begin  
January 8-12
- Working Women's Dinner  
February 8
- Women's Missionary Coffee  
February 27



I am very thankful to Marie for her willingness to always help me organize dinners and events for various groups. She does so joyfully and quickly taking a burden off me. I can always count on her to put a smile and laughter in my heart. She also took care of my husband well.

*-Cindy Reeder*



Marie is one of the most generous ladies I have worked with. She selflessly cares for others through countless acts of service and does it all with a smile, and then keeps you entertained with a plethora of stories that leave you laughing so hard you're crying! Marie's genuine love for others is a beautiful testimony of her love for the Lord and it has been an honor to serve Him alongside her! - Christian Terrell







I worked with Marie in the same office for 13 years! If you know Marie, you know that she is lots of fun. I will forever have that kodak picture of Pastor Reeder in her office with his feet propped up on the end of her desk and Marie sitting there for hours while he dictated to her! Especially when he was writing his book. She would be there for hours on end with no breaks and this went on for many weeks! Marie had a glass enclosed office and she would send me and Amy these looks of "please rescue me!" She was a faithful, dedicated assistant to pastor Reeder. We always said that NO ONE but Marie could work for Harry. Happy Retirement Marie!

Love,

*Frances Brocato*



2024 BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S IN-TOWN RETREAT

# BY DESIGN

JAN. 26-27, 2024

**EZER**  
**DEFINED:**  
*8 Biblical*  
*Expressions*

TAKE THE QUIZ  
TO FIND OUT:  
**ARE YOU A**  
**LIFE GIVER**  
**OR A LIFE**  
**TAKER?**

SEX,  
FEMINISM  
& GENDER  
by The Book

**EMBRACE**  
**YOUR**  
**MAKE**

*Psalm 139:14*

**UNIQUELY**  
**FASHIONED**  
BY THE POTTER



REGISTER ONLINE AT:  
[BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN)



You are invited to the **Women's Ministry In Town Retreat**  
the weekend of **January 26-27, 2023.**

Tickets are on sale now for \$45 per person. Women 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to attend.

The Theme of the event is:  
**By Design**

Schedule:

**Friday night, January 26**

**6:45-9:00 pm**

**Location: Worship Center**

**Retreat Fun, Giveaways, & Worship**

**Large Session #1**

**Speaker: Courtney Denton**

**Saturday, January 27th**

**8:30 – 1:30 pm**

**Briarwood Campus**

**8:30 – 10:30 am**

**Location: Worship Center**

**Retreat Fun, Giveaways, & Worship**

**Large Session #2**

**Speaker: Courtney Denton**

**10:45 – 11:45 am**

**Breakout sessions**

**Various locations**

**12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Lunch and final challenge**

**Location: Fellowship Hall ABCD**

*Dress is comfy casual.*

*No childcare available Friday or Saturday.*

*However, nursing moms are welcome to  
bring their baby as needed.*



Courtney Denton is married to Alex and has two children, Blakely and Banks. She serves as the Director of Mercy and Women's Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, SC and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisor on the national PCA women's ministry team. Courtney is the founder of The Life House Women's Shelter, desiring to provide help and hope to women in need. Courtney's heart for serving the needs of others is an outpouring of the mercy, grace and love she has been shown by God. Her desire is to equip and encourage women with the understanding of their God-given design and to live a life transformed by the Gospel. She is the author of KICKSTAND Devotionals. Courtney loves time with her family, Mexican food, shopping, and traveling.

**2024**

# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Studies start the week of January 8

\*starting Feb. 5\*

**MONDAYS**

**10:00 AM**

**EZRA & NEHEMIAH**

Michele Cantley

A-202 & Zoom

**TUESDAYS**

**9:30 AM**

**TITUS**

Amanda León and  
Mary Anne Turnbull

G-101

**TUESDAYS**

**9:30 AM**

**1 & 2 PETER**

Cindy Reeder and  
Mary Lou Morrison

Fellowship Hall A

**WEDNESDAYS**

**6:30 PM**

**2 KINGS**

Kristie Harrick and  
Elizabeth Bondurant

G-101

**THURSDAYS**

**9:30 AM**

**JOHN**

Yvonne Welch

G-103

**THURSDAYS**

**9:30 AM**

**HEBREWS**

Donna Evans

G-101

Nursery Available.  
Reservation required at  
[briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).

REGISTER FOR STUDIES ONLINE AT [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN).

# 2024 Spring Bible Studies

## **Ezra & Nehemiah**

Mondays at 10 am

Michele Cantley

***Starts Feb. 5th***

After 70 years of exile in Babylon, the people of Judah are returning home! Join us for a study of Ezra and Nehemiah as we explore the goals of the people of Judah and the obstacles they faced in rebuilding their country and the Temple.

## **1 & 2 Peter (part 2)**

Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Cindy Reeder and

Mary Lou Morrison

As we resume our bible studies in January, we will begin with I Peter 4-5, continuing to look at sharing in the sufferings of Christ. We will then continue to examine II Peter for his encouragements and warnings to the local church for the remainder of the winter/spring session.

## **Titus**

Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Mary Anne Turnbull and

Amanda Leon

Paul's letter to Titus gives great insight into the importance of church organization, church leaders, and sound doctrine that results in godly living. As we as a Briarwood family continue in our season of transition, join us for a close look at Paul's instructions and to learn how we can pray over our leaders during this unique time at Briarwood.

## **2 Kings**

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Kristie Harrick and

Elizabeth Bondurant

2 Kings is a continuation of the narrative covered in 1 Kings. We will continue to watch the Lord's compassion for His people as they continue to spiral in their sinfulness. As the Lord provides repentance opportunities we watch as Israel and Judah make choices that lead to exile. This study will guide us to understand the intentions of the author, the questions and issues raised in particular passages, and help explain the Scripture in an accessible way that makes sense for daily Christian living.

## **Hebrews:**

***Hoping for Something  
Better*** by Nancy Guthrie

Thursdays at 9:30 am

Donna Evans

Do you ever wrestle with a nagging sense of disappointment and find yourself longing for something better? The book of Hebrews shows us that there is something better than superficial spirituality, better than meaningless ritual, better than a life bound by shame and regret. "God had planned something better for us." Hebrews 11:40

## **John**

Thursdays at 9:30 am

Yvonne Welch

"John is both the simplest and the most profound of the Gospels. Its language is so pure and simple in the Greek that beginning students are always directed to the study of John first. This is a remarkable testimony to the divine inspiration of this amazing book." (*NAS Study Bible*) This will be a 10 week study of the book of John. Come and be blessed as we learn more about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



**Tuesday, February 27**  
**9:30am – 11:30am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Come enjoy light refreshments, coffee, prayer and  
a time to hear from our visiting missionary ladies!

Nursery Reservations Required [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery)  
For more information, go to [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

BRIARWOOD  
*Women*



# Women's Missionary Coffee

We need your help!



We would like to **ask that you write an encouragement card** with a favorite verse or two for our visiting missionaries.

The cards will be general in nature – please do not address them to a specific missionary. We do ask, as you write the card, that you pray for the missionary that will receive your card of encouragement. Our office will collect the cards and then we will divide them amongst all the women missionaries who can join us for the Missionary Coffee.

Along with the cards, we will provide each missionary with a gift card for them to make purchases of items that are needed.

**Please drop all cards off in the Women's Ministry Office (A106)  
between February 1<sup>st</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Nursery will be available for the Missionary Coffee with reservations:  
[briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery)

# *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](mailto:brendabparks@gmail.com)**





Mark your calendar for our next  
**Working Women's Fellowship Dinner**

*February 2024*

| 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  |     |     |

We would like to invite you to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, engagement and encouragement from those with shared experiences. Our guest will be Sharon Head, Director of Women's Business Leaders

**Thursday, February 8th**

**G101**

**6:00 pm—7:30 pm**

**Dinner is \$10 at the door**

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

# COMMUNITY UPDATES



Thank you to everyone who helped with **Angel Tree** this year! The **Hispanic Congregation** hosted a Christmas dinner to share the Gospel and disperse the gifts to all the children.



Special thank you to **Kari Escue** for organizing the gifts and to **Marie Gathings** for catering the event!





# COMMUNITY UPDATES



A team of Briarwood women went to Thailand to provide a full women's retreat for 30 of the women who serve with Campus Outreach in Thailand.

Thank you to the Briarwomen who provided the craft supplies and who prayed for our team!





# COMMUNITY UPDATES



**The Flower Guild  
Christmas Party**





# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Joyful Hearts Sunday School Christmas Party





# COMMUNITY UPDATES



**Deeper Life Sunday School Christmas Party**



**Special Connections Christmas Party**



# Behold & Believe

ENCOUNTERING JESUS AS THE GREAT I AM

## **The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference (TGCW24) June 20-24, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana**

Registration is open!

Briarwomen this is a wonderful conference to attend. The cost only covers the conference fee. Participants are responsible for travel and accommodations. Many of us are booking our hotel room in the Hampton Inn Indianapolis - Circle Center. 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. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/event/tgcw24/>







For 39 years the Reeder Family has been making pizza bread as a Christmas gift to the elders and deacons of the church. This tradition started at Christ Covenant in Charlotte with 3 elders and 3 deacons. As the churches have grown, so has the number of loaves. These last 25 years at Briarwood the Reeder family would make roughly 250 loaves every year to be given to the elders and deacons.

As this tradition comes to a close, the Reeder family once again gifted the elders and deacons with pizza bread. And, Cindy Reeder graciously has shared the beloved recipe with the Briarwood family.



## PIZZA BREAD

1 package of frozen \*\*bread dough (usually 3 loaves per package)

2 pounds sliced pepperoni

1-pound Mozzarella cheese (may need more)

Parmesan shaker cheese

Spices: pepper, granulated garlic, Italian spices to taste

Let dough thaw and rise according to package directions (spray frozen loaves well with Pam). Punch down (do not knead) and roll into large rectangle. Cover generously with pepperoni, and spices, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheese. Roll up like a jelly roll, tucking the ends under. Can place on pan and let rise 15-20 minutes. Bake at 325° for about 25 minutes.

To give as gifts, I cut each rectangle in half and make 2 rolls.

NOTE: I am really not completely sure how much pepperoni....I like the bread covered with it.

\*\*Can buy the frozen bread dough at most grocery stores. Bridgeford is one brand. It is with the frozen biscuits.

*Enjoy!*

*-Cindy Reeder*



# 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 one semester 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 every other week for 5 to 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 Spring 2024 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 keep watch for trainings this spring.

**If you are interested in Mentoring or Life on Life Relationships for Spring 2024, registration opens February 1st!**

**\*\*\*Pairings will be made by late February 2024.**

# Help Wanted!

Ladies, we have a need for servers (age 16 and up) for the upcoming Officers Banquet on **Friday night, January 12.**

Hours are **4:30pm-9:30pm.**

This paid opportunity is a fun time to offer a helping hand to the leadership of our church. Easy duties include final details before the dinner, serving the dinner plates to guests, refilling glasses during dinner, clearing tables at the end of the program, etc.

Dinner is provided for all servers during the paid dinner break.

Contact Leigh Ann Reese if you or someone you know is interested! 205-602-3135 (call or text), 205-776-5301 (email) or [lreese@briarwood.org](mailto:lreese@briarwood.org).



## Young Moms Prayer Group

Friday Mornings at 10:00 AM  
Room W-204 (above the sanctuary foyer)

Starts Friday, January 19th

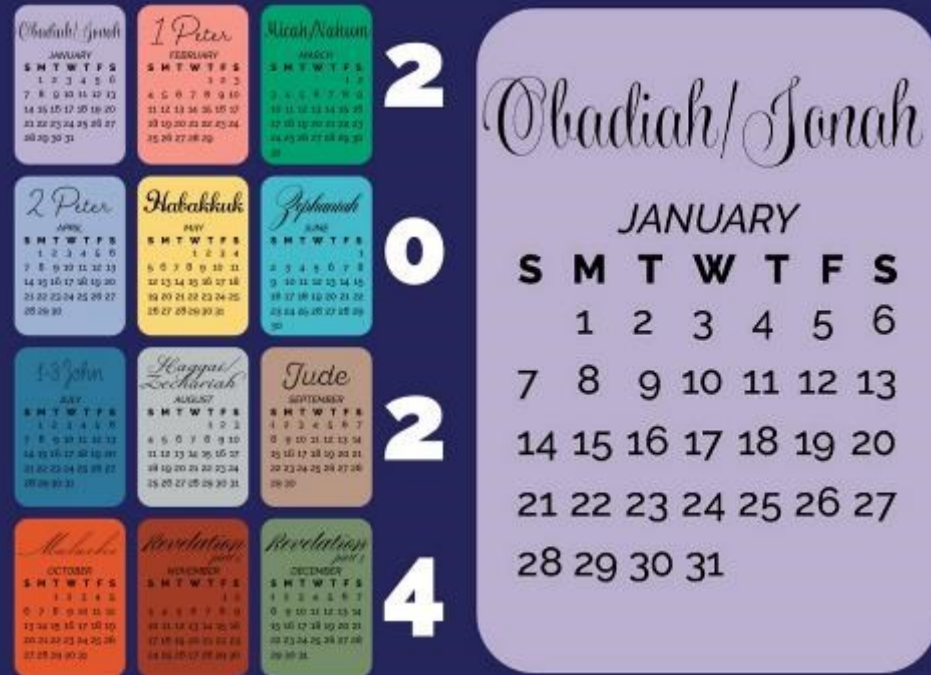
Nursery Reservations Required  
<https://nursery.briarwood.org/Registration>



## 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/)

