

APRIL 2024



On Sunday, April 14 a congregational meeting has been called by the Session following the evening service. The purpose of the meeting is to recognize Dave Matthew’s retirement and the procedures mandated by the Book of Church Order. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall to express our love and appreciation to Dave and Betty for their 28 years of service and ministry.

Betty and I have had the huge blessing of working with two incredible lead pastors and staff over the 28 years of serving at Briarwood. We first became good friends with the Barkers when I stayed with them when first arriving in Birmingham. I even joined the Saturday morning prayer meeting at their home (and in my bedroom!). This same Bible study continues meeting weekly except without Barbara's wonderful grits. This started wonderful friendships and it even provided an opportunity for Betty to accompany Barbara on her speaking trip to New Zealand.

We also had the enormous privilege of serving under Harry Reeder. Betty and I were able to join Harry and Cindy Reeder (whom we had known previously when we were both pastors in Charlotte NC) on many trips. Harry entrusted me with arranging the details of the Civil War trips, and then I continued on trips to Israel and Reformation locations in Europe.

Teaching in Birmingham Theological Seminary was another highlight of my ministry, providing the opportunity to teach overseas in Australia, New Zealand, and Uganda.

My ministry has evolved over the years from Children’s Ministry to now Senior Adults, and I have a drawer full of different nametags to prove it! None would have been doable without the wonderful staff who’ve assisted me.

We will be moving to Aiken, SC, where one of our daughters and her family lives. We are now building a house, and after moving plan to join their PCA church.

-Dave and Betty Matthews

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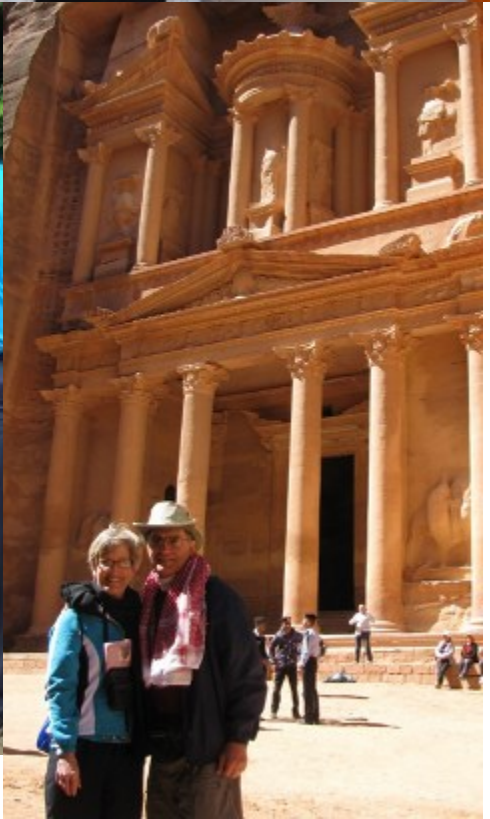
Special points of interest

- WBL Event
April 4
- Trailblazer Event
April 9
- Harvest USA
April 13
- IMPACT Birmingham
April 27

Thank you Dave and Betty Matthews
for your 28 years of ministry
at Briarwood!



Thank you
Dave and Betty!



From Soil to Soul

Fostering Growth in Gardens and Grace

Join WBL's upcoming event, From Soil to Soul, where we will come together to talk about how to bear fruit in our lives and our gardens in every season. Register soon, limited seating is available. Plus, we'll have a selection of sweet treats and a tasteful charcuterie spread for you to enjoy - the perfect complement to our fruitful conversation!

Thursday, April 4
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
The Caroline
House



Register online for just \$10!

What is Briarwood's position on Women teaching in Mixed Gender Adult Sunday School Classes?



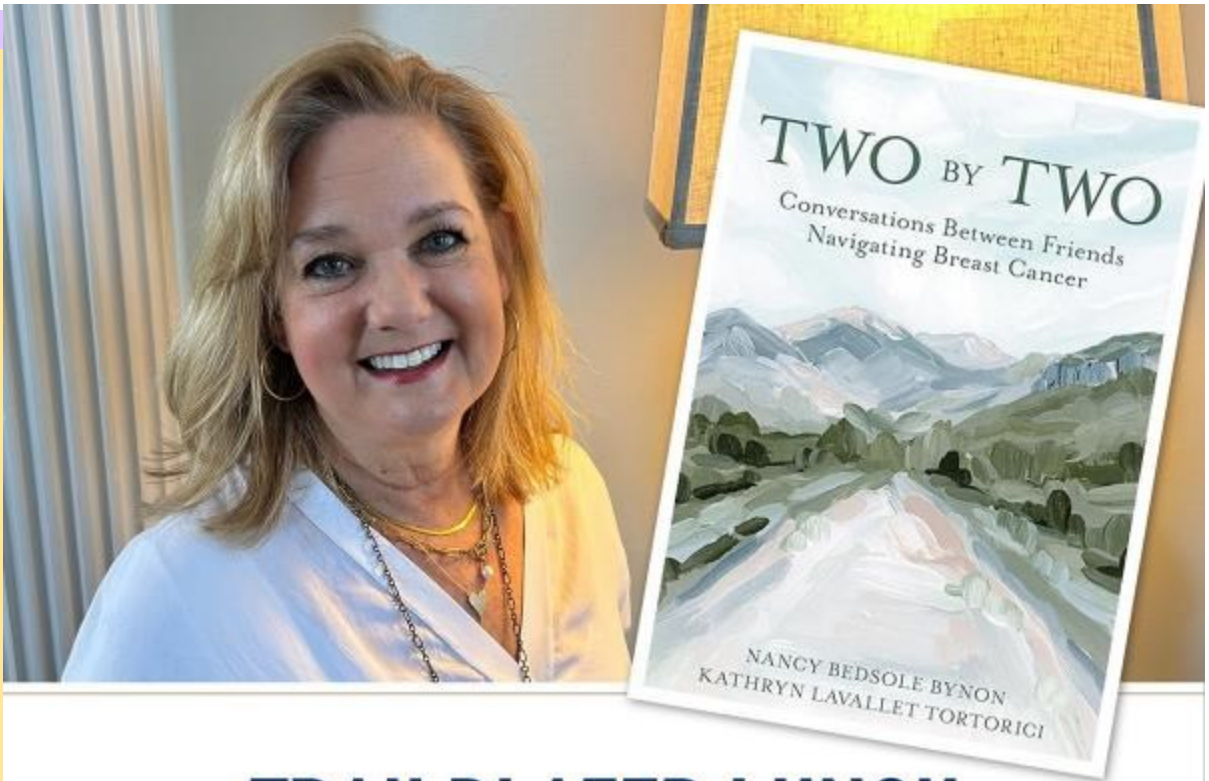
The roles of men and women in ministry at Briarwood Presbyterian Church are established and bound by biblical principles. Scripture clearly affirms that men and women are equal as God's created beings (Gal. 3:26-28), are mutually interdependent, and that both receive spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (Rom. 12:3-8). Therefore, we wholeheartedly affirm, value, and promote women, as well as men, in fully exercising their unique gifts in the church within the parameters set forth in Scripture. We affirm women must do this as we seek to fulfill our God-given vision in becoming an epicenter church by equipping and building up the body of Christ as Briarwood, or the body of Christ here suffers lack (2 Cor. 12:17-20).

We also acknowledge that while God's Word ascribes equal worth, it prescribes differing roles for men and women within the church. Scripture consistently affirms the principle of male headship* (without superiority) in the church and assigns this formally to the office of elder. The elders' responsibility of servant leadership encompasses the oversight of teaching, including its function and purity within our unique Congregational Community structure at Briarwood. For these reasons we expect that qualified men, and especially elders, would always comprise a significant majority of teachers in our Congregational Communities. We also affirm elders are primarily responsible in identifying and developing such men who will be able to serve the church as elders and teachers.

Therefore, our recommendation concerning the question of women teaching mixed gender adult Sunday School classes is answered by the phrase, "occasionally, but not regularly." We realize the activity of teaching displays some authority, but within our leadership structure at Briarwood we believe women should be able to serve the body as guest teachers for a limited time on a topic of expertise at the invitation of the elders responsible for the class and under their oversight, but not by teaching a mixed gender Congregational Community for extended periods of time. We believe this practice upholds the principle set forth in 1 Tim. 2:12 where Paul asserts, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man..." without violating principles set forth in other places in Scripture clearly encouraging women to use their teaching gifts to edify the body. This guideline is consistent with Biblical principles acting on male headship and the complimentary role of women as "suitable helpers" in the home and the church and our historical practice at Briarwood.

*The creation principle of general male headship in the church fully recognizes and acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over the church (see Preface to the BCO).

This statement was approved by the Session on August 22, 2006.



TRAILBLAZER LUNCH

TUESDAY, APRIL 9 - 11:30 AM - FH - \$10

Mountain Brook residents Kathryn Lavallet Tortorici and Nancy Bynon became friends after meeting in 2006, and their lives shared a lot of parallels.

They both were diagnosed with breast cancer within a few weeks of each other in 2019.

Come have lunch with Kathryn and hear her incredible story of friendship and faith.

TRAILBLAZERS
SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Raising up A SEXUALLY FAITHFUL Generation



Did you hear?

Harvest USA is presenting

a conference for soon-to-be
parents and parents/grandparents
raising children (0-18 yrs old)

and all who want to learn about
how to raise a sexually faithful
generation!

When and where will it be?

April 13, 2024

at Briarwood Presbyterian Church

Register at
briarwood.org/parentingconference

REGISTER HERE: <http://briarwood.org/parentingconference>

THE ART OF *Discipleship*

APRIL 3, 10, 17 & 24
FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:30-7:30 PM



TAUGHT BY RANDY POPE

Join us for this Midweek series on the power
of personal & intentional relationships.

briarwood.org/artofdipleship



Thank you to everyone who donated an Easter basket for the Daniel Cason Ministry's Outreach Event!
We received over 100!!!





God's WORD tells us we are
**MADE FOR
MORE...**

**MORE Purpose • MORE Value
MORE Mission • MORE Hope
MORE Belonging**

...than the WORLD could ever offer!

Early Registration Cost: \$75/person; \$25 for girls Grades 3-12.

Registration Opens: March 1, 2024

Come join us as we explore how God **MADE US FOR MORE** because of our creation design, gospel identity, and inter-generational friendships.

We live in a culture of "not-enoughness." We feel the lack of not enough time, energy, relationships, or resources. Our hearts cry, "I need, I want, or I deserve more!" Are you driven to accumulate more "likes" on your social media or influence over others? Maybe you are exhausted by a never-ending quest for peace amid anxiety. This ideology of scarcity underscores our need to consider the sufficiency or "enoughness" of God's character and purpose. We'll be talking about creation design, gospel identity, and the joy of inter-generational friendships. We will explore how satisfaction, significance, and sufficiency can only be found by seeking our Savior.

Schedule: Friday evening, 7:00-8:30 pm – Session 1, Creation Design with Paula Miles

Saturday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm – Session 2, Gospel Identity with Ellen Dykas

Session 3, Created for a Purpose (for girls grades 3-12); Biblical Sexuality Workshop and Q&A (for adults)

Session 4, Walking Each Other Home: The Joy of Intergenerational Friendships with Karen Hodge

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE MADE FOR MORE CONFERENCE?

We encourage girls third grade and up to join us! This conference is for ALL women—young, single, married and "more seasoned," as well as your treasured friends. So, gather the women in your circles, plan a special weekend away, and we will save you some seats.



women.pccdm.org/made-for-more/





Mountain View women at their monthly birthday gathering.

Congratulations to Brandon and Meredith Darroch on the birth of their son Titus on March 22, 2024.



Communion Set-Up Team

We are looking to build a team of volunteers to set up the elements for Communion! So grab your buddies (guys and gals) and join us!

If you are interested, please contact Leigh Anne Reese at lreese@briarwood.org or 205-776-5301.





VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Put on the full armor of God! We are busy making plans for VBS 2024 which is June 3-7! Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend. Bring your neighbors, friends, and grandchildren. Registration is open at www.briarwood.org/vbs. Teen helper registration will open in May. We still need lots of volunteers in all areas of VBS. Volunteering is super easy and you do not need any prior experience to help!

Please email Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org if you are interested in volunteering at VBS.

We have the privilege to serve, on location, with local ministry partners in the Birmingham area. This will be an incredible opportunity to serve together as the body of Christ, get exposure to ministry opportunities, and IMPACT Birmingham for Christ!

Register [HERE](#)

IMPACT Birmingham • April 27, 2024



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/

