

JULY 2024

BRIARWOOD
Women's Ministry

At the end of June, I had the opportunity to attend The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference (TGCW24) in Indianapolis, Indiana with some Briarwood sisters and over 9,000 women from around the globe. We gathered to worship and to be challenged to consider the "I AM" statements of scripture and the implications of them. In addition to the plenary speakers, the musical group Shane and Shane wrote a beautiful song to keep our minds and hearts fixed on the truth of the "I AM" passages of scripture. The lyrics read as follows:

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>You said, "I am the bread of life Who ever comes to dine Will not hunger will not thirst and will be satisfied" You said, "I am the only light That gives the blind their sight" If we see You will lead us through the darkest night</p> <p>Chorus: We behold, we believe You are the Lion and the Lamb, the Prince of Peace We adore, we confess You are the One who came and died and rose again The Great I Am</p> <p>You said, "I am the open door That souls are longing for" If we walk in new life begins forevermore You said, "I am the shepherd guide Who came to live and die" To lead the ones He loves to resurrection life</p> <p>Before creation's spark, before light from the dark Before the waters part You are, You are the Great I Am</p> | <p>Before You breathed on the dust before Abraham was Before the burning bush You are, You are the Great I Am Before creation's spark before light from the dark Before the waters part You are, You are the Great I Am Before You breathed on the dust before Abraham was Before the burning bush You are, You are the Great I Am You are the Great I Am You are the Great I Am You are the Great I Am</p> <p>You said, "I am the only way To see the Father's face: The only truth, the only life, the one who saves You said, "I am the one true vine" In You we will abide To bear the fruit of Gospel truth in death and life That all might know the mighty name of Jesus Christ</p> |
|--|--|

As we sang these lyrics each session, I was struck by the constancy and reliability of Christ! He never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The words of scripture written thousands of years ago ring true today. Therefore, as we walk through changes, good times, hard times, lean times, abundance, sorrow and joy; our Savior is our bread, our light, our open door, our shepherd, our way, truth and life, and our vine. He is the Great I Am! Rest in Him!



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Special points of interest

- Summer Fellowships
July 17, 18 and 23
- Working Women's Dinner
July 24
- Fall Kickoff: SAVE THE DATE
August 24

BRIARWOOD
Women

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

JUNE & JULY 2024



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

What happens at the Summer Fellowships?

- 12 women will sign up to gather in a host home on a set day and at a designated time
 - oMorning fellowships are 9:30 am – 11:00 am
 - oEvening fellowships are 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
- Each woman will bring a food item to share:
 - oMorning fellowships will bring light pastry or fruit to share
 - oEvening fellowships will bring a small dessert or snack to share



The host home will provide water and coffee and the paper plates and utensils

- There will be a “mystery” guest at the fellowship who will then share about 20-30 minutes of her story with the Lord.

The dates are July 17, 18, 23

•How do I sign up for a Summer Fellowship?

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for a July Fellowship

Please only sign up for one fellowship in July

•Can my friends and I sign up together?

Yes, you can sign up together. However, part of this is an opportunity to get to know more women in the church from various ages and stages. So, we would encourage you to **limit groups going together to 2 friends at any one house**. We encourage your friend group to spread out amongst numerous houses.

•What if all the spots are filled and I would like to go?

On each sign-up genius there is a place to mark that you would like to sign up if another house is available – pick am or pm session. Once we see there is a need, we will contact you and let you know of additional homes that have opened.

•Is there a charge?

No charge! Just come and fellowship and bring a food item to share.

•Is there nursery available?

Yes, nursery is available for the morning fellowships
You must register at: briarwood.org/nursery

•Contact the Women’s Ministry if you have additional questions

lreese@briarwood.org or 205-776-5311



Our June
Summer
Fellowships
were a
big hit!



Thank You to our June
Mystery Guests:

Hannah Martin
Susan Logsdon
Amanda Johnson
Kate Adcock
Danae Lloyd
Connie Livingston



Thank you to our
June Host Homes:

Audrey Jowers
Lynda Moore
Caroline Carlisle
Teresa Stokes
Gale Dorroh
Shannon Black
Corinne Denard
Sheri Selkirk



Briarwood Women's Drop-In Summer Bible Study

but God;

TUESDAYS AT 9:30 AM IN THE CHAPEL

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|------------------|
| June 11 | Susan Bellows | 1 Corinthians 3 |
| June 18 | Kelly Buck | Genesis 50 |
| June 25 | Vicki Portis | 1 Corinthians 10 |
| July 9 | Cindy Harsh | Rom. 5 & Eph. 2 |
| July 16 | Rebekah Vermeer | Psalms 73 |
| July 23 | Annette Blake | Acts 13 |
| July 30 | <i>Fellowship Meal</i> | |

Register online at briarwood.org/women.
Nursery available by reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.



Thank you to those who shared in June:
Susan Bellows, Kelly Buck, Vicki Portis

All the audio recordings are on the Briarwood App:
Click media, communities, Women

Working Women's Dinner



We would like to invite you to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, engagement and encouragement from those with shared experiences.

Wednesday, July 24th

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

Save the Date!
More info to come

Women's Fall KICKOFF

August 24, 2024



10 AM – 12 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL
REGISTRATION OPENS IN AUGUST • BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN

Letter from Bruce Stallings

June 26, 2024

Briarwood Church Family,

Grace and Peace in our Lord Jesus Christ! Long before Pastor Reeder was called Home, he and I repeatedly discussed and prayed over what our Lord may call each of us to do in our next phase of ministry because I have maintained that the next Pastor at Briarwood should have the freedom to choose and recommend his Executive Pastor, if in fact he desires to work through one. As I pursued the Lord's will He drew me to a favorite passage in the OT where Joshua had an encounter with Jesus (The Commander of the Army of The Lord) on the plains of Jericho. When Joshua realized he was speaking to THE Commander he fell on his face to the earth and asked, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" I don't know how long he stayed on the ground listening to the Lord but I have been on my face before the Lord for well over a year simply asking, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Once the Lord instructed Joshua we read Joshua's response - "And Joshua did so!" So my desire has been to hear the Lord and to wholeheartedly, by the power of His Spirit, do His will.

The Lord has now faithfully answered those prayers and called me to serve at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC as the Executive Director for Dr. Neil Stewart. I am humbled by the graciousness of our Lord in calling me to serve Dr. Stewart and the church in this capacity. The timing of our leaving Briarwood has not yet been finalized but we intend to transition to First Presbyterian Church by the end of the summer.

Sonya and I are enormously grateful to our Lord for the immeasurable blessing of serving Him at Briarwood for the past 23 years. We have both received far more from Briarwood than we could have ever given, and we treasure the deep relationships that our Lord has granted to us. Because of the great love we have for you, it is incredibly difficult to leave however, we have peace that God has gone before us, and we are walking in obedience to His will.

I have been richly blessed at Briarwood to serve the Lord with the finest Staff Team I have ever encountered. The Senior Staff comprised of Matt Moore, Benny Parks, Bryan Wintersteen and Benny Youngblood are uniquely gifted and godly men whose commitment to the Lord and to Briarwood are exemplary. These men love the Lord and His church and together with Dr. Doriani and the other gifted staff are more than competent to provide the pastoral and staff leadership necessary during these next phases of transition. I am also grateful for the Elders and Deacons whom I have had the privilege to serve alongside and learn from during my time at Briarwood. Their investment of time, talents and treasures is amazing and I will always appreciate their leadership of our church and their patience with me as the Executive Pastor. I am confident these men in the hands of our Lord will shepherd and serve Briarwood well for years to come and I pray that Briarwood's best years of ministry are ahead.

Finally, I thank the Lord for Pastor Reeder asking me to serve as his Executive Pastor and for the Session providing me such a ministry opportunity. I cannot begin to measure how much I learned from our Pastor and what a blessing he was to me. On behalf of my entire family, I want to express our appreciation for Briarwood's love and support. Truly the lines have fallen for us in pleasant places and Briarwood has been such a pleasant blessing to all of us.

On Mission, On Message and In Ministry . . . Until Christ Returns!

J. Bruce Stallings

Community Updates



Luis and Amanda Leon welcomed Peter Arturo Leon on May 11, 2024



Chadman and Ashley Ponter welcomed Nora Ann Ponter on May 16, 2024





JD and Cierra Bragan welcomed Livi Anne Bragan on May 22, 2024

Walker and Kallie Davis welcomed John Walker Davis on May 29, 2024



Patrick and Lindsey Flynn welcomed Annette "Annie" Louise Flynn on May 23, 2024

Matthew and Julie Moore welcomed Molly Joan Moore on June 4, 2024



Alex and Catherine Noble welcomed Naomi Cate Noble on June 5, 2024

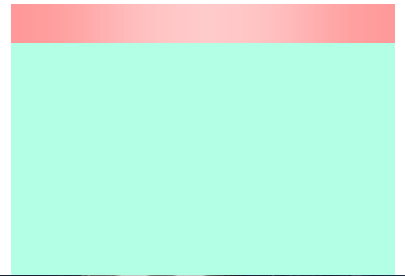


Mason and Sydney Murphy welcomed Donald "Warren" Murphy on June 21, 2024



Jonathan and Jackie Kalehoff welcomed Samuel Chestnut Kalehoff on June 25, 2024





A group of Briarwood women attended The Gospel Coalition Women's conference in Indianapolis.





The ladies in Joyful Hearts Sunday School celebrated Sally Scott's 97th birthday.

Our Summer women's Bible study series in the Chapel



Made FOR More

C O N F E R E N C E

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, AL • September 13-14, 2024

Join us as we explore how
God MADE US FOR MORE

because of our creation design, gospel identity, and *intergenerational* 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? Are you 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 intergenerational relationships.

We will explore how satisfaction, significance, and sufficiency can only be found by seeking our Savior.

YOU ARE INVITED!

This conference is for *ALL* women—young, single, married and "more seasoned," as well as your treasured friends. We encourage girls third grade and up to join us!

So, *gather* the women in your circles, plan a special weekend away, and we will save you some seats!

SCHEDULE

(more detail on back)

Friday Evening | 7:00-8:30 pm

Worship & Session 1

Creation Design with Paula Miles

Dessert Fellowship

Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Worship & Session 2

Gospel Identity with Ellen Dykas

Session 3

Created for a Purpose

(Grades 3rd-12th)

Biblical Sexuality Workshop w/Q&A

(Adults)

Lunch Served

Worship & Session 4

Walking Each Other Home:

The Joy of Intergenerational

Friendships with Karen Hodge



Early Registration
ends July 13, 2024
Cost \$75 per person;
\$30 for Girls
(Grades 3rd-12th)

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/



Pray for the
upcoming
Liberia Mission Trip
July 20-29



Briarwood has a team of 8 men and women who will be serving with **(un)adopted** a ministry of Lifeline Children's Services. The Briarwood team will work with the R.E.A.P. program which stands for Restoration of Educational Advancement Programs. Please pray for travel safety, for Gospel impact, relational encouragement, and educational opportunities.



Pray for the
upcoming
Bristol Mission Trip
July 27-August 5

Briarwood has a team of 13 men and women from the Graduate & Career community and the Branches Community who will serve Headley Park Church and Philip Street Chapel in Bristol, UK. The Briarwood team will work with VBS and outreach opportunities in support of the two churches. Please pray for travel safety, the various teaching and fellowship opportunities, for Gospel impact, and for continued encouragement and fellowship amongst the churches and community.

