

AUGUST 2024



I have loved watching the Olympics since I was a young girl. I remember watching Mary Lou Retton win the Individual All Around gold medal in gymnastics in the 1984 games. I would even pretend to land a tumbling routine with my hands lifted high above me. Through the years, I have also enjoyed watching Michael Phelps and the USA Swim team compete every four years. This year’s competitions have also captured my attention. I have loved watching the gymnasts, the swimmers, and even the women’s rugby team this year. And, as I write this, I know that the track and field events will begin soon. I think what I enjoy most is watching men and women from around the globe gather as athletes to compete and celebrate the hard work that they have put in day in and day out in pursuit of the Olympic dream. I even found myself cheering for a father from Ecuador competing in the men’s walking competition because the commentators explained that his 10-year-old son calls him before every race and encourages his dad. Go Ecuador! I love it all!

While the Olympics highlight such rich and beautiful stories and showcase the result of hard work and focused dedication, this year’s opening ceremony also reminded me that I live in a fallen world where the beauty and holiness of the Creator is not valued or esteemed. I must admit that I was shocked as I watched, not at the sinfulness of certain scenes, but shocked that the scenes were even allowed and even celebrated in a worldwide broadcast. As I reflected, I was reminded that this is the way of sin according to Romans 1. Apart from God’s work in my life, this would have been my way of sin as well. So, I have had to ask the Lord what I should do with my joy of the individual athletes accomplishments and my disgust of the opening ceremony on display at this world sporting event. The conclusion for me was to see the Olympics in two ways: see the opening ceremony of the Olympics as my wake-up call to the world’s desperate need for salvation through Christ alone, and to see the individual Olympians as representatives of all the tribes, nations and tongues that need salvation through Christ alone. Viewing the Olympics this way has given me fresh eyes to the desperate need for the Gospel to go forth to all nations...to the individual athlete, father, husband, wife, mother, and daughter that is represented by the athletes from around the globe.

Romans 3:22-24

²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Lord, we long for your name to be glorified in all the earth by all peoples, nations, tribes and tongues!

-Kristie

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Special points of interest

- Devotional Book “One Anothers” is available for purchase
- Fall Kickoff Event August 24
- Fall Bible Studies begin September 3

Women's Fall
KICKOFF

August 24, 2024



10 AM – 12 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

[Food Sign Up](#)

[Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Women's Fall Kickoff – August 24th

Ladies, I am sure you are asking **what will we do** at the Women's Fall Kickoff and **why** are the Eiffel Tower and Olympic Rings on our flyer for the Women's Fall Kickoff?

What will we do?

The primary focus of the Fall Kickoff is to gather the ladies of Briarwood together for fellowship, food and fun! We will even have some door prizes and a special guest or two!

Schedule:

- The doors will open right at 9:50 am (we won't open early)
- Then we will have some scheduled "events" throughout our time together
- We will end promptly at 12:00 pm

Why an Eiffel Tower and Olympic Rings on the flyer?

Our last Fall Kickoff we did a Mad Hatter's Tea Party Themed gathering. So the Eiffel Tower and the Olympic rings let you know that this year's theme is focused on the Paris Olympics. This just gives direction to how we decorate and the foods that we may have at the event. It also impacts how you are to dress...no we are not making you come dressed as a swimmer or a boxer!!!!

Dress:

- Everyone is to dress in a shirt that is the color of one of the Olympic Rings: **black, red, yellow, blue, or green.**
- Dress comfortable – this is a very relaxed event. Jeans, shorts, khakis, etc. just make sure you wear one of the colors of the Olympic rings.

Food:

- We will serve light refreshments. If you are able to help with the finger food then please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A4A928A1FEC07-50389121-womens>
- We ask that food be dropped off in containers that can be thrown away – Dollar Tree has excellent one dollar containers.
- All food items are to be dropped off on Friday, August 23rd by 4:00 pm in the kitchen serving area. We will refrigerate the cold items.

Volunteer:

- Click on the link below to see ways you could help with the event:
- [Briarwood: Women's Fall Olympic Kickoff Volunteers \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49A4A928A1FEC07-50389121-womens)

Please plan to attend and invite your friends. We want to end our summer and kick off our fall with a fun time of fellowship together! If you plan to attend, please let us know by registering below.

Register your attendance at [briarwood.org/women](https://www.briarwood.org/women)

Nursery is available for those who register ahead of time. <https://nursery.briarwood.org/Registration>

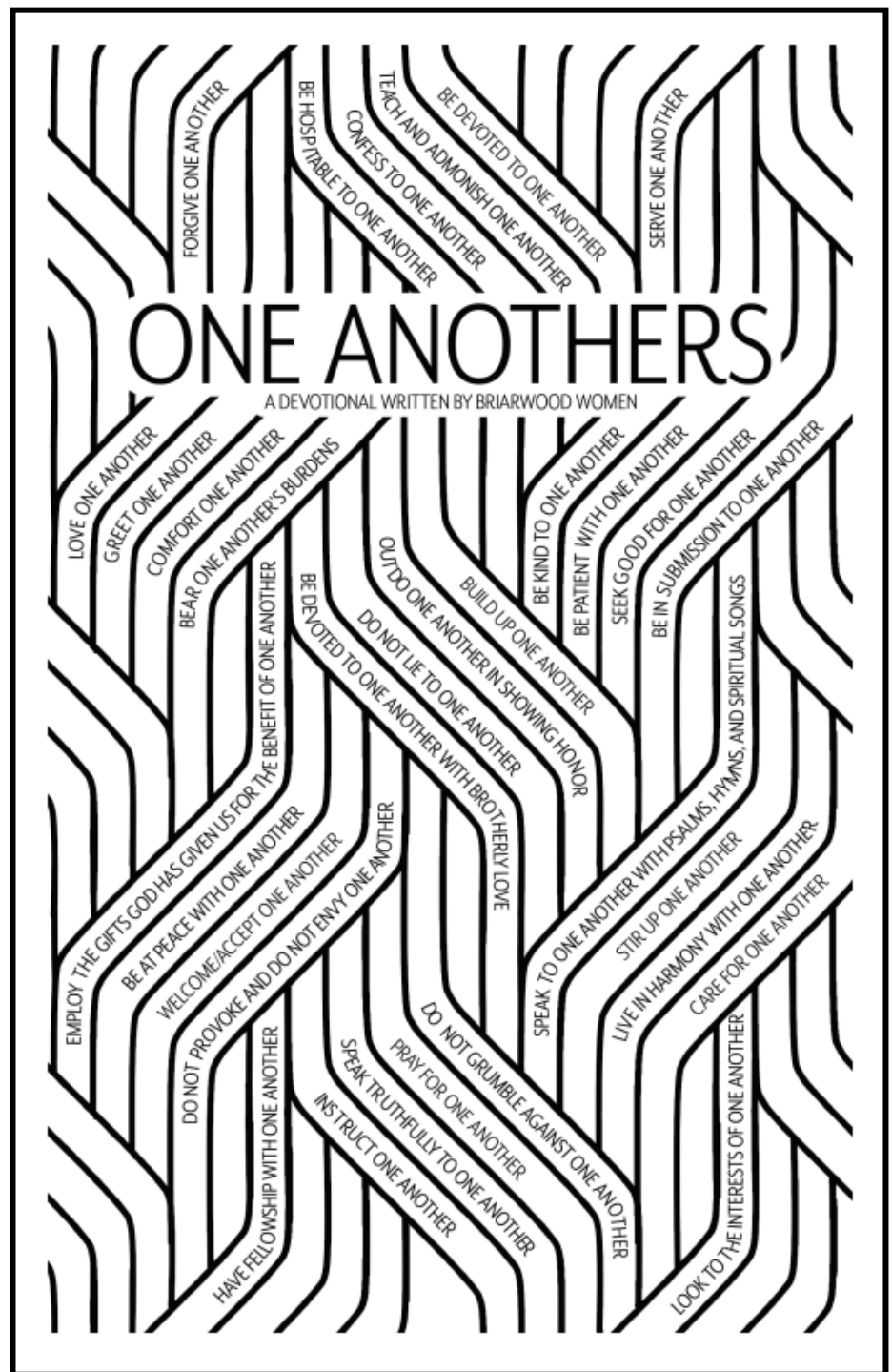
The August
Women's
Devotional

“One Others”

Written by
Briarwood
women is now
available for
purchase in the
women's
ministry office
A106 for \$5.

Cash or check
only.

Devotionals will
also be for sale
Sunday, August 4
outside of the
bookstore and
the chapel.



Thank you to the women who wrote for our devotional:

Caroline Black, Natalie Beckernick, Annette Blake,
Elizabeth Bondurant, Christi Bono, Caroline Brown,
Mary Beth Bush, Caroline Carlisle, Julie Clark, Donna Evans,
Rebecca Galbreath, Chesley Peed Kalehoff, Jackie Kalehoff,
Kate King, Morgan Kreger, Kristin Landers, Sue Lewis, Danae Lloyd,
Lisa Looper, Mallory Marshall, Grace Mirly, Tammy Moore,
Margaret Anne Owens, Summer Schor, Linda Smedley,
Sonja Steelman, Jennifer Reeder Toomer-Hay, Rebekah Vermeer,
and Melody Weaver

Women's Fall Studies

Mondays | 10:00 AM

BOOK OF ESTHER

Led by Michele Cantley

Location: A202 and Zoom

Tuesdays | 9:30 AM

A WOMAN'S WISDOM BY LYDIA BROWNBACK

Led by Cindy Reeder and Mary Lou Morrison

Location: Fellowship Hall A

BEHOLD & BELIEVE: A STUDY OF THE I AM STATEMENTS

Led by Mary Anne Turnbull

Location: G-101

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM

BOOK OF JONAH

Led by Kristie Harrick

Location: G-103

Thursdays | 9:30 AM

BOOK OF JOHN

Led by Yvonne Welch

Location: G-103

BOOK OF DANIEL:

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN OUR SUFFERING

Led by Donna Evans

Location: G-101

All studies begin in September.
Childcare is available at briarwood.org/nursery.
For more details, go to briarwood.org/women.

Thank you to our Bible study teachers this summer:

Susan Bellows, Kelly Buck, Vicki Portis, Cindy Harsh,
Rebekah Vermeer, Annette Blake

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

Classes
start back
August 12

First class
is FREE!



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.

If you are interested registration opens in September.

*****Pairings will be made by September 23, 2024**



**Thank you to the July
Summer Fellowship Host Homes:**

- Janae Eller
- Peggy Parrish
- Lyndsey Holcombe
- Wendy Long
- Cheryl Blackmon
- Shannon Crawford
- Kelly Hammond
- Paty Pruet



**July Summer
Fellowships**





**Thank you to the
Mystery Guests:**

Meredith Peters
Tami Wells
Yvonne Gomillian
Margaret Anne Owens
Debbi Doriani
Richelle Day
Julie Olmedo
Tricia Corbett

**July
Summer
Fellowships**



Urban Hope Thanks You!

Thank you for helping to furnish the loft for the Urban Hope Leadership Initiative. Your giving was overwhelming.

Urban Hope was able to raise money to buy and renovate a building in downtown Fairfield. The upstairs is the loft for the students in the leadership initiative program, and the downstairs is the first grocery store that they've had in Fairfield since Walmart pulled out in 2016. This is the only grocery store in the area. All money for the building was raised by individuals and churches (many PCA). It was a huge testimony to people in the area that the church was able to raise all this money for this building and store without any government grants.

Please pray for the Urban Hope Leadership Initiative and for the grocery store. Please pray the people of Fairfield would have hearts open to the Gospel.



Thank you for supplying snacks for the Briarwood Youth Group's big IMPACT Weekend!





The church Administrative Team,
“The A-Team,”
enjoyed a Summer Fellowship lunch
at the Caroline House



Reception Honoring Bruce and Sonya Stallings

Join our church family on Sunday, August 11 after the evening Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall to thank and honor the Stallings for their many years of service to our Briarwood family.



SpecialConnections

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE FAIR

AUGUST 22 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM • BRIARWOOD FELLOWSHIP HALL

The graphic features a large white semi-circle on a blue background. At the top center is a red logo of two interlocking puzzle pieces forming a heart, with a yellow sunburst in the center. Below the logo is the text 'SpecialConnections' in a gold, sans-serif font. The main title 'SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE FAIR' is centered within the white semi-circle. 'SPECIAL NEEDS' and 'FAIR' are in black, bold, sans-serif font, while 'RESOURCE' is in white, bold, sans-serif font inside a blue rectangular box. At the bottom of the white semi-circle, the event details 'AUGUST 22 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM • BRIARWOOD FELLOWSHIP HALL' are written in a light blue, sans-serif font.

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/>



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*Haggai/
Zechariah*

AUGUST

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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/

