

SEPTEMBER 2024



Ladies, this Fall we have many opportunities for you to grow in your relationships with your covenant Briarwood sisters; to grow in your walk with the Lord through the study of the Word and mentorship/discipleship opportunities; and to engage in ministry opportunities. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might have you engage this coming Fall 2024.

September

Women's Bible Studies

Young Moms: Sing Along with Mom

Mom 2 Mom

Young Mom Prayer Group

Made for More Conference – September 13th - 14th

Portraits of Hope Art Exhibit – September 24th

Briarwood Christian School Mom's Bible Study

October

Working Women's Fellowship Dinner – October 17th

National Ministries Conference

November

Countdown to Christmas – November 20th

Service Opportunities

L.O.V.E. Ministry

Flower Guild

Threads of Comfort

Support

Women's Care Team

January

In Town Retreat – save the date January 31 – February 1

-Kristie




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Special points of interest

- Fall Bible Studies begin THIS WEEK!
- Portraits of Hope event September 24
- Working Women's Dinner October 17



BRIARWOOD
Women
Fall 2024

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 BROWBACK

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.



Women's Fall Studies

The Book of Esther: "For Such a Time as This"

Michele Cantley

Mondays at 10:00am in A202 and Zoom

Starts Monday, September 9

Please join us for this 9-week study of Esther. Learn how God's providence and the unlikely young woman Esther saved all of the Jews of Persia from a dangerous plot to destroy them all.

A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything

By Lydia Brownback (book required)

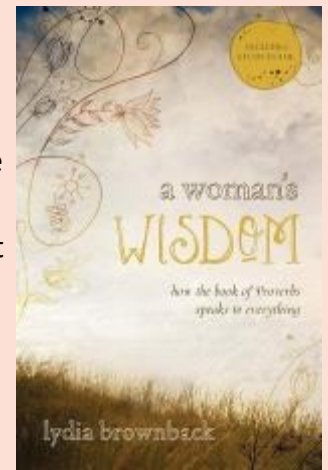
Cindy Reeder and Mary Lou Morrison

Tuesdays at 9:30am in FHA

Starts Tuesday, September 10

The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and that those who follow the path of wisdom will prosper. What does that mean to you as a woman? Lydia Brownback takes us on a topical journey in Proverbs to see just what God says about our heart, tongue, habits, loves, finances, work ethic and many other areas of life. I was truly convicted about matters of my own heart while studying this excellent book. Come join us.

A Woman's Wisdom: How the Book of Proverbs Speaks to Everything is available for purchase in the bookstore and online at: amazon.com and christianbook.com



Behold and Believe: A Bible Study on the "I Am" Statements of Jesus

By Courtney Doctor, Joanna Kimbrel (book required)

Mary Anne Turnbull

Tuesdays at 9:30am in G101

Starts Tuesday, September 10

Whether you've never read the Bible, have followed Jesus for years, or find yourself somewhere in between, this 7-week Bible study will help you explore the question, *Who is Jesus?* Using the "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John, this study demonstrate how to observe, interpret, apply, and reflect on key Bible verses about Jesus's identity. Weekly prayers, memory verses, brief commentaries, and discussion questions help women to see Jesus, trust Him alone for salvation, and proclaim His goodness to others.

Behold and Believe can be purchased online at: <https://store.thegospelcoalition.org/product/9781433590191/behold-and-believe>



Women's Fall Studies

A Study on Jonah

Kristie Harrick

Wednesdays at 6:30pm in G103

Starts Wednesday, September 4

Most of us know the story of Jonah and yet so often we reduce it to a story about a big fish. While the big fish is one piece of the story, it is not the takeaway for us. Join us as we dive into the life of Jonah the prophet: his theology, his struggles, his fear, his rebellion, his faithfulness and his hardened heart. Through our study of the person of Jonah and these circumstances, we will gain an even greater understanding of the great God of Jonah, our God. We will see His sovereignty, His disciplining hand, His heart for people, His mercy and grace, His omnipotence, and His sustaining hand. Please join us as we revisit a familiar story to see the depth of treasures beyond the big fish.

The Book of Daniel: God's Sovereignty in Our Suffering

Donna Evans

Thursdays at 9:30am in G101

Starts Thursday, September 5

Author Paige Brown says, "Our world and our lives are determined by God's sovereignty. Our hearts are determined by our responses to that reality." The book of Daniel's main theme is God's sovereign control over the affairs of all rulers and nations, and their final replacement with the true King. Using Daniel 1-6 we will learn that our God is a suffering sovereign who doesn't just allow us to suffer, but who suffers with us in the fiery furnaces of life.

The Message of Daniel by Dale Ralph Davis is optional.

The Book of John

Yvonne Welch

Thursdays at 9:30am in G103

Starts Thursday, September 5

William Hendrickson in his 500 page commentary on the Gospel of John begins with, "The Gospel according to John is the most amazing book that was ever written." This book will strengthen your faith and encourage your heart as you learn more about our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ and how HE has sacrificed everything for you and for me. This will be an 8 week study of the book of John which will require homework and discussion in class.

FOUNDATIONS

This Fall I have asked Cathe Cleveland to share with us about four non-negotiables for us as believers. These are four bedrock truths that our women's ministry will continue to reinforce throughout the Fall and into the new year. I pray you will be both encouraged and challenged as you consider these truths.

How many times did you hear Pastor Reeder remind us that we are to be constantly "on message — on mission — in ministry?" During my years of involvement in women's ministry I learned our Covenant Theology leads us to four non-negotiable truths. These principles should be the basis for all of life and any ministry undertaking. They are non-negotiable essentials. When we adhere to them, we can have confidence we are staying on message as we are on mission, in ministry. Over the next four months we will look at each one in a little more depth.

Here are all four:

- God is our reference point.
- His Word is our authority.
- His glory is our purpose.
- His presence is His promise.

God is Our Reference Point

Gerry Largay and her friend Jane Lee set off in April of 2013 to fulfill a life dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail. They had meticulously planned their trip and arranged meeting places with Gerry's husband every few days to be resupplied. When her friend had to return home because of a family emergency, Gerry decided to continue on her own. However, on a trek off the trail for a bathroom stop, she became disoriented and could not find her way back. When she didn't show up the next day for a planned meeting with her husband, searchers were sent out, but no trace was found. Two years passed before a surveyor stumbled on a collapsed tent with her skeletal remains inside.

She had placed her cellphone and journal in a waterproof bag with a note informing whoever found it to return them to her family so they would know the story of her final days. She had journaled for nineteen days after becoming lost. She did not know that a dog team had passed within 100 yards of her, that her campsite was only half a mile from the trail as the crow flies, or that if she had walked downhill, she would have soon reached an old railroad track that would have taken her, in either direction, straight out of the woods. She had sadly lost her sense of direction and had no frame of reference for finding the trail.

We use all kinds of things as points of reference when trying to find our way in life. But all of them have limitations because everything in the created universe is changing. There is only one true reference point that never changes. Before there was anything else, there was God. The first four words of the bible are the same in most if not all English versions. "In the beginning, God" (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

More details of Gerry's story can be found in this article: <https://www.wired.com/story/why-humans-totally-freak-out-when-they-get-lost/>

Apart from Him nothing in our world would even exist. He is over everything, and myriad books have been written trying to describe His greatness to our finite minds. We could spend years searching for words to adequately describe Him and still fall far short. As the only unchanging being in a universe of change, He is distinguished from every created thing. Whatever situation we could possibly find ourselves in, God is our reference point.

Scripture gives us glimpses in many places of how we might comprehend the uniqueness of God. Isaiah uses comparisons of God to familiar images and ideas to illustrate how far He is beyond anything we know. Isaiah 40:12-14 says,

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?”

This great Creator brought you into this world for His purposes and He is the only point of reference we can confidently return to in any circumstance to reset our bearings and determine what should be done next.

For whatever reason, we tend to look to so many things other than God as our reference point when we face decisions. Since 2001, when I began serving our denomination as a Women’s Ministry Trainer, I have had the privilege of sitting under training sessions led by several different trainers. It was one of those trainers that God used to point out my go to error as to my reference point. The trainer emphasized in several different ways the idea that in ministry, a leader needs to remember that “it’s not about me”.

My awkward middle school years included a transition from private to public school. I made it through by focusing on academic achievements. My go to in problem solving has probably always been my ability to “figure things out”. But it doesn’t take a comprehensive examination to realize there are limits to my own abilities that will always leave me wanting.

That trainer made obvious for me an issue that has ever since been a constant battle. Applying that truth allows me to intentionally turn to God as my reference point. However, it is very often three steps forward and two steps back. C.S. Lewis describes my tendency this way in *The Problem of Pain*, “They wanted to be nouns, but they were, and eternally must be, mere adjectives.” There is a sense where I need to acknowledge He is the subject of every sentence of my life (and ministry), and amazingly, He calls me to the privilege of being a part of the story as a mere adjective, or as an adverb for His actions.

Of course, there are many other things besides self that we use as our reference point rather than God. The danger is we may not realize the inadequacy of our point of reference until we find ourselves in a perplexing dire situation like the one Gerry Largay found herself with no point of reference to find our way out. But when we intentionally look to God as our reference point, He leads us out of even the most bewildering wilderness.

FOR YOUNG MOMS

A decorative header featuring a blue treble clef, several colorful musical notes (red, blue, green) on a yellow staff, and scattered colorful dots (red, yellow, green, blue) around the text.

Sing Along with mom

Moms and littles (infants to 5 yrs) join us for a preschool music and movement class. This is a fun opportunity to meet with other moms and littles as we sing and grow together in this season.

Wednesdays

beginning September 11

G-101

9:30 am – 10:30 am

For more information and to register (free), please visit briarwood.org/women.

FOR YOUNG MOMS

Young moms with children under 10 years old are invited to register.

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOM 2 MOM

telling the next generation



FRIDAYS

SEPT. 20, OCT. 25 & NOV. 8

9:30 - 11:30 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL E & F

SEPTEMBER'S TOPIC: COMPARISON IS A KILLER

Join us once a month as older moms and younger moms gather around a table for fellowship, refreshments and encouragement.

For more information and to register, visit: briarwood.org/women.

Nursery available with registration.

FOR YOUNG MOMS

YOUNG MOMS

PRAYER GROUP

Friday
mornings

9-10 am
G-103



Does your heart yearn for another mom with whom you can pray for your young children? In the midst of a sometimes-scary world, God has entrusted us with the precious gift of little ones. The responsibility can feel daunting! BUT praying with other moms focuses our vision on the Lord and His Word as our source of wisdom, comfort, and instruction. Join us as we pray for our wee ones!

Beginning Sept. 6

For more information, contact Danae Lloyd at 781.351.0121.

BRIARWOOD WOMEN

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL

Portraits of Hope Exhibit & Reception

The reception will include remarks by some of the 21 women whose portraits have been made and whose stories have been captured in the newest edition of the Portrait of Hope book. These women join the original 42 portraits and transformation stories highlighted in the previous book. Refreshments will be served. Full gallery open for your viewing.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

10-11:30AM

or

6:30-8 PM

BEVERLY MCNEIL GALLERY

605 28th Street South
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

Please RSVP at briarwood.org/women
by September 19

Women's Fall
KICKOFF
August 24, 2024
10 AM - 12 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL









Thank you to everyone who helped with the Women's Fall Kickoff!

Women's Leadership Team:

Shannon Black
Lisa Bunn
Vanessa Cain
Julie Clark
Ashley Draper
Marie Gathings
Rhonda Parsons
Meredith Peters
Heather Purser

Decorators:

Shannon Black
Mary Beth Bush
Sue and Paul Cizek
Marie Gathings
Heather Purser

Graphics:

Rebecca Galbreath

MC:

Tammy Moore

Event Volunteers:

Donna Arrington
Nancy Bourne
Lisa Bunn
Mary Beth Bush
Vanessa Cain
Caroline Carlisle
Leslie Cushman
Richelle Day
Karen Duffey
Susan Greenall
Daina Gomez
Kate King
Lisa Looper

Mary Jane McAskile
Terry Millican
Jan Parks
Meredith Peters
Janice Peterson
Jan Ricketts
D'onne Salmon
Lee Scott
Susan Stallworth
Angela Stewart
Melody Weaver
Denise Whitworth

Provided Food:

Edna Alderman
Donna Arrington
Debbie Bellamy
Shannon Black
Nancy Bourne
Vanessa Cain
Caroline Carlisle
Richelle Day
Susan Dobbs

Sally Beth Dougherty
Donna Evans
Sandy Gority
Susan Greenall
Linda Grinnell
Kate King
Margi Lyles
Terry Millican
Sandy Murphy
Lisa Looper

Rhonda Parsons
Meredith Peters
Jan Ricketts
Jessica Robinson
Linda Rose
D'onne Salmon
Angela Stewart
Melody Weaver
Dennis Whitworth
Emily Wiggins

Working Women's Dinner



[CLICK HERE](#)
to Register

Working Women we understand that your work/life schedule impacts how and to what extent you can participate in many of our women's events at Briarwood.

However, we want you to know that we care for you and want to provide opportunities that are specifically designed with you in mind.

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

Thursday, October 17, 2024

6:00–7:30 pm

G101

Food. Taco Mama (pay \$10 at the door)

Fellowship with other Working women



BCS Moms Bible Study

**STUDYING
THE BOOK OF MARK**

**WEDNESDAYS
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

Alumni House, Upper Campus
Starting September 11th

Alumni House is open beginning 8:00 am

For any questions contact
Felicity Martin at: fmartin@bcsk12.org



Countdown to Christmas

SAVE THE DATE

November 20, 2024



The Women's Leadership Team has decided to host Christmas at the Caroline House during the odd years (2025, 2027, etc.). In the even numbered years we will host Countdown to Christmas. This will be very similar in the programming part of the traditional CCH. We will still have a wonderful speaker, entertainment, food, giveaways and fellowship; and this event's purpose is to serve as a women's outreach event.

The only change will be that during Countdown to Christmas we will not tour the Caroline House. The past few years we have struggled to find the number of volunteers needed to decorate the house. Moving to every other year in decorating the house will allow us to have more time to recruit decorators and not to "burn-out" or faithful decorators.

So please mark your calendar for November 20th and watch for more information about securing your ticket to the morning or evening program.

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





Women Business Leaders

Faith & Work Luncheon 2024

Transformed by *Truth*

A renewed mind for a right calling

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

- 12 – 1pm
- Wednesday, October 9th
- The Club
1 Robert S. Smith Drive, 35209
- More information at
wblbirmingham.org/events



Keynote
Speaker

Stephanie Franklin
FRANKLIN ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANT

Comings & Goings

Over the past months we have had lots of comings and goings in the Church and in our Board Directed Ministries:

Comings at the Church

Carol Davis, BPC Receptionist

Kenny McBride – Senior High Director

Bob McGregor – Membership Pastor

Bobbi Scruggs – Administrative Assistant, Church Administrator

Carrie Turner, BPC Receptionist

Kim Vice – Human Resource Coordinator

Amy Woods – Administrative Assistant for Local Missions and Mobilization

Comings in our Board Directed Ministries

Mardon Day- Director of Christian Medical Ministries of Alabama

David Latham- BTS Chief Admissions and Communications Officer

Justin Richardson- BTS Chief Academic Officer

Goings from our Church

Dave Matthews- retired to South Carolina

Bruce Stallings- stepped down as the Executive Pastor, BPC to accept a position as Executive Pastor, FPC Columbia, SC

Goings from our Board Directed Ministries

Chad Escue – stepped down as the Fellows Program Director to accept a position as the Campus Pastor Music Row, Christ Covenant PCA, Nashville



Mentoring Opportunities

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.

Pairings will be made by
September 23, 2024

Registration opens in September
BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN

Community Updates



David and Elaine Robinson of Joyful Hearts will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on September 4th!



Gary and Ashleigh Durbin welcomed Charleigh Grace Durbin on July 30, 2024.





Cale and Morgan Kreger welcomed Penn Timothy Kreger on August 12, 2024.



Graham and Hayley Travers welcomed Matthew Charles (Charlie) Travers on August 15, 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/>



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2
4

Jude

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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					

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/