

OCTOBER 2024



As we start the last quarter of 2024, I want you to take notice of the numerous opportunities available to you for engagement with your Briarwood Sisters. Women's Ministry has opportunities for women of all ages and stages with particular opportunities for our young moms, working women, and women looking for places to serve at Briarwood.

For women who have not found a Sunday School community, I would like to invite you to join the Faithful Followers and myself this coming winter session of Sunday School beginning in November. While the Faithful Followers community is an older widows class, they understand that there are women in our church who have not found a Sunday School community to engage with each week. Opening their class for the Winter session allows them to help you get connected to the church and it allows me the opportunity to get to know you and help you find the best fit for you for future Sunday School engagement. The Faithful Followers meet in the Brides Room located next to the elevator in the Worship Center Foyer.

Happy Fall!

Kristie



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Special points of interest

- Working Women's Dinner
October 17
- Mom to Mom
October 25
- Countdown to Christmas
November 20

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Countdown *to*
Christmas

Nov. 20, 2024
Fellowship Hall



Countdown to Christmas

Countdown to Christmas will focus our attention on preparing our hearts for **the** upcoming **Christmas** season. As our time together unfolds we will hear **the** gospel, enjoy delicious food, and fellowship with one another. Our prayer is that this event will bring our focus back to **the** Heavenly Father's great love for His people in providing our Savior, Jesus Christ. This event is for the believer and the non-believer. Our desire is that each person who attends will either grow in their love for the Savior or be introduced to Him for the first time.

Event Date and Times: Wednesday, November 20th programs begin at 9:30 am or 6:30 pm (doors open 30 minutes earlier)

Morning Schedule:

9:00 am Doors open and food is served

9:30 am Welcome and Celebration (please plan to be in your seats by this time)

9:50 am Program Begins

10:40 am Giveaways and Final words

11:00 am Dismissed

Evening Schedule:

6:00 pm Doors open and food is served

6:30 pm Welcome and Celebration (please plan to be in your seats by this time)

6:50 pm Program Begins

7:40 pm Giveaways and Final Words

8:00 pm Dismissed

Speaker: Ashley McMakin, owner of Ashley Mac's

Ashley will share with us her story of faith and how she prepares her heart for Christmas.

Food: Both the breakfast and the dinner will be catered by Ashley Mac's Catering.

Tickets: The cost is \$20/person.

Tickets will go on sale beginning October 16th. They will be available in the bookstore and *online.

**online tickets will have an added credit card charge*

We have limited tickets for the event. There is a FIRM DEADLINE to purchase your ticket by November 12th.

Registration: Tickets will be available for purchase beginning October 16th in the bookstore and online on the women's webpage.

Volunteers: Beginning October 16th we will have a volunteer sign up page located on the women's webpage.

Nursery is available for both session with nursery registration.



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

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 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.



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

FOR YOUNG MOMS



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

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOM 2 MOM

telling the next generation

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



FRIDAYS

OCT. 25 & NOV. 8

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

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.

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.

His Word is Our Authority

In the days before more advanced braking and speaker systems in passenger trains, brakemen were needed in about every other car. They operated the brakes to slow down the train and often served as the public address system to call out the station name for each stop. A young mother was travelling alone with her baby during a heavy snowstorm. She kept asking the brakeman to keep her informed of her stop so she didn't miss it. As the hours wore on, the brakeman was outside operating the brakes during a stop when a fellow passenger took it upon himself to tell the woman that this was her stop and helped her bundle her baby and unload her bags. The train pulled away and a half hour later the brakeman came into the car and asked where the woman was. The man informed him that she had gotten off at the last stop, to which the brakeman became alarmed and said the previous stop had been an unplanned stop at an unmanned station to address a mechanical issue the train was having. Because of the heavy snowstorm, emergency measures had to be taken at the next stop to arrange a rescue party to go back to that station where they found the woman sheltering her child with no source of heat, very cold and frightened, but thankful that help arrived in time.

Listening to the wrong authority can lead to disastrous results. Not all those who claim to be authoritative are trustworthy. We need to know that the source is knowledgeable of the topic and have confidence that they are working in our interest and not merely their own. This leads to the issue of truthfulness and how willing they might be to bend the truth to achieve a result that might be more favorable for them than for those of us they are leading.

We know in our heart of hearts that there is only one authority who is always trustworthy in every situation, and that is our loving Father. So that we can know what is needed, He has chosen to give us a written record through His Word, our Scriptures. A strong case can be made that most of the great schools at all levels in the Western world were established so that students would have the skills needed to read and understand the Bible and rightly apply it to all of life. This is because **His Word is our authority**.

Last month we began a journey of looking at four non-negotiable truths we derive from a covenantal understanding of what Scripture teaches about how we approach life and ministry. We looked at the first one, which was **that God is our reference point**. He is our true north and only from Him can we confidently determine which way we are to go. His Word is the sure written record of His revelation to us. As such, it gives us a trustworthy authority we can reference to understand His message to us. Thus, our second principle: **His Word is our authority**.

Westminster Confession, with a chapter titled "Of the Holy Scriptures," which lays out God's intended purposes for the Scriptures and why we can and should trust them as our authority. Paragraph six of that chapter lays out the scope of what we can find in them:

The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or traditions of men. (2 Tim. 3:15-17, Gal. 1:8-9, 2 Thess. 2:2)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Having God's Word in writing is very important to maintaining its integrity over time. In our world where we are bombarded with information from every side, it would be hard to imagine that a story transferred from person to person orally could possibly remain unchanged for long. But a written story that is copied meticulously can remain unchanged for generations. We don't have time to go into it, but it is amazing how many times what people thought were "errors" in the Scriptures turned out to be found as verified by some further archaeological discovery. And the story of how meticulously it has been copied throughout history is nothing short of miraculous. How do we know the Scriptures are the very Word of God? Question 4 of the Larger Catechism addresses this issue and gives us some Scriptural proofs:

Question 4: How doth it appear that the scriptures are of the word of God?

The scriptures manifest themselves to be the word of God, by their majesty (Hos. 8:12, 1 Cor. 2:6–7,13, Ps. 119:18,129) and purity; (Ps. 12:6, Ps. 119:140) by the consent of all the parts, (Acts 10:43, Acts 26:22) and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; (Rom. 3:19,27) by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation: (Acts 18:28, Heb. 4:12, James 1:18, Ps. 19:7–9, Rom. 15:4, Acts 20:32) but the Spirit of God bearing witness by and with the scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able fully to persuade it that they are the very word of God. (John 16:13–14, 1 John 2:20,27, John 20:31)

It is not surprising that the very first question recorded in Scripture in Genesis 3 was Satan challenging God's Word to His people: "Did God actually say . . . ?" And we continue to be challenged with that question from all sides as we seek to live by God's truth as revealed rather than lies with which other people or our own hearts try to deceive us. The costs of standing up for God's revealed truth have increased a lot in my lifetime, and I see no signs of that turning around in our culture. Recognizing His Word as our authority will make no difference in our lives unless we actually spend time immersed in the study and application of Scripture. We should think of our schedule in the last week and determine how much time we spent in the Word and consider if we can say that was enough. If you cannot honestly say it was enough (and really, who could?) here are some practical things you could consider penciling into your schedule for next week (Don't try to add more than one or two activities at a time until they becomes a habit before adding more):

1. Take time to consistently immerse yourself in Scripture.
 - Take good notes.
 - Ask questions about what you're reading and don't stop digging until you find answers.
 - Never avoid questions, even if they seem to contradict what you know to be true, but don't give up on looking before you find answers.
2. Read a good book on hermeneutics (principles for how to study Scripture, R.C. Sproull's *Knowing Scripture* is a very practical layman's guide). Or you could attend Dr. Doriani's Wednesday night class this fall.
3. Take time for regular sound biblical preaching and teaching.
4. Work through a catechism or confession looking up the scriptural proofs listed.
5. Gather together a small group of friends to discuss Scripture and theology.
6. Take time to pray that God will keep your mind and heart grounded in sound doctrine.
7. Read an excellent systematic theology book.

Finally, II Timothy 3:16 lists four profitable results of Scripture in our lives that lead to great questions to ask as you study and apply what you learn, and it can be very helpful to journal written answers to each as you study:

All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable

for teaching (What did I learn?)

for reproof (Where do I fall short)

for correction (What should I do about it?)

and for training in righteousness (How can I make this principle a consistent part of my life? Where will it fit into my schedule? Why would I want to apply this? How will I be held accountable?)



Operation Christmas Child is
just around the corner!
We need your help!

Fill a shoebox and let a child know that someone cares about them and that God loves them! Briarwood participates every Christmas season in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes packed with small gifts – toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to children around the world, some of who may have never received a gift in their life. The boxes are given with a gospel booklet and a gospel presentation and an opportunity to participate in a twelve week discipleship program (The Greatest Journey).

Beginning on November 3, shoeboxes will be available in the Ministries Lobby for you to take home and fill. Boxes are due back November 10-17.

You can also build a box online. Great if you don't want to shop, and online boxes are shipped to hard-to-reach areas. A link will be provide on the Briarwood webpages.

See the Trailblazer web page for more information about the packing party (<https://briarwood.org/ministries/trailblazers/>).

Trailblazers Packing Party

Friday, November 8 at 9:00 A.M.

in the Briarwood Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Come join the Briarwood Trailblazers, Oak Mountain Forerunners, and Vallydale Legacy to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Please bring items to share!

Sign up at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

(Contact Sharon a sjohnston@briarwood.org to bring items early)



IMPACT Birmingham is coming up October 19th!

Save the Date: On the morning of October 19, we will partner with local ministries to do service projects ranging from yard work, painting, distributing food, and repair projects. This will be an opportunity to serve together as the body of Christ and IMPACT Birmingham for Christ!

Additional info is available at briarwood.org/impact.



Women Business Leaders

Faith & Work Luncheon 2024

Transformed by *Truth*

A renewed mind for a right calling

Click [HERE](#) 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

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





The Trailblazers enjoyed a beautiful trip to Canada in September.



Thank you for helping supply snacks for the Hispanic congregation's retreat to Shocco Springs!

53 people attended the retreat and were provided with a welcome bag full of snacks and drinks!



We enjoyed a morning and evening reception at the Beverly McNeil Gallery to hear about the newest Portraits of Hope book. It was so encouraging to hear stories of the Lord's redeeming work in these women's lives.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HELP NEEDED:

SHINE & PASSPORT NIGHT

Hi Ladies! My name is Emily Baker, and I have the joyful privilege of serving as the Children's Missions Coordinator. We had a wonderful time at our first Passport Night as we explored Kenya and heard from our missionaries, Ben and Jenny Roberts. Afterwards, the nearly 120 children who came enjoyed a pizza dinner and three rotations centered around Kenyan crafts, stories, and games. We praise the Lord for this incredible turnout for our first Passport Night! With this amazing attendance comes a need for more volunteers.

Would you consider helping in our Children's Ministry?

Volunteers for these events are engaged in crowd control. Coming up, we have SHINE on the evenings of **October 20-21** and a Passport Night on **November 15**. [SIGN UP HERE](#). Please feel free to email me with any questions: ebaker@briarwood.org. We pray that these opportunities stir a love for missions within the hearts of our children. Thank you!



Portraits of Hope with WBL

Join us for an evening of celebration for women transformed inside and outside by the grace of God. Enjoy the extraordinary exhibition of portraits of 70 ladies associated with the Lovelady Center and be encouraged as Carmen Latner shares her path to Christ and to a renewed mind.

- 6:00-7:30 PM, Thursday, Nov. 7
- Beverly B. McNeil Portraits, Inc.,
2801 6th Ave South, Birmingham, AL 35233
- \$10 Tickets at wblbirmingham.org
Light refreshments will be served.



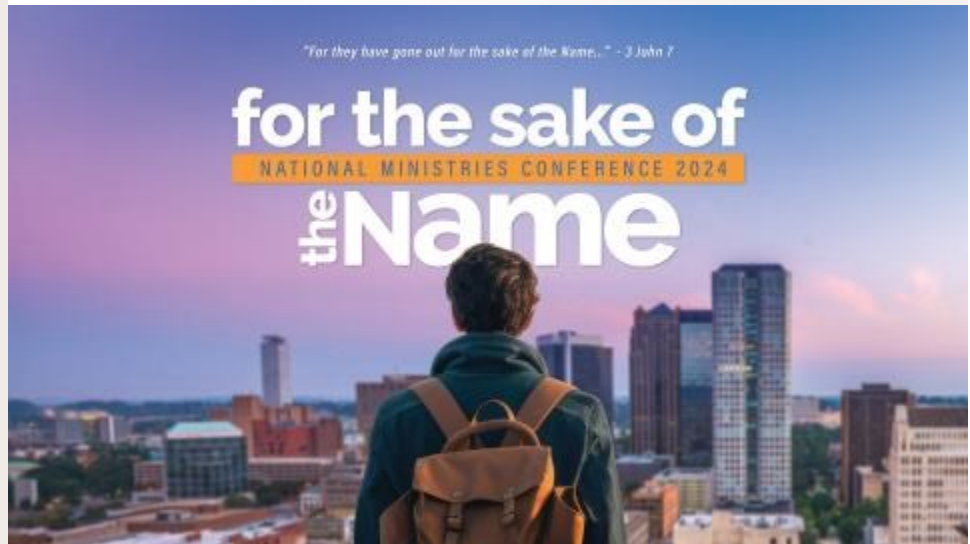
National Ministries Conference

October 20-21

Hear from our speaker H.B. Charles, Pastor at the Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, and our National Ministry Partners.

Ministry Partners will share in Sunday Schools and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday nights.

Find details at briarwood.org/nmc.

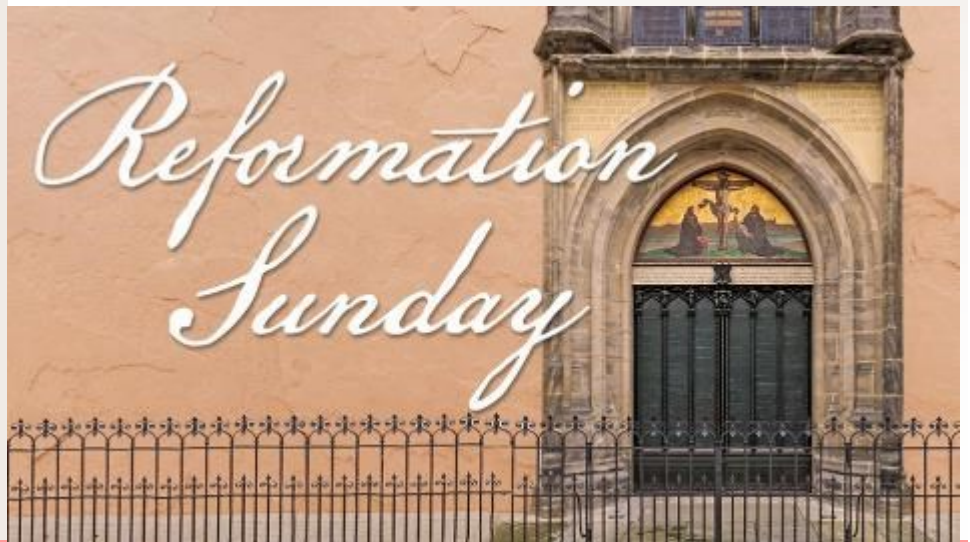


Reformation Sunday

October 27th

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Morning services will feature a bagpipe processional and recessional.

A special time of Remembrance of God's Saints will be held in honor of church members who have gone to be with the Lord this past year.



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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Malachi

OCTOBER

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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/