

JANUARY 2025



Happy New Year!

As we start 2025 I want to share with you excerpts from a blog that Paul Tripp wrote a few year's ago about the New Year and Resolutions. I pray it gives you much to ponder as we begin this new year.

"Well, it's that season once again. It's the fodder for blogs, newspaper articles, TV magazine shows and way too many Twitter posts. It is the time for the annual ritual of dramatic New Year's resolutions fueled by the hope of immediate and significant personal life change... Is change important? Yes, it is for all of us in some way. Is commitment essential? Of course! There is a way in which all of our lives are shaped by the commitments we make. But biblical Christianity—which has the gospel of Jesus Christ at its heart—simply doesn't rest its hope in big, dramatic moments of change

The fact of the matter is that the transforming work of grace is more of a mundane process than it is a series of a few dramatic events. Personal heart and life change is always a process. And where does that process take place? It takes place where you and I live everyday. And where do we live? Well, we all have the same address. Our lives don't careen from big moment to big moment. No, we all live in the utterly mundane.

The little moments of life are profoundly important precisely because they are the little moments that we live in and that form us. This is where I think "Big Drama Christianity" gets us into trouble. It can cause us to devalue the significance of the little moments of life and the "small-change" grace that meets us there. And because we devalue the little moments where we live, we don't tend to notice the sin that gets exposed there. We fail to seek the grace that is offered to us.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Inside this issue

In Town Retreat	3-4
Women's Spring Bible Studies	5-6
Mentoring	7
Missionary Coffee	8
Other opportunities	9-14

Special points of interest

- Women's In Town Retreat
January 31-February 1
- Women's Spring Bible Studies
Begin January 6th
- Missionary Coffee
February 25th

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

You see, the character of a life is not set in two or three dramatic moments, but in 10,000 little moments. The character that was formed in those little moments is what shapes how you respond to the big moments of life.

What leads to significant personal change?

10,000 moments of personal insight and conviction

10,000 moments of humble submission

10,000 moments of foolishness exposed and wisdom gained

10,000 moments of sin confessed and sin forsaken

10,000 moments of courageous faith

10,000 choice points of obedience

10,000 times of forsaking the kingdom of self and running toward the kingdom of God

10,000 moments where we abandon worship of the creation and give ourselves to worship of the Creator

And what makes all of this possible? Relentless, transforming, little-moment grace. You see, Jesus is Emmanuel not just because he came to earth, but because he makes you the place where he dwells. This means he is present and active in all the mundane moments of your daily life.

And what is he doing? In these small moments he is delivering every redemptive promise he has made to you. In these unremarkable moments, he is working to rescue you from you and transform you into his likeness. By sovereign grace he places you in daily little moments that are designed to take you beyond your character, wisdom and grace so that you will seek the help and hope that can only be found in him. In a lifelong process of change, he is undoing you and rebuilding you again—exactly what each one of us needs!

Yes, you and I need to be committed to change, but not in a way that hopes for a big event of transformation, but in a way that finds joy in and is faithful to a day-by-day, step-by-step process of insight, confession, repentance and faith. And in those little moments we commit ourselves to remember the words of Paul in Romans 8:32 - "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us, how will he not also with him freely give us all things."

So, we wake up each day committed to live in the small moments of our daily lives with open eyes and humbly expectant hearts."

-Kristie

Women's In-Town Retreat



January 31-February 1

REGISTER ONLINE AT BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN

Women's In-Town Retreat

January 31-February 1



Schedule

Friday night, January 31

6:45 – 9:00 pm

Large Session #1

Location: Worship Center
Fun, Giveaways, & Worship

Speaker: Meaghan May

Saturday, February 1

8:30 – 11:00 am

Large Session #2

Location: worship Center
Fun, Giveaways, & Worship

Speaker: Meaghan May

11:15 – 12:15 pm

Breakout Sessions

Various Locations

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Lunch and Final Challenge

Location: Fellowship Hall

ABCD

You are invited to the

Women's Ministry In Town Retreat

January 31-February 1, 2025.

By Design: The One Thread of Scripture

Cost:

Cost covers all retreat material, refreshments, and lunch on Saturday.
(Price cannot be broken and is non-refundable but transferable.)

December 16 -January 2: \$45 per person

January 3 – January 22: \$55 per person

*Payment is online only.***

Registration

Register at www.briarwood.org/women

When you register you will need to select the breakout session you would like to attend. Information about the breakout sessions is available on the registration page.

Other

Dress is comfy – retreat casual.

No childcare is available Friday or Saturday.

Nursing moms are welcome to bring their baby as needed.



Visit our website [HERE](#) to register for a Bible study.
 Childcare is available for weekday study by reservation only.
 Please visit briarwood.org/nursery to register.

Books are available in the Briarwood Christian Bookstore unless otherwise noted.

Malachi

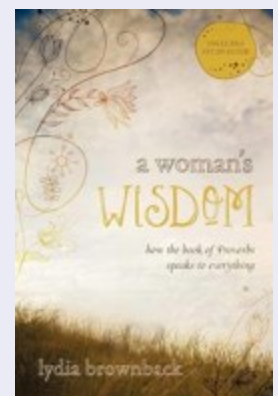
Michele Cantley
 Mondays at 10:00 am in A202 and Zoom
 Starts Monday, January 6

How would it feel to know that you are the last prophet of God to speak to his people for 400 years? God has sent you to correct the sins of his people and so you must speak against them. Nevertheless, you want to send a message of hope which they can cling to during the 400 years of silence. This is Malachi and these are his messages. He is the bridge between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, yet his message can still speak powerfully to Christians today.

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, January 7

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 as we continue our study.



Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts

By Nancy Guthrie (workbook required)

Mary Anne Turnbull and Karen Duffey

Tuesdays at 9:30 am in G101

Starts Tuesday, January 7

In *Saved*, Nancy Guthrie provides an accessible, theologically sound guide to the book of Acts. Over 17 chapters, she invites readers to peer into the lives of the apostles in the days following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus as they experienced new power from the indwelling Holy Spirit and a new understanding of the Old Testament scriptures. With a friendly and engaging tone, *Saved* covers the entire book of Acts.

This will be a full year study as we will divide the chapters into 2 semesters.



Ruth – Seeing God As Our Great Provider

Elizabeth Bondurant

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and on Zoom in G103

Starts Wednesday, January 8

This winter we are going to take a deep dive into the book of Ruth. We will see that it is more than a love story. And it is more than a picture of a worthy woman that we should look to as an example. It is even more than just a glimpse into the lineage of Jesus Christ. It is a glorious unveiling of the heart of God towards his people and the intricate ways in which he sovereignly provides for us and writes our stories for his glory. Women of any age are invited to join in on this study on Wednesday nights.

Moments in Mark

Donna Evans

Thursdays at 9:30 am in G101

Starts Thursday, January 9

Mark's Gospel account of Jesus' life is presented to us in two symmetrical acts: Jesus' identity as the King over all things in chapters 1-8 and his purpose in dying on the cross in chapters 9-16. By highlighting important moments in Jesus' life and ministry, Mark presents Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior-Servant of the world. In doing so Mark answers the question we must all answer: Who is Jesus? We will be using Tim Keller's book *Jesus the King* (previously published as *King's Cross*). Purchase of the book is optional and not required.

Gospel of John

Yvonne Welch

Thursdays at 9:30am in G103

Starts Thursday, January 9

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. We will continue our study of the book of John which will require homework and discussion in class.





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 Alsop
 - 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
February 12, 2025

Registration opens in January
BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN



Tuesday, February 25
9:30 – 11:30 AM
Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy light refreshments, coffee,
prayer and a time to hear from our
visiting missionary ladies!

Nursery Reservations Required briarwood.org/nursery
For more information, go to briarwood.org/women.

BRIARWOOD
Women

We would like to **ask that you write an encouragement card**
with a favorite verse or two for our visiting missionaries.

The cards will be general in nature – please do not address them to a specific missionary. We do ask, as you write the card, that you pray for the missionary that will receive your card of encouragement. Our office will collect the cards and then we will divide them amongst all the women missionaries who can join us for the Missionary Coffee.

Along with the cards, we will provide each missionary with a gift card
for them to make purchases of items that are needed.

Please drop all cards off in the Women's Ministry Office (A106)
between February 1st – 21st.

BRIARWOOD WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MOM 2 MOM

telling the next generation



FRIDAYS

JAN. 17, FEB. 14, MAR. 14 & APR. 25

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.

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 Jan. 10

For more information, contact Danae Lloyd at 781.351.0121.

A decorative header featuring a blue treble clef, several colorful musical notes (red, blue, green) on a yellow staff, and various colored circles (red, yellow, green, blue) scattered 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 January 8

G-101

9:30 am – 10:30 am

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

Join a Women's Business Leaders Small Group

Downtown Birmingham

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS
FROM 12PM - 1PM

BEGINS JANUARY 8TH

LOCATION:
1901 6TH AVE N #2800
REGIONS HARBERT TOWER,
OFFICE OF NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

LEADER: DARLENE GRAY

FACILITATORS:
COURTNEY THOMPSON

STUDY:
GENTLE & LOWLY
BY DANE ORTLUND

Cahaba Heights - Summit Area

1ST & 3RD MONDAYS
FROM 12PM - 1PM

BEGINS JANUARY 6TH

LOCATION:
GRANDVIEW FINANCIAL GROUP
3168 CAHABA HEIGHTS ROAD,
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243

LEADER: AMY PATTILLO

FACILITATOR: ALISHA HALL

STUDY:
FREE OF ME
BY SHARON HODDE MILLER

Over the Mountain

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS
FROM 11:30AM - 12:30PM

BEGINS JANUARY 15TH

LOCATION:
TRO JUNG|BRANNEN OFFICE-
CONFERENCE ROOM,
2200 LAKESHORE DRIVE #200,
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35209

LEADER: AMY MURPHREE

FACILITATOR: AMY MCMULLEN

STUDY:
GENTLE & LOWLY
BY DANE ORTLUND

Galleria Tower

2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS
FROM 11:30AM - 12:30PM

BEGINS JANUARY 14TH

LOCATION:
RIVERCHASE TOWER - WERKPLÄS,
3000 GALLERIA CIRCLE, SUITE 1500,
HOOVER, AL 35244

LEADER: PEGGY MCCLESKY

FACILITATOR: JENNIFER BRASHER

STUDY:
GENTLE & LOWLY
BY DANE ORTLUND



BCS Moms Bible Study

**STUDYING
THE BOOK OF MARK**

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

Alumni House, Upper Campus
Starting January 8th

Alumni House is open beginning 8:00 am

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



[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

Community Updates

Congratulations to Rigo Banegas and Madison Murphy who were married at Briarwood on November 2, 2024.

Congratulations to Kevin and Rachel Plyler who welcomed Hampton Andrew Plyler on December 10, 2024.



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:

Praying for the Women's Ministry in 2025

As we begin the New Year, would you consider praying for the Women's Ministry on a monthly basis?

Specifically, would you pray the following for the Women's Ministry Leadership Team:

1. Pray that we would move forward in line with God's plans.

Pray that He would align our hearts to ask for His will to be done, not ours.

When we stop seeking God in prayer, we step out with our own plans instead of following His plan.

2. Pray that we would be dependent on God.

Pray that we would not be self-sufficient but that we would continue to looking to Him.

When we stop seeking God in prayer, we believe that we're self-sufficient and no longer need God's help.

3. Pray that our relationship with Him deepens.

Pray that we would know Him more and we would grow in our intimacy with Him.

When we stop seeking God in prayer, our relationship with Him becomes distant.

****adapted from Revive our Hearts*