

AUGUST 6, 2023

GOSPEL TRUTHS FOR A WORLD OF LIES

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE ON THEOLOGY AND LIFE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*
–Dr. Rosaria Butterfield
- 7:45 – 9:00 p.m. Audience Questions and Answers
–Rosaria and Kent Butterfield

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

- 8:00 – 8:50 a.m. Breakfast in Fellowship Hall / Book Table in Lobby
- 9:00 – 9:40 a.m. *The Five Lies of our Anti-Christian Age*
–Dr. Rosaria Butterfield
- 9:40 – 9:45 a.m. Break
- 9:45 – 10:25 a.m. *The Spirituality of Androgyny*
–Dr. Peter Jones
- 10:25 – 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Audience Questions and Answers
–Peter Jones and Rosaria Butterfield
- 12:00 p.m. Conference Concludes

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Morning Worship Services

- 8:00 & 10:55 a.m. *The Most Important Commandment*
–Dr. Peter Jones

This conference is free and open to all; no registrations are required.
Nursery is available upon registration at briarwood.org/nursery.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Grace and Peace in our Lord Jesus Christ! After the homegoing of our beloved Pastor Reeder, the Briarwood Session took the immediate step of filling our pulpit for Sunday Morning Worship Services with guest pastors. During this period our staff are doing an excellent job providing leadership and teaching through Colossians on Sunday evenings. This process will continue in the weeks ahead and we are looking forward to having Dr. Ligon Duncan with us this Sunday.

At the June Session Meeting a committee was established to investigate intermediate step options in our overall process of transitioning to the next Senior Pastor at Briarwood. This committee gained insight and counsel from numerous pastors, elders and ministry leaders and reported their findings at the July Session meeting last week. The Lord led our Session to determine that we should purposefully pursue an intentional Interim Senior Pastor as our next positive step in the overall transitional process.

This Interim Pastor will temporarily fill the role of Senior Pastor with special emphasis on assisting the Session and Congregation to prepare for a successful long-term transition to our new Senior Pastor.

To facilitate this next step, the Session formed an Interim Pastor Search Committee made up of Ruling Elders Bryan Word, Mike Mungenast, Kevin Gush and Billy Ball, along with Deacon Ethan Tidmore who is Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, and our Executive Pastor Bruce Stallings. This Search Committee will prayerfully search for and recommend to the Session a candidate for Interim Senior Pastor, who will appear before the Session for approval. Please note that this particular search committee is for the role of Interim Senior Pastor only and not our next Senior Pastor. The Session will determine when the Senior Pastor search should begin after the Interim Pastor is in place.

Everyone at Briarwood has a major role to play during the overall transition process. Throughout the Bible we are directed to bring our requests to the Lord through prayer, such as in Philippians 4 where we find, *“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Therefore, the Session is calling for our entire church family to be in prayer, asking the Lord to guide this process and use this intermediate step for His Glory. To assist us all, congregational prayer opportunities will be planned and announced in the weeks ahead. It is critical that everyone is actively involved in this vital way as the Session desires each step of the transitional process to be bathed in prayer.

While we continue to grieve the homegoing of Pastor Reeder, we recognize the need to prayerfully and joyfully look forward to the new leadership that our God and Father has in store for us, and we hope that each of you will join us in unified prayer that God will guide us through all phases of this transitional process for His Glory.

— Interim Senior Pastor Search Committee

FEATURED EVENTS

Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life — Church Wide | August 11–13 *

We are excited to have Rosaria Butterfield and Peter Jones at this year's conference. Join us for this insightful time learning how to exchange *Gospel Truths for a World of Lies*. Find additional information and details at briarwood.org/events.

Christian Education Convocation — Evening Worship Service | August 13 *

We are pleased to have our new Briarwood Christian School Superintendent, Mr. Gus Martin, as the speaker for our annual Christian Education Convocation on Sunday evening. A special time of dedication and prayer will be held for all Christian educators and the upcoming school year. Please join us as we encourage and pray for the men and women God has called to this strategic ministry of Christian Education.

Evangelism Interest Dinner — Briarwood Evangelism | August 30 *

Join us for a time to be motivated, challenged and encouraged to “Bring Them to Him” August 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Register for dinner and nursery if needed at briarwood.org/evangelism.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | September 6–November 8 *

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Join us for our dinner in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday evening from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Contact Eric Reebals for more information at ereebals@briarwood.org.

Women's Retreat — Briarwood Women | September 22–24

Ladies, join us for a time of rest, learning and fellowship at our getaway retreat at Shocco Springs! Our speaker will be Lisa Looper, and this year's theme is *Rest*. Find details and register online at briarwood.org/women.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

Fear Not!: Death and the Afterlife from a Christian Perspective

by Ligon Duncan | Adult Book

Forward from Jerry Bridges: “*Fear Not!*, which covers extensively all aspects of death, including what happens to believers immediately after death, the resurrection, the final judgment and then the eternal state. This is a book to inform and encourage every Christian. It is my pleasure to commend it to every Christian reader.” Cost: \$9

What Happens When We Die?

by Chris Morphew | Children's Book

This warm, empathetic book looks at what the Bible says to help children ages 9–13 think through this big question for themselves. It tackles common fears and stereotypes about the afterlife and will excite readers about the promise of the new creation. Cost: \$10

All featured books are available to purchase online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roofing Project & Assisted/Valet Parking — Sunday August 6 & 13, drop off for assisted parking will be in front of Fellowship Hall E & F. Young families with children, please consider using parking lot A and entering at the Children's Auditorium. Your patience and prayers for the safety of all and a successful project are appreciated.

Men's Summer Studies — Final study, August 9. Men's studies on "Rediscovering Christian Disciplines" meet in the Fellowship Hall for a morning study at 6:30 a.m. and a lunch study at 11:45 a.m. See details and register at briarwood.org/men.

Summer Evangelism Training — Final night, August 9. Join us for dinner, a brief lesson, and then go out to evangelize. For information, go to briarwood.org/evangelism.

Friendship Partner Orientation — August 15. Friendship Partners connects international college students to American individuals or families. It is a wonderful cultural exchange to build an ongoing relationship to be an effective witness for Christ. If you are interested, contact Caroline Brown at cbrown@briarwood.org.

Briarwood Sanctuary Choir — Beginning August 16. Join the Choir each Wednesday in the Choir Room at 6:30 p.m. for practice. For info, go to signupforchoir.com. Contact Penny at pphilley@briarwood.org with any questions.

Briarwood Soccer — Register by August 19. Sign-ups are open for boys and girls ages 5–15 years old. Go to briarwoodsoccer.com or call 205-776-5114.

Become a Briarwood Member — August 23, 26 and 27. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers' Class. A luncheon will be held on September 10 for those who are joining. By attending these classes, you are not obligated to join. For more information or to sign up, email wlong@briarwood.org.

Children's Catechism Sunday School Class — Beginning August 27. This nine-month class for 4th–6th graders requires outside work for the student and parents. If your child is interested, email rmacoy@briarwood.org.

Lunch with James Spann — August 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Have lunch with the Briarwood Trailblazers and meet with James Spann. Contact Sharon Johnston at sjohnston@briarwood.org or buy tickets online at briarwood.org/trailblazers.

Youth Wednesday Nights — Beginning August 30. Students meet at 5:30 p.m. at The Barn for dinner. Raiders (7th–8th graders) meet 6:30–8:00 p.m. BYG (9th–12th graders) meet 7:00–8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kristin Smith at k.smith@briarwood.org.

Adult Ballet Classes — September 11–November 15. Briarwood Ballet is offering 10-week sessions of adult classes for novices as well those with dance experience. For information and to sign up, go to briarwood.org/balletclasses.

Children's SS Promotion — If you are planning on holding your child back for the 2023–24 school year, please let us know so we can make sure to place him/her in the appropriate Sunday School class. Contact Raleigh Macoy at rmacoy@briarwood.org.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray our Lord will look upon His people with favor and give them protection, wisdom and courage throughout the years to come.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for the Grace House Ministries in Fairfield, Alabama. Pray the girls living there would allow the Lord to soften their hearts and draw them into a relationship with Him. Grace House currently needs teachers, prayer partners, mentors and individuals interested in joining their school supply drive. For more information, go to grace-house.org.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for Rob Looper as he leads a Spiritual Foundations Retreat for New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Manning, South Carolina on September 8–9. Pray for the Lord to lead this congregation to a deeper walk with Him and to commit to pursue revitalization in their church.

August 6 Max & Kathleen Bunn – Mobilization Pastor, Staff
NorthStar Soccer Ministries

August 7 Pray for these Briarwood Elders:
Will Clark, Jeff Flannery Jr., John Donaldson

August 8 Pray for Trevor & Rebecca – World Venture, Guinea
Ron & Donna Elkin – AMMI Ministries, Pennsylvania

August 9 Pray for Francisco & Martita Berrios – World Reach, Romania
Anthony & Amber Elswick – Church Planter, Winter Haven, Florida

August 10 Pray for Nate & Nikki Bonham – Mission to the World, Colombia
Micah & Brianna Evans – Campus Outreach, Samford University

August 11 Pray for Emily Bonner Ethnos – 360, Papua New Guinea
RJ & Jean Fischer – Navigators, Florida

August 12 Pray for these Briarwood Deacons:
Bob Bellows, Bob Blount, Matt Davis

...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:25

CHURCH RESOURCES

Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life – Sermons & Messages

Audio from previous years' Birmingham Conference on Theology and Life is available for free on the Briarwood App. Previous speakers include Ken Sande, Johnathan Gibson, Dr. Sandy Willson, Ken Jones, Rev. Stephen Brown, Rev. Randy Pope, Bryan Chapell, Rev. John MacArthur, and Rev. Tim Keller.

To access these messages, navigate to “Special Media Archives” on the “Media” tab.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Services:

“Be Ready for Every Good Deed”

Titus 3:1–8

Dr. Ligon Duncan

Sunday Morning we welcome Dr. Ligon Duncan back to the Briarwood pulpit. Ligon Duncan is the Chancellor/CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary and the John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology.

Dr. Ligon Duncan last preached “What Will Christians, Churches, and Seminaries Face in the Next Generation?” at Briarwood’s 2014 Real State of the Union Conference.

Sunday Evening:

VII. Colossians: The Preeminence and Prominence of Jesus Christ
“The Formula for Sanctification”

Colossians 3:1–14

Bruce Stallings

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook or briarwood.org.
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.