



EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT 2024

BRING ALL TO HIM

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your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1*



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DEAR FELLOW BRIARWOOD MEMBER,

My family has been greatly blessed and challenged this year by our ministry theme, *Project Andrew*. As we enter this stewardship season, we continue to build on a heritage of being a church on mission, on message and in ministry. Remembering Pastor Reeder's sermon in the series about the young boy with two fish and three loaves of bread, we desire to bring ALL to Him. As we prayerfully consider what our ALL represents during The Every Member Commitment (EMC), we look to God to multiply those gifts to advance His Kingdom. We pray the Lord will stir our hearts to joyfully give our time, talents, and treasure to His work. The Stewardship Education Committee has chosen *Bring All to Him* as the theme this year, and we pray you are experiencing increasing faithfulness in stewarding God's resources in your life.

Briarwood has had a steadfast commitment to Christian stewardship, which has impacted an untold number of lives in Birmingham and throughout the world. The EMC is the annual process by which each church member (or family) is given the opportunity to participate by making a commitment of his or her anticipated tithe for the upcoming year. My heart is that we highlight the "every" part of this important component of the life of our church and drive home the invitation to EVERY member of the church. The EMC supports the General Fund of the church, which includes National and Urban Missions, Board Directed Ministries, program ministries such as Church Planting, as well as Briarwood's facility operating expenses. The EMC dates back to the very early days of our church when members were canvassed by the officers regarding their pledges. On Sunday afternoon, November 12, we will continue that tradition by canvassing the families that have not responded to the EMC by that morning. Also, please plan to attend our adult Sunday School EMC Convocation on October 29.

God has been faithful to bless Briarwood with the opportunities and resources to reach the lost for Him. The EMC allows the church to proactively plan and steward resources to continue our vital ministries. We have been entrusted with the Gospel; let us be diligent to share it personally and to support the work of the Church in spreading the Good News of our Savior. Please join me as we seek to honor God with all that we are and all that we have.

The Stewardship Education Committee encourages you to take the time to read the enclosed information and stories from our ministries and be encouraged as the Lord multiplies your giving to reach the lost. We ask that you return the enclosed commitment card on or before Pledge Sunday, November 5. Should you have any questions regarding the Every Member Commitment, please feel free to contact me or speak with any church officer.

In His service,

Chris Blazer
Chairman, Stewardship Education Committee



What is the Every Member Commitment (EMC)?

- 1. EMC (Tithe)** — The EMC occurs annually and funds the church's day-to-day ministries such as worship, community outreach, operations, meeting our members' spiritual needs, and equipping us to be salt and light in this world.
- 2. Faith Promise (Offering Above the Tithe)** — The Faith Promise occurs annually and funds Briarwood's world missions ministries.
- 3. Capital Campaigns (Offering Above the Tithe)** — Capital campaign resources fund new building programs, campus expansion, debt reduction, and other one-time needs.

How do I submit my pledge?

- 1. Online** — Complete the online form at briarwood.org/emc.
- 2. Mail** — Send your Pledge Card to the Church Accounting Office.
- 3. In Person** — Bring your Pledge Card to the Church Accounting Office.
- 4. In Person** — Bring your Pledge Card to a worship service on Commitment Sunday, November 5.

On the following pages you'll find a brief description of some of the ministries your tithe supports, along with ministry impact stories illustrating the significance of your tithe in the lives of others.



BRIARWOOD BALLET

It might seem strange to find a serious ballet school located in a church, but Briarwood Church is dedicated to raising the next generation of artists to use their gifts for the glory of God. As a result, Briarwood Ballet was formed in 1980, and since that time thousands of dancers have been trained in our program. This year, approximately 450 students will be taught ballet in the context of the Gospel, and thousands of audience members will hear the Gospel in the context of dance.

Last spring, Ballet Exaltation, a performing company of Briarwood Ballet, had the privilege of traveling to Lima, Peru where we partnered with local missionaries and pastors, producing concerts that presented the Gospel in Spanish. At each venue where the company performed, a local pastor would then offer an invitation for those who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Both the pastors and our dancers were overwhelmed at the response as over 80 people received the invitation to give their lives to Jesus. The pastors were then able to offer follow-up opportunities for growth and discipleship.





BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BTS was established in 1972 to provide faithful and accessible graduate theological education. This year, BTS has celebrated its largest year ever with close to 400 students taking classes in America and around the world! In addition to our regular graduate and doctoral programs, we have launched our Presbyterian Leadership Certificate which is now being used by churches around America as an introductory training program for their elders, deacons, and church leaders! We have also launched a new partnership with Ligonier Ministries at Bibb Correctional, hosting a Ligonier training program with over 50 inmates, led by BTS inmate graduates! To God be the glory!

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

The Briarwood Biblical Counseling ministry has been extending the application of the Gospel to affect healing both in our congregation and the community for more than forty years. We provide personal counseling for a variety of life issues (pre-marital counseling, marriage, depression, anxiety, addiction, self-injury, etc.). We train lay counselors and mentors who augment the ministry of the pastoral staff. The counseling ministry is a beautiful example of the mission of Briarwood to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ through counseling, training, and assisting other churches to establish biblical counseling ministries.

Over these forty-plus years, our counselors have seen multiple marriages restored, mid-life children gain assistance in caring for aging parents, young parents learn how to parent biblically, and children help with processing their parents' divorce. One positive outcome of the COVID period is that we learned how to use tools like Zoom, which have facilitated extending the Briarwood Counseling ministry beyond our borders. In summary, The Briarwood Biblical Counseling ministry is a place of evangelism, marital reconciliation, personal growth, and community development.

BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Briarwood Christian School (BCS) is in its 59th year of ministry serving over 1,600 students in Junior Kindergarten through 12th Grade and over 100 students in our Cub House Program (ages 1-3). As a ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, BCS is committed to providing a Christ-centered environment and education based on academic excellence through exemplary leaders who will challenge and inspire each student to know Christ and make Him known in every sphere of life.

"We exist to provide a Christ-centered, transformational education that equips and inspires each student to glorify God by maximizing their God-given abilities. Our Vision is to develop leaders who impact the world by glorifying Christ in every sphere of life."

Every day we are faced with opportunities to teach our students about Jesus, the Bible, and discipling them on this journey. The annual impact of BCS is 1.78 million student contact hours in the classroom alone, and over 2 million student contact hours when we add in the important co-curricular opportunity through athletics and after school programming. This measure of ministry impact opportunity reflects the significance of the volume of time spent with students that creates an opportunity for mentorship and discipleship.





CAMPUS OUTREACH

Briarwood Presbyterian Church started Campus Outreach in 1978 with two staff members on one campus. Today, there are 710 Campus Outreach staff members serving 126 campuses in 11 countries. Our mission is to build Christ-like laborers on the campus for the lost world for the Glory of God.

This past year, one of our student leaders, Spencer (pictured in the orange), sat down with a freshman fraternity guy named Sam (pictured in the glasses) in the dining hall to try to share the Gospel with him. In their conversation, Spencer found out that Sam was raised in a Buddhist home and had never heard the Gospel, but right there on the spot after hearing Spencer tell him about Christ and what He had done, Sam wanted to place his faith in Jesus. Spencer was able to meet up with Sam for the rest of the year, helping him grow in maturity and helping him find a church.

BRIARWOOD COLLEGE MINISTRY

We are a dynamic and always transitioning community. On one hand, we minister to students who grew up at Briarwood but are away attending college. We seek to encourage them in their walks with the Lord and engraft them into the life of the Church when they return over the summer and holidays. We seek to shepherd them through phone calls and campus visits. On the other hand, we have college students from local campuses who, on Sunday mornings during the school year, gather for worship at Briarwood. The majority of these students are also in weekly, Briarwood Bible studies and disciplined by our staff. In the midst of the gathering and scattering that is college ministry, our community's goal is to raise up a generation of students who are growing in Jesus and making disciples of Him wherever He has them.

One student who has been a blessing to our ministry in recent months is Joyce. She is a UAB student from Zambia who moved here in January. Moving across the world by yourself would be difficult for anyone, especially at the age of 17. The first few months were lonely and discouraging. Thankfully, God connected Joyce to the College Ministry at Briarwood. She has found a home away from home here in the college community. God has graciously been working in her heart and life, reminding her that He is with her and will never leave her. Not only that, He has been blessing the College Ministry through Joyce's involvement. Her warm personality and enthusiasm have helped make the ministry a fun and welcoming community. Praise the Lord for creating people and communities that reflect His beauty and love!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry at Briarwood desires to partner with parents to lead children to a saving, growing relationship with Christ by presenting the Gospel, training children to worship, and equipping them to impact others for God's glory.

A student in the Children's Ministry was recently fostered and then adopted by one of the families who are faithful members of Briarwood. This family committed to bring her to all the Children's Ministry events and were faithful in doing so. After VBS, as the Lord worked through her new family and the Children's Ministry, this student gave her life to Christ. We had another child who recently came to Christ, and her parents have been encouraged about how much she has grown in her faith since then. Her mom stated, "Our daughter shared with a girl in her class that Jesus died for all of us, including the classmate, and that he will save anyone from their sins who asks him. She explained it with such a child-like simplicity and the little girl was excited. Our daughter asked her classmate if she wanted a Bible and the child said yes. So today I am going to buy that child a new Bible. I hope you will be encouraged to know that all that you are doing really does impact not only the children of our church but also the world outside of our church."

"We in the Children's Ministry praise God for what He is doing in the lives of the children at Briarwood!" - Jake Stallings, Children's Ministry Director

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL MINISTRY OF ALABAMA

CMMA was established in 1982 to reach and disciple those in the healthcare professions, especially students in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, etc. We also work with professionals in each field. We "care for those who care for others" so that they can survive the rigors of training, thrive spiritually and multiply to help reach the world for Christ. CMMA impacts 250 or more students and professionals each week.

On a recent medical mission trip in the Dominican Republic, I met an elderly, blind man and his middle-aged daughter and asked them, "Who is Jesus?" They both replied, "He's an angel." We then opened our Bibles to Hebrews 1 and showed them that Jesus is not an angel, but that the angels worship Him because He is God. They seemed amazed to learn this. We then explained to them their need to trust Jesus, the God-Man, for their salvation. Both did, prayed to Jesus for forgiveness of sins, and thanked Him for what He has done for them.





CHURCH REVITALIZATION

Founded by Dr. Harry Reeder nearly 30 years ago as Embers to a Flame, Briarwood's Church Revitalization Ministry, Lampstand, provides Briarwood members opportunity to connect with and serve churches that are pursuing Gospel-driven vitality to stay on message, on mission, and in ministry. In January 2023, over 60 pastors, church leaders, and seminary students from four denominations came to Briarwood for the 2023 Lampstand Conference where they were equipped with biblical strategies for pursuing church health.

This Fall, members of Briarwood's Church Revitalization Team participated in Spiritual Foundation Weekends in four churches representing three denominations. These impactful weekends ground believers in the sufficiency of Christ and His Word to pursue revitalization and faithfully follow His call to evangelism and discipleship.

"The conference was fantastic I was expecting it to be edifying and useful, but every session exceeded my expectations. I would heartily recommend it to any other minister, elder, church leader or seminarian." - Rev. Zachary Groff, PCA Pastor (South Carolina)

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Ministry of Briarwood includes our Print, Internet and Electronic Media Ministries, with Audio/Video, Radio, and Television, comprising our Electronic Media Ministry. At 88.5 FM, WLJR is our automated, 24-hour-a-day Christian radio station, affiliated with both the Moody Radio Network and American Family Radio. Sunday Worship services are available on briarwood.org, the BriarwoodPCA mobile App, Roku, AppleTV and in our social media, where are viewed by a worldwide audience.

"In early 2023, the Lord put a burden on my heart to work towards having all of Pastor Reeder's sermons and series available on the Briarwood App and website. I talked it over with our AV team and they got to work uploading and sorting the hundreds of messages dating back to 1999. One day, after several weeks of work, my team messaged me saying that the final sermon series had been completed. That day was May 17, 2023. The next day Pastor Reeder went to be with the Lord. It was such a blessing to be able to reassure the congregation and the Reeder family that Pastor Reeder's preaching of the Word and proclamation of the Gospel was preserved and easily accessible to everyone." - Landon McKee, Communications Director

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITIES

It is clear in Scripture that we are to place a high value on being connected to biblical community with other Christians in our church. At Briarwood, our adult Sunday School classes function as Congregational Communities. These 33 vibrant Congregational Communities are where many of our members find a place of true fellowship with other Christians. In addition to excellent weekly teaching, our members join together to pray for one another, encourage one another, and use their gifts in ministry together.

Our members and visitors have shown a strong desire and commitment to be involved with their Congregational Communities. There has been increased involvement in small groups, service opportunities, social gatherings, and Sunday morning teaching. Our class shepherds have been faithful to be available and involved to care for those who have prayer needs and physical needs. We continue to hear our visitors tell us that one of the most surprising things they encountered at Briarwood was how friendly and welcoming everyone is at our church. One young lady who recently joined Briarwood shared that she had lived in Birmingham several years but could not find people her age to connect with as friends. Then, she met one of our members who invited her to attend Sunday School and our Worship Service. She said, once she attended, she immediately felt accepted. She joined a small group and began to volunteer with one of our ministries. She now says she is very happy that she found a church home where she feels part of the family.

GRADUATES AND CAREER

The Graduates and Career (G&C) community is composed of single adults in their 20's to mid-30's. Our ministries flow from the Great Commission and focus on evangelism, equipping, and exalting God in all that we do. Being mindful that our 20's and 30's is a season of both growth and transition, we aim to equip our members so that they are prepared to assume weightier responsibilities and leadership in the next season of life, whether in their homes, in their workplaces, or in the church.

This past year, as our community continued to recover from the pandemic, we focused our energy on building our fellowship and developing meaningful relationships. For our Summer Series, we met in the Caroline House to listen to seven of our members share their life stories. Not only did we hear how they came to Christ, but as they shared openly about formative and often difficult periods of their lives, we were able to bear witness to how God has been powerfully molding them into the image of Christ. Always engaging and often moving us to tears, God has been working through these testimonies to bind us closer together as a community of brothers and sisters in Christ.



BRIARWOOD FELLOWS

Briarwood Fellows develops future generations of leaders from the Church to reach the world. We equip recent college graduates to influence their vocation, church, family, and culture. Our Fellows invest nine months working in marketplace internships and in ministries within the church and city, along with pursuing theological studies, to become thoroughly equipped to engage our culture with the Gospel.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism has always been a primary focus at Briarwood with our mission "to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ." Our desire is to provide tools like Christianity Explored and Bridge to Life to share your faith.

In April 2023, a team of 15 traveled to Mount Zion AME Church in Montgomery, Alabama. It was such a privilege to partner with this beautiful congregation, both in evangelism training and in sharing our faith. After we spent time in training, we went door to door to the church's neighbors, presenting the Bridge to Life. We had four to five groups, and God was so faithful to bless our efforts as 11 people prayed to receive Christ! Praise the Lord! Mount Zion was so committed to this effort that they had Bridge to Life t-shirts printed for everyone involved.





LOCAL MISSIONS AND MOBILIZATION

Briarwood's Local Missions vision is to reach Birmingham by partnering with local ministries through mobilizing our members. Realizing our city is vast and the opportunities are plentiful, we partner with ministries in the areas of Youth and Education, Community and Family, Emergency and Rescue Service, and Prison Ministries.

One of our local ministry partners that supports local churches in ministering and reaching their communities is Christian Service Mission (CSM). This past year, three of our Congregational Communities joined together to send approximately 40 volunteers to serve at CSM. Here is a quote from one of the participants: "It was a great day serving at CSM alongside other Briarwood families and it was such an encouragement to see parents bringing their children to serve as well. We also had the opportunity to tour the facility and learn more about how CSM connects their resources with the needs of the community. Even though the tasks we completed were simple, it was great to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we served the community of Birmingham."

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Ministry's goal is to glorify God by helping our visitors and members connect to Christ and His Church here at Briarwood. We focus on providing a warm welcome to our guests, helping our new members connect into our church body, and partnering with seasoned members in providing continued support and guidance in various ministry endeavors. This is facilitated through our Sunday School Communities, various small group meetings, and connecting with other church ministries.

This year, the Lord has given the Briarwood Membership and Shepherding Team a real sense of His faithfulness and all-encompassing love as we have observed a deepening of relationships within our church and more outreach efforts through our churchwide *Project Andrew* emphasis. We have had people from many different walks of life visit and join Briarwood as members this year. People from different denominations, different ages and stages of life, different backgrounds and different nationalities have come to join Briarwood. One couple who recently joined shared that they immediately realized that Briarwood Church was a place where they could fit in, find friends, worship Christ, and grow in the Lord. We praise the Lord for shining His light from us and sharing His love through us.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Briarwood believes that Christ-like men of character and conviction are one of the highest priorities in our mission. The Men's Ministry is called "Men of the Covenant," and Discipleship-oriented courses make up the nucleus of our ministry. Also, the ministry is enhanced by special events like our skeet shoot.

In March, dozens gathered to have a day of fun while also being challenged. U.S. Marshall, John Garrison, spoke and encouraged us to seek to become men after God's heart. What a blessing to glean wisdom from other men. Proverbs 27:17 says, *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."*

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Music and Worship Ministry exists to equip Christians to worship, mainly through our Lord's Day morning and evening worship services. This enables God's people to more effectively fulfill the calling God has given us to make disciples (and ultimately worshipers) of all the nations. The Music Ministry provides opportunities for all members, ages five and up, to find their voice in worship through graded choirs, youth choirs, the Chancel (adult) choir, orchestra, praise teams and bands.



MERCY MINISTRY

The Mercy Ministry of Briarwood is committed to ministering to those in need. The deacons and volunteers of the Mercy Ministry are able to enter the lives of both members and non-members, to walk with them through times of struggles, and offer them the mercy of God. The Mercy Ministry also dispenses the mercy of God through New Direction Ministry and Fostering Hope.

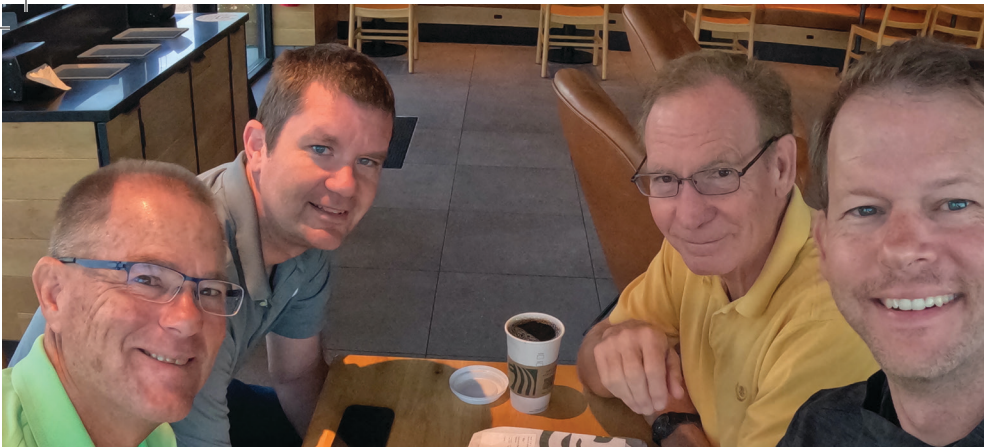
A single mother of four met with the Mercy Pastor to discuss the reality that her husband had been shot and killed. She was in need of help to avoid eviction. The challenge was to help her survive and keep her family intact and in the house. She was looking to start a job that would keep them afloat. She started the summer class of New Focus. Two deacons began to walk her through the course. While they worked with her to put a financial plan together, her two 12-year-old daughters sat and talked with the Mercy Pastor about the first lesson of New Focus. That lesson included the Bridge to Life. The two girls asked questions and were interested in placing their faith in Jesus Christ. The following week, they were given new Bibles and materials to start their journey with Christ. Their mother came to Christ seven years ago through the Mercy Ministry.

MIDWEEK

Briarwood MidWeek is a Wednesday night fellowship and discipleship opportunity for the entire family. The evening begins with a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m. and is followed by activities including Bible studies, adult choir and orchestra rehearsal, seminary classes, evangelism training, children's programs, nursery, and youth ministry activities. For a full list of MidWeek opportunities, visit briarwood.org/midweek or see the Briarwood App.

Over the years, MidWeek has been a wonderful ministry opportunity for God's people to gather around an excellent meal before heading to a Bible study or one of the many other gatherings. This year we had a three-week focus on *Project Andrew*, which challenged us all to *Bring Them to Him!*





NATIONAL MISSIONS

The USA is a mission field with tremendous Gospel opportunity! Briarwood's National Missions Team supports over 130 USA-based ministry partners, including church planters, campus ministries, military chaplains, and sports ministries. This year, National Missions launched its Life Team, which is passionate about expanding Briarwood's engagement in critical, Pro-Life issues such as foster care, adoption, biblical sexuality, gender confusion, sex trafficking recovery, and aging/end of life care.

Our Church Planting Team supports church plants not only in unchurched, urban centers across the nation, but also in areas like Huntsville, currently the fastest growing city in Alabama, where Southside Presbyterian Mission is impacting young families who are hearing and responding to the Gospel. "Thank you for starting and inviting me to the neighborhood men's group. It has helped me so much. Studying the Scriptures together has helped me be a better man for my wife and kids." Quote shared with Adam Venable, Briarwood-supported planter of Southside Presbyterian in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation and it cannot be bound—literally! "I was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to serve twenty-five years in the Alabama Department of Corrections. The first year of incarceration, I dedicated my life to Christ and was eager to learn more about Him...The opportunity that UnBound216 has given me has been instrumental in my walk with Christ and has given me the basic knowledge of God's Word, which has allowed me to set aside things of this world and to focus on glorifying Him in all that I do." - Participant in Unbound216, Briarwood National Ministries Partner

God is using your EMC pledge to reach the lost, make disciples, and change hearts and minds as Briarwood brings Jesus to our Nation!



NURSERY

The Briarwood Nursery provides a service to the parents of the church by providing a safe and pleasant atmosphere in which to leave their children while they pursue spiritual growth and fellowship with other believers. We are open during church on Sunday and Wednesday nights during MidWeek classes. We are also open to meet the needs of church members and Briarwood School, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

"The nursery has been an unbelievable blessing to our family. Briarwood nursery comes alongside to support and love moms and their babies in a very hectic and sometimes trying stage of life. The nursery drop-in has been a lifeline for me and is a unique benefit for Briarwood members. The leadership team and staff are hardworking, diligent and take wonderful care of our most precious assets. Nursery employees and volunteers go to great lengths to keep our children safe and teach them about God's love." - Briarwood Member

QUEST (RECREATION)

Since 1964, Camp Briarwood has served as a camp and leadership training ground for approximately 20,000 children and counselors. The Briarwood Soccer Club trains young players in the game of soccer. More importantly, the Club demonstrates and proclaims the Gospel of Christ. Trail Life is a Christ-centered, outdoor, character-developing adventure program open to boys and their fathers. Quest also ministers through ladies' fitness classes, cheer classes and camps, and pickleball.

A young lady from a broken home attended Camp Briarwood for the first time. She had a wonderful camp experience, heard about Jesus, and two weeks later gave her life to the Lord.

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry at Briarwood exists to glorify God through providing opportunities and equipping Christians to pray in order to impact Birmingham to reach the world for Christ. *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus for you."* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer is an essential part and focus of Briarwood Church and God's people. Over fifty years ago, Dr. Frank Barker began a prayer breakfast in his home on Saturday mornings. Men still meet every Saturday morning for prayer at the Mountain View House.

"Several weeks ago, I was praying with one of our missionaries and had a flashback. He had graduated from college and had several years on the mission field. One Saturday he had attended Dr. Barker's prayer breakfast and asked us to pray for a wife for him. It was just a short time later that he met his wife. They have now been married ten years, have three children, and serve on the mission field. God is faithful." - Dave Matthews, Shepherding Pastor

"In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Ministry's focus is to assist pastors, elders, and Congregational Communities in caring for our church members, especially in times of sickness, infirmity, bereavement, or family crisis.

Pastor Jim Alexander is thankful for the team of servant-leaders God has provided to help meet needs within the Briarwood community. Six new lay pastors and one additional Grace Lady have joined others who faithfully serve the church. These leaders prayerfully assist with hospital visits, follow-up care calls, communion to shut-in members, anointings, fellowship luncheons for widows and support for those walking through the challenges of caring for their loved ones dealing with prolonged health needs. Pastoral Care, along with all our Shepherding and Community Pastors, have been caring for the Reeder family and our entire church family upon the homegoing of our beloved Pastor Reeder. Many church members have expressed heartfelt thanks for the ways Pastoral Care gives hope by pointing to God's faithfulness during the challenges they face.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS

The Special Connections Ministry vision is for the Gospel to be made accessible to all, as the body of Christ shows equal concern for people with disabilities and their families. The ministry provides teaching and worship opportunities as well as care for children, youth, and adults with special needs. High school buddies accompany the children to inclusive Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. The ministry also provides other activities for people with disabilities throughout the year.

One way we serve our families with loved ones touched by disability is through our "Summer Afternoon Fun" event series. Families who spend much of their time caring for their loved one with a disability have an opportunity to fellowship while their son or daughter with a disability bowls, plays laser tag, and participates in other fun activities. Our staff, volunteers, and high school buddies are grateful for the opportunity to provide care to our participants to ensure everyone has a great time!





TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazers is a ministry to all adults over 60 at Briarwood. Goals of the ministry include helping seniors grow spiritually, integrating them into the life of the church through service, providing educational seminars and fellowship luncheons, and using excursions to increase their awareness of the creative majesty of our great God.

We had a full bus on a trip to the Ark and Creation Museum in July. We also had our annual trip to The Cove in August. The getaway provided beautiful scenery, great fellowship, and an inspiring speaker. There is also a pickleball group that meets weekly. One annual outreach event is a box-packing party for Operation Christmas Child in November. We welcome church visitors to all of our events, and several from other churches always join us.

WALK THROUGH NATIVITY

The Walk Through Nativity is an inspiring portrayal of the story of Jesus Christ's birth and life, presented by our congregation over three nights each December. This is an exciting opportunity for our Briarwood family as over 700 volunteers join together using their gifts and talents to reach out to our community and share God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ.

We are expecting over 7,000 people to attend this year and hear the story of Christ through twelve scenes with audio narration, live actors, and live animals. One of our members invited some friends from work to attend the Nativity. After walking through and seeing the scenes and hearing the narration, these friends expressed an interest to know more about Jesus. They particularly wanted to discuss "why Jesus had to die on the cross." We pray that these friends, and many other people who attended this impactful event, will receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women of the Covenant Mission Statement is "Equipping to know God, and to glorify Him in our Home, Church, Community, and World." We seek to do this through Bible studies, small groups, retreats and special events designed for personal spiritual growth as well as opportunities to reach out to family, friends, and our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This summer, the Women's Ministry provided women the opportunity to gather in small groups with women of different ages and stages. The purpose of these gatherings was twofold: to foster fellowship and community amongst the women, and to hear and be encouraged by the testimony of one of our women. The feedback was so encouraging.

"We all loved it. I sensed the Lord's presence among our group...lots of love in the room. I think we were all blessed by being there."

"We had a great evening of laughter, making new friends, and sweet fellowship. So grateful for our church family."

YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS

Since 1981, the mission of YBL has been to reach men in the marketplace, build them in the faith, and send them back to their families, communities, nation, and world for God's glory. In 2014, we launched the same mission to women in the marketplace. On any day of the work week, men and women are seeking to worship God and live a life that reflects Him wherever they work, serve, and lead. Our discipleship groups, outreach events, and mentors build friendship, accountability, and direction to live biblically every day.

Alexander was a football player at Alabama and then served in the military. He grew up in the Catholic Church but admitted he had been far from God for years. He attended a YBL summer event and got connected to a three-week, introductory small group. Alexander has given his life to Jesus and is looking to bring his work, relationships, and habits into alignment with his new faith in Jesus.

YBL LEGACY

The vision of the YBL LEGACY Ministry is to mobilize, minister to, and multiply men who use their life experiences, time, and resources to impact God's Kingdom locally, nationally and internationally. *"And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginnings."* Job 42:12

YBL small groups meet all over town, and sometimes in shared conference rooms. One Thursday morning, a group was meeting at the Bradford Building. In the middle of their study, Paul, a man who works down the hall, stopped and asked what the group was about. They explained they were a group of men trying to learn about work and trust in God from the Bible. He was astonished and came in and sat down. He said he had been working for 30 years and never understood how his work did anything but make money. Paul has begun visiting the group and is learning God's purpose for his work!

WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS

Women Business Leaders transforms the marketplace by pointing women to Christ, encouraging them in their faith, and helping them make a difference in their workplace and home for God's glory.

"Madalyn was in her freshman year at Samford as a business major and sold cutlery products in order to help cover expenses. One evening, Madalyn came to our home for a demonstration, and in the process, we engaged in some great conversations. She shared that she was from the northeast, and I asked how she found Samford. I then asked how she felt about the 'thread of Christianity' on campus. One question led to the next and before she left, I asked if she had a Bible. She did not, so I was able to share one with her. I then asked if she would like to get together and read scripture; she happily agreed. Over the course of the next four weeks, we had many deep, spiritual conversations which led to her accepting Christ as her Lord and Savior. Madalyn and I continue to meet weekly, and she has also been participating in the College Ministry programs on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer, at times bringing a Muslim friend. I trust the investments made today will reap fruit in her life as she matures that will benefit her home, workplace, and wherever her gifting may lead." - Sharon Head, WBL Director





YOUNG COUPLES MINISTRY

Believing that our young, married couples are the next generation of elders and leaders, the Young Couples Ministry of Briarwood Presbyterian Church exists to bring glory to God by equipping couples for the work of the ministry in order that they be rooted and built up in Christ, established in the faith, and growing towards maturity as a part of Christ's Church.

Our Young Couples have been very active this year. In March, we partnered with the Men's Ministry to host an outreach clay shoot. Several of our men invited friends to participate and hear a Gospel message. In April, we had our first marriage retreat since 2018. It was in Chattanooga with an emphasis on communication. This summer, we focused on several in-town meet-ups that sought to foster community across our Sunday School classes. The largest were our Family BBQ and our Young Couples Dinner. It has been such a blessing to see our young couples engaged in life together.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry has touched the lives of thousands of young people throughout the years through retreats, conferences, and mission trips. Over the last several years, the Youth Barn has enhanced and facilitated even more ministry opportunities to our youth, both here in the Church and in the community. Through weekly meetings, discipleship groups, and special events, the Lord has blessed us to reach and disciple more and more students for Christ!

One of the blessings of youth ministry is when we get to see the Lord's work in our students' lives after they have graduated from high school and move into adulthood. This is a beautiful picture of the Lord using the foundation that was laid by the church and their parents to blossom into fruit for the Kingdom of God. This year, we had three Youth Group alumni, all from the same class (who just graduated from college), commit to going overseas for full-time missions. These three students grew up at Briarwood Church and were leaders in the Youth group. Two are serving in Europe and the other is working with Muslims in the Middle East. In addition, we were recently able to hear from another one of our students who has been serving overseas for the past two years. She shared with us how she had come to Christ at our BYG Winter Retreat when she was in 10th grade and how thankful she was for the spiritual impact Briarwood Youth Group had on her during her formative, teenage years.

These ministries benefit from your faithful tithe:

Administrative Services
Birmingham Theological Seminary
Briarwood Ballet
Briarwood Christian School
Campus Outreach
Children's Ministries
Christian Counseling Ministry
Christian Education
Christian Medical Ministry
Church Planting
Church Revitalization
Church and State
College Ministry
Communications
Congregational Communities (*Adult Sunday School*)
Discipleship Groups
Evangelism
Fellows Ministry
Graduates and Career (*G&C*)
In Perspective Radio
Local Missions and Mobilization
L.O.V.E. Ministry
Membership
Men of the Covenant
Mercy Ministry
MidWeek @ Briarwood
Music Ministry for all ages
National Ministries (*over 130 Ministry Partners*)
Nursery
Pastoral Care
Prayer Ministry
Quest/Recreation Ministry
Shepherding
Special Connections
Trailblazers/Senior Adult Ministry
Vacation Bible School
WLJR-FM
Walk Through Nativity
Women of the Covenant
Young Business Leaders (*YBL, Legacy, WBL*)
Young Couples
Youth Ministry



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