

November 26, 2023



DR. DAN DORIANI
Interim Pastor, Briarwood Presbyterian Church

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations...” Deuteronomy 7:9

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we are able to announce to you that our Lord has graciously led our Session to unanimously call Dr. Dan Doriani to serve as our Intentional Interim Pastor. Once again God has proven Himself faithful to our church family, providing an experienced and gifted Interim Pastor to shepherd and lead us through our time of transition. We look forward to having him join us for the first three Sundays of Advent on December 3, 10 and 17.

As your Search Committee for Interim Pastor, we want you to know how grateful we have been for your faithful prayers, support, encouragement and patience as we have together with you waited on the Lord and trusted Him to identify the man He has been preparing and has now called to serve as our Intentional Interim Pastor. As a committee, we look forward to our church family benefiting from his God-honoring ministry and getting to know Dr. Doriani as we have during this process.

We would encourage you to remain steadfast in prayer for Dr. Doriani, his wife, Debbie, and family as they prepare to become a part of the Briarwood family and we thank the Lord for hearing our prayers and for providing such a blessing!

Interim Pastor Search Committee
*Billy Ball, Kevin Gush, Mike Mungenast,
Bruce Stallings, Ethan Tidmore, Bryan Word*



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, November 27 | Congregation — Serve One Another

Father, thank You for giving us spiritual gifts to use for You and Your kingdom. Guide and strengthen us to use our gifts to serve one another to build each other up in Christ. *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* 1 Peter 4:10

Tuesday, November 21 | Interim Pastor — Praise the Lord

We praise the Lord for graciously leading us to Dr. Dan Doriani to serve as our new Interim Senior Pastor. Pray for our Lord to guide him and prepare us for this exciting next chapter in our Church. *“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.’”* Isaiah 48:17

Wednesday, November 29 | Leadership — Counseling Ministry

Pray for wisdom, insight, and clarity as our pastors, elders, and counselors speak truth in love into various situations in people’s lives. Ask God to restore relationships and renew the joy of His salvation as He continues His work in homes and lives. *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.”* Psalm 32:8

Thursday, November 30 | On Mission — Evangelism

Lord, open to us doors of opportunity for effectual ministry. Help us see the eternal destiny of those who do not know You, and embolden us to share the love of Christ with those we meet. *“that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”* 1 John 1:3

Friday, December 1 | Thanksgiving — God’s Provision

Thank God for His faithfulness in providing for us in times of plenty and in times of want. We see in Scripture how He carried Israel through many difficult times, even in the desert, yet God always provided for them. *“even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.”* Isaiah 46:4

Saturday, December 2 | Personal — Patience

Father, teach us to be patient in You. We know we live in a fallen world, but You are at work in redemption. *“Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!”* Psalm 37:7

Sunday, December 3 | Lord’s Day Worship

Lord, we come into Your presence today overwhelmed by Your goodness and amazed by Your greatness! Please instruct our hearts today to serve You by the preaching of Your holy Word. *“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”* Psalm 100:1-3

Receive each day’s prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.

For additional information, go to briarwood.org/seasonofprayer.

FEATURED EVENTS

“A Joyful Noel” — Children’s Christmas Choirs | December 3 *

Come Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center to hear the Children’s Choirs of Briarwood as they bless us and begin our Christmas season!

Walk Through Nativity — Church Wide Event | December 6, 7 and 8

December 6, 7 and 8 from 6:45–8:45 p.m. Over 750 volunteer actors, costumers, parking attendants, scene-builders, and greeters are needed for this year’s Walk Through! Sign up online at briarwood.org/nativity or call 205-776-5282.

“O Come Let Us Adore Him” — Briarwood Ballet | December 10 *

Join the Briarwood Ballet on December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center as they lead us in worship this Advent season. Go to briarwood.org/ballet.

“Hallelujah! The Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 17 *

Come experience Advent through musical and dramatic presentation from the Briarwood Choirs, Orchestra and Dramatists with special guest Sandra McCracken. This event is completely free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Worship Services | December 24 *

Reflect the birth of Jesus with us this Christmas Eve. Sunday morning we will have one combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. with no Sunday School Communities meeting. Bring your family and friends back Sunday evening for Candlelight Family Services at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. or our Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 p.m.

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

ADVENT READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Gifts of Grace: 25 Advent Devotions

by Jared C. Wilson | Adult Advent Book

Just as with opening the doors of an Advent calendar day by day, this Advent devotional will build your anticipation for Christmas so that you can fully absorb and enjoy its central gift—Jesus Christ. Price: \$12 (includes tax)

God’s Big Promises Advent Calendar and Family Devotions

by Carl Laferton | Family/Children’s Advent Book (Ages 2 to 7)

Young children will enjoy learning about and interacting with the Christmas story in this colorful Advent calendar with 25 family devotions. Price: \$7 (includes tax)

The Ultimate Christmas Wishlist:

What If You Could Get What You’re Really Hoping For?

by Rico Tice | Adult Advent Book

This small book is a wonderful outreach resource for sharing the hope of Christianity at Christmas. Based on Isaiah 9:6, readers will see how Jesus is the ultimate gift as He delivers what they really want: hope, peace, purpose and guidance. Price: \$3 (includes tax)

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Poinsettias — On sale until December 3. Dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone this Advent season. Dedications are \$20 each; available for purchase in the Membership Office or online at briarwood.org/poinsettia.

Officer Selection Sunday — December 3. Members will be asked to select officers during a called meeting of the congregation that begins at 8:00 a.m. and officially closes with the benediction of the 10:55 a.m. service. The men receiving the most votes will then be placed on a final slate that will be presented for election the following Sunday.

2024 Budget — Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. in A205. Members of the Budget Committee will be available to answer questions regarding the 2024 Budget.

Food Drive — Sunday, December 10. Begin gathering your canned goods and non-perishables for Oak Mountain Mission. That Sunday, you will leave your donations behind your vehicle for the Mercy Ministry Team to pick up while you are in church.

Officer Election Sunday — Sunday, December 10. Men receiving the most votes from Officer Selection Sunday will be placed on a final slate that will be presented for the church membership to elect. There will also be a special order at 10:35 a.m. in the Worship Center to receive the 2024 budget.

Trailblazer Christmas Sing-A-Long — Tuesday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m. Meet us at Cahaba Ridge Retirement Community to sing familiar Christmas songs with Hunter Goff. Sign up online at briarwood.org/trailblazers or email sjohnston@briarwood.org.

Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed — January 18–21, 2024. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference where pastors and leaders from across the country come for teaching, encouragement, and fellowship. We need volunteers for housing, transportation and preparing attendee notebooks and goody bags. If you can help in any of these ways, contact Christi Bono at cbono@briarwood.org or 776-5243.

Ignite Sunday School Volunteers Needed — Volunteer helpers and teachers are needed for 4th–6th grade boys' Sunday School. This position serves January through May on a month-on, month-off basis. No prep is needed. If interested, email esitarz@briarwood.org.

Our Season of Prayer Meetings — Sundays at 5:15 p.m. in A-105. Our Church Family gathers weekly to pray together as we seek the Lord to lead us during this intermediate phase. Email pclaud@briarwood.org with any questions.

Job Opening: ESL and Friendship Partner Director — Part-time position open for the leader of our English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry. For more information or to send your resume, email Heather McDougall at hmcdougall@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: Senior High Ministry Director — Full-time position to oversee the shepherding/discipling high school students, programming, equipping volunteers, assisting parents, and development of the youth staff team. Contact k.smith@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Full-time & Part-time Staff — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for the many details remaining for the Walk Through Nativity. Pray for the health of those serving and for the additional volunteers needed.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Paul Neville and NorthStar Soccer Ministries as they reach urban youth and promote mentoring opportunities. Their annual NorthStar Celebration! Banquet Fundraiser is November 30 at 6:00 p.m. For the link to purchase tickets, go to briarwood.org/mobilization.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the Grace House staff and leadership as they undergo “The Growing in Grace” Campaign that will enable the ministry to serve more girls in foster care, continuing Mama Lois’ vision. Pray that the girls in this ministry would come to know Jesus as their Father and healer as they navigate through previous trauma.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Pedro and Grace (Hanson) Siqueira with Campus Outreach SERVE in Brazil; Andrew and Jami Harris with Campus Outreach SERVE in England; Tamas and Zsofia Heizer with Novo in Hungary; and Sam and Karla with Avant Ministries in Spain.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Kevin and Taylor Wilkie with Campus Outreach in Georgia; Beth Wilson with Cru in North Carolina; Parks and Julie Wilson with Worldwide Discipleship Association at Purdue University in Indiana; Lee and Sarah Wright with Reformed University Fellowship in Texas; and the staff of Restoration Academy.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Tom Smitherman, Scott Stewart, Mark Thompson; deacons Raymond Greer, Robert Paul, Mason Murphy; and BCS Superintendent Gus Martin and wife, Felicity.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity: Angel Tree Gift Delivery — Want to share the Good News of Jesus? Help deliver Angel Tree Christmas gifts to needy children in the Birmingham area! Gifts will be ready for delivery starting Wednesday, December 6. If you’d like to be a part, contact Kari at 205-776-5404 or kescue@briarwood.org.

Dr. Dan Doriani — Earned his Masters of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary and was ordained in the PCA in 1982. Presently he is a Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology at Covenant Theological Seminary. Dr. Doriani previously served for over a decade as the Senior Pastor of Central Presbytery Church in St. Louis. Dr. Doriani is also the founder of The Center for Faith and Work in St. Louis, which focuses on engaging the world through a Biblical understanding of work and vocation seeking to transform the workplace for God’s glory. Dr. Doriani has provided tremendous contributions through his writing of numerous books and commentaries along with his articles for *Table Talk*, blogs for The Gospel Coalition and the Alliance for Confessing Evangelicals and various podcasts.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship:

“Pray for Me”

Ephesians 6:18–20

Bobby Parks

Sunday Evening Worship:

Service of Ordination and Installation

VIII. Philippians: *Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel*

“Content in All Circumstances”

Philippians 4:10–20

Olan Stubbs

Join us Sunday Evening as Stephen Merwin and Joel Richards are Ordained
and Installed by a Commission of Evangel Presbytery.

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App or at briarwood.org/livestream.
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.