



BRIARWOOD BALLET

presents

*God,
Shed
Your
Grace*

Featuring -

BALLET EXALTATION
BIRMINGHAM BOYS CHOIR

September 19, 2024 - 7:00pm
Briarwood Presbyterian Church



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE CALLING OF AN INTERIM PASTOR

Since many number of folks have asked me, it seemed sensible to explain the calling of an interim pastor. I have been a professor most of my life and pastored a church rather like Briarwood for eleven years, but I am happy to share what I have learned through several interim pastorates.

I believe there are three types of interim pastor. Type one preaches most weeks, helps lead worship, and maintains the status quo while the church searches and waits for their next pastor. This role can be light. I've held this role several times, preaching most weeks for a few months, and meeting with elders perhaps once a month.

Type two is weightier but probably still part-time. An interim pastor may step in for a larger church that faces difficult issues. The interim ministry might continue for 18-20 months and work extensively with church leaders. I've held this role several times too, part-time and near my home in St. Louis.

Type three is a transitional pastor or "intentional interim." An intentional interim will have most of the same roles as a senior pastor, but he cannot become the lead pastor, and he has the duties for a short time. The title "interim pastor" never appears in the Bible, but Paul sent Titus to Crete to teach and solve problems there, so he had something like an interim role, as did Timothy. The chief idea is to help the church move well toward their next pastor. Let me sketch the call or duties of an interim pastor.

#1. Every interim pastor will preach most weeks, typically three out of four. A full-time interim is often from another town. When he visits his home, the church typically brings in an outside speaker who may not be a candidate but may roughly fit the profile of the next pastor.

#2. He fulfills several familiar pastoral roles. He helps plan and lead worship, leads session meetings, cares for pastors, staff, and other leaders, and steps in to help in emergencies.

#3. Intentional interims help with the search for the next lead pastor.

#4. They address a few key issues that cannot or should not wait until the arrival of the next pastor. They rarely tackle more than two major issues.

There are other benefits in having an interim pastor. One is stability. It's difficult to have a different preacher every week; that reminds people that they miss a chief shepherd. A trusted interim can help everyone relax and trust the Lord as He cares for His church.

Although interim pastors don't do it deliberately, they remind the people that their next pastor will be different. Briarwood's pastors were uniquely gifted men; we call them "unicorns" today. The senior pastor of a large church must be a good preacher and a good leader, but after that they can be quite different. For example, it's unlikely that the next lead pastor will have Pastor Reeder's memory or energy. An interim pastor does not try to be different; he is, and that prepares everyone for the next pastor, who will have distinct gifts and interests, too.

FEATURED EVENTS

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | Through November 13 *

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. Sign up for dinners, nursery and classes at briarwood.org/midweek.

“God, Shed Your Grace” — Briarwood Ballet | September 19

Join Ballet Exaltation and the Birmingham Boys Choir for a patriotic concert on Thursday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Go online to purchase tickets at briarwood.org/balletevents.

IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | October 19

On the morning of October 19, we will partner with local ministries to do service projects ranging from yard work, painting, distributing food to repair projects. This will be an opportunity to serve together as the body of Christ and IMPACT Birmingham for Christ! Additional info will be posted at briarwood.org/impact.

National Ministries Conference 2024 — Briarwood Missions | October 20 & 21 *

Join us Sunday, October 20 and Monday, October 21 to hear our speaker H.B. Charles, Pastor at the Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, and from various ministry partners during the Sunday School and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday nights. Find additional details at briarwood.org/nmc.

* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

God, Technology, and the Christian Life

by Tony Reinke | Adult Book

Many Christians remain perplexed about modern technology. New iPhones, social media platforms, self-driving cars, and genetic engineering all prove that human innovation is not slowing down. As technologies multiply and life becomes more complex, the question arises: What does God think of human technology? In journalist Tony Reinke's latest book, he biblically addresses this and other questions head-on. By turning to 9 key passages and engaging with several theologians and thinkers, Reinke seeks to dismantle 12 common myths Christians often hold about technology, helping them understand the story of where human innovation came from and to embrace the Church's essential role in it. Price: \$14.99

The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place

by Andy Crouch | Adult Book

Our choices about technology have consequences we may never have considered. Andy Crouch goes beyond typical questions of what, where, and when, and challenges provocative questions like “Who do we want to be as a family?” and “How does our use of a particular technology move us closer or farther away from that goal?” Anyone who has felt their family relationships suffer or their time slip away amid technology's distractions will find in this book a path forward to reclaiming their real life in a world of devices. Price: \$10

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

ROKU & Apple TV Apps — The Briarwood App is now available for download on ROKU, Apple TV, Google Play, and the Amazon Appstore. If you had our previous TV apps, you will need to install the new app. Search for Briarwood PCA and download for free.

Taste of Briarwood — September 22 in Fellowship Hall E & F following the 10:55 a.m. service. All visitors are invited to lunch with the Dorianis to learn more about Briarwood. Make reservations at pclaud@briarwood.org. Nursery will be provided upon request.

Portraits of Hope Exhibit — Tuesday, September 24 at the Beverly McNeil Gallery. Ladies, you are invited to the Portraits of Hope exhibit at the morning or evening reception. Go to briarwood.org/women for reception registration.

Become a Briarwood Member — September 25, 28 and 29. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers' Classes. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Patti Claud at pclaud@briarwood.org.

Trailblazers Coffee — Monday, September 30 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall A. Bill Moulton, Briarwood member and author of "Agent 328: The Day It All Changed For Us," will share with us. Register online at bit.ly/YBLFallBreakfast.

YBL Fall Breakfast — Thursday, October 3 from 6:30–7:45 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. Terry Looper, retired CEO and founder of Texon LP, will share about his journey to becoming a wiser man and leader. Information and registration at bit.ly/YBLFallBreakfast.

WBL Faith & Work Luncheon — Wednesday, October 9 from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at The Club. Stephanie Franklin, with over 25 years of expertise in non-profit/for-profit recruitment, will share her journey of being transformed by truth through a renewed mind. Register at wblbirmingham.org.

Men's Fall Studies — Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 at Cajun Seafood House, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/men.

Women's Fall Studies — Women, pick from six available classes meeting Monday–Thursday. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/women. Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

Adult Ballet Class — Mondays from 9:00–10:30 a.m. This class for women 18 and older is open level and meets until November 18. Information at briarwood.org/balletclasses.

Threads of Hope — Wednesdays from 10:00–11:30 a.m. in A205. Women, you are invited to join Briarwood's knitting ministry. Experienced knitters to beginners are all welcome.

Children's Sunday Choirs — Children's Choirs (preschool/elementary age children) meet Sunday during the evening worship at 6:15 p.m. Contact Shanna Phillips at 205-222-1062.

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

Sunday, September 15 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Pray for our Ballet Exaltation as they join the Birmingham Boys Choir for a patriotic concert entitled “God, Shed Your Grace”. Give thanks for the Briarwood Ballet Ministry that offers quality instruction in classical ballet and dance education within a Christ-centered environment.

Monday, September 16 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for Sav-A-Life Vestavia as they work to end abortion by supporting women with free services, counseling, and education. Pray for their mission to continue transforming lives through pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, prenatal care, and parenting programs.

Tuesday, September 17 — Missions Prayer Focus

With the kick off of the school year, pray for the college campus ministries in Alabama as they reach out to students to share the gospel. Pray for leaders and staff as they prepare their lessons and activities. Pray also for these college students to have receptive hearts and come to Christ.

Wednesday, September 18 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Phillip and Emily Avery with Campus Outreach SERVE, US/International; Simon and Laura Florez with World Reach in Colombia; Gantumur and Delgertsesteg Badrakh with Cru, US/International; and Kent and Jo Bailey with Campus Outreach SERVE, US/ International.

Thursday, September 19 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Todd and Cindy Sproull with Mission to the World in Washington; Marc and Carol Stephens with Navigators in Tennessee; Jamie and Rebecca Strange with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Alabama; Olan and Lynna Stubbs with Campus Outreach in Alabama; and Birmingham Urban Young Life.

Friday, September 20 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our Briarwood elders Bill Brazeal, Gene Head Jr., Bob Sproul Jr.; deacons John Royal, Ethan Tidmore, Clay King; and Ministries Team Benny Parks and wife, Brenda.

Saturday, September 21 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Evelyn Clark, Mabel Donaldson, Sharon Penn, Barbara Shirley, Jerry Wilson, Debbie Lange, Craig Gilbert.

We offer our love and sympathy to Joy Moore and family on the death of her brother, Danny Morton, on September 8; to the family of member Sharon Mason on her death on September 8; and to the family of staff member Ed Landers on his death on September 9.

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness. Psalm 30:11

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

Receive each day’s prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App. In your Briarwood App settings, enable “Weekly Prayer Guide” notifications.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“The Lost Sons”

Luke 15:11-32

Dr. Dan Doriani

This Lord's Day, Dr. Doriani continues in his teaching on the parables and teaching of Jesus Christ. In this sermon, Dr. Doriani will preach on the Parable of the Lost Son and will challenge us with many questions including, “Are you more like the prodigal son or the self-righteous or is there an element of both in you?” and “Which part of the parable speaks more to you: God's grace for overt sins or God's grace for a very bad attitude, shown in pride and contempt?”

Sunday Evening Worship:

“The Apostle Paul and the Saints of Corinth”

I Corinthians 1:1-9

Dr. Dan Doriani

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.