

FOUNDATIONS OF

Stewardship

EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT 2025

EMC CONVOCATION SERVICE OCTOBER 27

Every Member Commitment Convocation Sunday members are encouraged to attend the EMC Convocation in the Worship Center at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3

Every Member Commitment Sunday members turn in their pledge cards during the Morning Worship Services.

CANVASS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

EMC Canvass Sunday is the final opportunity for members to submit their pledges during morning worship. Members who have not made a commitment or otherwise contacted the church will be contacted by church officers.

Learn more about EMC at briarwood.org/giving.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10*

We are designed to glorify God, and one way we reflect His image is through giving. At Briarwood, we have a strong foundation of sacrificial and intentional stewardship modeled for us through our leadership. This example shapes our giving and encourages us to faithfully give to Kingdom work.

As we enter the season where we focus on stewardship at Briarwood, I thought I would offer a framework that has been useful to me and my family as we consider the stewardship of God's resources entrusted to us for the building of God's Kingdom.

Hopefully, you will find these 3 steps helpful as you consider what you will give to the Lord during this stewardship season.

1. Consider how God's Word instructs us to use the resources He has entrusted to us. There are countless Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments that speak to this. Colossians 1:16-18 frames our thoughts concerning Christ's preeminence in ALL things. He is the Creator and owns ALL things. We are simply stewards.

2. Confess how I may be falling short of God's calling on my life to use all His resources entrusted to me for His glory. I Corinthians 10:31 sums up our chief end in life: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." We are all in a process of sanctification. This season of stewardship can help to reveal where we are falling short.

3. Commit to the Lord His tithe and your offerings. I am so thankful that each Lord's day, I am reminded as an act of joyful worship to bring His tithe and our offerings to the Lord for His purposes.

I hope that as we all take time to go through a process of evaluating and deploying God's resources, this framework provides practical steps that help you strengthen the foundation of faithful stewardship in your life.

– Chris Blazer
Briarwood Member

WHAT IS THE TITHE?

As one reads through the Bible, it is not hard to notice the importance given to the topic of wealth. The Old and New Testaments devote 40 verses to the discussion of baptism, 275 verses to prayer, 350 verses to faith, 650 verses to love, and 2,350 verses to finances and the use of wealth. This emphasis shows us how important God regards the challenge we face in wisely managing what we own.

Learn more about tithing by downloading our guidebook at briarwood.org/emc.

FEATURED EVENTS

EMC Convocation Service — All Members | October 27

On Every Member Commitment Convocation Sunday, members are encouraged to attend the Convocation Service in the Worship Center at 9:30 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. Briarwood's Every Member Commitment allows church members to declare what their support in the work of the Lord with their gifts and service will be for the coming calendar year. Learn more at briarwood.org/emc.

EMC Pledge Sunday — All Members | November 3

On Every Member Commitment Pledge Sunday, members will turn in their pledge cards during the morning services or make pledges online at briarwood.org/giving.

EMC Canvass Sunday — All Members | November 10

EMC Canvass Sunday is the final opportunity for members to submit their pledges during morning worship. Church officers will reach out to those who have yet to made a commitment unless you have already contacted the church..

Countdown to Christmas — Women's Ministry | November 20 *

Women join us at 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. Speaker Ashley McMakin, owner of Ashley Mac's, will share with us her story of faith and how she prepares her heart for Christmas. Tickets are \$20 at briarwood.org/women and in the Bookstore. Nursery will be available by registration.

* 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

***The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* by Jay Pathak and Jay Runyon | Adult Book**

Once upon a time, neighbors talked, cooked out together, and went to the same church. Today with increased mobility and isolationism, lasting connections with those right outside our front door is hard. We have hundreds of "friends" through social networking but don't often even know the full name of the person who lives next door. The authors tell compelling true stories of lives impacted to show readers how to create genuine friendships with the people who live in close proximity to them. Each chapter has discussion questions to make this book perfect for small groups or individual study. Price: \$12.99

***What Are Feet For?* by Abbey Wedgeworth | Children's Book**

The newest board book in the Training Young Hearts series, *What Are Feet For?*, is a fun, lift-the-flap behavior book leading toddlers to use their feet in a Christ-like way. This helpful and engaging tool helps parents teach their kids that God didn't make their feet to kick or stomp but for positive actions like running, dancing, swimming, and jumping! Children will be encouraged to follow Jesus' example and be reassured that He loves us no matter what we do. He can forgive us when we fail and help us to change. Price: \$9.99

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Reformation Sunday — October 27. Our annual service highlights the foundations of the Reformation: that God's Word alone binds our consciences by the power of His Holy Spirit and that the power of the Resurrection brings us ultimate hope and comfort as we remember our church members who have gone to heaven this past year.

Donate Hygiene Items — October 27–November 14. UnBound216 needs hygiene items for their local jail ministry. Bring items the next two Sundays to the Ministries or Chapel Lobbies or Missions Office. List of items at briarwood.org/mobilization.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes — Shoeboxes will be available in the Ministries Lobby beginning Sunday, November 3. Pack a shoe box with small toys, hygiene items, and prayers to touch a needy child's life! Turn in boxes at the Children's Auditorium Hallway by November 17. Include \$10 for shipping. Build a shoebox online at briarwood.org/occ.

YBL Annual Golf Tournament — November 4 from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Inverness Country Club. Registration and warm up begins at 9:30 a.m. Coffee, pastries, and lunch will be provided. Find more information at ybl.org/events.

Portraits of Hope with WBL — Thursday, November 7 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at Beverly B. McNeil Portraits (2801 6th Ave S). Come fellowship with other working women to see beautiful portraits as you hear the story of God's remarkable transformation in the life of one woman. Light refreshments will be served. Register at wblbirmingham.org.

Trailblazers Shoe Box Packing Party — November 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join the Trailblazers, Oak Mountain Forerunners, and Valleydale Legacy to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes. Register at briarwood.org/trailblazers and bring items to share!

"I Cared Enough" Thanksgiving Meal — Tuesday, November 26. Donate and help distribute food to the needy in downtown Birmingham with Daniel Cason KIDS Ministry. For information, contact Daniel Cason at 205-365-1800 or go to danielcason.org.

Nursery Teacher Needed — Do you have a heart for teaching God's children about His love? Teacher is needed for the 2-year-old class. All the materials are provided—just bring your enthusiasm and love of children! Contact Melanie at nurseryss@briarwood.org.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Wednesday evening from 5:15–8:00 p.m. Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall starting at 5:15 p.m. Classes and activities begin at 6:30 p.m. Sign up for dinners, nursery, and classes at briarwood.org/midweek.

Briarwood Youth Choir — Sundays from 4:30–5:30 p.m. in M208. Youth grades 7–12, can you make it this week? If not, just come when you can. For more information, email Penny Philley at pphilley@briarwood.org.

Job Openings: Nursery Ministry Director — This position will implement, lead, and oversee the nursery ministry to serve our young parents by creating a safe and nurturing environment. Contact Jay Shaw at 205-776-5389 or send resume to jshaw@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

Sunday, October 27 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Pray for the Pulpit Committee to gain insight from the information they will gather from the congregational survey, the Discovery Weekend and the interviews with elders, deacons and staff over the next several weeks. May they have discerning hearts as they receive valuable input that will direct them in their search process.

We rejoice in Christ on this Reformation Day. Praise the Lord for His glorious work through Godly leaders in ages past who stood firm in the Word. May this reminder cause a fire for the Gospel of Christ to burn bright in us.

Monday, October 28 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

The Briarwood's Foster Care Ministry seeks to glorify God by providing training, support, and encouragement to those involved in the foster care system. Pray for the children as well as the families and social workers who work together to help the children.

Tuesday, October 29 — Missions Prayer Focus

Praise the Lord for the over 200 members who faithfully served our ministry partners at IMPACT Birmingham this past Saturday, October 19. Pray the Lord will guide our members to engage with these ministries throughout the year, sharing Christ's love and bringing hope and transformation to Birmingham.

Wednesday, October 30 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Dan and Catherine Burns with World Outreach in Kazakhstan; Tim and Niai Byrd with Campus Outreach SERVE in Zambia; Adam and Michelle Cain with Mission to the World in Honduras; and Ray and Michele Call with Mission to the World in Belize.

Thursday, October 31 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for John and Taylor Blevins with Christ Church Presbyterian in Knoxville, Tennessee; Hunter and Vicki Brewer with Mission to North America in North Carolina; Cedric and Alicia Brown with Navigators in Maryland; Alonzo and Antoinette Brown with Strong Tower in Alabama; and NorthStar Youth Ministries.

Friday, November 1 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for our Briarwood elders Wes Cline, Todd Johnson, Bob Turnbull; deacons Tim Ayers, Jed Duke, Kevin Lott; and National Ministries Pastor Rob Looper and wife, Lisa.

Saturday, November 2 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Margery Birdsong, Genar Reed, Kathy Smith, Sandy Bell, Eric Stephens.

We rejoice with Hank and Maddie Abbott on the birth of their daughter, Frances Lynn, on October 18.

Our love and sympathy to Pam and Annamarie Thompson and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Dorcas Oliver, on October 16; to Rebecca Haynes and family on the death of her mother, Mary Corley, on October 17; to Jim Selkirk and family on the death of his brother, David Selkirk, on October 17; to Mandy Miller and family on the death of her mother, Theresa Aday, on October 19; and to Jean Condrey and family on the death of her husband, member Richard Condrey, on October 22.

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Briarwood Presbyterian Church
2200 Briarwood Way
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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services: Reformation Sunday

“The Heart of the Reformation is Justification by Faith”

Romans 3:21–28, 4:1–8

Dr. Dan Doriani

Every Member Commitment Convocation Service

“Foundations of Stewardship”

9:30–10:30 a.m. in the Worship Center

All Adult Sunday School Communities

Sunday Evening Worship:

“Always Reforming: Prayers for Healing”

James 5:13–20

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.