

# Women's In-Town Retreat



January 31-February 1

REGISTER ONLINE AT [BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN](http://BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN)



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) • January 12, 2025

# WOMEN'S IN-TOWN RETREAT

You are invited to the Women's Ministry In Town Retreat  
the weekend of January 31 – February 1, 2025.

The theme of the event is:  
By Design: The One Thread of Scripture

Dress is comfy – retreat casual. No childcare is available Friday or Saturday.  
Nursing moms are welcome to bring their baby as needed.

## Speaker, Meaghan May

Meaghan May currently serves under the Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM) as the Elders' Wives Liaison for the Presbyterian Church in America. She is both a Chaplain's wife and a church planting wife.

Meaghan and her husband, Reverend Paul May, have been married 22 years and counting. They love their five kids, ages 16–6, and are living in Colorado where they are planting their third church. You can often find her listening to podcasts, hiking, piling in the minivan on road trips, and experimenting with new recipes.

## Retreat Schedule

Friday, January 31

6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Large Session #1

Location: Worship Center

Fun, Giveaways, & Worship

Speaker: Meaghan May

Saturday, February 1

8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Large Session #2

Location: Worship Center

Fun, Giveaways, & Worship

Speaker: Meaghan May

Breakout Sessions

11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Various Locations

Lunch and Final Challenge

12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

## Cost & Registration

\$55 per person registration fee covers all retreat material, refreshments, and lunch on Saturday. (Price cannot be broken and is non-refundable but transferable.)

*Register online at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).*

*Registration closes on January 22. Payment is available online only.*

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 8–April 9 \***

Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Join us for dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays from 5:15–6:30 p.m. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find information and register for dinners at [briarwood.org/midweek](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

### **Sanctity of Life Sunday — National Ministries | January 19**

Join us to celebrate the Sanctity of Life. Our Ministry Partners will be recognized in the morning worship services and you can visit with them in the Fellowship Hallway following the services. View a list of Briarwood's Ministry Partners at [briarwood.org/sanctity](http://briarwood.org/sanctity).

### **The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 23–26**

What part do church members have in helping make their church healthy? Come be encouraged on how a church stays healthy by being on mission, on message, and in ministry. Members are invited to participate in the Lampstand Conference for the special rate of \$75 per person or \$100 per couple! Find details at [briarwood.org/lampstand](http://briarwood.org/lampstand).

### **Women's In-Town Retreat — Women's Ministry | January 31–February 1**

Ladies, join us for the In-town Retreat "By Design: The One Thread of Scripture." Our keynote speaker will be Meaghan May. Registration is \$55 through January 22. Find additional information and register at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

\* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).  
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

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## IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

### ***Daily Doctrine: A One-Year Guide to Systematic Theology***

by **Kevin DeYoung** | **New Year Devotional Recommendation**

All thoughtful Christians want to better understand the Bible, its author, and its influence on their beliefs. In short—whether they recognize it or not—they want to understand theology. But many find it too academic, dense, or difficult to understand, and lack proper study resources to expand their knowledge of God and His written word. Designed to make systematic theology clear and accessible for the everyday Christian, this yearly devotional walks through the most important theological topics. Each month is categorized into broad themes, starting with the study of God and concluding with the end times. Price: \$25.99

### ***Things Unseen: One Year of Reflections on the Christian Life***

by **Sinclair Ferguson** | **New Year Devotional Recommendation**

Looking out at the world today, it can be easy for Christians to lose heart. The Apostle Paul evidently felt the same way. His remedy was to teach us not to focus on the things that are seen but on the things that are unseen. Every day, we must reorient our thoughts around the unchanging truth of Christ: who He is and who we are in Him. This yearlong devotional brings warmth and wisdom through daily meditations with each week's theme of helping Christians look to the Lord and live by faith. Price: \$28

Featured books are available to purchase online at [briarwood.org/bookstore](http://briarwood.org/bookstore).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Persecuted Church Prayer Time** — Sunday, January 12 at 5:00 p.m. in G103. Come join the Persecuted Church Prayer Team to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Trailblazers Coffee** — Tuesday, January 14 at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall–D. Melissa Cooper with Senior Placement Services will share how they can be your advocate as you search for Senior Living communities. Sign up at [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers).

**Adoption/Foster Connection Meeting** — Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brides Room. Current and interested foster and adoption parents are invited to meet with other like-minded families to encourage and equip one another. Email [w.carter.ralph@gmail.com](mailto:w.carter.ralph@gmail.com).

**Diaper and Wipe Drive for Bundles of Hope** — January 19. Bring your bags of diapers and wipes to leave behind your car for pickup while you are in church.

**Communion Service** — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, January 19 in the evening service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

**Become a Briarwood Member** — January 22, 25 and 26. All newcomers and prospective members are invited to attend our Briarwood Inquirers' Classes. Class meets for three sessions and a lunch. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join. To sign up, email Wendy at [wlong@briarwood.org](mailto:wlong@briarwood.org).

**Lampstand Conference Volunteers Needed** — January 23–26. Briarwood is hosting the upcoming conference. If you are willing to house, lend a vehicle or drop off snacks before the conference, contact Christi Bono at [cbono@briarwood.org](mailto:cbono@briarwood.org) or call 205-776-5243.

**Trailblazer Travel** — March 24–28. Come travel with friends to Savannah, Jekyll Island, and Beaufort, South Carolina. Go online to [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers) or contact Sharon at [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org) for more information.

**Women's Winter/Spring Bible Studies** — Ladies, join one of the six studies. There are opportunities in person/online; in the morning/evening; and in the Old Testament/New Testament. Go to [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women) to register and see details.

**Men's Winter/Spring 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](http://briarwood.org/men).

**Griefshare MidWeek Class** — Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in W203. Begin your journey from mourning to joy. Join our 12-week, video/small group program designed to offer comfort and encouragement. Workbook is \$20. Call 205-776-5227.

**Lay-counseling MidWeek Class** — Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in A201 led by Dr. Greg Norfleet. Come grow as a friend, ministry leader, or potential lay counselor as you walk with others in wisdom, love, and skill. Call 205-776-5281 with questions.

**Summer Camp Employment** — Camp Briarwood counselor applications are now available at [campbriarwood.org](http://campbriarwood.org).

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

## **Sunday, January 12 — Briarwood Prayer Focus**

Pray for Briarwood's Adoption Connection as they assist those going through the process. May this ministry be a blessing to families who have brought children into their homes from adoption.

Pray for the Pulpit Search Committee as they trust God to lead them to our next Senior Pastor. May He direct their steps in the process and give them discernment.

## **Monday, January 13 — Birmingham Prayer Focus**

Pray for God to give the staff at Big Oak Ranch wisdom and strength to meet the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children. Pray as they provide a loving, Christian home, where these children can discover and fulfill God's plan for their lives. Also, pray that the children feel the love of Jesus surrounding them.

## **Tuesday, January 14 — Missions Prayer Focus**

Pray for our church plant partners across the country as they head into the new year. Pray these new plants would see growth this year, not only in attendance and membership, but in Christ centered, spiritual health of their leadership and church.

## **Wednesday, January 15 — Global Ministry Partners**

Pray for David and Ruth with International Exchange Organization in Southeast Asia; David and Danielle Grotton with Mission to the World in Chile; Ben and Mary with Bee World serving in Southeast Asia; and Brad and Alana Gutteridge with English Language Institute in Thailand.

## **Thursday, January 16 — National Ministry Partners**

Pray for Ryan and Megan McVicar with Red Tree Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Kevin and Judith Moore with Mission Increase in Alabama; Tammy Murden with Navigators in Colorado; Jeff and Ann Nelson with Children's Bible Mission in Alabama; and The Aspire Movement.

## **Friday, January 17 — Briarwood Officers and Staff**

Pray for our elders John Bentley, Bill Armistead, Steve Abernathy; deacons Paul Bentley, Grant Alexander, John Asbeck; and Pastoral Care Pastor Jim Alexander and his wife, Pam.

## **Saturday, January 18 — Church Family**

Pray for our hospitalized members Paul Bentley, Barbara Cartledge, Virginia Jager, Don Davis, Jack Fuqua, Tom Harris, Genar Reed, Linda Rose, Hunter Goff, Sandy Bell, Margaret Evans, Blake Stevens, Ellen Fox, Barbara Hayes.

We rejoice with Ben and Kathleen Stallings on the birth of their son, James Bennett, on December 30; with Matt and Mary Beth Bush on the birth of their son, Robert Carlisle, on December 31, and grandparents Todd and Karen Carlisle and Mike and Laura Bush; and with David and Jennifer Bookout on the birth of their daughter, Sally Elisabeth, on January 2, and grandparents Buck and Gloria Witt.

We offer our love and sympathy to Gloria and Elisa Sitarz and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Anita Bryant Dry, on December 16; to the family of member Opal Oaks on her death on December 19; to Colin, Erin, Will and Ben McCown and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Yvonne McCown, on January 5; and to Scott Hannah and family on the death of his mother, Mary Ann Hannah, on January 7.

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## THIS LORD'S DAY

### **Sunday Morning Worship Services:**

“Seek First the King and His Holy Character”

2 Peter 1:2-7, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 8:29

Dr. Dan Doriani

### **Sunday Evening Worship:**

Service of Officer Ordination and Installation

Dr. Dan Doriani

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org).

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.