



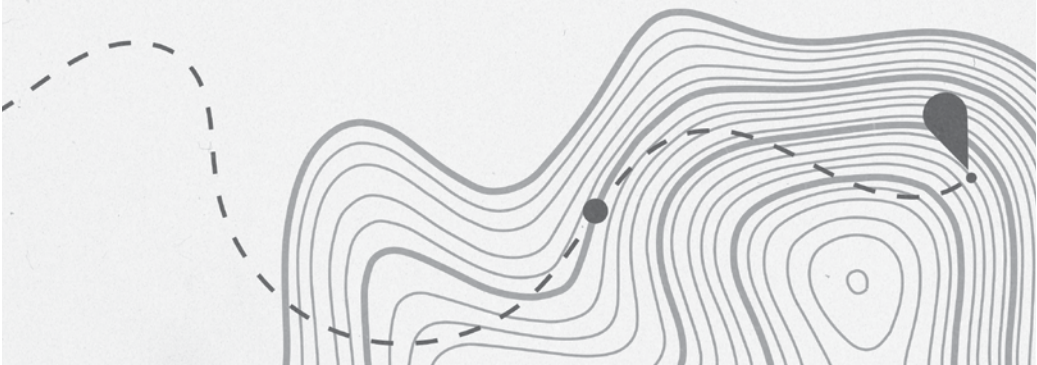
Seek First the

# KING & HIS KINGDOM

Sunday, January 19 • 5:00–7:00 p.m.

A special service of Prayer, Praise, and the Word.

We will conclude our time with the celebration  
of the Lord's Supper.



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) • January 19, 2025

# PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

*For God's glory and through God's leading, we are committed to search for, identify, and recommend the next Senior Pastor to lead Briarwood in equipping Christians to worship God and reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ.*

We are happy to report that we are closing out Phase 1 of our process. As we discussed in our last announcement, Phase 1 was all about gathering input from across Briarwood to help us complete a desired pastoral profile. During the month of November there was a focus group gathered of 66 Briarwood members that spanned Friday evening and Saturday. There was also a Congregational survey that 900 of you completed. Through the survey we gathered over 3,500 written comments. And finally there was a series of one on one phone interviews with some Elders, Deacons and Staff.

As you can imagine, these efforts produced a lot of information. We want to express our great appreciation and thankfulness for all of you who so actively engaged in these efforts! The great news is that overall we received consistent messages that were very helpful to the committee. Let me share some of the themes we have gathered. First, Briarwood is committed to the Scriptures and desires to have continued expository preaching and intentional worship. Briarwood is very committed to continuing our strong Missions focus and there is a renewed desire for a multigenerational emphasis on evangelism and discipleship. Briarwood wants a senior pastor that is approachable and engaged in the life of the church. Briarwood wants a visionary leader who honors the past and looks to the future.

While I doubt many of you are surprised by these statements, it is significant for both the committee and possible candidates to know that the Briarwood congregation is united in these desires.

Your input has been especially helpful as we completed the development of a profile statement that highlights who we are looking for. We have posted a Pastoral Search booklet on the Search Committee webpage at Briarwood.org. The main purpose of the booklet is to provide some information to possible candidates about Briarwood. At the end of the booklet is a high level, one page pastoral profile. The development of this profile marks the end of the foundational part of our process.

This allows us to shift our complete attention to Phase 2, which is working through names of possible candidates. We will use the profile to filter through names to determine who we want to look at in more detail. It's not too late for you to provide names for us to consider, just email them along with your reasons to [pulpitcommittee@briarwood.org](mailto:pulpitcommittee@briarwood.org).

Please be praying for us as we work through the initial list of names we have. Pray that the Lord would give us insight and wisdom to determine a smaller group of candidates to focus our time on. Also be praying for the committee members as they commit a significant amount of time evaluating sermons and doing due diligence over the months ahead.

Thank you for your support and especially your prayers. I remain convinced that prayer is what is going to bring this whole process to a conclusion. Remember that the Lord knows who He has for Briarwood, we just need to ask Him to show us. I believe He will!

Billy Ball  
Pulpit Committee Chairman

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **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).

### **Seek First the King and His Kingdom — Evening Worship | January 19**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 19 to attend a special evening service with a focus on a time of prayer, worship in song and concluding with communion. This service will be in the Worship Center from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

### **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 this Wednesday, 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

### ***Everyday Gospel: A Daily Devotional Connecting Scripture to All of Life***

**by Paul David Tripp | New Year Devotional Recommendation**

Christians know that daily Scripture reading is an essential spiritual discipline. Spending a few minutes reflecting on the truths found within God's word can strengthen your faith, help you resist sin, and inspire you to live for the eternal, unshakable kingdom of God. Tripp provides a road map for readers who want to spend a full year in God's word. This devotional offers 365 fresh, engaging entries that follow an annual Bible reading plan from Genesis through Revelation. Brief and practical, these reflections connect the transforming power of Scripture to all you will experience in your everyday Christian life. Price: \$19.99

### ***The Promises of God***

**by C.H. Spurgeon, revised by Tim Chester | New Year Devotional Recommendation**

For over 150 years, Charles Spurgeon's classic daily devotional on God's promises has comforted the hearts of God's people. For each day of the year, Spurgeon reflects on a specific promise of God from Scripture that strengthened his heart in times of severe depression and suffering. Each daily meditation testifies to the goodness, faithfulness, and power of God. In this volume, Tim Chester helps Spurgeon speak to a new generation, updating archaic words, shortening sentences, and streamlining sentence structure—all without losing Spurgeon's passionate and pastoral voice. Price: \$24.99

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

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**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.

**WBL Working Singles Event** — Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. at the Caroline House. Hear Betsy Childs Howard and Summer Smith Lee tackle the tough issues of life as single women while seeking Christ and embracing the joys of each day. Register at [wblbirmingham.org](http://wblbirmingham.org).

**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 or lend a vehicle, contact Christi Bono at [cbono@briarwood.org](mailto:cbono@briarwood.org) or 205-776-5243. We also need homemade baked goods. Bring them Wednesday, January 22 by 5:00 p.m. to the cart in the Church Kitchen.

**Briarwood Soccer** — It's time to register for spring soccer! Registration opens for boys and girls age 5–15 at [briarwoodsoccer.com](http://briarwoodsoccer.com) or 205-776-5114 by February 7.

**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 a.m. 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).

**MidWeek at Briarwood** — Through –April 9. Join us for Wednesday dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5:15–6:30 p.m. then attend a class and activity for the entire family. Find information and register for dinners at [briarwood.org/midweek](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

**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).

**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](http://briarwood.org/employment).

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

## **Sunday, January 19 — Briarwood Prayer Focus**

Pray for our newly installed Briarwood elders and deacons. Pray that they would be committed to following Jesus, walking in holiness, leading with humility, and serving with truth and grace.

*“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands.”* (Psalm 90:17) Pray for the Lord to bless the efforts of the Pulpit Search Committee as they work to honor Him.

## **Monday, January 20 — Birmingham Prayer Focus**

Pray for the Foundations Early Learning Center, a Christ-centered preschool in Fairfield. Pray as the center partners with families to work with their children during the crucial developmental ages of birth to five years old. May Jesus be glorified as they show His love each day to the students.

## **Tuesday, January 21 — Missions Prayer Focus**

As we acknowledged the Sanctity of Life this past Sunday, pray that our hearts were softened to the inherent value of every human life. May we boldly stand in defense of life from conception to natural death, committing to protect and value every individual, and reflect God’s love and compassion in all we do.

## **Wednesday, January 22 — Global Ministry Partners**

Pray for Joe and Silk Handley with Asian Access in Japan; Pedro and Grace Siqueira with Campus Outreach SERVE in Brazil; Andrew and Jami Harris with Campus Outreach SERVE in England; and Tamas and Zsofia Heizer with Novo in Hungary.

## **Thursday, January 23 — National Ministry Partners**

Pray for Doug and Pam Nuenke with Navigators in Colorado; Shane and Vickie O’Hara with Team 5:18 in Louisiana; Phil and Amy Pippenger with Crossroads in East Tennessee; Jose and Anna Portillo with Vive Charlotte Church in North Carolina; and Birmingham Urban Young Life.

## **Friday, January 24 — Briarwood Officers and Staff**

Pray for our elders Wes Cline, Lance Black, Bobby Bardin; deacons Ray Bronner, Brandon Ball, Scott Austin; and Director of Accounting Rob Allen and his wife, Jenny.

## **Saturday, January 25 — Church Family**

Pray for our hospitalized members Robin Defnall, Pat Dortch, Margaret Evans, Al Black, Jack Fuqua, Virginia Jager, John Thornton.

We offer our love and sympathy to Mabry Fisher and family on the death of her grandmother, Mattie Ruth Fisher, on January 2; and to Sharon Head, Abby Haley and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Martin Lardner, on January 8.

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6*

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:**

“Let Us Claim the Privileges of God’s Covenants”

Romans 9:1–9

Dr. Dan Doriani

### **Sunday Evening Worship:**

Seek First the King & His Kingdom

“The Faithful Life, Married and Single”

1 Corinthians 7:1–9

Dr. Dan Doriani

Come back Sunday evening from 5:00–7:00 pm for a Special Service of Prayer, Praise, & the Word. We will conclude our time with the Lord's Supper.

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.