



# BRIARWOOD INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

## ESL Classes

Briarwood offers weekly English as a Second Language classes for adults from more than 21 countries. Our classes are taught by trained volunteers who love working with internationals. We have specific level classes, conversation classes, and a variety of activities throughout the year.

Ways to volunteer: **Hospitality Team** (bring food to share and help greet), **Transportation Team** (help transport an ESL student(s) to and from class, **Teacher Team** (teach or assist the lead teacher – no prior experience necessary, we will provide the training)

## Friendship Partners

The Friendship Partners program pairs internationals in the greater Birmingham area with internationally minded families and individuals. This program seeks to promote friendship and understanding between people of differing nationalities.

### Upcoming Event: International Welcome Picnic

Join us on August 23 at Veteran's Park to help us welcome new International Students studying at UAB from 3:00 - 6:30 PM.



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • [info@briarwood.org](mailto:info@briarwood.org) • July 20, 2025

# CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

I write to thank you and to praise God for the blessing of nearly twenty months in the blessed community of Briarwood. You have expressed your affection and thanks in so many ways in recent weeks and that spurs me to offer credit where credit is due.

First, to the Lord who sent His Son, gave us His word, and planted every true church, including Briarwood. Early in my time here, a few discouraged people asked me if I too was discouraged by the problems I saw here. No doubt, Briarwood experienced several sorrows and one great blow from 2020-23, with Covid, the homegoing of Pastor Reeder and several challenges in between. In my first months, when I was flying back and forth two or three times a month (and often tired) I occasionally wondered, "What have I done?" Of course, everyone asks that question at times.

But if someone had asked me "Have you ever seen such a messy church?" I would reply, "This is the kind of mess we see after a strong, beautiful building suffers a storm – Yes, a few third-story windows blew out and there is rainwater on the floor, but most churches would be thrilled to have this kind of mess. And it's a joy to join many hands in the restoration process." Let me explain my thinking...

After the Lord sent His Son and His word, He then sent His Spirit, to renew our hearts and then built this Church Universal and then planted this particular church. This church loves the Lord, the Gospel, and the Word. We see this in the hunger for worship, discipleship, and evangelism, in the attentiveness in every Bible study.

The credit for that goes first to Pastors Barker and Reeder, two gifted, godly, hard-working senior pastors. It also goes to every assistant and associate pastor, and to every faithful ministry leader, elder, deacon, discipleship leader, and musician. Briarwood became strong by the labors, prayers, and faith of an army of believers.

My first prayer was simple, "Lord, help me love this church and these people." I soon found that the people of Briarwood are highly lovable. We love you so much that parting is now painful. It's like dropping a child off at college: We knew it was coming, and it's good, but it's also sad.

Almost two years ago, Bruce Stallings asked if I might be willing to consult with Briarwood (and preach one Sunday) as they considered hiring an interim. By the end of the weekend, I told Debbie "It feels like they're recruiting me." A few days later, I had to tell Debbie, "I think the Lord is calling us to Briarwood." She said, "Then we need to go."

As you know, we have missed our children and grandchildren. With the Apostle Paul, I believe I can say that I tried to pray for you, love you, and serve you, by day and at night. You have become our friends - and more.

As we go, we joyfully commend you and Pastor Redd to each other. In my hours with him, I have become convinced that he is the man God has appointed to lead you for many years. Dear friends, pray for him, love him, trust him, and receive God's Word from him, for God's glory and for our good.

– Pastor Dan

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **Impact Weekend — Briarwood Youth | August 1–3**

9th–12th grade students, join us for our annual Impact Weekend, a weekend with speakers and discipleship groups at students' homes. This year, Ike Reeder will be our featured speaker on the topic of Authentic Fellowship and Will Carlisle will be leading worship. Come and allow the Lord to Impact your life and learn how to have an Impact on others! Register online at [briarwood.org/impactweekend](http://briarwood.org/impactweekend).

### **YBL Summer Series #3: Developing People — Young Business Leaders | August 5**

Hear from Executive Director of Campus Outreach, Olan Stubbs, as he teaches on developing people both vocationally and spiritually on August 5 from 7:00–8:00 a.m. at Samford's Regions Room. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served at 6:30 a.m. Register online at no cost at [ybl.org](http://ybl.org).

\* 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

### ***Theo of Golden***

**by Allen Levi | Adult Fiction Book**

Questions linger about Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, after his arrival in the southern city of Golden. Who is he, and why is he here? He arrives early one spring and by chance — or is it? — he visits a coffee shop where 92 framed pencil portraits are on display. Inspired, Theo sets out on a mission of purchasing all the portraits one at a time and quietly bestowing them on their "rightful owners." Stories are told; friendships are born; and lives are changed. *Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness. Price: \$17.99

### ***The Bark of the Bog Owl* (The Wilderking Trilogy, Book 1)**

**by Jonathan Rogers | Children's Fiction Book**

Fans of Andrew Peterson's *Wingfeather Saga* will be right at home in the world of the Wilderking Trilogy—where wit, wonder, and wild-hearted faith come together in a tale as timeless as it is thrilling. Twelve-year-old Aidan Errolson comes from a long line of adventurers, his father being one of the kingdom's greatest warriors. Aidan, on the other hand, lives the quiet, comfortable life of a nobleman's son. He never has any real adventures, and that, he believes, is the one great injustice of his otherwise happy life. All of that will change on the day he first hears the bark of the bog owl and meets Dobro Turtlebane. Dobro is one of the feechiefolk, a tribe of half-civilized swamp dwellers who fight too much, laugh too loud, cry too easily, and smell just terrible. But another meeting on that remarkable day may change Aidan's life even more profoundly. Bayard the Truthspeaker arrives with a startling pronouncement: Aidan Errolson will grow to be the Wilderking, the long-prophesied wild man, who will come out of Corenwald's forests and swamps to lead the kingdom back to its former glory. There's just one question: Is Bayard the Truthspeaker a prophet or a madman? Price: \$12.99

Featured books are available in the Bookstore or online at [briarwood.org/bookstore](http://briarwood.org/bookstore).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Communion Service** — Sunday, July 20. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning services. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

**Local Ministry Prayer** — Sunday, July 20 at 5:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room. All are invited to come and pray for our local ministry partners and mobilization opportunities.

**Trailblazers Ice Cream Social** — July 22 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall E&F. Beat the heat with the Briarwood Trailblazers and Summer Sounds with John Livingston. Register online at [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers).

**Trailblazer's Lunch** — August 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Fellowship together and hear meteorologist Jason Simpson speak on "Jesus Calming the Storm". Register online at [briarwood.org/trailblazer's](http://briarwood.org/trailblazer's) or email [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org).

**Children's Catechism Sunday School Class** — Registration is now open for rising 4th through 6th graders. This nine-month class requires weekly homework and memorizing. Space is limited to 20 participants. Email Raleigh at [rmacoy@briarwood.org](mailto:rmacoy@briarwood.org) to register.

**Briarwood Fall Soccer** — Registration is now open for all boys and girls 5–15 years old. Call 205-776-5114, email [soccer@briarwood.org](mailto:soccer@briarwood.org), or go to [briarwoodsoccer.com](http://briarwoodsoccer.com).

**Sunday Greeters Needed** — If you are looking for a way to serve our church, we would love for your smiling face to be a welcoming presence for each person who walks through our doors. All ages can participate! You can serve individually or as a family. Contact Allison Barton at [abarton@briarwood.org](mailto:abarton@briarwood.org) to volunteer.

**ESL Volunteers Needed** — Do you have a passion for internationals? Do you speak English? Then you would make a great addition to our ESL ministry! All necessary training will be provided. Contact [cmcgregor@briarwood.org](mailto:cmcgregor@briarwood.org) for more information.

**Women's Summer Bible Study** — Join us this Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in A-209. This Bible Study will focus on the epistle of Colossians which emphasizes the supreme authority of Jesus Christ over all things.

**Children's Sunday School Promotion** — If you are planning on holding your child back for the 2025–26 school year, let Raleigh Macoy know so we can make sure to place him/her in the appropriate Sunday School class for the fall. Email [rmacoy@briarwood.org](mailto:rmacoy@briarwood.org).

**Job Opening: AV / Media Specialist** — Full-time position to support the Briarwood AV Department. Audio mixing and production experience is required. Send your resume to Landon McKee at [lmckee@briarwood.org](mailto:lmckee@briarwood.org).

**Job Opening: BTS Bookkeeper** — Birmingham Theological Seminary is seeking a detail-oriented individual with previous accounting and statistics experience to manage financial data and coordinate institutional research. If interested, email [admin@bts.education](mailto:admin@bts.education).

**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, July 20 — Briarwood Prayer Focus**

Thankful for those who manage and volunteer at our church library. Praises that we have resources, such as Biblical references, missionary biographies, children's books, and Christian fiction, readily available for our use to grow our faith and knowledge.

## **Monday, July 21 — Birmingham Prayer Focus**

Pray for Briarwood ministry partner, Urban Hope Community Church in Fairfield, Alabama. Urban Hope is dedicated to the growth and transformation of the Fairfield community and is focused on making disciples who are confident in their identity in Christ — in Fairfield and beyond.

## **Tuesday, July 22 — Missions Prayer Focus**

Please pray for missions partner Sacred Road Ministries and the BYG students who visited the Yakama Native American Reservation in Washington State. Pray for a lasting effect of the dedicated spiritual and physical work these students put forth and the gospel seeds that were planted. Pray also for the Granberry family and staff who run the daily operations of the ministry. The flag of Washington State will be featured this Sunday.

## **Wednesday, July 23 — Global Ministry Partners**

Pray for Kurt and Marlene Schimke with African Bible College in Uganda, Rebecca Sedlak with Mission to the World in West Asia, Fabiana and Diego Vidal with Campus Outreach SERVE serving in Brazil, and Deddy and Desta Simanjuntak with Presbyterian Reformed Church of Indonesia.

## **Thursday, July 24 — National Ministry Partners**

Pray for Ben and Leah Weber with Campus Outreach at West Georgia, Bill and Linda White with Daymark Counseling in Alabama, Kevin and Taylor Wilkie with Campus Outreach in Georgia, and Parks and Julie Wilson with Worldwide Discipleship Association at Purdue University in Indiana.

## **Friday, July 25 — Briarwood Officers and Staff**

Pray for our elders Matt Denard, Jim Blackmon, Dave Cooper, Jr.; deacons Ed Monroe, Matthew Moore, Harris Saunders; and Mercy Ministry Pastor Chris Thompson and his wife Lynn.

## **Saturday, July 26 — Church Family**

Pray for our hospitalized members Jean Cannon, LaTrelle Grayson, Debbie Lange, Dianna Murphree, Jonathan Peters, Ashley Sanders, Dale Scruggs, Amy Warren, and Nono Whitten.

Our love and sympathy to Mollie, Emily, Nolan, Andrew & Susanna Everett and family on the death of their father and grandfather, Benjamin Maxwell Peters, on July 12.

The flowers in the Worship Center are given to the glory of God from the wedding of Caroline Parrish Branche and Benjamin Lee Loftis on July 19, in loving memory of the Bride's Grandparents, Mrs. Pauline Spann Smith, Mrs. Alberta Parrish Hennessee, and Mr. James Edward Branche, senior, and the Groom's Grandparents, Mr. Charles Lindsey Weeks and Mr. James Barry Loftis, senior.

Briarwood Presbyterian Church  
2200 Briarwood Way  
Birmingham, AL 35243-2923



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## THIS LORD'S DAY

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

“To Be Continued”

Nehemiah 6:15–16

Rev. Jim Alexander, Pastoral Care

### **Sunday Evening Worship:**

“The House of the Lord”

Psalm 122

Rev. Saeyoung Park, Singles Ministry Pastor

Watch our live-stream on ROKU, Apple TV, Facebook, YouTube or [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org).  
Catch up with previous sermons and series on the Briarwood App.