

ON MISSION • ON MESSAGE • IN MINISTRY

# IMPACT

## BIRMINGHAM



**LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!**



**OCT. 18**

[briarwood.org/impact](http://briarwood.org/impact)



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE IMPACT GOES BOTH WAYS

*The simple act of spreading mulch opened the door to something more.*

## Serving at Big Oak Ranch

In 2024, Briarwood sent a group of volunteers out to Big Oak Ranch as part of the IMPACT Birmingham local missions initiative. Among those who volunteered was Briarwood member Nathan Little, who was deeply moved by the experience and the mission of the ranch to provide a safe, loving, Christian home for children who have experienced trauma. As he served the ranch through landscaping, he asked himself, “How can I do more to help these kids?”

Through prayer and seeking wise counsel, it became clear that God was indeed calling Nathan to serve this ministry. In the weeks following IMPACT, Nathan reached out to Local Missions and Mobilization Pastor Max Bunn to share what God had put on his heart.

“I noticed a lot of patterns in my life of how self-centered I can be. I do a lot of things for my own benefit,” Nathan admitted, “but the Lord was showing me there’s so much more than me out there. This ministry is totally for others, for these kids; it’s not about me.”

Nathan decided to investigate opportunities to serve regularly and to pour into the boys at the ranch. Working together with Pastor Bunn and Big Oak staff, he was able to couple his love for pickleball with the ranch’s need for activity and fellowship, creating a plan for a monthly pickleball program held on their campus. Now, Nathan volunteers to set up and lead disadvantaged boys in developing new skills as they enjoy fun and fellowship on the court.

The boys’ excitement to play is matched by Nathan’s joy in sharing his passion for the sport. Through this opportunity to be selfless, he gained a renewed motivation to steward his time and skills to enrich the lives of others. “It’s totally worth it for these kids,” Nathan reflects, “They impact me as much as I hope to impact them.”

## The Mission of IMPACT

IMPACT Birmingham exists to introduce Briarwood members to the multitude of ministry needs right in our own backyard, to engage them in those ministries, and to build relationships with them throughout the year—just as Nathan did.

“We’re not lacking in opportunities to serve. We just need to get people connected to those opportunities,” says Pastor Bunn. Reaching the nations for Christ starts right here in our city, and we have many ministry partners who would love our help!

For more information, visit [briarwood.org/IMPACT](https://briarwood.org/IMPACT).

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | October 18 \***

On the morning of October 18, we will have the opportunity to work together on a wide range of service projects that will help support several of our local ministries. This day of service will kick off our Local and National Ministries Conference as we seek to IMPACT Birmingham for the glory of God! Register for projects at [briarwood.org/impact](http://briarwood.org/impact).

### **Local & National Ministries Conference — Briarwood Missions | October 19–20 \***

Join us Sunday, October 19 and Monday, October 20 to hear from guest speaker Dr. Sandy Willson and our National ministry partners during Sunday School and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday nights. Find additional details and see how you can volunteer to help during this conference at [briarwood.org/nmc](http://briarwood.org/nmc).

\* 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

### ***Pure in Heart: Sexual Sin and the Promises of God***

**by J. Garrett Kell | Adult Book**

Many women and men trapped in sexual sin believe willpower is the key to overcoming temptation, but your shaky self-discipline doesn't have to be the source of your strength. Sharing from his personal struggles, J. Garrett Kell explains that life-long transformation rests in the supernatural power of the Savior and the support of a local church. He offers profound insights into Jesus' teachings on purity and provides you with long-term strategies for your own pathway to freedom. Written for both men and women struggling with temptation, this book is a vital resource for the church, encouraging a healthy, empathetic community to help brothers and sisters in Christ resist sin. Price: \$13.99

### ***A Big Change Happened: Helping Children Through Upheaval***

**by Darby A. Strickland | Children's Book**

*A Big Change Happened* helps children who are facing a move, starting a new school, or adjusting to a new family dynamic process their feelings through the story of Wallace the whale. Wallace loves his home in the warm blue sea near the green island where he and Mama sing, eat, sleep, and play. But one day, Mama tells him about a big change—they're leaving for a long journey North! Wallace is worried and has so many questions: What will the North be like? Will he be okay? As they swim into the unknown, Mama gently reminds Wallace: Wherever you go, whatever you do, God's love follows you. Counselor Darby A. Strickland uses the story of Wallace along with Psalm 139 to help parents and caregivers walk with children through big changes and the questions that come with those changes. A special section at the end of the book helps guide children through accepting their new situation and uses biblical truths to reassure them that God's love never changes. Price: \$13.99

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

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Prayer for the Persecuted Church** — The Persecuted Church Prayer Team will meet for prayer at 5:00 p.m. in G-103 this Sunday. All are welcome.

**Special Connections Respite Care Night** — Tuesday, October 14 at 5:30 p.m. in N-110. Parents with special needs children, enjoy an evening off! Register on the Briarwood App or contact Michael Johnson at [mjohnson@briarwood.org](mailto:mjohnson@briarwood.org).

**SHINE** — Sunday, October 19 and Monday, October 20. Children grades K4 – 6th, join us during our National Ministries Conference in the Children's Auditorium. There will be missionaries speaking, fun and games! No registration is required.

**BTS Fall Theology Conference** — October 23–25 at Urban Hope Community Church. Join BTS for their Fall Theology Conference, hosting the Center for Biblical Unity Team on Biblical Views on Justice in Society. Register online at [bts.education](http://bts.education).

**Baptism Class** — October 29. At Briarwood, we ask that all new parents desiring to have their baby baptized either join our one-night baptism class or meet with Jay Shaw prior to setting up a date for baptism. For information, email [lreese@briarwood.org](mailto:lreese@briarwood.org).

**Trailblazers Shoe Box Packing Party** — November 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come join the Trailblazers to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please bring items to share! Contact Sharon a [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org) to bring items early.

**Persecuted Church Prayer Event** — Saturday, November 15 from 8:30–10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with speaker Dr. Karen Ellis, the Director of the Edmiston Center for Christian Endurance Studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

**WBL Fall Studies** — Join Women Business Leaders on Tuesday evenings throughout October for a new small group series focusing on what it means to work well before the Lord and others! Find additional information at [wblbirmingham.org](http://wblbirmingham.org).

**MidWeek at Briarwood** — Join us for dinner, classes and activities for the entire family each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner begins at 5:15 p.m. and classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Find additional information at [briarwood.org/midweek](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

**Grace House Goody Bag Donations Needed** — Help us bless the girls at Grace House by donating items like hand lotion, chapstick, hand sanitizer, candy, and other small treats. Drop off donations on Sunday mornings, October 5 & 12, in the church lobbies.

**Job Openings: Families, Youth, & College Administrative Assistant** — Candidate will support the Youth, College and Family Ministries through day-to-day administrative tasks, event coordination, communication, and office management. This is a full-time position with benefits. Please send resumes to [jshaw@briarwood.org](mailto:jshaw@briarwood.org).

**Job Openings: Kitchen Assistant** — Part-time position available to assist in the Briarwood kitchen. Send inquiries and resumes to [sblahnik@briarwood.org](mailto:sblahnik@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](http://briarwood.org/employment).

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

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

We pray, Lord, that You use us Saturday as we participate in “Impact Birmingham” by sharing the Gospel in words and in deeds throughout our city. Thankful for our ministry partners who minister to those in need on a daily basis.

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

Pray for Foundations Early Learning and Family Center in Fairfield as they support families in nurturing children from birth to age five. Ask God to guide their mission so each child may thrive academically, physically, socially, and spiritually.

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

Pray for the Briarwood members participating in IMPACT Birmingham on Saturday, October 18. Pray as they partner with local ministries to share Christ’s love through service projects. May their efforts have a lasting impact on Birmingham for God’s glory. The flag of Birmingham will be in the worship center this Sunday.

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

Pray for Kristin Aldridge with CO SERVE New Zealand, Nima and Paniz Alizadeh with Revelation Ministries, Iran, Bethany Joy Alms with Mission to the World Nicaragua, and Gary and Robin Alward with CO SERVE US/Intl.

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

Pray for Hank and Chrisy Marshman with Cru in Tennessee, Jack and Sheri McGill with Cru in Florida, Paul May with Mission to North America in Aurora, Colorado, and Bob McPherson with Cru in Alabama.

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

Pray for Briarwood Elders Mike Sanders, Clay Hamblen, Mike Mungenast; Deacons Jon Vermeer, Bill Whitworth, Jed Duke; and Shepherding Pastor Dave Lewis and his wife Sue.

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

Pray for our hospitalized members Carolyn Campbell, David Cahoon, Jeanette Ellis, Banks Farris, Debbie Frey, George Hodges, Rick Lathem, Carol Lee, Mary Sue McClurkin, JoAnn Weston, and Elaine Willis.

We rejoice with Wells and Mary Caroline Holladay on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Reece, on September 4.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

*“I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.” Hebrews 2:12*

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

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



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## THIS LORD'S DAY

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

Ephesians: The One Body of Christ

“Awake, O Sleeper”

Ephesians 5:1–21

Dr. Scott Redd, Pastor

### **Sunday Evening Worship:**

“He Who Forms the Mountains”

Amos

Dr. Scott Redd, 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.