



LAMPSTAND

Strengthening churches in the health of God's grace through the Gospel of Jesus Christ to stay on mission, on message, and in ministry.

Upcoming Conference:

Birmingham, AL

January 22-24, 2026

Briarwood Presbyterian Church

Featured speakers:

Sandy Willson, John Currie,
Tom Hawkes, Bryan Wintersteen, &
Rob Looper

Register Today

Briarwood members receive
a discounted rate!



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Briarwood Weekly • info@briarwood.org • December 21, 2025

A MEMBER'S ROLE IN CHURCH HEALTH

Lampstand Conference | January 22–24, 2026

Not Only for Pastors

You may have heard of the Lampstand Conference and thought of it simply as a resource for pastors— not for “regular” church members. While it is an excellent resource for those shepherding a church, you don’t have to be a full-time minister to benefit from the conference. Briarwood Elder Drew Ricketts explains, “It was a lot more relevant to me than I thought. I thought it was only for pastors who had churches that were struggling. Now I know it’s much more than that.”

Lampstand is about building healthy churches through equipping people just like you. Whether you’re a shepherding pastor or a member who loves the local church, you play a crucial role in the health of our church. Your presence in worship encourages those around you, your service to our ministries is crucial to the advancement of the Kingdom, and your sincerity to care for other members is a beautiful representation of Christ. You have a leadership role in our church.

“This conference is for everyone who wants to be actively engaged in their church, those who don’t want to just sit on the sidelines” —Drew Ricketts

Discipling leaders is the core of what Lampstand does. While pastors have the crucial role of casting the vision for our church and guiding us on how to get there, they aren’t the only leaders. Through their example, they need us to be active in meeting each other’s needs and reaching out to our community. We can support their ministry by faithfully doing our ministry— in our homes, in our Sunday School communities, and in our workplaces.

The role of a pastor is hard, and they need our support. “After I attended Lampstand, I decided I want to be one of those people in our church who is super supportive of our staff and our pastors,” says Mr. Ricketts, “I want them to know that I am for them and want to know what I can do for them, but I won’t wait around for them to ask. I’ll be more engaged with them.”

A Discount for Briarwood Members

Our church couldn’t do everything we do without you. We encourage you to attend the Lampstand Conference to learn how you benefit the health of our church. All Briarwood members will receive a 75 percent discount from the price of the conference. Please sign up with the QR code below.



For more information, visit briarwood.org/lampstand.

FEATURED EVENTS

“Your Light Has Come” — Briarwood Christmas Festival | December 21 *

Come experience Advent through musical and artistic presentations from the Briarwood Sanctuary Choir, Youth Choirs, Orchestra, and Ballet featuring special guest, Sandra McCracken. This event is free and open to the public.

Christmas Eve Services — Evening Worship | December 24 *

Join us for Family Candlelight Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m. we will partake in the Lord's Supper with a Candlelight Communion Service.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Church Wide | January 7–April 29 *

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.

The Lampstand Birmingham Conference — Church Revitalization | January 22–24

You are invited to attend The Lampstand Conference, a conference on Church Health and Revitalization, hosted here at Briarwood. Find details at briarwood.org/lampstand.

* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

***A Christmas Carol: An Engaging Visual Journey* by Charles Dickens | Adult Book**

For the first time, Charles Dickens's classic work is a heartwarming, mixed-media special edition complete with charming Victorian English-inspired watercolor paintings, decorative hand-lettering, vintage imagery, and space for journaling and reflection. As you read and connect with this unique, artfully designed Visual Journey, its pages become a reminder that Christmas should be a time of goodwill to everybody both the Cratchits and the Scrooges of the world! The high-spirited, generous-hearted Dickens reminds readers that wealth does not make Christmas happy, and that poverty and isolation need not make it miserable. Since its publication in 1843, *A Christmas Carol* has inspired millions of people to have compassion, grace, and love for the poor and lonely. Price: \$13.99 *Illustrated Little Christmas Carol for Young Readers* also available.

***Tully's Christmas Mess* by Jill and Paul Miller | Children's Book**

Tully, the cute family dog, wants to be a part of all the Christmas festivities along with his human family, but they are always telling him, “No, Tully. Sit down. You will make a mess.” When his leash gets tangled around the Christmas tree, the whole tree falls down, creating a big mess! Tully is afraid his family will be mad that he ruined Christmas, but instead they are reminded of the very first Christmas when Jesus came to Earth to clean up our messes. Price: \$14.99

Featured books are available in the Bookstore or online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

In accordance to the Book of Church Order the following men were elected by members of Briarwood on December 14, 2025 for the offices of elder and deacon.

Elders — (Class of 2028) Steve Adams, Billy Ball, David Battles, Phil Black, Bill Brazeal, Ernie Brown, Larry Childs, Joe Duffey, Steve Gathings, Ben Greene II, Stephen Hodges, Charlie Hoke, Chung-How Kau, Bob Ketchum, Andy McGehee, Bryant Moore, Wayne Pate, Tim Scott, Keith Silliman, Dale Sitton, Warren Smedley, Albert Smith, Scott Stewart, Scott Summers, Carl Wiggins

Deacons — (Class of 2028) Hank Abbott, Tim Ayers, Bob Bellows, Stephen Bond, Jake Bonds, Sid Borland, Mike Bush Jr., Mike Bush Sr., Rob Butts, Max Campbell, Andrew Clark, David Clark, Carlos Crum, Brandon Darroch, Walker Davis, Eric Evans, Trey Fitzpatrick, Patrick Flynn, Ken Gables, Brian Handley, Neal Hatchett, Kevin Lindsay, John Livingston, Nick Maxey, Colin McCown, Nathan McIntosh, Bill Nabors, Alex Noble, Rob Palmer, Steven Peters, Reid Pickens, Kevin Plyler, Chadman Ponter, Will Ratcliffe, John Rollins, Robert Rutledge, John Salmon, Rex Snyder, Ethan Tidmore, Kevin Ulch, Doug Woodruff, Tony Wright (Class of 2027) Cabell Brockman, Ben Hamm, Ryan Valentino, Daniel White

Communion — The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 24 in the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. An alms offering for the Mercy Ministry will be received. Elements are gluten-free.

BYG Laguna Beach Retreat — December 27–30. All 9th–12th graders, don't miss this incredible trip as we close out the year with seaside activities, teaching from Wright Draper, and worship with Ezra Worship Initiative. Register at briarwood.org/laguna.

Trailblazers Breakfast — January 16 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall A. Learn what artificial intelligence really is, how it affects the world around us, and the simple practical ways it can support your daily life. Sign up briarwood.org/trailblazers.

Men's Praying Breakfast — Saturdays at 7:00 a.m. at the Mountain View Building. Please join us to pray for our church and the advancement of God's kingdom.

Year-End Giving — The Accounting Office will be closing for the year on Wednesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. Contributions received in the mail must be postmarked or canceled by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2025. Contributions with January 2026 postmarks will be considered 2026 contributions.

Camp Briarwood Registration — Day Camp for rising 1st thru 3rd graders is June 8–12. Four Overnight Camp session options are available for rising 4th thru 10th graders during June 22–July 18. Register today at campbriarwood.org.

Securities Stewardship — When giving gifts of securities, please notify our Church Administrator at the time of your gift so that your contribution may be processed accurately and efficiently. Call 205-776-5205 or email bscruggs@briarwood.org.

Job Opening: Women's & Children's Counselor — Qualifications include a master's degree in biblical counseling and five years of counseling experience. A candidate should inquire with resume to Patti Claud at pclaud@briarwood.org.

Stay up-to-date with events and opportunities with the Briarwood B-Mail newsletter.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Sunday, December 21 — Briarwood Prayer Focus

Pray for this Sunday's Evening Worship Service, "Your Light has Come". We are thankful for those in the Sanctuary Choir, the Orchestra, and Ballet who use their gifts and talents to point us to Christ.

Monday, December 22 — Birmingham Prayer Focus

Pray for the Life on Wheels ministry as they use mobile units in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa to provide ultrasounds, save babies, and share the Gospel. For more information or to get involved, visit lifeonwheelsalabama.com.

Tuesday, December 23 — Missions Prayer Focus

Pray for the Campus Outreach National Conference as college students from across the US Conference gather January 1-4 in Chattanooga, that every lost student would trust in Christ and every mature believer would commit to make disciples of "all nations."

Wednesday, December 24 — Global Ministry Partners

Pray for Connor and Kelley with English Language Institute China (ELIC) in North Africa, David Choi with Mission to the World in Australia, Ben and Kim Church with Mission to the World in Uganda, and John and Kathy Clow with Mission to the World in Honduras.

Thursday, December 25 — National Ministry Partners

Pray for Dan and Lucy Allison with Globeworks International Ministries in Alabama, Latasha Allston with RUF in Washington DC, Carroll Baker with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in South Carolina, and Jack and Amy Baker with Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Alabama.

Friday, December 26 — Briarwood Officers and Staff

Pray for Briarwood Elders John Bentley, Bill Armistead, Ed Chan; Deacons Jonathan Drescher, Paul Cizek, Ed Corcoran; and College Director, Mark Purser and his wife Heather.

Saturday, December 27 — Church Family

Pray for our hospitalized members Sandy Bell, Cathe Cleveland, Owen Ponter.

Our love and sympathy to Emily Hayes and family on the death of her father, Wayne Culpepper, on December 11; to Emily Wiggins and family on the death of her sister, Neva Russell, on December 14; to the family of member Nick Padgett, who died on December 14; to Marilyn Mullis and family on the death of her brother, R. D. 'Bobby' Mitchell, on December 14; to Steve and Joshua Childree and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, Betty Childree, on December 15; and to Dona and Lauren Markert, Hannah Ryals and family on the death of their mother and grandmother, June Royal, on December 16.

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



THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Jesus, the Savior”

Luke 2:1–21

Dr. Scott Redd

Sunday Evening Worship:

“Your Light Has Come”

Briarwood Christmas Festival

Watch our live-stream on ROKU, Apple TV, Facebook, YouTube or briarwood.org.
Catch up with previous sermons and series on the Briarwood App.