

The Live Oak

Spring 2016

The Best Year...So Far... By Pastor Phil Geleske

I'm titling this article, "The Best Year...So Far..." because I truly believe that to be the case. Last year was a year for the record books and for that I want to celebrate and give thanks to God! At the same time I want to boldly add, that if you think last year was great, just wait for this year and the next. Briarwood is making great strides as it moves forward and this is true only because God is richly blessing Briarwood through the support of disciples and congregations throughout the NT-NL Mission Area. For God's blessings and your support I offer my deepest thanks!

Last year at this time Briarwood hosted over 600 people as the Voting Members and Guests of the NT-NL Mission Assembly gathered at Briarwood in celebration to dedicate the newly constructed Christ Evangelical Lutheran Mission Center. It was a magnificent celebration dedicating a gift that has truly enhanced the ministry at Briarwood! I typically do not like to focus articles on buildings but this year I do so because of the positive impact these facilities are having on our ministry.

The ministry at Briarwood is stronger today because the Mission Center has provided important space to enhance existing ministries – including summer camp! We are also adding important leadership and equipping events which are strengthening the overall ministry of the NT-NL Mission Area. Finally, the improvements to our entrance that leads to our Mission Center have caught the attention of the surrounding community with many long-time area residents discovering Briarwood for the first time! The Mission Center has changed the community's perception of our ministry which led to Briarwood's recognition as the "Best Event Facility" in Denton County!

Improvements to our facility continue and this year campers will be able to enjoy a rebuilt archery range! The archery range was destroyed by flooding last year and through the support of talented volunteers a new and improved range will be taking its place. We are also hoping to add a fishing dock to our new pond in time for summer camp to add fishing to our list of activities for campers! These facility enhancements strengthen ministry at Briarwood in fulfilling its mission to be a natural setting where people experience God's love!



Thank You for Supporting Briarwood!

We want to extend a word of thanks to all of Briarwood's volunteers and supporters – you are God's blessing to Briarwood which makes the ministry successful and for which we are extremely grateful! I also want to express my deep appreciation for those who serve on the Ministry Team at Briarwood: Matt Baumhardt, Operation's Director; Aaron Colwick, Program Director; Daniel Crofts, Program Intern; Sharon Mersiovsky, Administrative Assistant; Jean Oswald, Ambassador; Paul Harrington, Facilities Manager; Carlos Carrasquillo, Executive Chef; and Isamary Ortiz-Salgado, Assistant Cook. It is truly a joy to serve with these faithful servants who work tirelessly making Briarwood a special place through which we are all blessed. God continues to do amazing things at Briarwood. Thank you for partnering with us in this life changing ministry.





Aaron Colwick – Program Director

My father always tells me, “Time flies when you’re having fun.” I apparently have been having a BLAST, because I can’t believe it’s already almost time for summer camp again! This past year was incredible and busy! Coming off of our biggest summer ever last year with over 325 campers and 30 summer staff, we put the finishing touches on our updated and refurbished archery range (seriously y’all, it’s really good looking, you have to come see it!), all while running our numerous retreats and events throughout the year.

This upcoming summer is shaping up well, with registrations coming in left and right. And it’s no wonder; take a look at some of our awesome programs we have to offer:

- Night Owls (9th-12th grades) - Come spend a week at Briarwood that is like nothing you have experienced before! Ever wonder what happens around camp when the sun goes down? Come explore God’s creation at night through the first Night Owls program offered at Briarwood. We are excited to offer our high school campers a program that will have some fun late night activities and the ability to stay up later and wake later in the morning. So come out to Briarwood and have a fun time as a Night Owl, exploring camp like you never have before!
- Mission DFW program (6th-8th & 9th-12th grades) - Through this program we learn from Christ’s example and take the form of servants for the Lord! Mission DFW allows us to go out into the Dallas/Fort Worth area and share God’s love. Campers will travel around the Metroplex and serve at various locations, which in the past has included building wheelchair ramps, feeding the homeless, and even learning about proper farming and composting! Campers get the experience of Briarwood and the vast opportunities of service that DFW has to offer. This is the experience of a lifetime and a great way to spend the summer!

So come be a part of something special. During the adventures of our lives, God provides us with amazing experiences, just waiting to be had. Take a journey with us at Briarwood, and see why we are excited for all that awaits us. Be part of the Briarwood Way: A Way of Excellence.

Endowments & Bequests

By thinking of Briarwood Lutheran Ministries in their estate planning these donors ensure that the ministry of Christ will continue for years to come.

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest

Northern Texas Northern Louisiana Mission Area Managed Asset
Leif Johnson Common Fund
Cleopatra Woods Endowment
Lloyd Roland Loven and Susie Louise Loven Endowment Fund
Alfred L and Elizabeth R. Pfenning Endowment
John and Norma Barr Endowment
Ellis L. And Elsa B. Garlin Endowment
Clarence and Judy Albers Endowment
Dora B Klaus Endowment
Anne Dolores Johnson Endowment
Pietsch Endowment
Oak Cliff Lutheran Church of Dallas Endowment

The Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest enables planned giving to ministries such as Briarwood Lutheran Ministries. LFSW provides one-on-one personalized service to people who in all circumstances who want to support Lutheran ministries in perpetuity. Through the endowment managed by LFSW Briarwood received \$31,178.78. We are thankful for the work of our partners at LFSW!

More information about the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest is available at www.lsfw.org or by contacting Daniel Cazac at (254) 498-5873

New to the Briarwood Ministry Team

We are extremely excited to introduce Daniel Crofts, this year’s new Program Intern. Daniel is a graduate of Presbyterian College where he earned a degree in Christian Education and Religion. After graduation Daniel served in the ELCA’s Young Adult in Global Mission program and lived in Malaysia. Daniel brings a vast amount of experience in outdoor ministry to Briarwood having served on staff at Lutheridge in North Carolina.



We also welcome Jerry Gray to our team as a volunteer bookkeeper. Jerry is a CPA, and a member of Faith Flower Mound, who is recently retired and is offering his services two days a week as a bookkeeper providing valuable professional support for our ministry!





Our In-Kind Supporters

Ideas for supporting Briarwood are not limited to cash donations. Gifts-in-kind also provide tremendous support. The following gifts were made to Briarwood in 2015 and Briarwood extends a word of support to these generous donors!

Brush Hog and Trail Cam - Bruce and Tyna Osle
 Wine and Champagne Glasses - Greg and Criss Forshay
 40 inch TV - Greg and Rebecca Getting
 Wartenburg Castle Lithograph - Ed Edgren
 2 bikes, love seat, and sofa - Lisa Sawyer
 Gas grill and mountain bike - Paul and Lisa Harrington
 12 month Tractor use - Lisa Barnes
 2 commercial microwaves, 2 kitchen warming boxes, one icemaker, & one oversized glass from refrigerator - Jon and Shelby Thompson
 55 inch Smart TV - Jim and Holly Trester

Briarwood has created a wish list of items that will provide important support for ministry

- Fishing poles
- Hand Tools
- Extension cords
- Shovels, Rakes, etc.
- Sporting Equipment
- Folding Tables Plastic 6' or 8' rectangular
- Folding Tables 5' diameter rounds
- Chain Saws
- Washing Machines or gas dryers
- Generator
- Upright Freezers
- Log Splitter
- Gravel for Road Maintenance
- Seven (7) Passenger Van or SUV
- Front End Loader-\$20,000

**2016
Fall Festival
Saturday
October 8**

The Fall Festival has a long tradition of fun and fellowship for young and old alike at Briarwood. This year, in addition to games and activities, and our annual meeting, Briarwood will partner with Thrivent Financial again to host a barbeque cook-off. This year's festival will be held on Saturday, October 8 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Smokers will begin Friday evening, October 7 with judging to be held at the festival on Saturday afternoon. This is a festival you will not want to miss! Mark your calendar today!

Our Briarwood Angels

The ministry of Briarwood is deeply appreciative of our Angels who volunteer their time in support of our ministry. We now have over 65 people volunteering to provide immeasurable support for our ministry by helping with office tasks, fund raising, camp maintenance, building projects, and as camp grandparents during summer camp. Briarwood extends deep appreciation to all our Angels who faithfully serve and extends an invitation to all to participate in this ministry of love and service.



Janis Allshouse
 Roger Anders
 Bill & Lauren Anderson
 Beth Arnold
 Horace Aslin
 Rae Roe Bammel
 Kerrie, Andrew & Katie Beckman
 Pastor Nick Billardello
 Mary Blaha
 Shelly Brennan
 Patti Brunner
 Pastor Todd Bruning
 Becky Clark
 Bill Clingenpeel
 Katrina Colwick
 Nicki Cooley
 Heidi Cosio
 Gene & Janet Davenport
 Greta DeWitt
 Bethany Dietrich
 Tim Draney
 Pastor Diane Eggemeyer
 Joe & Mary Elgin
 Mark Etheridge
 Caroline Frenette
 Chris Gebhardt
 Anna Geleske
 Greg & Becky Getting

Jerry Gray
 Pastor Erik Gronberg
 Pastor Mel & Hattie Hammer
 Pastor Marc Hander
 Russell Handley
 Lisa Harrington
 Bruce & Myra Haugene
 Jeanne Heggen
 Rene Hill
 Richard Hinojosa
 Elizabeth Holschuh
 Davene Hutchins
 Diane Johannsen
 Chris Johnson
 Steven & Pastor Kathi Johnson
 Bishop Kevin & Billye Jean Kanouse
 Pastor Steve Kanouse
 Pastor Yvonne Kiebler
 Jeanne King
 Pastor Olin & Carolyn Knudsen
 Suzanne Kraemer
 Ryan Kriesch
 Carol Kron
 Bill Lindquist
 Jonathan Lys
 Christian Marbach
 Pastor Mike & Chris Masterson
 Thane McCann

Pastor Vince & Dorothy Nelson
 Marti Mersiovsky
 Janelle Miller
 Pastor Kendra Mohn
 Michael Newbrough
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 Bob & Mickey Pangrac
 Buck & Tami Parker
 John Parsons
 Caryn Patterson
 Jan Pope
 Sandra Powers
 Gerry & Pam Reid
 Linda Ryan
 Chip Sakakeeny
 Ruth Schwolert
 Samantha (Sam) Shaw
 Tim & Laura Talafuse
 Pastor Vicki Taylor
 Lydia Thomas
 Christine Trester
 Holly Trester
 Pastor Amanda Ullrich
 Pastor Russell Vardell
 Sheriann Van Zandt
 Jim & Stephanie Varnum
 Jay Walls
 Renae White
 Ed Wolfgang



Fund Raising Events



Briarwood continues to be challenged financially and is facing these challenges head on. New this year for summer camp is Tiered Pricing. Families are invited to choose a registration fee that closely reflects the actual cost of summer camp or an amount slightly subsidized or an amount that is fully subsidized. Tiered Pricing helps in our effort to increase revenue for our ministry and still make camp affordable for all. Families are asked to faithfully select an amount that works best for them. Choosing the amount that most closely reflects the cost enables us to strengthen the financial position of Briarwood and ultimately make our outdoor ministry sustainable and thus available to more children and youth. Outdoor ministries throughout the ELCA that are using Tiered Pricing have experienced an increase in their revenues from fees which ultimately provides significant financial support for their overall ministry.

Briarwood will also continue to reach out and request financial gifts from its supporters as Briarwood is a ministry that is available for all and no child is ever turned away because of a lack of money. To strengthen our Annual Fund, Briarwood is receiving consulting and guidance from the highly successful GSB Fund Raising. Additionally Briarwood holds two major fund raising events and one fellowship event each year and you are invited to be a part of these exciting events.

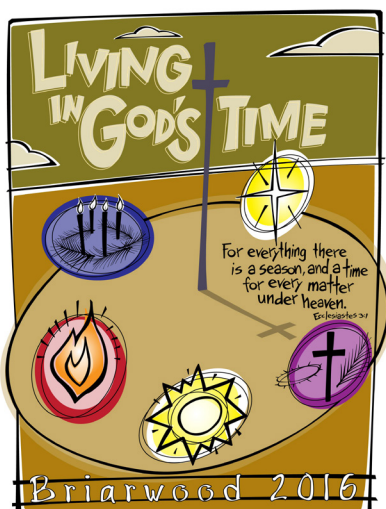
The first event is our "Run for the Roses" Gala on Saturday, May 14 at the Texas Star Conference Centre, 1400 Texas Star Parkway, Euless. Previous Galas have been extremely successful, providing tremendous support – last year over \$60,000 was raised! This year's Gala Auction promises to be even more successful as we honor: Volunteer of the Year Patti Brunner: Briarwood Advocates Olin & Carolyn Knudsen; and Faith, Flower Mound, for Congregation Support. You are all invited to an evening of fun that truly supports ministry at Briarwood. Tickets for the event may be purchased at bidpal.net/briarwoodgala or by calling 940-241-2099.

The second major fund raising event is the Briarwood Retreat Center Golf Tournament. This year's tournament will be held on Saturday, October 29. As in the past we will play a 4 person scramble format with a shotgun start and lunch will follow the event. We will continue with a friendly competition between congregations as teams vie for the coveted "Bishop's Challenge" plaque. Please join us for a fun event that raises money for our ministry at Briarwood.

After last year's success, we will again join the Fall Festival with the Thrivent Financial Barbeque Cook-off. Cooking begins Friday night, October 7 and continues through the festivities and judging which takes place on Saturday, October 8. Last year everyone enjoyed a day of smoked treats and activities and this is an event with all kinds of games and family activities that you will not want to miss!

More information about all the 2016 events, retreats and camps is available at briarwoodretreat.org.

SUMMER CAMP – Living in God's Time!!



In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we are told,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

During the week that your campers are here, they will get to learn about the different seasons of the church, from Advent all the way to Pentecost. The lessons are full of activities and fun, while also incorporating Gospel lessons and a connection to our Catechism!

To find out more about all our programs visit our website at briarwoodretreat.org and go to the Summer Camp tab.

Come this summer and Live in God's Time!



Thrivent Choice – A Gift for Briarwood from Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Financial is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. For more than a century, it has helped its member-owners make wise money choices that reflect their values. Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that allows members to help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds each year.

One of the benefits of membership of Thrivent is directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to ministries you support and Briarwood is a ministry eligible to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars. In 2015 Briarwood received \$5,966 from Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thrivent Choice Dollars are extremely helpful as we work to make camp available and affordable for all people and for everyone who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Briarwood we say thank you! Thrivent Financial is making a positive difference in Briarwood's ministry through you and your choice is deeply appreciated. Please know if you want that support to continue you must select Briarwood again as selections must be made on an on-going basis.

If you are a member of Thrivent that has not directed your Thrivent Choice Dollars, you can choose Briarwood to receive your Thrivent Choice Dollars by doing the following:

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, select the "Get started now" link.
3. Log in and enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access" to do so.)
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct on the right side of the screen.
5. Locate the organization you want to direct to:
 - a. To direct to a previously chosen organization, click "Find."
 - b. On the Activity History page, scroll down and click Briarwood Lutheran Ministries.



or

- a. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like Briarwood Lutheran Ministries, Argyle, TX, etc. in the Search for Enrolled Organization section.
- b. Click "Search."
6. Click "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation window to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
 2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
- Note: Please have your nine-digit Member Identification Number or contract number available.
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars to Briarwood Retreat Center.

Feel free to contact Pastor Phil at Briarwood if you need any help selecting Briarwood for Thrivent Choice Dollars.

2016 Briarwood Invitational Golf Outing *Saturday, October 29, 2016*

Bridlewood Golf Club
Flower Mound

Great golf, lots of prizes and awards
and a great lunch!





Briarwood's 2015 Supporters

Keystone Partner - Gifts of \$5,000 and above

Pastor Phil & Anna Geleske
Suzanne Kraemer
Bill & Denise Lindquist
Jim & Holly Trester

Cornerstone Partner - Gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999

Ron & Becky Brakke
Larry & Pastor Pat Dietrich
Greg & Criss Forshay
Greg & Becky Getting
Jerry & Kathleen Gray
Lee & Suzanne Hassell
Dave & Sue Heise
John & J.A. Hoffman
Bob & Rose Johnson
Bishop Kevin & Billye Jean Kanouse
Jerry & Parma Kersten
Pastor Olin & Carolyn Knudsen
Pastor Paul & Joann Krupicka
Mark & Jean Lien
David & Marisa Lopez
Dan & Pastor Jane Mar
Pastor Deb McCann
Edward & Eugenia Miculka
Spence & Pam Nelson
Bob & Mickey Pangrac
Samantha Shaw
Rusty & Julie Sullivan
Tim & Laura Talafuse
Jeff & Kari Voight

Living Stone Partner - Gifts of \$250 - \$999

John & Leslie Auers
Steven Bargmann
Brooks & Kitty Barnard
Gary & Jean Baumhardt
Cory & Maggie Baumhardt
Matt & Lora Baumhardt
Wrenda Benson
Beverly Blackman-Mounce
Scott Bowers
Gregory Carter
Lee & Barbara Cassidy
Joe & Sonia Chase
Philip & Cathy Conroy
Bob & Brenda Davis
Wally Diehl
Bethany Dietrich
Matt & Kathy Englemann
Suzanne Fasaro
Betty Finden
Tim & Margarita Geleske
Pastor Mel & Hattie Hammer
Paul & Lisa Harrington
Bruce & Myra Haugene
Jeanne Heggen
Pastor Mark & Donna Herbener
R Hosey
Gerry Hughes
David & Arla Icenhour
Steve & Pastor Joan Iker
Louis & Colleen Jensen

Rod & Diane Johannsen
David & Sarah Johnson
Steven & Pastor Kathi Johnson
Don Kammerer
Pastor Steve & Chris Kanouse
Pastor Janet Kraatz
Eileen Larsen
Le beaux Chateau
Pastor Jon & Stefani Lee
Todd Lee
Andy & Tara Liles
Kimball and Lorraine Markquart
Mark McClure
Althea Milton
Aaron & Cynthia Murphey
Pastor Paul & Susan Mussachio
Jonathan & Dan Netek-Oslie
Pam Ocasek
Henry and Pastor Peggy Ogden-Howe
Bruce & Tyna Oslie
Jean Oswald
Buck & Tammy Parker
Ursala Peters
Bob & Glenda Phillips
Wayne Rohne
Judy Rommel
Amy Royall
Herbert & Jean Schaake
Pastor Eric Schultze
Ruth Schwolert
Frank Sikich
Pete & Kim Silva
Erick & Molly Simien
Starwood Café
Dailey & Pastor Vicki Taylor
Maury & Kristin Tiller
Davis Tubre
Jim & Stephanie Varum
Wren & Virginia Worley

River Stone Partner - Gifts of \$249 and less

Pastor Heath Abel
Donald & Margaret Acker
Eleanor Adix
Jeff & Leah Adix
John & Kristen Alagood
Gary Alick
Brent & Laura Anderson
Carl & Diann Anderson
Margaret Aten
Daniel & Barbara Ballard
Katherine Bandy
Chuck & Phyllis Beck
Ted Beck
Joseph & Mary Bendzick
Niels & Karen Bentsen
Kent & D'Ann Besley
Ron & Donna Bieber
Mary Blaha
Dave & Bev Boldt
Vito & Dana Bondar
Sharon Bothelo
Steve & Chris Brandt
Lorraine Brians
Doris Brogan

Virginia Bussey
Pastor Jon Bustard
Bette Campbell
Randall & Mary Campbell
Mark & Ryan Chambers
Aaron & Katrina Colwick
Kat Constable
Jerry & Carol Court
Denis & Susan Dalbout
Peggy Davidson
Deborah Lewis
David & Mary Dixon
Bill & Kim Doege
Tim Draney
Edward Edgreen
Frances Farley
Carl & Rita Fischer
Chris & Doris Forte
Pastor John Foster
Paul & Susan Gabrielson
Chris Gebhardt
Pastor Terry & Susan Germann
Greg & Marilyn Goebel
Christ Grant
Pastor Erik Gronberg & Pastor Kendra Mohn
Pastor Suzanne Guinn
Howard & Vicki Hadock
Edmund & Carolyn Halter
Pastor Marc & Jerilyn Hander
Kenneth & Barbara Hargrove
Christopher Harris
Ruth Hartstein
Chester Haschke
Christine Hassell
Dennis & Christie Herbranson
Craig Hodges
Katherine Hopper
Alann Hurlebaus
J. & S. Husley
Bob & Daven Hutchins
Barry & Laurie Jaecks
Paul Johnson
W.R. Jones
Pastor Bernie & Carol Kerns
Molly Kirk
Kevin & Pastor Bonita Knox
Carol Kron
Dr. Daniel Ladd
Juris & Carolyn Laivins
Babs & Saul Landon
Barbara Leis
Owen & Silvia Lokken
Wayne & Eileen Luke
Jonathan Lys
S.R. & M.E. Mabry
Thomas & Patricia Mansfield
Kay Matous
John & Jacquie McConnell
La Nelle McCown
Martin McNeeley
Erik & Amber Miller
Ethan Mitchell
Bobby & Wendy Moats
Tucker Mullens
Chad & Emily Nelson
Scott Nelson

David & Edith Njus
Peter & Tami O'Neill
James & Mary Orwat
Gary Owen
Brian Parsons
Larry & Caryn Patterson
Gail Pearce
Charles & Geraldine
Dixie Pennington
Ron & Rachel Petersen
Janet Pope
Elizabeth Pritash
Ralph & Marcie Sandall
Tim Schuez
Ruby Schuman
David Seddelmeyer
Janeanne Shipley
Brian Sikich
David & Mary Simon
Vernon Skripsky
William & Kathy Sloneecker
Carol Spencer
Jim & Bonnie Story
Eldon Sund
Matthew & Leigh Swarbrick
Eric & Melanie Swenson
Jonathan & Shelby Thompson
Pastor Kris Totzke
Pat & Sany Uszler
Ryan Valdez
Pastor Russell Vardell
Jeff & Denise Vick
Pastor Art Weiss
Todd Weiss
Daniel & Renae White
Vernell Wiemers
Kevin Williams
Richard & Jeanne Witte
Scott & Teresa Zimmerer





Briarwood's 2015 Congregations & Organization Supporters

Abiding Grace Lutheran Church, Southlake
 Advent Lutheran Church, Arlington
 Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Amarillo
 Bethany Lutheran Church, Dallas
 Calvary Lutheran Church, Richland Hills
 Calvary Lutheran Church, San Angelo
 Christ Lutheran Church, Dallas
 Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Denton
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Granbury
 Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, Coppel
 Faith Lutheran Church, Flower Mound
 Faith Lutheran Church, Meridian
 Faith Lutheran Church, Wichita Falls
 First Lutheran Church, Longview
 First Lutheran Church, Temple
 First Salem Lutheran Church, Roscoe
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Irving

Grace Lutheran Church, Slaton
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Shreveport
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Irving
 Hope Lutheran Church, Springtown
 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Killeen
 King of Glory Lutheran Church, Dallas
 Lutheran Sunset Ministries, Clifton
 Messiah Lutheran Church, Monroe
 NT-NL Lutheran Men in Mission
 NT-NL Mission Area
 Oslo Lutheran Church, Gruver
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Clifton
 Preston Meadow Lutheran Church, Plano
 Rejoice Lutheran Church, Coppel
 Rejoice Lutheran Church, Frisco
 Rockpointe Women's Ministry
 Shepherd King Lutheran Church, Lubbock

Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church, Arlington
 St Andrew Lutheran Church, Hurst
 St John Lutheran Church, Bartlett
 St. Lukes, Richardson
 St Martin Lutheran Church, Littlefield
 St Matthew Lutheran Church, Waco
 St Paul Lutheran Church, Levelland
 St. John Lutheran Church, Wilson
 St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Shreveport
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Worth
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Hamilton
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Miles
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Sherman
 Unity Church of Christianity of Dallas
 Zion Lutheran Church, Mc Gregor



Briarwood's 2016 Calendar

May 14	Briarwood Gala
May 31 - June 17	Summer Staff Training
June 4	Pre-Camp Work Day
June 19-Aug 5	Summer Camp
August 6	Summer Camp Clean-Up
September 11	Sunday Brunch
September 23-24	Confirmation Retreat

October 7-8	Fall Festival & Thrivent Cookoff
October 10-12	Briarwood/Luther Hill/ Cross Trails Retreat
October 29	Briarwood Golf Tournament
December 3-4	Advent Retreat
December 4	Holiday Brunch
December 18-19	Summer Staff Reunion



2015 Financials

2015 Income

Donation support	\$303,957
Choice Dollars	\$5,966
Summer Camp	\$140,878
Year round retreat and meals	\$351,729
Lewisville ISD Outdoor Education	\$80,784
Fall festival, Gala, and Golf	\$86,979
Total Income	\$970,293

2015 Expense

Payroll, health ins. and payroll taxes	\$514,938
Food, Kitchen and housekeeping supplies	\$85,015
Phone, electric, and propane	\$78,803
Facility and grounds Maintenance	\$97,688
Postage, office supplies, sales tax, and misc.	\$44,480
Camp Store and camp shirts	\$8,436
Summer and Program expenses	\$19,286
Fund Raising	\$33,845
Marketing	\$5,719
Property insurance	\$40,859
Long term debt & Interest	\$77,823
Total Expense	\$1,006,892
2015 Total over/under	\$-36,598



A greeting from Briarwood! My name is Comet and I am a 6 year old English Sheppard that lives out here at Briarwood. I run around with my buddy Luther a 3 year old black lab that lives in the front house. We help with security and guest greeting at Briarwood. I am here to provide an update as to what is going on here at Briarwood.

With warmer winter all the animals at Briarwood have been very active.

There have been plenty of deer, bobcats, coyotes, roadrunners, rabbits, possums, raccoons and armadillos running around most nights. Another addition lately has been turkeys. Dad and I have been tracking them around by Riverbend Chapel. On our early morning walks we have also been hearing them talk to each other.

Lately the animals talking the most at night are the bullfrogs in the pond. The lily pads and cattails planted last year have taken hold and providing more homes for the fish which are getting bigger. Some of the staff has been fishing in the evenings with great success. We also have a pair of ducks who appear to be calling the pond home. We are all hoping for baby ducks soon. The windmill aerator we installed is now generating lots of bubbles in the pond which was also pleasing to the fish.

We are now enjoying the nice weather here. We are all getting excited this time of the year with summer camp around the corner. Soon kids will be everywhere singing, worshipping, and ready to play. I am actively practicing my sad dog face with the hopes that I can convince one of the kids for a treat. We hope to see you all soon and don't forget to bring treats.

670 Copper Canyon Rd
Argyle, TX 76226

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bw@briarwoodretreat.org

briarwoodretreat.org

Pastor Phil Geleske - Executive Director
Matt Baumhardt - Operations Director
Aaron Colwick - Program Director
Paul Harrington - Facility Director
Jean Oswald - Ambassador
Sharon Mersiovsky - Office Manager & Registrar
Daniel Crofts - Program Intern
Carlos Carrasquillo - Head Chef
Isamary Ortiz-Salgado - Assistant Cook
Jerry Gray - Bookkeeper, Volunteer
Holly Trester - Communications & Marketing Coordinator, Volunteer

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