

# The Briarwood Vine

The monthly newsletter of Briarwood Retreat Center  
November 2011



Briarwood Retreat Center  
[www.briarwoodretreat.org](http://www.briarwoodretreat.org)  
Phone:  
(940) 241-2099  
Email:  
[bw@briarwoodretreat.org](mailto:bw@briarwoodretreat.org)

Briarwood is bustling with business this fall. Many churches are taking advantage of gorgeous weather to enjoy a time of retreat, our outdoor education programs are in full swing, and the phone keeps ringing. If you are interested in joining us for a retreat, celebration, or some personal reflection during this wonderful time please contact our Ambassador, Jean Oswald, at the Briarwood office. Start planning your dates now for events in 2013.

## Annual meeting and Fall Festival November 6, 2011

Please consider attending our Annual Meeting and Fall Festival as a representative of your congregation. Those in attendance will form an advisory council that will be given the opportunity to share ideas, stories, and even concerns about Briarwood. This council will help steer our ministry in the year to come and act as a liaison between your congregation and Briarwood. The event will take place in the Briarwood Shalom center and will begin at 3:00pm with Hors d'oeuvres, games and activities for all ages, and some fellowship. The program and business meeting will begin at 4:00, activities for youth will continue throughout the meeting. Dinner will begin at 5:00. There is no charge for this event but reservations are needed. Please contact our office for information or to RSVP.

## 2011 ASK Letter

Be on the lookout for a new mailer coming your way from Briarwood. As you may know Briarwood relies on your generous donations for more than 30% of our operating budget. With this in mind our 2011 "ASK" Letter is headed your way in early November. Please consider returning the mailer with a small gift to help us complete our 2011 budget or possibly signing up as a Sustaining Member for 2012. All donations made to Briarwood can be used as a tax deductible charitable contribution.



## Congregational Budgets

As many of our church councils are in the process of preparing their 2012 budgets we would like to thank all the members for their continued support. If your congregation doesn't currently include Briarwood in their budget then please consider inviting a Briarwood representative to your church council meeting for an update and to find out how your congregation can help sustain Briarwood in 2012.

## Advent Retreat for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades December 3-4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Briarwood's Advent youth retreat is coming up soon. This event will begin on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and end the following day. The cost will be \$60 per participant and adult chaperones are free. Come explore the Advent season with us. Brochures and registration forms are available on our website:



[www.briarwoodretreat.org](http://www.briarwoodretreat.org)

## DiscipleLife Alive Brunch and Program, December 4, 2011

A very special "free" Holiday Brunch will take place on December 4, 2011 to discuss the future of Briarwood and the DiscipleLife Alive initiative. In addition to our usual brunch fare there will be a program led by Bishop Kevin Kanouse starting at noon.

The program will include:

- Celebrating the current progress of DLA
- Discuss upcoming changes and opportunities
- Presentation of resources available to help help explain the DLA initiative
- Update on the Briarwood Master Site Plan

This is a free brunch but RSVP's are strongly encouraged, please contact us at (940) 241-2099 to reserve your place or for additional info.

We believe that God's purpose for Briarwood is to provide a natural setting where people experience God's love.  
Thank you for your partnership in the camping and retreat ministry of the synod.