

Aug./Sept. 2022

# Bethel

## Colony of Mercy

Breaking the chains of addiction

Since 1948



### Come and Celebrate the Goodness of God With Us!

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.

Ps. 95:2-3

#### Oh, how the Lord is worthy of Praise!

It won't be long for Homecoming! I hope you have Sunday, Oct. 2 marked on your calendar! The last two years we have had a closed campus for Homecoming. **But this year we are going to be open and we are excited for visitors and graduates to come back and celebrate the goodness of the Lord!**

I realize it has been a while since some of you have come to a Homecoming celebration and some that have graduated have never been to a Bethel Homecoming because of COVID. So, let me share with you some of the reasons you should come to Homecoming, Bible conference, and if you play golf, join the tournament. **All this happens through Oct. 1-7!**

First, I would say because of Rev. 4:11; ***"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*** We should publicly glorify Him. It shows God's power and love for you and brings others to rejoice with you. It speaks of His victory over sin and the devil. It is a glorious experience to do that at the place where you met the Lord! During that day you will be given an opportunity to share a short testimony of what the Lord has done and is still doing in your life.



The Lord told the possessed man in the graveyard to, **"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."** Mark 5:19 It is a joy to reconnect with people you went through the program with and the staff that helped



you through the process. A suggestion for you is **reach out to some of the friendships you built while at Bethel and plan to come together!** I believe it will encourage both of you.

It also is a time your family could see Bethel if they never had a chance to come to the place that made an impact on your life. And worship the Lord with them.



And, you will be blessed and challenged by our guest speakers this year. We are blessed to have the opportunity to hear from several men with different preaching and teaching styles. (See page 5)

Lastly, we plan to bless you at the end with a wonderful meal!!! I promise you it will not be Bethel Mix! (inside joke for those who have been here)

You're going to be blessed to be part of our 74<sup>th</sup> Homecoming celebrations! We look forward to seeing you again!

*Pastor Paul and Stacy Pruitt*

Executive Director



## Women's Campus News

# Come to Me

***"Come to Me...and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."***  
-Matthew 11:28-30

**"Wow, I feel lighter!"** This is a common phrase I hear in my counseling office, and I've heard it enough times to know it's no coincidence, but the real Christ restoring a person. No amount of psychology can do that. No steps, self-help books, or substances can do that. **Only Jesus can lift all the heavy burdens off of a person's heart and make them feel light.** But how do these women get to experience this transfer of weight? By owning their faults, truly repenting, and forgiving.

One requirement for coming to Bethel is to come with a willing heart. Many of the women who come into this program come willing to try anything to get free from their addiction. Some have tried everything else, and like the woman with the issue of blood, they have nothing to show for all their efforts. When we introduce them to the idea that Jesus can change their lives, they are ready to hear. But hearing about one's own sins can be difficult. Drug and alcohol use oftentimes is self-medication for a compromised conscience. People don't want to feel the pain of their wrongs, but relief comes on the other side of that pain. Society has conditioned many of us to blame others and deflect correction to avoid the pain of guilt, but that is like taking a Tylenol to deal with the pain of an undiagnosed broken leg to keep from the pain of having the bone set. C.S. Lewis once put it this way: *"Christianity now has to preach the diagnosis— in itself very bad news— before it can win a hearing for the cure."*

**Once a person has acknowledged their sin before God, they must repent of it.** I have found in my time as a teacher and counselor that **many people don't really understand what repentance is.** A lot of people have prayed a sinner's prayer and said, "I repent of all my sins," but we often equate this phrase with saying "I'm sorry" to God. This is not what repentance is. **Repentance is choosing to make a change from the direction of my sin towards the direction of God's will.** It necessarily means forsaking the sin. When I have told this to

some of the ladies I have counseled, I have seen complete recognition on their faces, as if they are learning it for the first time. "I got saved when I was younger, but I never turned away from the sin." From this moment of recognition, I see the weight begin to lift, because now, these women can truly receive the forgiveness Christ freely gives them. **Some of these ladies are repenting for their lifestyle of drug and alcohol abuse, but others are repenting the sins that drove them to drink and use in the first place.** I will never forget the look of freedom on one woman's face when she finally repented of an abortion, she had never told anyone about.

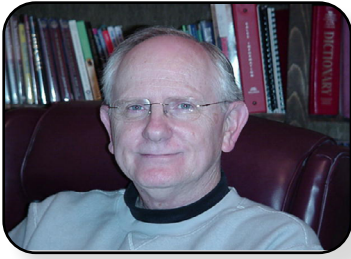
Far too often, the gospel people hear stops at repentance and receiving forgiveness and does not extend to the need to extend forgiveness as well. After all, not all of the wounds these women have been self-medicating were self-inflicted. **One in nine girls are victims of sexual assault before the age of 18, and many of them are abused by a close family member.** This is just one example of an offense that plagues the soul. When we add abandonment, rejection, betrayal, and physical violence, we quickly accumulate another substantial burden that Jesus wants to lift off a person's shoulders. I find sometimes that this is harder to accomplish than repentance, but **once the woman can connect the release they received from their sins to their own releasing of sins someone committed against them, as in Matthew 18, God can do a mighty work.** I have seen women break down in tears of relief after forgiving their abusers. I have seen within a week that those who dealt with depression walk around lighter than they have in years. **All because the burdens have been lifted by Jesus Christ.**

O what a glorious God we serve! She whom the son sets free is truly free indeed!

*Mrs. Regina Kelly*

Women's Campus Co-Director





# The Great Gain of Godliness

The flood of vanity into our lives has antiquated the love of godliness. Consequently, contentment in one's soul is fleeting. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon passionately pursued his desires and pleasures. **"Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them, and did not withhold my heart from any pleasure."** (Ecclesiastes 2:10). In the end, Solomon realized it was madness and folly. **"I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived this is grasping for the wind."** (Ecclesiastes 1:17) There is no footing in self-seeking. **"We burn with desire to find a firm footing; an ultimate, lasting base on which to build a tower rising into infinity, but our whole foundation collapses and the earth opens up into the depth of the abyss."** Blaise Pascal. The search for contentment or meaning is hopeless in the kingdom of darkness. In his work, *Inferno*, Dante comes across the gate of hell during his travels and he sees etched above the entrance of the underworld, **"...abandon all hope, ye who enter here."** Many have entered into the gate of hell mentally and have abandoned all hope. There is no contentment on the broad road of ungodliness and it is folly to believe that there is.

The apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy gives him a profound truth. **"Now godliness with contentment is great gain."** The disciple is content with the life of godliness. He has no reservations of coming into conformity and obedience to God's word. It is his blessing. **"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His way."** (Psalm 119:1-3). A great gain in embracing godliness is a healthy countenance and a sound mind. **"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind."** (II Timothy 1:7) Mental illness has no ground with a sound mind. The sound mind implanted by God Himself is one of the graces given to the disciple. **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."** (Ephesians 1:3). Godliness with contentment is a great weapon against mental illness.

Another great gain of godliness is the wisdom of getting under the training of faithful men of God who by experience know the way of God. The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, **"But you, O man of God, flee these**

**things (the love of money, a root of all kinds of evil) and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."** (I Timothy 6:11-12) Many have faltered because of failing to pursue discipleship. Subsequently, having abandoned godliness, they have forfeited great gain.

Godliness with contentment is able to weather the turbulent storms of life. The work by J.H. Alexander, *More Than Notion*, is described by D. M. Lloyd Jones recommending the work to the congregation at Westminster Chapel as **"extracts out of the lives of various people who came in varied ways to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, at one and the same time, convicting and encouraging."** The last line of a poem in the beginning of the book by Joseph Hart reads, **"True religion is more than notion, something must be known and felt."**

One family that particularly stands out in the book is the Reverend William Gilpin, M.A., his wife and nine children, three sons and six daughters. One of the daughters records a time she never forgot as a child. **"It was a gloomy time in the history of England. Napoleon was spread-eagled over Europe, winning battle after battle. Martello towers were being built along the South coast and fears of invasion were real. Frances, one of the Gilpin daughters, never forgot that time, and years later records, during the years 1804 to 1806, when a national calamity threatened our country, "I can truly say that God was my Refuge. The 118th Psalm and the latter part of the 8th of Romans were on this occasion so applied to my heart that I found real support and comfort from them whenever the fear of an invasion came into my mind, which was very, very often".** (She was between 10 and 12 years old.)

Godliness with contentment sustained a young girl in crisis. It is available to all the saints. A truth that is sure. Have you tried contentment with the things of this world? Consider this admonition by the Apostle Paul; **"Now godliness with contentment is great gain."** I Timothy 6:6

Where the grace blows,

*Pastor Don Loss*

Director of Counseling



*This is a letter from the mother of a former student at Bethel Men's Campus. We have left out names to protect the identity of this family. It could be from many of our students' family members:*

Dear Pastor Loss,

For over 13 years now, I have been receiving Bethel Colony's newsletter, following the final treatment for our son at Bethel Colony of Mercy. A lot of times I toss it without reading it. Sometimes I am still angry that it was his last treatment attempt at recovery and he still died. He passed away in 2007. I go back and forth on my emotions yet to this day. **I feel those emotions of grief, anger, and disappointment. But I don't stay in that mode. I let them come and then I let them go.** Our son did not take his own life, which I do have comfort knowing that is a fact.

However, I read this past newsletter. I didn't toss it, and I have read your article over and over. **You have written with such truth what his younger brother needs to hear.** I copied it and have it in a card at this time, to either give to him or mail to him today so he reads what his mother is feeling, but from someone professionally and faith-filled trained. He has been struck as well with the alcohol addiction. He has always believed he was above it; too smart for it. I don't say that with criticism, just fact. He tried to hide it for a long time, but as we all know, it can't be hidden from friends or mothers. The difference is; he has a wife and a young child he is subject to losing if he isn't successful at his first attempt at recovery. He's had several down times in the past few years that I won't go into. No, I'm not asking you to accept him into your program. He is determined at this time not to do any of the same rehabs his brother did. **I do believe your program to be the best,** but he isn't where his brother was in this journey. The circumstances are different but yet so alike. He has been accepted into a medical rehabilitation program and insurance approved. He is set to go there soon for 30 days pending COVID testing.

**My purpose in writing at this time is to thank you for apparently knowing what someone needed to read out here in this chaotic world we live in right now and to ask you to include our younger son and all of us in your prayer intentions.** Bethel Colony was a blessing for our older son. I still have the picture of his baptism by immersion ceremony and love the joy in his face. Why God still took him home when he did is the first thing I will ask when I meet them in Heaven. **I always trust and believe God knows what He is doing. But, that doesn't take away my sadness – then or now.** These boys are our only children. We lost one when he was just 34. His brother is now in his forties. His life is upside down. It has been such a journey with him in denial, making attempts at sobriety alone, going through withdrawal, being turned down in emergency rooms for detox because he wasn't convulsing, sent home to work it out. He is depressed because during these times, if you don't go in for COVID, it seems your ailment isn't considered important. It is hard to get past that emotion of let-down when he is going in voluntarily, not being committed. He has given up another job to pursue this.

**I apologize for going on as I have, but I wanted to let you know what you said about anger, blame, and resentment is so appropriate for our circumstances at this point.**

Enclosed is a donation. It isn't to pay for your prayers. It is just something I want to do today. I remember when our son was at Bethel and I was sending a donation. I asked him if there was something he wanted me to suggest that donation go towards. He said to ask you to buy some real milk for the students there. He said it is all powdered and they crave real milk. I think someone there confirmed to me that they got real milk with my donation. It is amazing what we remember.

God bless all of you at Bethel Colony and thank you again for the perfect words.

We are privileged and excited to announce that Dr. Ricky D. Cope, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Indian Land, SC will be our 2022 Homecoming speaker and will start our Bible Conference on Monday morning, 10/03/2022 at 9 am. Dr. Cope has too many accolades for us to list in this newsletter so we encourage you to visit his web page [rickycope.com](http://rickycope.com) to discover who this gifted pastor is and how God has mightily used him in many venues.



What we want you to know first and foremost about Dr. Cope is that his life's purpose is to reach the world with the message that "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life." That through Christ there is HOPE for the hopeless, there is HELP for those who cannot help themselves, and there is a HOME in heaven for all who surrender their lives to Him. Dr. Cope is married to the love of his life, Robin; they have two married daughters and seven amazing grandchildren.

# COME & CELEBRATE Bethel's 74th Homecoming

Starting at 9a.m. on Sunday Oct. 2, 2022

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## Bible Conference

Mon. thru Fri. Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 7<sup>th</sup>



Ricky Cope  
Homecoming  
service  
Mon. 9am service



Stan Wilson  
Mon. 7pm  
Tues. 9am+7pm  
Wed. 9am



Steven Jones  
Wed. 7pm



James Wilfong  
Thurs. 9am



David MacEachern  
Thurs. 7pm  
Fri. 9am+7pm



Stan Wilson is the pastor at Pressley Memorial PH Church in Cross, SC. He was called to preach at the age of sixteen, and he has six years of experience in pastoral ministry. He graduated from Emmanuel College in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He and his wife, Abby, of seven years have two children, Kerrigan and Rebekah Wilson.

Stephen Jones is Youth Pastor at Living Hope in Lenoir, NC. Stephen and his wife, Mandy, have one son Nate.

James Wilfong of Highways and Hedges in Lenoir will share his unusual testimony and unique ministry with us.

David MacEachern has been in ministry for over 20 years and is Senior Pastor at Grace Baptist in Gastonia, NC.

God has blessed us wonderfully this year with several exciting and passionate men of God who are looking forward to blessing, encouraging, exhorting, and teaching us from the Word of God. It promises to be an exciting week-long experience not unlike tent revivals of old! Make plans now to join us and be renewed in your spirit to serve and honor the Lord Jesus Christ with your life! All services are open to the public.

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Cedar Rock  
Country Club**  
Lenoir, NC



**Saturday, October 1, 2022**

Registration will be available online thru Wed., Sept. 28th  
Express check-in for teams who register and payment is received  
(online or via invoice)  
by Fri., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
[www.bethelcolony.org/golf](http://www.bethelcolony.org/golf)  
**SHOTGUN START-1:30p.m.**

Captain's Choice - 4 person teams (\$240.00 per team)  
Entry fee: \$60.00 per person (includes lunch and prizes)

Get your team together and register online.  
Contact **Josh Wilkins** or **Cathi Loss** at 828-754-3781(option 1)  
or [bcom@bethelcolony.org](mailto:bcom@bethelcolony.org) for more information.

- Free range balls during registration.
- Due to starting at 1:30 p.m., you will be served lunch beginning at 12:30 p.m. prior to tee off.
- 50/50 tickets will be available for \$5 each.
- Raffle tickets will be available for \$5 each.
- Mulligans and skirts available for \$5 each.
- Prizes will be awarded at the end of the tournament.

Fill out and mail your prayer request to us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

Prayer Request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Bethel Colony of Mercy is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, gifts to which are deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. Financial information about this organization and a copy of it's license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (888)803-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State. Any gift for which you've received a tangible benefit is not tax deductible.

### BETHEL MEN’S & WOMEN’S T-SHIRTS & HATS AVAILABLE IN OUR FB STORE

\$25 each

## Bethel Lawn Care

Bethel’s Lawn Care service is part of our ongoing program and coincides with our mission statement - **teaching the deliverance message of Jesus Christ**. Part of our approach is daily work assignments. Work assignments are designed to teach men responsibility and stewardship. As we help more folks in our community the Lawn Care service not only helps men with responsibility and stewardship but instills a Christian work ethic, provides a skill they can use to get a job, and teaches them to give back to their community and to Bethel.

To schedule your lawn care service, and to check prices, contact Bryan Ingram, Bethel Lawn Care Manager, at (678) 848-9990

Remember to shop at AmazonSmile!  
Amazon will make a donation to Bethel Colony of Mercy  
  
Use this link:  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-6050210>



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# Bethel Colony of Mercy, Inc.



1675 Bethel Colony Road  
Lenoir, NC 28645  
828-754-3781

*Breaking the chains of addiction*

AUTO  
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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
LENOIR NC  
PERMIT NO 280

\*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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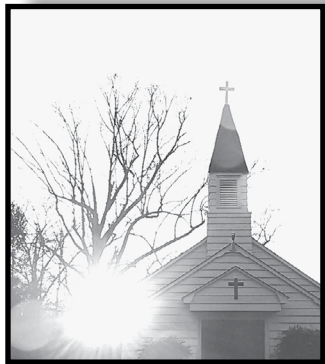
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## Bethel Colony of Mercy **HOMECOMING** October 2nd, 2022 9 a.m.

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Ps. 95:2-3

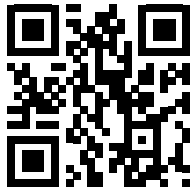


### In This Issue

Come and Celebrate the Goodness of God With Us.....Pastor Paul Pruitt  
Come To Me.....Mrs. Regina Kelly  
The Great Gain of Godliness.....Pastor Don Loss  
Letter from a student's mother  
Homecoming Announcements

Golf Tournament Info

Prayer Requests



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