

March/April 2026

† Bethel

Colony of Mercy

Breaking the chains of addiction

Since 1948



What He Has Begun He Will Finish

As we step into the early months of 2026, we are reminded that seasons change—but the faithfulness of God never does. March and April have already proven to be months of steady progress stretching faith, and reminders that when the Lord begins a work, He is committed to bringing it to completion. No matter the storm that may come to slow the progress. At Bethel, we continue to see His hand upon both campuses. At the Women's Campus we are moving forward in building new staff housing. The foundation is nearly complete. Though recent ice and snow slowed us down for a time, it did not stop the vision. ***Weather may delay, but it cannot derail what God has ordained.***

In the coming weeks, we are **praying specifically for provision** for the lumber package so framing can begin. We are **asking the Lord to send** skilled laborers—framers, plumbers, and electricians—who would be willing to come alongside us with their materials, resources, and expertise. Scripture reminds us in Nehemiah 2:18, ***“And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, ‘Let us rise up and build.’ Then they set their hands to this good work.”***

The Hand of God has been good; we are building—but we are also trusting.

This staff housing project is not just another structure. It represents preparation. It represents order. It represents expansion done the right way. Before we can move toward larger projects such as a lodge or dormitory for the Women's Campus, we must first strengthen our foundation by expanding staff capacity. Healthy growth requires

healthy leadership and infrastructure. We have learned this through the years.

The Men's Campus did not become what it is overnight. It took many years of steady obedience, sacrifice, and patient faith. Brick by brick, building by building, the Lord established it. **Now, as we look at the Women's Campus, we believe God will accelerate the growth—not because we are striving, but because the need is urgent and the harvest is great.** Still, we remain committed to being steady and faithful. While at the same time, because of the urgency of the need, we believe God will move faster in this expansion.

Philippians 1:6 says, ***“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*** This promise applies not only to individual lives but also to the ministry work He births. Through His death, burial, and resurrection, we are born again. But the Lord does not stop at salvation. He finishes what He starts. He sanctifies. He restores. He rebuilds broken lives step by step. We see this truth lived out every day. Men and women come to us wounded, bound, and carrying years of addiction, trauma, and brokenness. Salvation is the beginning. Discipleship is the process. Restoration is the fruit. Just as we pour foundations before raising walls, the Lord lays deep spiritual foundations in hearts before building stability and purpose.

In addition to the construction progress, we have stepped out into a new outreach effort this year. In order to reach more individuals who desperately need long-term Christ-centered recovery, our team has begun visiting local detox facilities throughout our region. We are meeting with their leadership and clinical teams to share our approach—how we combine biblical discipleship, structured living, work,

purpose and community accountability to bring lasting transformation.

Our heart is: when individuals complete detox, they need more than a temporary solution and not another drug. They need a different path. We want them to know that when they walk out of detox, there is a place ready to receive them with truth, structure, and hope. Prov. 19:21, ***“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”***

The response from many agencies has been encouraging. There is a growing awareness that detox alone is not enough. Many professionals we’ve met express a sincere desire to see people truly set free, not just stabilized. Doors are opening for us to share in meetings, build relationships, and present Bethel as a next step for those serious about change.

We believe this outreach is strategic. As we prepare the Women’s Campus for growth, we are also widening the net so that when beds become available, people are ready. Prov. 16:9 reminds us, ***“A man’s heart devises his way: but the Lord directs his steps.”*** We are planning—but He is directing.

Through snow delays, construction milestones, new partnerships, and daily ministry work, one theme remains

constant: God is faithful. He is faithful to save. Faithful to deliver. Faithful to complete the work in each student who surrenders to Him. And faithful to provide every need for the ministry as we walk in obedience. We thank you for standing with us—through prayer, giving, volunteering, and encouragement. As we move into the next phase of framing and infrastructure, we ask you to pray specifically:

- For provision of the lumber package.
- For skilled framers, plumbers, and electricians with willing hearts.
- For continued favor with detox facilities and partnering agencies.
- For the spiritual growth of every student currently in the program.
- That the financial needs of the ministry will be met and beyond to do the expansion work.

The work is steady. The vision is clear. The need is urgent. And the Lord is building.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Gal. 6:9

Pastor Paul and Stacy Pruitt
Executive Director

The Lord Established It



Grace/dormitory 1989



Worship Center 2003



The Rock/dormitory 2014



New Auto Shop 2026



Women’s Campus opened 2019



Women’s Campus cabins #2&3



Women’s Campus cabin #4



Grace/Counseling, audio, canteen
TV lounge 2022



Ruth’s Refuge (staff duplex)
in progress

Testimony From Men's Campus Graduate

Because of God's precious gift to and for us over 2000 years ago, His only begotten Son, we have eternal life. What a precious gift! I came to Bethel, let truth be known was led to Bethel, in November of 2024, full of shame and guilt. But on my 3rd day there I heard a message preached/taught by Pastor Loss on the father accepting his son back to his son's rightful place in the family. **I'd heard this message a hundred times before, but this time I was that son in need of acceptance from the father.** As I listened and received, I could sense the presence of my all-loving heavenly Father's arms embrace me. Immediately the shame and guilt were gone! The precious gift of love was opened in my heart along with peace and joy. With tears from the reality of forgiveness, what freedom returned! Bethel, because He gave to you His gift of life full of love and you gave love to me, His gift through your gift brought a renewed spirit to me!

I left Bethel on April 10, 2025 with a one-year sentence in prison. I don't have a release date yet. I am doing very well! Sure, I have some down days, but they don't last long for I look up daily to my Maker and He always surrounds me with songs of deliverance and lifts me up! **At 61 years old, or any age, prison is a hard place to be, but isn't the whole world a hard place to be!** Everywhere we are put or go it's the same. **People need the LORD!**

Please pray that I will not hold back from sharing the gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in prison! **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe."** Romans 1:16 Amen! Thanks to all Bethel staff.

Love, from a thankful Bethel Graduate, Christmas 2025

WOMEN'S CAMPUS 4th ANNUAL 2026 Royal Tea - "AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"

Please note high-lighted changes in venue and price.

Sponsored by:

THE BANQUET
SHOPPE
LENOIR, NC

Event Date and Time: Saturday, May 2, 2026, 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm

Event Address: Mountain Grove Church
2485 Connelly Springs Rd.
Granite Falls, NC 28630



Event Description: Ladies Tea & Fundraiser Bringing Women's Campus Alumni and Supporters Together

Speaker: Regina Kelly, Women's Campus Co-Director

Cost: \$40 per person; \$200 per table (seating 8)

Childcare will be offered for \$10 per child for children age 9 and under.. *Registration is Required* A children's meal (chicken tenders and fries) will be available to children during the event in the childcare area.

(Please note: Children registered for childcare will not have a seat in the Royal Tea event.)

To register online, please go to <https://bethelcolony.org/events-at-bethel/royal-tea/> or use this QR Code:



For more information contact:
Donna Bowman
donnabowman@bethelcolony.org
828-754-3781 ext. 130



The Depth of True Confession

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

1 John 1:8-10

I don't think any of us would honestly say "I have no sin." For some of us, the memory of past sin is all too present to our memory, but this doesn't mean we are free from potential self-deception. Though we wouldn't say the fatal words of 1 John 1:8, neither would many of us fully embrace the spirit of 1 John 1:9: ***“If we confess our sins...”*** That word, confess, means more than just to speak or acknowledge. It means to “voice the same conclusion, or alight with.” Confession is literally calling a thing what God calls it. Modern believers often think confession only applies when we have committed gross sin, but there is a depth to confession that we must all embrace in order to walk in a greater measure of freedom. Every believer ought to examine himself and assess the depth of his confession in order to avoid self-deception and to walk in truth and freedom.

In order for a believer to thoroughly examine himself for deep confession, he must become familiar with the way God sees sin. There are two commonly used synonyms for sin in scripture that help with this understanding: *transgression* and *iniquity*. *Transgression* refers to rebellious actions against God's will, while *iniquity* refers to guilt and moral perversity. In other words, one is action and the other is a core defect. We are comfortable with confessing actions, but we may be deficient in identifying defects. If we only acknowledge the actions, it can become difficult to see past actions to deeper problems. But then again, we may not know how to take that deeper look. St. Augustine illustrates this beautifully for us in his *Confessions*. Augustine made a point to confess, not just his conscious willful sins (transgressions), but also his defective nature (iniquity), even from infancy:

“Little by little I began to notice where I was, and I would try to make my wishes known to those who might satisfy them...Often I did not get my way, either because people did not understand or because what I demanded might have harmed me, and then I would throw a tantrum because my elders were not subject to me, nor free people

willing to be my slaves; so I would take revenge on them by bursting into tears...Who is there to remind me of the sin of my infancy (for sin there was: no one is free from sin in Your sight, not even an infant whose span of earthly life is but a single day)...And if I was even conceived in iniquity, and with sin my mother nourished me in her womb, where, I beg of you, my God, where was I, Your servant, ever innocent? Where, Lord, and when?”

The benefit of this approach is that it removes the deception of the humanistic idea that we are essentially good, except when we mess up. Remembering, as David did, that we were conceived in iniquity, Augustine showed even unconscious behaviors in the state of infancy as a state for which confession of *sinfulness* is necessary.

A deeper level of confession identifies before God and to ourselves, not simply that we “have sinned”, but that we “*have sin*”. Inside. Repentance from sin isn't just saying we are sorry to God for the list of rebellious acts we have committed, but it is identifying the iniquity within us as the true problem. We name the iniquity instead of accepting the idea that we “couldn't help it.” All excuses for bad behavior from trauma to mental health to stress become irrelevant. If our sinfulness was sin even in our infancy, then it is still sin in everything else. Deep confession allows us to agree with God. Shallow confession lets us believe we are largely virtuous, which causes us to miss the magnitude of our need for God so that we remain deceived by self-sufficiency. In this state we “say we have no sin,” and therefore we cannot be cleansed “of all unrighteousness.”

Blessed beyond measure,

Mrs. Regina Kelly

Women's Campus Co-Director



Women's Campus Lodge

Main Offices,
Classroom,
Counseling,
Kitchen and
Dining Room



FREEDOM

Easter is not merely a date on the calendar or a familiar story we revisit each spring. Easter is the declaration that death does not have the final word. The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands at the center of our faith and at the center of our hope because our hope is found in Jesus alone. **For those bound by addiction, shame, and brokenness, the empty tomb is not symbolic encouragement, it is life-altering reality.**

At Bethel Colony of Mercy, we witness resurrection power every day in real life. Men and women arrive burdened by years of substance abuse, fractured relationships, guilt, and spiritual emptiness. Many people come broken, feeling as though their lives are beyond repair. Yet the same power that raised Christ from the dead is still at work, bringing spiritual life to those who once felt spiritually dead.

The resurrection confirms that God the Father accepted Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. When Christ declared, "***It is finished***," He meant that **the penalty for sin had been paid in full**. When He rose on the third day, He proved that sin, Satan, and death had been defeated.

Addiction often feels like living death. It enslaves the mind, chains the body, and numbs the soul. It promises relief but delivers deeper bondage in a cycle of insanity. Many who struggle with addiction know the despair of trying repeatedly to change, only to fall again. But Easter proclaims that true freedom is not found in human willpower. **True freedom is found in our risen Savior.**

Because Jesus lives, forgiveness is real. Because Jesus lives, change is possible. **Because Jesus lives, no one is too far gone to be restored.** He is our Healer, Redeemer, and Savior.

The message of the resurrection is not just about life after death; it is about finding and living a new life now. Scripture teaches us that when a person places their faith in Christ, they become a new creation. The old has passed away, and the new has come. That transformation begins internally but eventually reshapes every area of life.

At Bethel Colony of Mercy, healing does not begin with behavior modification. It begins with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The program is designed for men and women to encounter Him daily and find what they have been missing. The structure consists of counseling, job assignments, and accountability which are important tools to success, but they are not

the source of lasting freedom. **The source is the risen Lord, Jesus Christ.**

When a man or woman surrenders their life to Christ, something supernatural happens. The Holy Spirit takes residence within them and seals them. Their identity shifts from being known as an addict, junkie, and worthless to a redeemed and valuable child of God. Their shame is replaced with grace. Their despair is replaced with hope. This does not mean the journey is instant or effortless, but it does mean they are no longer fighting alone.

Just as Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, He still calls people out of spiritual graves today. We have seen hardened hearts softened. We have seen families restored. We have seen men and women who once lived in chaos become faithful workers, loving parents, and committed church members. That is the resurrection power of Jesus Christ on display.

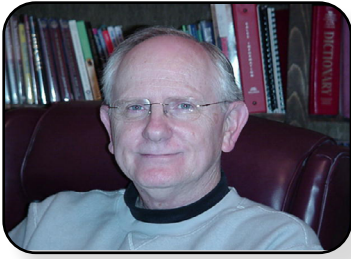
Easter also reminds us that resurrection follows surrender. Before there was an empty tomb, there was a cross. Before there was victory, there was sacrifice. For those overcoming addiction, this truth is essential. **A relationship with Christ requires daily surrender where one is dying to old habits, old thinking, and old influences.** It means confessing sin, seeking accountability, and walking in obedience even when emotions are all over the place. But this surrender is not defeat, it is the first step to a new life.

The same power that raised Christ from the grave empowers believers to say no to temptation and yes to righteousness. The resurrection assures us that struggle does not define us. Our past does not define us. Our failures do not define us. **Jesus Christ defines us.**

When cravings arise, when memories resurface, when the enemy whispers lies of failure, the empty tomb stands as a reminder: death has been defeated. The chains do not have the final word. In Christ, there is always hope for another step forward.

Our world is full of counterfeit resurrections—quick fixes, temporary highs, shallow promises of self-reinvention. Addiction thrives on these lies and misplaced hopes. But **Easter offers something radically different which is a living hope anchored in a living Savior.**

Pastor Zac Starnes
Associate Director



Counseling Corner

The Window of the Soul

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body is full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness.” (Matthew 6:22-23)

According to the text, the good eye reflects the light in the inner man like a lamp; “the whole body is full of light”. ***“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”*** (Romans 8:2) The evidence of the good eye is a witness of the soul that has believed in the message of the cross. ***“... whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*** (John 3:16) From here the soul is translated from darkness into light. ***“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”*** (Colossians 1:13-14) In union with Jesus Christ your soul will be a lamp of light being revealed through the eye. ***“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”*** (Romans 6:5) The soul has been born again mirroring the light of Christ. ***“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”*** (Matthew 5:14) Our eyes are like a metaphor. The eyes shining out of our bodies are the light of God within us. It will be noticed in the eyes of the body of Christ. If you look at a person who is redeemed and walking in the light, you will not only see the light, but will see the whole countenance reflecting the light.

The most successful means for mental health is that our soul has been redeemed at Calvary. As we pursue discipleship in Christ the witness of our eyes will mirror the light of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit. ***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”*** (Galatians 5:22-23) The fruit of joy exudes out of the soul and is easily seen in your countenance as you walk in the presence of the Lord. ***“In Your presence is fulness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*** (Psalm 16:11) One evidence that God uses in displaying Himself in public can be seen when a soul is curious about the things of God. A soul who has been observing Christians in our godly walk may come alongside and say, ***“I see you are a godly person.”*** Why is that? The light in our eyes and our countenance is the reason. Once when I was a Military Policeman, the company of MP's I was

assigned to was having a fish fry and a keg of suds. Not wanting to shun my fellow MP's, I sat down on a bar stool and ordered a soft drink. Another MP came up to me and said, ***“I see that you are a man of God”***. Subsequently, he talked to me about his concerns. He saw something in me reflecting Christ. It is the stature of the Christian soul, beaming the light of God to an unbelieving world. After all, we are sojourners and pilgrims in the world of temptation. ***“Beloved I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, they may, by your good works glorify God in the day of visitation.”*** (1 Peter 2:11)

Now let's address the evil eye. If the eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. These souls are reflecting the spiritual darkness of the works of their flesh in their bodies through their eyes of darkness, be it small or great. ***“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in times past, that those who practice such things WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”*** (Galatians 5:19-21)

Is this not why God declares, ***“But if your eye is evil, your whole body is full of darkness, HOW GREAT IS THE DARKNESS.”*** (Matthew 6:23) A dark soul will always mirror through the window of his eye the darkness in his body. This is the root of all aberrant mental health. ***“For to be worldly minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”*** (Romans 8:6)

God has provided people with clinical expertise to help those who are in bondage, who are in the quicksand of life. Meanwhile, God is graciously waiting to bring His sheep into His fold. Souls are stumbling in the depravity of their sins. Christ is the way out. ***“Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*** (Matthew 11:28-30)

Where the grace blows,

Pastor Don Loss
Director of Counseling



Fill out and mail your prayer requests 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 MERCH IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE at bethelcolony.org/shop

Long sleeved Bethel Shirt

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 lawn care service and check prices, contact Michael Braun, **Lawn Care Manager** 828-754-3781 opt.3 for lawncare



