



THE RAINBOW BEACON

May 7, 2008

Volume 40 Issue 19

United, But Not The Church of Christ

Due to the membership of one of the presidential candidates in a United Church of Christ, the name is much in the news stories. Aside from the discussion about the speeches the preacher in this particular church makes, it concerns me that many repeatedly say it is “The Church of Christ.” This church is not a Church of Christ. It is a *United* Church of Christ. This group has no association at all with us.

The denomination known as the United Church of Christ resulted from a merger of three denominational bodies: The Congregationalist Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) formed the Congregationalist Christian Church by a merger in 1931, and the Evangelical Reformed Church became a part of this denominational group in 1957. The union was completed with the adoption of a constitution in 1961.

While the claim is made that “The union of the Congregational and Christian churches has been thoroughly democratic, leaving both free to continue their own forms of worship and each with its own policy and doctrine: (Handbook of Denominations in the United States, Frank S. Meade, 212). “Local churches in a geographical area are grouped into associations” (ibid). These local associations are connected to a larger governing body referred to as a “general synod,” which is called the “top representative body of the church: (ibid, 215). It meets biennially and consists of 765 to 725 delegates made up of “clergyman, layman and lay women” (ibid). The general synod oversees numerous “boards, commissions, councils, offices and other instrumentalities” (ibid).

The churches of Christ are not a denomination. Each congregation of the church is totally autonomous (self governing). There is no governing body larger than the local body. The goal of early American restorers was to reestablish the church we read about on the pages of the New Testament. For that reason, the church’s only creed is Christ, and its only rule or guide book is the New Testament. This is the thing that unites congregations of the Church. We believe it is possible to read on the pages of this Holy Spirit inspired volume how the Lord’s Church was originally organized (elders and deacons), when and how it worshiped (singing, praying, giving, hearing God’s Word, and the Lord’s Supper), and that what was required in order to become a member of that body (faith, repentance, confession of faith in Christ and baptism into Christ). The name church of Christ identifies us as a body of people belonging to Christ. We seek to be no more and no less than Christians. We are not now, nor do we want to be part of the denomination known as the United Church of Christ.

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April 2008 Zimbabwe Progress Report

Introduction:

The Hebrew writer says: " But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved." Hebrews 10:39. In other words, regardless of the struggles of life we are going through (political, spiritual, economic or social), we must always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

Baptisms

We praise the Lord for the 17 souls who obeyed the Gospel truth in April 2008 and were baptized. We also thank you all our brothers and sisters in USA and Canada for making it happen. If it were not for your unflinching support for the Lord's work in Zimbabwe, we could not do much for our heavenly Father. You are doing this for the Lord. Matthew 25:40.

WBS OFFICE

In April, 60 students visited the WBS Office and 12 received Certificates. We posted 259 Courses to different students country wide and enrolled 81. We conducted one WBS Seminar which was attended by 12 students. We discovered that we always teach our students effectively when the group is smaller.

OUTREACH

We visited the following congregations for rural teaching and preaching: Stanhope, Chesa, Madlulani, Bayethe and Mtshabezi. These congregations are between 50 and 100 kilometres from Bulawayo.

AIDS Orphans:

We are assisting the following AIDS orphans: Zipho Sithole (3); Liverton Dube (14), Mthokozisi Mathonsi (8), MuziweNkosi Ngulube (7) and Siphon Mathe (14). Four of the above live in rural areas.

World Radio Program

Our More Than Conquerors program featured questions from our listeners. Broadcasting times during the month were however temporarily changed within a short notice because of the running electoral adverts.

Messages

May God bless the following for sending us lovely cards of encouragement and messages of motivation: Ronald and Christine Bailey, Cindy and Craig King, Loy Mitchell, Norman and Joyce Flynn, Ken and Crystal Delano, Von Prah, Mankani Moyo, Mabel Bailey, Ken Starnes, Scott Bond jr., John Glass, Ray Cox, Berenda Vance, Andy, Valerie, Whitney and Aidan Bailey.

Conclusion

God says to all of us: " You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised." Heb. 10:37.



Rainbow to Host FREE Community Wide Car Wash!

When: Saturday, May 31st from 8am—12pm

Where: Church Parking Lot

Who: For Entire Community (free to any non-member)

That's right! Rainbow is gearing up to hold a free community wide car wash. We need members to sign up to work in 2 hour shifts... 8-10 or 10-12. We need at least 14 people in each shift. A sign up table will be available Sunday, May 11, in the hallway.

No donation will be accepted for this event.

Packets with information about Rainbow and the Lord's Church will be handed out to each person. WBS enrollment forms will be also be available. Some quick crafts will be made available to any small children that may be with their parents. Also, refreshments will be provided in the fellowship hall for people getting their car washed. If you can help out with the refreshments, please sign-up and be sure to have the food/drinks here the day before the car wash.

This is one of the **Community Outreach** events presented to the congregation in March. The Lord's church at Rainbow is at a critical juncture and this event gives us an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ to the people in our community.

FIVE MEN BAPTIZED AT THE ECDC!

We rejoice to report the *new births* of five men at the ECDC! **Tony Cleveland** baptized these five on Tuesday of last week. Two of the men, taught by **Jimmy Large**, were from an Immigration Unit at the jail, and one of the new Christians is from China. We are looking for Chinese language material to mature him in his new faith. The other three were taught by Tony and **Berry Shirley**.



Jimmy Large

This makes 51 baptisms to date in 2008 from our combined prison/correspondence ministries. This keeps us on about the same pace for 2007 when we had 161 total.

Jason McArthur is now teaching the Immigration Unit class, assisted by **Gerald Yenkey** and **Ray Cox**. Jason placed membership here at Rainbow this past Sunday.

The Finance Committee
will meet Wednesday, May 14th at 6:00pm.

Due to the increasing gasoline prices, everyone using the Church Van is requested to **replace the gas used** upon return.



BLAKE'S BOX

*With all humility and gentleness,
with patience, showing tolerance for
one another in love being diligent to
preserve the unity of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:2-3

Senior Roast...

Once again, our **Senior Roast** has come and gone as we spent last evening, May 4th, honoring our graduates for this year. It was a great time for us to spend some time reflecting on the great accomplishments of our high school graduates and share a few laughs at their expense. I am so thankful to **Megan Brooks, Claire Walker, Jessica Sims** and **Brittini Hollis** for being such great sports throughout the evening's festivities. We are all so proud of these young ladies. They have accomplished great things already and now our continued prayers are with them as they prepare to enter the next chapter of their lives.

We also have one who is preparing to graduate from college in May who is so humble that he didn't remind us and we failed to remember last week when we reported on all of our graduates. **Gerald Yenkey** will be graduating from **Gadsden State Community College** in a few weeks with his RN Associates Degree. Then he plans to enter **UAB** in the fall and by this time next year he is planning on entering medical school. Gerald's ultimate goal is to return to his home country of Togo and serve as a physician. But, what makes Gerald's dream so wonderful is that he plans on meeting people's physical and spiritual needs upon his return.

Gerald is a humble man who has endured himself to this congregation. He is greatly loved and appreciated. I hope he always knows, no matter where he resides in this world, that he is a son of Rainbow. We love you Gerald!

Before I close this article, I do want to mention a few who helped so diligently to set up, decorate and then clean up after the celebration. **Kevin Gobble, Jonalyn Amberson** and **Madison McGlaughn** did a tremendous job setting up and decorating for the fellowship. Afterwards, **Sulynn, Kaylen, Kylee** and **Carlton, Nancy, Katie,** and **Joseph Wallace, Ann Gentry,** and **Kellie East** all did a terrific job of cleaning up after the fun. I appreciate all these great people so much –

THANK YA'LL!

WELCOME!!

We want to welcome **Jason McArthur** and his daughter, **Mattie**, as our newest members here at Rainbow. Jason's father, Milton McArthur, is an elder at the Central Church of Christ in downtown Gadsden. We look forward to many years of working alongside this wonderful young family!



Congratulations to **Alan and Ann Gentry** in the birth of their grandson, **Austin James Williams**. Austin was born to Erin Gentry on April 27th. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 3/4" long. Mother and baby are doing great!! The proud great-grandmother is **Marilyn Gentry**.

Please Note: Rainbow's Annual Friday Night Singing has been moved forward to September 19th.

Remember In Prayer...

Jason Keener will be having surgery for a broken ankle.

Don Dover is scheduled for surgery next Monday, May 12th at Stringfellow Memorial Hospital in Anniston.

Joyce Flynn continues to struggle with sciatic nerve pain. She is waiting to hear back from her neurologist about an appointment.

Rita Bowdoin is suffering from terrible migraines. She will be seeing a neurologist - who specializes in headaches - in the next week or two.

Sarah Simmons, mother of Gene & Doug Brown, is not doing well at this time.

Jackie Lynn Farley, friend and neighbor of Rita Phillips, is having health problems.

Patricia Campbell, sister of Gene and Douglas Brown, is having medical tests run.

John David Naler, son of Larry and Jane, is now at home recovering from surgery.

Michael Turner, neighbor of Sandy Dean, is now at home recovering from a terrible auto accident.

Catherine Bowen, Paige Buckner, Kim Clay, Carol Golden, Mitch Dover, Betty Campbell, Jennifer Davis, Kathleen Honeycutt, Wanda Logan, Gene Mayhall Sr., Ruth Mayhall, Arlie Neal, Redda Norton, Don Parker, Ron Patterson, Max Pruett, Jerry Reeves, and **Berry Shirley.**

Shut In Members: Charles Bell, Leona Chance, Sarah Foote, Gurnie Foote, James Gardner, Dot Greenhaw, Vennie Guyton, Betty Jones, Butch Jones, Cathy Langston, Hassie Moon, and Inez Quarles.

Rainbow Church of Christ
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ELDERS

Mike Bowdoin 442-0389
 John Bowling 442-6608
 Eugene Brown 547-1673
 Norman Flynn 413-1688
 Craig King 442-1630
 David Wallace 546-0642
 John Wallace 442-5887

MINISTERS

Norman Flynn 413-1688
 Blake Jones 442-0988

DEACONS

Jeff Birchmore 547-3718
 Tony Cleveland 538-5295
 Wayne Gobble 613-3500
 Steve Lorren 442-8192
 Chris Mickle 413-1038
 Tim Parker 442-4877
 Bruce Phillips 549-1236

TIMES OF SERVICES
SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
 Worship Hour 10:30 A.M.
 Worship Hour 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
 Ladies Bible Class meets each
 Wednesday at 10:30 A. M.

OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESSES

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INTERNET LINKS

Church Website: www.rainbow-coc.org
 Beacon Online: www.rainbowbeacon.org
 Joint Worship: www.jointworship.info
 Zimbabwe Info: www.zimbabwe-report.info

RAINBOW RECORD

SUNDAY MORNING	244
BIBLE STUDY	181
SUNDAY EVENING	153
MIDWEEK STUDY	147
LOCAL BAPTISMS	4
OTHER RESPONSES	6
WBS/JAIL BAPTISMS	46
ZIMBABWE BAPTISMS	78
INDIA BAPTISMS	905
CONTRIBUTION	6,553

MEMORIES

10 YEARS AGO: Three were baptized at the Etowah County Jail.
15 YEARS AGO: Congratulations were given to Cathy Jones for graduating with honors from JSU.
20 YEARS AGO: The Youth Group went to Teen Night in Anniston at the Central congregation.
30 YEARS AGO: A bridal shower was given for Tina Sanford, bride-to-be of Gary Anderson, at the home of Malbert Murphree.

SERVANTS

SUNDAY, May 11, 2008

Welcome Blake Jones
 Scripture Reader Will Stroup
 Prayer. Paul Baker
 Closing Prayer. Steve Lorren

MCGUFFEY CLASS: Group No. Three
 Leader: Wayne Gobble

WEDNESDAY, May 14, 2008

Announcements John Wallace
 Prayer Daniel Cameron

SERVE THE FAMILY
 Ray Cox, Presiding

Donnie Keener. Tim Parker
 Robert Edmonson Allen Krienke
 John Lengyel Shawn Williams
 David Scott Daniel Cameron

USHERS:
 Bernie Cranford Dax McDonald
 Don Dover. Zack Buckner

GREETERS: Alan & Ann Gentry

SUNDAY AM COMMUNION CUP PICKUP:
 Gary Udaka Family

NURSERIES:
BABY: A.M. Susan Wallace
 P.M. Ginna Lengyel
TODDLER: A.M. Rhonda Buckner
 P.M. Kim Masters

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Mike & Rita Bowdoin

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

We had another super week as our Rainbow WBS teachers taught 313 people the gospel of Christ! This means that, on average, our teachers taught 44 people a day! 14 Rainbow teachers taught last week and these are the names and number of people each taught:

Kathy Overbey	66
Bobby/Carol Golden	4
Betty Long	33
Alan Gentry	3
Tony/Jane Cleveland	19
Ray Cox	24
Joyce Flynn	27
Eugene/Barbara Brown	97
Tina Quarles	7
Jan Hamrick	17
Claire Walker	3
Betty Hale	13