

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe.

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519-683-2442 standrewspcdresden@gmail.com Rev. Andy Cornell

Worship This Week April 30, 2023

Piano – Dorothy O’Neill

Sound/powerpoint/livestream –

WELCOME & Prayer – Pastor Andy

SONGS – Be still for the presence, 634 Will you come and follow me

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART – Rita Vriesema

PRAYER – Rita

SONG – 441 Can a little child like me

RECEIVE OFFERING –

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

GOOD NEWS MOMENTS – New walker delivered.

PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER –

SCRIPTURE – Colossians 4:7-18

Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord’s work. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you. 9 I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that’s happening here. 10 Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, Barnabas’s cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way. 11 Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been! 12 Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. 13 I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas. 15 Please give my greetings to our brothers and sisters at Laodicea,

and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house. 16 After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them. 17 And say to Archippus, “Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you.” 18 HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL. Remember my chains. May God’s grace be with you.

MESSAGE – Pastor Andy

At first glance, you might not think much of Paul’s closing words. There is no deep theological insight, no advice or correction. It’s just pleasantries and logistics. Many of the names mentioned here appear nowhere else in scripture. But it would be a mistake to dismiss this section. I believe we can be reminded of one very important principle: everyone is important. Every person has a role to play in the church.

Think of the church as a team. And on a team, everyone is important. Teams may rise and fall on the strength of the superstar player. There’s no doubt about that. As great as Tom Brady is, his teams could not have won seven Super Bowls and he could not have held virtually every NFL quarterback record if he didn’t have running backs, offensive linemen and wide receivers. Wayne Gretzky, who holds or shares 58 NHL all-time records and won four Stanley Cups, could not have done any of that without his teammates. And those are just the players. They need coaches, trainers, physicians and locker room staff. And then there’s the entire team organization. The cast is huge.

Brady may be considered the best of all time, but he entered the league with average expectations. He was drafted in the sixth round, with 198 players chosen head of him. In college, he was way down the list and not even the starting quarterback. His first pass attempt was intercepted and returned for a 42-yard touchdown – in other words, he passed the ball to an opposing player. But one of the secrets of success is not to let anything negative get you down. More than raw talent – it’s attitude and smarts that help us. And even with that, you need a team around you. When Tom Brady was traded to Tampa late in his career, he when he signed with his new team, he persuaded one of his best friends, Rob Gronkowski, who is also his most successful on-field partner, to come out of

retirement and play with him. He also had an eye for talent and helped his team recruit players from opposing teams who would be a good fit. He was also relatively humble and as a genuine team player. He actually deliberately made less money so his team could hire other top players.

Gretzky had the polar opposite start to Brady. There were great expectations on him when he was nine years old. A lot of young players don't survive that kind of hype. He was tagged as someone great from a young age not because of his size but – like Brady – because of his smarts. He saw things on the ice no one else did – he anticipated where the puck and the play was headed and was one step ahead of everyone else. He was also a great team player: “You’ll never catch me bragging about goals, but I’ll talk all you want about my assists.” Goals win games. But just about every goal has one or two assists. To the players, an assist is worth the same as a goal – one point. Gretzky was once asked about the secret of his success and said: “I was in the right city, with the right fans, the right teammates, the right coach, the right era.”

Paul is a superstar like Tom Brady and Wayne Gretzky. Like them, you could likely say he was the greatest of all time. He planted more churches than anyone. He wrote (on behalf of God) most of the New Testament. But there was no way he could have done that by himself. Paul was also an ultimate team player. “Everybody here sends greetings. Please give my greetings to the believers.” Titus 3:15.

Paul does mention two big names: Mark and Luke.

Luke: “The beloved physician” is the author of the Gospel of the same name. It is here in Colossians that we learn that Luke was a doctor. Luke was the only Gentile author in the New Testament. He accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys, including his shipwreck on the way to Rome. He was the only worker with Paul near the end of his second imprisonment as he faced execution (2 Tim. 4:11).

Mark is also a Gospel author. It's encouraging to see him on Paul's team. Mark had deserted Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:13).

When Barnabas insisted on giving Mark another chance on the second journey, it led to a split between him and Paul, who was sharply opposed to taking a deserter with them (Acts 15:36-41). But here, 12 years later, Paul tells the Colossians to welcome Mark without reservation. Tried and tested. Mark is best known as an evangelist and planted the church in Egypt.

Let's take a look at some of the lesser-known names mentioned by Paul.

Tychicus: Paul calls him "our beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord's work." He was a Gentile from Asia Minor and in Acts 20:4 he's mentioned as one of several people who traveled with Paul at the close of his third missionary journey. He was obviously trustworthy, since Paul sent the letters of Ephesians, Colossians, and probably Philemon back to Asia with him. This was a huge responsibility and significant for the creation of the New Testament. How many millions of lives have been changed by those three books of the Bible. We can credit Paul for writing them. But they would have been lost forever if not for a faithful courier. Tychicus may have been sent to relieve Titus in Crete so that Titus could join Paul for a while (see Titus 3:12). Later, as Paul faced the end of his life in prison in Rome, he sent Tychicus to Ephesus again, where he took over Timothy's pastoral duties so that Timothy could leave to join Paul (2 Tim. 4:12).

Onesimus: Paul calls him "our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your own people." He accompanied Tychicus on this trip. He was a runaway slave whom Paul led to Christ during his house arrest in Rome. Paul was now sending him back to his master, Philemon. But he doesn't mention that fact in this public letter to the church. If it hadn't been for the private correspondence to Philemon, which later became public, we wouldn't know that Onesimus was a slave, let alone a runaway.

Aristarchus: Paul calls him a fellow prisoner. In Philemon (23, 24, written about the same time), Paul calls him a fellow worker. It may be that he and Epaphras traded off living in the same quarters with Paul. Or perhaps they were arrested for their own preaching activities. He had been grabbed by the angry mob in Ephesus and dragged into the arena during the riot there (Acts 19:29). Aristarchus was among several traveling companions of Paul (Acts 20:4). He at least began the

journey with Paul from Caesarea to Rome (Acts 27:2), so he may have gone through the shipwreck with Paul and was among the group who landed in Malta.

Jesus, called Justus: Colossians 4:11 is all we know about him. He was a Jew whom Paul calls, “a fellow worker for the kingdom of God.” Along with the other two Jews, Mark and Aristarchus, Paul says that Jesus Justus had been an encouragement to him.

Epaphras: Earlier in this letter, Paul called him (Col. 4:12), “a bondservant of Jesus Christ,” and commends him for his prayers and concern for these three churches. We’ve already met him (Col. 1:7-8) where Paul refers to him as “our beloved coworker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.” He was probably converted and discipled during Paul’s extended stay in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-10). He then returned to his hometown of Colossae and planted the church there, as well as in the neighboring Laodicea and Hierapolis. When problems with false teachers arose, Epaphras went to Rome to get counsel from Paul.

Demas is the only person who Paul does not commend. He just passes on his greetings. In Philemon (24), written just before Colossians, Paul calls him a fellow worker. Here he says nothing. It’s possible that Demas was in Paul’s bad books. In 2 Timothy 4:10, he reported, “Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”

In addition to the team with Paul in Rome, there are the teams in Colossae and Laodicea. There is Nympha, who hosted the church in her home. Archippus was probably the son of Philemon (2). He may have been pastoring the church in Colossae during Epaphras’ absence. Paul gently exhorts him to do his ministry.

Looking at this roster, it’s certain that Paul wasn’t the only worker. It was a team effort. That’s the way that it must be. God has gifted every member of the body of Christ and expects us to use our gifts to serve Him.

“Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.” Romans 12:3

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7.

The value that we place on gifts and talents is often different than God’s. The faithful person who shows up every week to prepare the coffee provides the hospitality for the people who gather afterwards. An in that gathering is community of friends, sisters and brothers. And in those conversations we may find great encouragement. It may be just as important as what happens in the sanctuary. On some weeks, perhaps more. We can say the same about those who volunteer their time and talents to care for the building and the finances. And for those who provide pastoral care.

I remember one of my first jobs was at a grocery store. I was young, in my early 20s. I remember a cashier who has been there for decades telling me one day that she like the job simply because you could punch the clock and go home and not think about work until the next day. You didn’t have to take it home with you. And that worked for her because – and I remember her words like they were spoken yesterday – “If I died tomorrow, life would go on here and nothing would change.” Her colleagues would miss her and certainly some of the loyal customers. But she was correct in a way because no one at head office cared who was punching numbers into the cash register and handing out change. Probably not even the local manager. In human terms, we are small players in a big machine that goes on. It’s depressing if you spend too much time dwelling on it.

The quiet and faithful prayers of genuine believers are, as James tells us, “powerful and produce wonderful results.” (James 5:16). And what’s noteworthy is that these people and prayers are private and unknown to the congregation. But God know who they are.

Paul’s cast of supporting characters was undoubtedly surrounded by the prayers of thousands of others in small house churches throughout Greece, Rome and Middle East. Anonymous believers whose prayers were heard and who did just as much for the establishment of the church as those whose words were recorded for history.

And we can say the same thing today.

HYMN – 332 How Great Thou Art

BENEDICTION –

PRAYER -- requests may be sent to the pastor, either for sharing or in confidence. If a need is not listed here it's because the family has opted for privacy.

NEW PRAYER

1. Condolences to Sandra Pegg after the passing of her brother Alan (Curly) Clark on April 24.
2. That the spots on Dianne Richard's lungs will be normal

CONTINUE TO PRAY

Health and healing –

1. Becky Desjardine, Bill Eves, Margaret Follows, Mark Labadie, Ron Mason, Bette Northcott, Tom O'Neill, Cherie Pegg, Sandra Pegg, Mary Whitson, Sandra Whitson
2. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
3. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression
4. Karen Northcott – thanks for good biopsy results but continue to pray.

There are many whose names are not listed here – God know who they are and what they need.

Seniors and shut ins – Jennie Atherton, Dianne Richards at Park Street Place, Jim Lusk, Ross Fuchs at Oaks Wallaceburg, Lane Douglas at Fairfield Park in Wallaceburg, Joyce MacTavish at The Waterford Home in Barrie, Bill Lozon at Copper Terrace, Aubrey Butler at home.

Session – Mark Labadie (clerk and representative elder), Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Andrew Neely, Mark Richards and Julie Shaw.

Board of managers – Wendy Weston (chair), Paul Vandenberg (treasurer), Will Brewer, Ross Fuchs, Linda Malott, Jenn Mason, Von Parking, Mark Richards, Jodie Rich, Dan Shaw, Bob Vriesema and Mike Wicks.

WHAT'S UP:

Pop can fundraiser – Bring your pop cans to church! Leave them in the bin behind Rutherford Hall.

DATES

May 1 – Session 7 p.m.

May 3 – Group discussion/study at Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle 7 p.m.

GIVING:

E-transfer to pcvan1313@gmail.com. Bring envelope on Sunday or if you have a key, leave it in the treasurer's mailbox. Mail it to the church, PO Box 93 Dresden. N0P 1M0. Put it in the mailbox at the home of treasurer Paul Vandenberg. 1313 North Street, Dresden.

Telephone number 519-683-6194

GIFT CARDS – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. **Next deadline April 30.**