

BPC
BELLEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 4001 5th Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213
 412.687.3222
 Bellefield.org

God is most glorified in us when we are most delighted in Him.

**Preaching Today—
 Our Pastor, Rev. Dr.
 R.. Geoffrey Brown**

Dear Bellefield Members & Friends,
I wish you a safe blessed Memorial Day holiday weekend. Thank you for coming to worship God with us this holiday Sunday and for being part of our “list” of names that we love and cherish. I offer you this unusual sermon today in the hopes that the people on each of our “lists” will inspire us to remembering, to memorializing, to list making, and to leading transformational lives worthy of being put on someone else’s list at the top of which is, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.” The way to do that is to adore Jesus Christ, cherish Jesus Christ, honor Jesus Christ, love the Church of Jesus Christ, trust & worship Jesus Christ and determine that your deepest affections, highest emotions and most ardent fervency will be always for Jesus Christ the Lord & Savior. Your valuing His people cannot help but follow that. In His love and to His glory, Pastor Geoff

Don't Call It a List: It's church forever

Romans 16:1-16
 If you've written down any names, then keep the list—because it's not a list. And, if you ever have to move, like Paul, keep those names. In fact, when your ministry is ended, and you leave this earth, then take those names with you. True, we all know, that “Naked we came from our mother's womb

and naked we shall return there” (*Job 1:21*). But still, take the list with you. For “On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise, and the glory of His resur-



We are thankful for all who made us.

rection share, when His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the shore, and the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.” Reunion in Jesus Christ will be there. Until then, the hymn also says: *Let us labor for the Master from the dawn til setting sun, let us talk of all His wondrous love & care...til our work on earth is done... .*

Worship
05/24/09



BELLEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**“When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder”—
 & Down Here:
 The Godly Mark of Valuing Relationships**

Connect with Today's Sermon

Spring Sermon Series: “Marks of Transformational Leadership & Discipleship”—Part 3

Romans 16:1-16	shall sound and time shall be no more, and the morning breaks eternal bright and fair, when the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore...”	can make you think of, “From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our countries battles over land and air and sea...” And more tunes too.
has a list of names as the Word of God written. This could make you think of a roll call of names. The old song goes, “When the trumpet of the Lord	Shore. Now that word	



The trumpet shall sound 1 day.

An Unusual Bible Passage

So here we are worshipping God through the preached Word with a long list of names in front of us. Is this boring? No, for the focus of the text is on how **precious** are our people who are bound together as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's like a holy roll call.

Sermon moves at a glance—Rms. 16:1-16

- **Don't call it a list—it's friends;**
- **Don't call it a list—it's relationships;**
- **Don't call it a list—it's church now;**
- **Don't call it a list—it's church forever.**

Don't Call It a List—It's friends

Romans 16:1-16

A grateful remembering recalling person on a Memorial Day weekend could well get interested in Paul giving this list of names, if it's no more than to say, "I wonder how Paul knew all those people since he'd never been to the church there?" Maybe back then you could buy a mailing list like you can today? After all, Paul wants to raise money in Rome for his Spanish

"Jesus Christ has called them together as covenant...."

mission in Jesus' name. I mean Paul was politically wise wasn't he? Yes, but no: let's not call this a mere list of names. For it is much more.

You have Aquila & Priscilla, husband and wife; a man & his mom—Rufus & mom. There's a brother & sister: Nereus & sis. There are brothers: Andronicus & Junias. There are sisters: Tryphena & Tryphosa. There is an older man: Epenetus.

Isn't



We remember, & we are grateful & thank God.

that an interesting profile of God's church? There is a single woman, Mary. There is a single man, Herodian. Not a lot of nuclear family there at all—except as Jesus Christ has called them together as *covenant nuclear family*. And covenant family is more enduring; it is eternal.

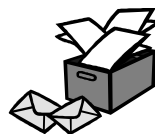
It's called God's *church*. And it is valued relationships.

Don't Call It a List—It's relationships

Romans 16:1-16

For Paul, it's not a list; so we shouldn't call it a list, either. You see, Paul's packing up his stuff. He's in

the home of Gaius in Corinth who is host to Paul and host to the church in Corinth. Paul



Paul's packing his stuff.

is getting ready to go west to Italy & Spain. He's about to move to a brand new area of ministry, a

It's relationships —[continued]

parish that's far away. He's now about 60 years old. He'd gotten a late start in ministry, probably around age 35, so he wants to keep going. So as he packs his coat, his books & a few other things. He comes across some notes he's



Twins Tryphena & Tryphosa

made, some correspondence. He sits down among the boxes and begins to remember: *Ah, yes, Aquila & Priscilla—why, they risked their necks for me!*

Andronicus & Junias—we were in jail together! Mary worked so hard. And then there's Epenetus, the first convert to Christ there! Didn't we praise God that day? This is not a list: it's connections in Jesus. Christ the Lord.

Don't Call It a List—It's church now

Romans 16:1-16

These names are extremely special to Paul, for even though he says "hello," what he really means is "goodbye." Oh, he's going to Rome, he says. But before he goes to Rome, he has to go to Jerusalem. He's going with an offering. He's going into a nest of hostility. So at the end of chapter 15, he

says to these people: *Pray for me. Agonize with me, that I won't be killed in Jerusalem, that the Christians will accept the money in Jerusalem, that I'll get to come back and be with you. Please pray* (See, 15:23-33).

No, these are not just names. These are living

"My name's Jack, & I can fix your car. I'm a mechanic."

testimonies, memorials. They show that the Word of God validates our honorable processes of memorializing our friends, our soldiers, our loved ones. So take some paper & write some names.



Around the campfire.