

## What are the “Prayers of The People”?

The *Prayers of The People* are offered every Sunday. Prayers of the people are an opportunity for the community to speak to God through our own words and images. Sunday Services have four main parts:

1) **gathering** of the church; 2) **hearing** the word and story; 3) **living** the word and being the story; and 4) **telling** the story, and sending forth.

The *Prayers of The People* happen within the third part of the Service. They are a part of living the word and being the story today.

The prayers of the people shouldn't be a sermon, or an editorial - but a heartfelt conversation with God.

***I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.***  
1 Timothy 2:1

## Goals of the Prayers of The People

- To share with others the experience of talking directly to God
- To represent yourself yet try to capture the collective needs of the congregation.
- To pray for healing and active caring; to meet community and world needs; to express what the spirit has communicated to you; allow spontaneity to enter your prayer.



## Before writing your prayer...

In the week prior to delivering your prayer, you will be contacted by one of the members of the St. Andrew's Worship Team to confirm. They will let you know such things as:

- the topic of the sermon
- the scripture readings
- special happenings ( baptism, communion, etc.)

as you may wish to incorporate some aspects of the service into your prayer

Look at the community - think about their needs - read the paper - listen to the news before the service - be ready to refer to a recent disaster - or joyful event!

## When you are ready to write your prayer...

- ♦ “Brainstorm” what you wish to pray for - the categories below might help organize your thoughts (you do not need to include them all!):

- \* The Church, its members and mission
- \* The nation and those in authority
- \* The world and the local community
- \* Those affected by disaster or strife
- \* Those who suffer or are in personal difficulty
- \* Our own needs

- Keep it simple. Use language that **you** would ordinarily use

- Use imagery, paint pictures with words that evoke the senses

- Be mindful to use inclusive language. God may be *Father, Mother, Creator, Grandfather, Grandmother* etc.

- Gender-neutral terms such as *Light of the World, Heavenly Provider, Divine Deity, Great Healer* or *Giver of Life* offer alternate ways to address God.



- ♦ When remembering those who are ill, bereaved or otherwise in need of special mention, some people choose to leave a few seconds of “quiet time” in the midst of the prayer preceded by the phrase “We pray also for those who we now name silently in our own hearts...”



- ♦ Worship is an on-going experience - we don't need to cover every aspect of community life in each week's prayer.

- ♦ Be careful not to make the prayers overly long. A prayer two minutes or so in length is usually customary—but this is just a guideline.

- ♦ On Sunday Morning—before the service, check with the Minister or liturgist to see if there are any additional persons or families who need to be remembered in your prayer.

## When you are ready deliver your prayer...

- ♦ Don't rush—take the time to gather yourself before you begin
- ♦ Invite the congregation to join you with the words, *Let us pray..., Please join me in the Prayers of the People ...* or a similar phrase.

- ♦ As you read your prayer, use a clear voice so that all can hear. Take your time— and you will be less likely to lose your place.
- ♦ Try not to be nervous - always remember that your audience is a friendly one!

## ♦ Ending the Prayers of the People

- ♦ Conclude with a short concluding prayer. The simplest is “Amen,” which means “so be it.”
- ♦ “By the power of your Holy Spirit we pray” or “In the name of Jesus Christ” are also common phrases that might be included as well.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do I offer to help with “Prayers of the People”?**

There is a sign-up list on top of the piano in the Chapel. Or you can also let our Minister, Caitlin, know that you are interested. The people whose names are listed at the bottom of this column have offered to assist you if needed or to answer any questions that you might have.

### **What if I cannot make it to Church the day my Prayer is to be given?**

Don't worry Call the church office as soon as you can - alternate arrangements can always be made!

### **What if I would like to write a prayer, but feel uncomfortable speaking in front of a large group of people?**

If your prayer is already written, it is okay to get a friend to say it for you. It is even possible to deliver your prayer via smartphone video! People listed below would also be willing to offer your prayer.

### **Are there some examples of past “Prayers of the People” that I can take a look at ?**

Yes! There are some examples on the Church website. Just visit: [standrews-northbay.ca/prayers](http://standrews-northbay.ca/prayers)



### **What are some of the different ways that the Prayers of the People can be offered?**

Some of the most effective prayers have involved couples, families, and small groups who have shared in the praying. Some have centered their prayers around a poem, a song, or the beat of a drum. Creativity is a God-given gift.... choose your own style!

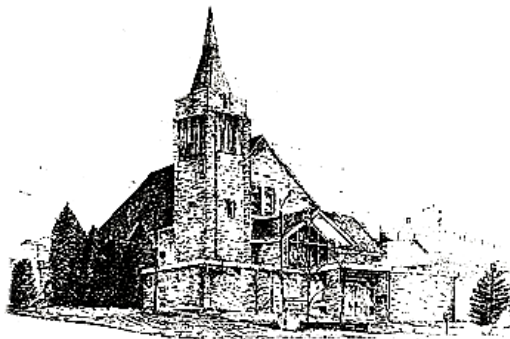
**Who can I go to for help?** The following people have offered to assist you in any way they can :

Liz Brownlee 705-476-8031

Donna Landry 705-840-5691

Derek Stott 705-474-0964

Kim Robinson Nelles 705-499-6315



### ***Prayer at St. Andrew's***

Prayer has always played an important role in the life of our church. Members of our faith family are encouraged to foster their relationship with God through daily prayer.

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No one is born knowing how to pray—it is a craft that we are taught, practice, and learn over time. Don't feel overwhelmed, whether you have done it many times or are doing it for the first time. With preparation, the words will come.

This brochure is a way to offer you guidance and support in your own process of preparation and prayer for Sunday Worship.

Thank you for considering offering your gift of prayer to the ministry of St. Andrew's United Church, and thank you for your role in assisting us as a community in the worship of God. May God be with you in your preparation, and in all of your praying.



***Prayer may not change things for you,  
but it for sure changes you for things.***

Samuel M. Shoemaker

# **WRITING AND OFFERING**



## **the Prayers of the People at**



**ST. ANDREW'S  
UNITED CHURCH**

NORTH BAY, ONTARIO

All are welcome in this place!.



**399 Cassells Street  
North Bay, Ontario P1B 3Z4**

website: [standrews-northbay.ca](http://standrews-northbay.ca)

*This brochure has been developed in  
co-operation with the St. Andrew's  
Worship Team*

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