

#29 Where do the Prayers of the People come from? It seems like they change every two or three weeks. Why?

At St. Paul's our 'Prayers of the People' are written by members of our congregation. Using the scripture readings for Sunday worship as one source of inspiration, our prayer writers create prayers to be used alongside those scripture readings. The Prayers of the People are crafted in accordance with several sets of guidelines, including those found on page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Since they are written by our members, just a week or two before they will be used in worship, our Prayers of the People incorporate the concerns and language of prayer used by our members. This is exactly what the editors of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer were hoping would happen.

Our prayer writers devote several hours of reading, writing, and reflection to the task of writing the Prayers of the People. We are blessed to have nine faithful individuals who take on this sacred task: Anita Wagner, Joseph von Souder, Laurie Sanderson, Joe Russo, David Morgan, Joe Moorman, Betsy Elkins, Jim Doyle, and Tom Cantwell.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.

Fr. Philip +