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# Prayer Team

Brookdale Presbyterian Church



*Brookdale Church is called to bring the beauty of the gospel to the brokenness of life.*

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## A Picture of Prayer

We see Brookdale as a place where prayer is the beginning and foundation of all the church does and is. We envision prayer as something that is not part of the church's strategy; it *is* the strategy for growth and living out what God intends for Brookdale. We envision prayer as the way people reach beyond what they can do themselves and rely on God's power to do more than they could ask or even imagine.

We see Brookdale as a place where people are praying together in groups and in twos as they bring forth needs to their Father. We envision his hand guiding, lifting, leading, restraining people as they cry out to God and come before Him in a posture of weakness and humility. We envision people praising, thanking, and confessing before they ask for needs. We envision prayer as stemming out of experiencing his sweet presence and power, as people hear the Lord and he hears them. We envision the church as a place where people are always hearing the words "I'll pray for you," "Let's pray together," and "Let me tell you what the Lord has done." We envision people being touched by the Holy Spirit's presence and tasting God's goodness, feeling connected to him and one another, sensing His presence through His Spirit as they worship, and coming together with an aura of expectancy and awe.

We see Brookdale as a place where prayer is not an exercise but a life. We envision people becoming excited to see what God has in store for Brookdale. We envision people who have as one of their greatest joys gathering to pray with one another. We envision people living in anticipation and delight, as they live out the promises of prayer in their walk with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:16; Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 18:20).

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## **A Plan for Prayer**

Brookdale will need to cultivate an excitement about prayer that is genuine and heart-felt.

Brookdale will need to experience prayer in such a way that we develop the desire to pray first, not last; that we are a proactive praying church, not a reactive praying church; that we make prayer the foundational strategy in all we do; and that we pray beyond ourselves for that which only God can do.

Brookdale will need to study prayers (and develop an understanding of the prayers) that resonate with God's heart and purposes, not just our own needs.

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## Prayer Team

### Purpose

The purpose of the Prayer Team is to develop concrete ministry efforts that will move the congregation towards the vision for prayer. This will include:

- Development of specific ideas on how to accomplish the three objectives listed in “A Plan for Prayer”
- Evaluation and possible implementation of “Possible Steps” suggested by the Vision Team
- Development of new ideas that will help the church live out “The Vision for Prayer”

### Composition

The Prayer Team shall be composed of at least one active elder, one pastor, and several members of the congregation who have a passion for prayer. The team will have one leader who will plan and lead the team meetings. The team leader role will rotate on an annual basis.

### Annual Goals

- Develop one significant church-wide prayer event that is kingdom-focused, involving at least 40% of the congregation
- Develop three smaller on-going prayer ministry efforts that involve at least 35% of the congregation
- Develop a practical training strategy on prayer that will introduce the congregation to new ways to pray
- In coordination with the worship team, develop one new strategy for making kingdom-focused prayer a more significant part of our weekly worship
- In coordination with the spiritual formation team, develop one new strategy for making kingdom-focused prayer a more significant part of our Sunday School ministry and/or our small group ministry
- In coordination with the ministry team, develop one new strategy for making kingdom-focused prayer a more significant part of our local and foreign missions effort.

### Assessment

- Each summer, the Prayer Team will meet for an extended period to do the following
  - to evaluate how well they accomplished their goals during the past year
  - to assess the church's progress toward the vision
    - 1: Not progressing      2: Some progress      3: Significant progress
    - Are we moving from a church that prays to a praying church?
    - Are we moving from a church where prayer is a spiritual discipline to a church where prayer is a way of life?
    - Are we moving from a church where prayer is part of the church's strategy to a church where prayer is the strategy?

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Are we moving from a church where prayer is how we get God to do what we want to a church where prayer is a way we reach beyond ourselves trusting God to do more than we can even ask or imagine?

Are we moving from a church that prays only for our needs to a church that also, and even primarily, prays for God's kingdom-mission in the world?

- to revisit the vision and develop new goals and strategies for the upcoming year

#### Team Leader

- This position should rotate on an annual basis among the non-staff members of the prayer team
  - The leader organizes meetings no less than once a year, and preferably once a semester, plus an annual retreat for assessing the previous year and planning for the upcoming year.
  - The leader is an active participant in the Ministry Leadership Team
  - The leader updates the congregation on prayer events and ministries
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## Vision Team Suggestions: Some Possible Steps to Get There

In order to begin cultivating this kind of prayer life within the church, Brookdale should consider taking these steps:

- Begin praying about a grassroots movement of prayer growing within the church.
  - Meet together as a church family every 2-3 months (or more) to pray together.
  - Use a prayer story from the Bible as the intro to our gathering. Different groups share the leadership.
  - Practice the presence of God until we learn to pray without ceasing.
  - Have special times of prayer for different needs: families, sick, marriages, children, unsaved, missions and world, staff, jobs etc.
  - Encourage fasting and prayer – sermons, classes, challenges
  - Pray with pastor before worship service
  - Use electronics in prayer needs – blog, conference calls etc
  - Pray for neighborhood or other areas of interest in prayer walk
  - Pray in church building before worship service, or during
  - Study together a book on prayer (examples: Extreme Prayer, Draw the Circle, Fresh Wind and Fire).
  - Pray at a specific time as body but not physically together, using designated times of prayer, around the clock praying, and focused seasons of prayer.
  - Have feedback through blog, email, etc from prayer requests
  - Pray prayers that resonate with Christ's agenda, not just own needs
  - Change Prayer Chapel to make it more conducive for prayer and prayer activities (perhaps provide activities for individuals or groups to use when they go to the prayer chapel)
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