

What is Lay Speaking Ministries?

Lay Speaking Ministries is a program developed to provide training opportunities and experiences to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to realize and respond to their personal call to ministry. Since each disciple is 'gifted' with one or more spiritual gifts (skills given by the Holy Spirit for the express purpose of serving the body of believers and thereby God), Lay Speaking Ministries strives to help disciples become aware of their particular gift or gifts by offering educational events to enhance and develop the skill level necessary for the full fruition of these gifts. It is an excellent vehicle for servant ministry skill development and has aided thousands of church members to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church family leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors.

These words characterize what lay speakers do in ministry as The United Methodist Church engages the world of the twenty-first century:

LEADING: Lay speakers combine words and actions in leadership roles within their churches and communities.

CARING: As lay speakers combine words with deeds, they find ways to care for others. Some are involved in crisis ministries, such as visiting grieving families. Lay speakers share a ministry of caring one-on-one with people in times of need and in times of joy, and show their faith by responding to others with care-giving love and service.

COMMUNICATING: both the Bible and Christian experience point to the importance of proclaiming God's transforming love for a broken world. Lay speakers often fill pulpits, lead Bible studies, or speak in youth and children's groups, healthcare centers, retirement centers, prison ministries and more.

- Basic Course is offered for first timers or as a "refresher course" to continue status as "Local Church Lay Speaker" (see ¶268 of The Discipline).
- Advanced Course is offered to those who have already taken Basic Course and want to become or continue status as "Certified Lay Speaker" (see ¶269 of The Discipline).

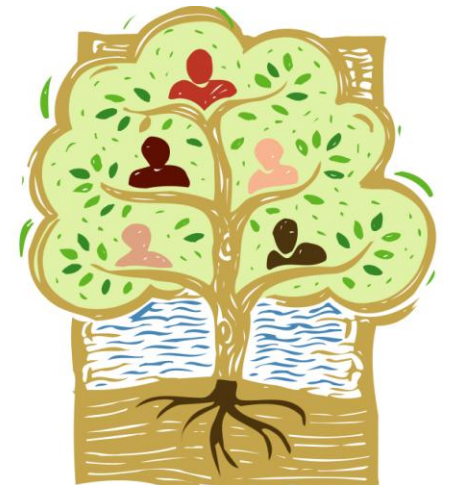
Please note all courses will need to be taken in their entirety in order to receive certification.

For more information contact:

Rev. Brenda L. Laws, *Director of*
E.S. District Lay Speaking Ministries
Eastern Shore District
The United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 317, Parksley, VA 23421
Phone: 757-665-6295;
Email: esdsumc@verizon.net
On-line registration, go to
www.easternshoredistrictumc.org



Eastern Shore District's **Mini School of** **Lay Speaking** **Ministries**



Grace UMC **Parksley, VA**

One Basic Course:
May 1, 2, 3, 2008

One Advanced Course:
May 2, 3, 2008

Basic Course for Lay Speaking

The first step in becoming a recognized Lay Speaker, this required orientation focuses on the three primary areas of Lay Speaking: leading, caring and communicating. It is designed to help you answer the question, "Is God calling you to serve in your church as a representative of Christ in ministries of witness, nurture or outreach? The course focuses on specific ways you may answer that call through worship leadership or participation, preaching, witnessing, teaching, leading, serving, personal faith and lifestyle.



Mrs. Barbara Mason,
District Lay Leader
and long-time Basic
Course Instructor will
teach this session.

Dates and time:

Thurs., May 1, 2008 (7-9 p.m.)
Fri., May 2, 2008 (7-9 p.m.)
Sat., May 3, 2008 (8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.)

Cost: \$16 (for textbook & Sat. lunch)

Materials to bring: Notebook, pencil/pen, Bible, 2004 Discipline and 2004 Book of Worship. (If you don't have Discipline and Book of Worship, ask your pastor if you can borrow them.)

Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Lead in Mission Outreach

This advanced course helps lay speakers understand the role of mission outreach in relationship to the vision and ministry of the church.

Rev. George Warner,
Pastor of Friendship, Deas Chapel and St. Marks churches--back by popular demand--will be the instructor for this class.



Dates and time:

Fri., May 2, 2008 (7-9 p.m.)
Sat., May 3, 2008 (8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.)

Cost: \$11 (for textbook & Sat. lunch)

Materials to bring:

Notebook, pencil/pen, and your Bible

Directions to Grace United

Methodist Church: From Rt. 13, turn on to West 176 in to the town of Parksley (approx. 2 mi.) Continue straight across railroad tracks and proceed 1 block to Wilson Ave. Turn right, the church is on the left.

REGISTRATION

- Basic Course (\$16)
- Advanced Course (\$11)
(Lay Speakers Lead in Mission)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Church _____

(Mail before April 21 with your payment to: Eastern Shore District UMC, P.O. Box 317, Parksley, VA 23421; or register on-line ---see front page)

Your life may be the only Bible some people may ever read. As lay speakers care, lead, and communicate, they encourage, equip, and support others for deeper commitment to Christ and to faithful discipleship.