

The Charlotte District E-Pistle

January 13, 2006

On last Thursday, January 5, 2006, you received from my office information regarding this year's **Lay Speaking Ministry School** which will be conducted at two locations: Providence UMC and Trinity UMC. The dates are consecutive Mondays at 7 p.m.: **February 6, 13, 20, and 27.**

Who should attend this district-sponsored learning opportunity? Lay speaking is not primarily for those who will preach the Sunday morning worship sermon as a substitute for the pastor at times of planned absence from the pulpit. Our Lay Speaking Ministry is designed to strengthen the level of discipleship among our laity. I encourage pastors' sending lay leaders, Sunday school teachers, lay liturgists, or any persons who may benefit from learning more about the theology of worship, the lectionary, the significance of sharing one's personal faith story, effective methods of teaching, servant leadership, and the importance of a lifestyle of covenant faithfulness.

Those new to the program of lay speaking will take the basic course led at Trinity UMC by Teresa Auten, Tim Killian, and Fiona McAllister. This course at Providence UMC will be led by L'Tanya Perry and Anita Sain. All those who have already taken this basic training are required to engage in a renewal for certification at least once every three years. These participants will take the course, "Tell Stories." The curriculum is authored by Ray Buckley and will be taught at Trinity UMC by Rick Auten and Jan Heermans. The instructors at Providence UMC are Shirley Canty and Mary Lou Roller.

I hope that you will extend an invitation to those who will most likely enhance the quality of ministry within your congregation.

Grace and peace,

George