



**North Wilkesboro District**  
1710 Parkwood Drive  
Wilkesboro, NC 28697  
336-667-5401  
[www.northwilkesborodistrict.org](http://www.northwilkesborodistrict.org)

February 8, 2011

MEMO: LAY SPEAKERS AND PASTORS

It is that time of year again! The North Wilkesboro District of the United Methodist Church is offering the Lay Speaker Training for all those interested in becoming either a Local Church Lay Speaker or a Certified Lay Speaker.

The following courses will be offered on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Wilkesboro U.M.C. **Directions to Wilkesboro UMC: From hwy 421, exit at hwy 16/18 North. Go north to stoplight and turn right onto Main Street. Church is approximately ¼ mile on right. (309 West Main Street)**

**Basic Course (Ms. Carol Roberts, Instructor):**

In the new basic course, individuals are encouraged to recognize and employ personal spiritual gifts for the Church in order to use them as God fully intended. Participants are invited to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. It offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and outlines a number of ministries in which lay speakers may assume roles.

**You Can Preach (Rev. Dr. Tim Brittain, Instructor):**

Laypersons who are called upon to preach on occasion, but who are not formally trained as preachers, will find this simple, direct course to be both practical and accessible. It is designed for lay speakers, lay leaders, pastors and student pastors who have not completed formal preaching training, pastors seeking a basic refresher course, others who are called upon to preach in their pastor's absence.

**Lay Speakers Tell Stories (Ms. Linda Herold, Instructor):**

Lay speakers will learn what makes a good story, discover their own style as a storyteller, study the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their own experience.

**Leading in Prayer (Ms. Sandy Sisson, Instructor):**

Prayer is our primary means of communicating with God, yet most Christians join the church and only learn how to pray by listening to others. This advanced course on public prayer will help lay speakers grow in confidence and skill, while encouraging a deeper and more vital prayer life in their personal life.

The courses are covered over two consecutive Saturdays from 8:45 am until 2:30 pm. The class fee is \$35 and includes textbook and breakfast, and lunch for both days. Some pre-class reading may be required. Course materials will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment. Attendance at both Saturday sessions is required for completion and/or certification.

In order to serve as a lay speaker, each year you must submit to your pastor a "Lay Speaker Annual Report/Request for Continuation." Your pastor will then submit approved applications to the Cluster Charge Conference along with the Charge Conference reports. This report must be filed by each lay speaker every year. The report form is available on the district website at [www.northwilkesborodistrict.org](http://www.northwilkesborodistrict.org).

Local Church Lay Speakers are required to take the Basic Course only once. If you desire, you may take any additional Advanced Lay Speaker training courses for your own enrichment. To maintain status as a Certified Lay Speaker, you are required to take an advanced course at least once every three years. The Basic Course is a prerequisite to the Advanced Course. (Note: A Local Church Lay Speaker can speak only in his or her home church. A Certified Lay Speaker is available for speaking in any church in the district.)

Please note that the registration form now includes a space for pastor's signature. This is a new requirement this year. If you have questions, or need further clarification, please contact either Charles Walker (336-468-4008) or Carol Roberts (336-468-2045).

**Registration deadline is March 21. Your registration and payment must be received in the district office no later than March 21. Make check payable to NW District Treasurer. Mail registration form and class fee (\$35) to NWD Lay Speaker Training, 1710 Parkwood Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697.**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

*Select one course*

**BEGINNERS**

Basic Course

**ADVANCED COURSES**

*I completed the Basic Course on \_\_\_\_\_*

Advanced  You Can Preach (*Rev. Tim Brittain*)

Advanced  Lay Speakers Tell Stories (*Linda Herold*)

Advanced  Leading in Prayer (*Sandy Sisson*)

Enclosed is class fee of \$35

Office use:

Class fee received on

Class materials mailed on

Amount Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash

Check/Money Order # \_\_\_\_\_