



# Lay Speaking Ministries

In the Arlington District

**All God's People in  
All Places,  
And in  
All Times,  
Are Called to Love  
And to Serve.**



Ministry of the Laity

## *Our Mission...*

# **...equipping the laity to realize and respond to their call to ministry**

From: Vicki Poindexter

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

I've been given the awesome privilege to be Co-Director with Rick Dawson as your District Directors for Arlington District. Lay Speaking is a powerful ministry filled with Spirit-led servants and I'm excited to be part of it! I worship at Community of Faith UMC and serve as one of the Associate Lay Leaders. I've had the blessing to coordinate and teach the basic course on several occasions. I've spoken at numerous churches this last year and have had the great pleasure of meeting many members of those churches. I have a passion to make sure that all of our Lay Speakers have the tools to go out and serve the District and Conference in all areas of ministry.

Our October 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> Training event will be at Herndon UMC. We will have more information coming out on this – keep a look out on the Arlington District Web site and read the section below on training.

February 27, 28 and March 1 at Blackstone we have our Conference Training. If you go to the Conference Web site under events and click on March you will find the application. Many basic and advanced classes are being offered.

There are opportunities at places like the Sunrise. Our point of coordination for Nursing Homes is Jean Banks. She would love to have you come aboard. You can reach Jean at 703/629-8581 or via email, [jeanbanks@comcast.net](mailto:jeanbanks@comcast.net). There are a lot of exciting opportunities ahead – I encourage you to get excited and get involved! Let me encourage you to become more involved in your home church. It's a safe thing to say most of you already are in various capacities; teaching Sunday School, leading Bible studies, etc. If you're not yet... ..ask your pastor what he or she needs help with. Trust me, they won't turn you away empty handed!

Finally, let me encourage you to be in prayer for your pastor and your church I find we think our pastors can do everything and forget they need to be high on the list in our daily prayers. They also can use a helping hand – ask what you can do to help.

**The LSM District Team:** Vicki Poindexter, Rick Dawson, Bill Bigler, Janice Coleman, Laura Harris, Jean Banks

You can reach me almost anytime during the day at (703) 614-9477 or at home at 703-295-0603. My emails are: [vicki.poindexter@navy.mil](mailto:vicki.poindexter@navy.mil) or on weekends [vap328@aol.com](mailto:vap328@aol.com).

I would like to end this section with a devotional Rick Dawson sent me last week. I have taken several classes with and from Rick and he shares his weekly devotional with me, which he sends to his bible study group.

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses." Acts 2:32

Too often I think we approach the Bible as merely a book of philosophy and theology. Maybe it is just a sanctified self-help book. But, although it does contain all of these things, much of it is not these things at all. It is a book of real blood and guts history - real people in real history doing real things. When Jesus left the Disciples in Acts 1, he tells them that they are to be his witnesses. That is, they are to tell others what happened. They saw it happen and they were to tell others.

The model of evangelism in the Bible seems to be less philosophy and theology and more history. Look at Peter's sermon in Acts 2 or Stephen's in Acts 7 or Paul in Acts 13. Look carefully at Paul's talk in Athens in Acts 17.

The Good News is real. It involves real people in real places in real history dealing with a real God. It is not just something that plays out in our heads; it is a time and space reality of fact. The Gospel is not just an idea or a philosophy, it is a fact. God is a fact. Jesus is a fact - a real person. Jesus is a real flesh and blood person who is alive now. Jesus really was born in a little town called Bethlehem. He grew up in a nothing of a village called Nazareth. People knew him. People touched him. People hit him and made fun of him. People heard him. Jesus taught throughout the countryside in Palestine. He walked on water and healed people. It happened - really. He was rejected by almost everyone, and they killed him by crucifying him. It happened - really. But God raised him up after three days. It happened. People actually saw him and talked to him. The Apostle Paul says that over 500 people saw him after he was raised. Some of the people who saw him were killed because they said they saw him. They died because they would not deny the fact. Jesus died. Jesus rose from the dead. They saw him.

Philosophy and Theology, as wonderful and useful as they are, can often just tie us in knots. History - it happened. You can deny history, but it does not go away. A friend of mine recently was concerned because he wanted to defend capitalism from the Bible. Well, maybe he can - maybe he can't. That is not really our problem or necessarily our concern. *We are called to be witnesses to the real facts of history. We are called to be witnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Maybe we need to think about how we tell people the Good News about Jesus of Nazareth.

Maybe we need to spend more time looking at the facts

- The Fact of Creation
- The Fact of The Fall and Sin
- The Fact of Jesus' Life
- The Fact of Jesus' Death and the Fact of his Resurrection
- The Fact of You and Me.

Let's spend less time telling people about the idea of Jesus.

Let's tell them about a real living and breathing Jesus.

Let's tell them about the person that they will all have to see face to face one day.

AMEN

## Upcoming Lay Speaking Classes

**Blackstone:** 27/28 Feb, 1 March 2009 – LSM Academy – See Conference Web site for more information.

**Arlington/Alexandria Bi-District Training** – 9-10 October 2009 – More information to come, if you have a special advanced class you would like us to teach please let me know and we will try to accommodate. We will be teaching the newly published LSM Basic Course along with some advanced classes.

Do you need us to come to your church and teach a LSM class? Please let me know and we will make arrangements for us to come to you and teach to your specific needs.

## Lay Speakers Annual Report Form

The Book of Discipline requires that all lay speakers submit an annual report and reapplication with recommendations annually. It also requires that all local lay speakers take a refresher course every three years (or take an Advanced Course and mark Local on the form). Certified lay speakers are required to take an advanced course to maintain their status. All annual reports should have been submitted to the home church prior to the charge conference. If your report has not been submitted, please do so now. Prepare your report and pass on the pastor of your church, then forward to the District Office as soon as possible.

For those forms that need additional information I have enclosed a profile sheet and the training form if it was not attached. Please complete the requested information and either snail mail or e-mail back to me. The proper Annual Report Form is on the LSM website below, if requested I will e-mail copies to you.

## LAY SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Lay speakers are not just about filling the pulpit. Our job as lay speakers is to go where we are needed. Do you know of a need that is not being met? There is a team of lay speakers who conduct the worship service every Sunday at Sunrise. The committee is looking at the possibility of expanding this ministry to other nursing homes. If you are interested or have a passion to do another service please let me know and we will work together on your mission.

## We are drawn to HEARTS and MISSIONS that help PEOPLE

- ✠ When Christ works in us, His strength elevates us. The Holy Spirit puts our sinful nature to death and gives us new life in Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).*
- ✠ He is the elevator that gets us up all those flights, and what a relief that I don't have to climb there on my own.

### LAY SPEAKER RESOURCES

Lay speakers are not left out in the cold with no place to go for ideas or information to help serve God and the church. Visit some of the following websites:

United Methodist Church- <http://www.umc.org>  
General Board of Discipleship - <http://www.gbod.org>  
General Board of Global Ministries, UMC—<http://new.gbgm-umc.org>  
UMC Lay Speaking Ministries—<http://www.layspeakingministries.org>  
Virginia Conference— <http://www.vaumc.org/>  
Arlington District -- <http://www.novaumc.com/>  
Cokesbury - <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/home.aspx>  
Upper Room- <http://www.upperroom.org>