

## Sharing Faith Stories is Fun!

By Kim Shockley, Church Vitality Strategist

I had so much fun yesterday afternoon! I met with 61 people from Missional Networks #9 (Belmont area) and #10 (Gastonia area) who came together at South Point UMC to learn how to share faith journey stories. Despite the fact that the Panthers were playing, we found great joy in turning our attention to why we need to share our stories, how to listen better to other people's stories, and preparing and practicing our own story. It seemed to me that we generated good, positive energy by learning that we all have a story to share, and that's it's not that hard or scary to actually tell our story! We even got to hear that the Panther's won before we finished!

Our District Superintendent and the Strategic Vitality Team and I all agree that one of the most important things for all of us to begin practicing is telling our faith journey stories. To this end, I developed this 2 ½ hour workshop to be offered throughout the district. The Vitality Team has attached some funds to this workshop so that if your Missional Network has 20 people attend the workshop, you can receive a \$2000 grant to be used to support your common work (\$100/person up to 20 people). Networks #9 and #10 will each receive these funds soon!

Originally I offered to do the workshops in each county – Gaston (done!), Burke, Catawba, Lincoln, and Cleveland – but could be more flexible if needed. My personal work goal is to duplicate this event so that each Missional Network has access to this opportunity before Easter, April 21, 2019. The event could be held on a Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon, or possibly a weekday evening and I would encourage your Missional Network (or group of two networks) to get one scheduled – this is a help to my calendar, as weekend days get scheduled quickly.

Why? Because our witness depends on it!