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Biblical Storytelling Festival Open to Public; Honors Beloved Cathedral Canon

CLEVELAND— CLEVELAND—On Saturday, October 21, 2006 from 9:30 am-5 pm, Trinity Cathedral will present the Joseph P. Russell Memorial Storytelling Festival featuring master storytellers Donald Davis, Barbara McBride-Smith and Corinne Stavish and Cleveland storyteller Beverly Lloyd. The event, which will include large-group plenary sessions and small workshops, is designed for storytellers, interfaith religious educators, clergy and those interested in learning more about storytelling. Registration is available at www.trinitycleveland.org or 216-774-0414 and costs $10 before October 18 or $15 at the door. Child care is available with advance registration and boxed lunches are available for $7.50.

On Saturday evening from 7:30 pm-9:30 pm, the festival will present a concert storytelling that is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. On Sunday morning, October 22, the three master storytellers will give the sermon at Trinity Cathedral's 9 am and 11:15 am services.

The three master storytellers visiting Cleveland for the Russell Festival are all renowned biblical storytellers. Donald Davis is a Southern Appalachian mountain native who is a graduate of Duke University Divinity School and a retired Methodist minister. Davis is former chairperson of the board of directors for the National Storytelling Association and has been a featured teller at the Smithsonian Institution, the World's Fair, festivals and concerts throughout the United States and the world.

Barbara McBride-Smith has been a teacher, a school librarian, a theological seminary instructor, a traveling storyteller, and a writer for more than 30 years. She has recently co-authored a book of stories based on women of the New Testament, called *The Storytellers Companion to the Bible*, as part of a series published by Abingdon Press. McBride-Smith has been featured at the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee seven times as well as the National Festival of Homiletics and the International Storytelling Festival in Washington D.C.

Corinne Stavish, a storyteller who has published a book of Jewish folktales, has been featured at venues across the country, including the National Storytelling Festival and Teller-in-Residence Program in Jonesborough, TN and storytelling conferences in Israel. She specializes in stories that include themes of justice, problem solving, and strong women.

The Joseph P. Russell Memorial Storytelling Festival is presented in loving memory of the Rev. Joseph Parker Russell III, who died in 2004. The Rev. Russell was Canon for Faith Formation at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland from 2000-2002 and remained an active member of the Trinity Cathedral congregation until his death. Russell, who was also from 1980 until 1995 the Canon to the Ordinary for Education and Program Development for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, was the author of *Sharing Our Biblical Story* and *The Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education*, two volumes that have been called classics in religious education. His writing and teaching influenced the way the Bible is read and studied by Episcopalians and progressive Christians across the country.

The Joseph P. Russell Memorial Biblical Storytelling Festival is made possible through the generous support of Jane Russell and donors to the Joseph P. Russell Memorial Fund.

Trinity Cathedral, the Episcopal Church in downtown Cleveland, invites participation from people of all faiths, races, nationalities and walks of life. For more information on Trinity Cathedral and its programs, please call 216-771-3630 or visit www.trinitycleveland.org. Parking for Trinity Cathedral, adjacent to the building, is available off Prospect Avenue.

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