






# NBSI 2024 Festival Gathering

## Wednesday Workshop Schedule

**Theme:** Hope for the Pastoral Journey: Stories of Sustenance and Renewal

**Theme Stories:** Exodus 16:9-18 Manna in the Wilderness; Acts 8:14-25 Simon the Sorcerer




Workshop Title	Workshop Description	All About the Presenter	
<p><b>Storytelling 101 Pt. 1</b></p>	<p>In this 2-part workshop, we will employ the best practices of NBSI to learn one of the theme stories, Exodus 16:9-18. Participants will learn what questions to ask of the story, what to expect from their bodies and minds as they learn it “by heart,” and how a variety of styles assist in keeping and shaping the story. Whether you're a beginner or looking for a refresher, this workshop will show you the method and you'll have a great start on the story by the end of it.</p>		<p><b>Lori Ruge-Jones</b> (she/her) serves as campus pastor in Eau Claire, WI. She enjoys accompanying young adults at this point in their journey through faith and life. An ABS grad, Biblical storytelling has been a spiritual practice for Lori for several decades. She particularly enjoys teaching others this craft, as “we let God's word have its way with us.”</p>
<p><b>What's This? What's This! Learning to tell the Story of Manna and Quail</b></p>	<p>In this workshop, the participants will learn to tell a biblical story from Exodus 16:9-18, using imagery memory devices, hearing the story told, and discussing the structural pieces of the story (characters, setting, twists, main points, difficult portions, and oral and rhetorical devices). This is an entry level workshop, but open to all who would like to go deeper in exploring this story.</p>		<p><b>Jim Stahl</b> is married to Janet Stahl, and they live in Bethlehem, PA. Jim works with Janet at the Seed Company, which is part of Wycliffe Bible Translators, assisting people from groups that have no Bible in their language, helping them to learn biblical stories to create interest in their communities and movement toward translating the Bible. He is part of the current Academy of Biblical Storytelling cohort.</p>
<p><b>Proclaiming Scripture with a Storytelling Spirit</b></p>	<p>In Proclaiming Scripture with a Storytelling Spirit, participants will prepare written “sound maps” and practice using voice, face and body expression for lively proclamation of several stories from the Gospel of John, while still reading from paper or a screen. Participants will learn how to teach others, especially their congregations' liturgists, to “read with a storytelling spirit!” even before embracing the full art of “learning by heart.”</p>		<p><b>Rev. Beth Galbreath</b> teaches biblical storytelling, and "reading with a storytelling spirit" online at BeADisciple.com. She is a teller with the Chicago-area Prairie Wind Guild and has participated in NBSI missions in Cameroon and Haiti, as well as having led NBSI teams in India and the Philippines.</p>

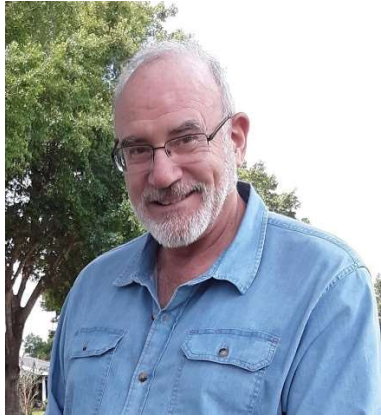
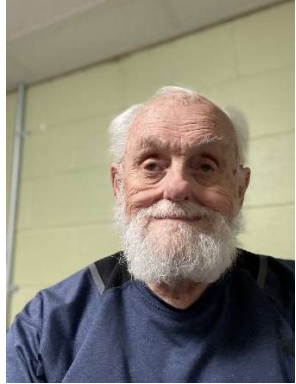

<p><b>Finding Voices in a Biblical Story</b></p>	<p>We will have a deep discussion of John, chapters 7 and 8, thinking together about who was present during this event, who Jesus was speaking to, who was speaking to Jesus, what their attitudes and emotions were, and the "twists and turns" in the narrative that the storyteller must face. While the two chapters describe one event that takes place over two days, they are often viewed simply as a "bunch of teachings," but seeing them as a story can give new insight into the teachings. Participants will not learn a story but will think together about what it means to tell a story. Bring a Bible.</p>		<p><b>Richard Davies</b> is a retired United Methodist minister who has been a member of NBSI since the first Festival Gathering. He began a deeper exploration of John 7-8 last year when he was the storyteller for the NBSI Scholars' Seminar.</p>
<p><b>Story Theater: Multiple Tellings of the Near Sacrifice of Isaac</b></p>	<p>A fine way to grow as a teller is to observe the choices (translation, tone, gestures, posture, emphasis) that talented tellers make. We will explore the complicated story of the near sacrifice of Isaac by hearing five tellings and then discussing the impact each had on the audience.</p>		<p><b>Phil Ruge-Jones</b> will preside over the process with several tellers: Lydia Haggard, Paul Grenier, By Heart (Mary-Beth Howard, Shelley Gnade), Barbara Tucker, and Marti Steussy (Hebrew).</p>

# NBSI 2024 Festival Gathering Thursday Workshop Schedule

**Theme:** Hope for the Pastoral Journey: Stories of Sustenance and Renewal

**Theme Stories:** Exodus 16:9-18 Manna in the Wilderness; Acts 8:14-25 Simon the Sorcerer

Workshop Title	Workshop Description	All About the Presenter	
<p><b>Storytelling 101 Pt. 2</b></p>	<p>During the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of this story-learning workshop, we will further our engagement of the best practices of NBSI in learning Exodus 16:9-18. We'll continue to challenge our bodies and minds as we learn it "by heart," and how a variety of styles assist in keeping and shaping the story. Whether you're a beginner or looking for a refresher, this workshop will show you the method and you'll have a great start on the story by the end of it.</p>		<p><b>Lori Ruge-Jones</b> (she/her) serves as campus pastor in Eau Claire, WI. She enjoys accompanying young adults at this point in their journey through faith and life. An ABS grad, Biblical storytelling has been a spiritual practice for her for several decades. She particularly enjoys teaching others this craft, as "we let God's word have its way with us."</p>
<p><b>What Money Can't Buy Me: Simon the Sorcerer's Mistake</b></p>	<p>Simon the Sorcerer was motivated by his desire for power and fame. Join us in exploring the story of Simon from Acts 8: 14-25 to discover how this story intersects with our stories. During the workshop, we will use a story board, group discussion, and small group practice and feedback sessions to learn to internalize and tell Simon's story.</p>		<p><b>Janet Stahl</b> and her husband Jim work for Wycliffe Bible Translators helping minority language communities begin to translate the Bible into their language using a Bible storytelling approach. They have worked with storytelling teams from over 70 language communities from all over the world. Their involvement in the Network of Biblical Storytellers has been an invaluable asset for their work.</p>
<p><b>Hushed Voices, Harsh Tales</b></p>	<p>This is an intense workshop about the stories of women in the Bible who have experienced abuse in their lives. These taboo tales are either cleaned up or just left between the pages, but this workshop aims to tell these stories through the voices of the participants and wait for release to happen.</p>		<p><b>Sandhya Ruban</b> is part of the NBSI family from India. Her heart's call is to minister to women across all spectrums and tell stories of women in the Bible who were bold enough to make a difference in their communities.</p>

<p><b>Know Your Narrative</b></p>	<p>We live in a time where there is a need to "know your narrative" so that you can listen with patience to those with whom you disagree, question civilly with an openness to change your mind, and stay engaged. Drew will share his experiments and experiences drawn from certain texts that describe how Jesus prepared his disciples to do what he had been doing - driving out evil spirits of fear, deception, and hatred; healing people in their distress of body, mind, and spirit; and planting seeds of beloved community. Participants will then be invited to share what they have tried - or will yet try.</p>		<p><b>Drew Willard</b>, who has told and taught biblical stories since 1987, continues to experiment with paraphrased translations of the Gospel stories he tells and has collaboratively organized interfaith sacred storytelling events, while serving as a United Church of Christ pastor.</p>
<p><b>Using Your Body and Voice to Advance the Storyline</b></p>	<p>We will discuss what makes storytelling a unique artform--specifically how it differs from theater. Focus will be on specific actions to keep the focus on the story. Participants will have a chance to try a variety of simple but powerful techniques. We will also discuss how dynamics change with the setting and size of the audience and how to maximize the impact in various settings.</p>		<p><b>Karl Hallsten</b> has been a Professional Storyteller and event organizer, winning awards from state, regional and the National Storytelling Network. Versions of this workshop have received top reviews from both new and experienced storytellers.</p>
<p><b>Goodie or Baddie? The Ambiguity of Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8:9–25</b></p>	<p>Good stories often include ambiguity that sparks conversation and deeper reflection, but how does biblical storytelling—which requires tellers to make concrete choices about gestures, facial expressions, and tone of voice—shape the ambiguity of biblical stories for our audiences? In his recent book on performing New Testament narratives, Kelly Iverson argues that performances reduce a story's capacity for ambiguity. Is he right? Does biblical storytelling close or open alternative interpretations of a story? In this workshop, we will investigate this question by hearing the story of Simon the Sorcerer multiple times and exploring the various possibilities.</p>		<p><b>Cliff Barbarick</b> is a New Testament professor at Abilene Christian University and a graduate of the Academy for Biblical Storytelling. For this workshop, he'll be joined by three of his current undergraduate students: Jason Campbell, Malachi Havens, and Isaac Newbery.</p>









# NBSI 2024 Festival Gathering

## Friday Workshop Schedule

**Theme:** Hope for the Pastoral Journey: Stories of Sustenance and Renewal

**Theme Stories:** Exodus 16:9-18 Manna in the Wilderness; Acts 8:14-25 Simon the Sorcerer

Workshop Title	Workshop Description	All About the Presenter	
<p><b>Learning a Vision for Hope in Circle of the Word</b></p>	<p>“Circle of the Word” is a gentle, creative, and effective way to help people learn and tell a biblical story. This workshop will demonstrate the basic methodology of Circle of the Word using the story of Revelation 22:1-6 as a sample story. Activities include The Word I Heard, RAM, About the Story, Creating a Storyboard, Telling to a Partner, My Fav Part, I Wonder, and Making Connections. The story from Revelation 22 offers a vision of hope, sorely needed in these times.</p>		<p><b>Amelia Boomershine</b> is retired clergy in the United Methodist Church and has been active in NBSI since the 90’s. She has told and taught biblical stories around the world—in churches, retreat centers, prisons, and the local jail. She has written three biblical storytelling curricula to accompany “The Story Keepers” video series and is author of <i>A Breath of Fresh Air: Biblical Storytelling for Prisoners</i>. She and her husband Tom live in Dayton, Ohio.</p>
<p><b>Stories of Hope</b></p>	<p>In this workshop, we will hear stories of hope from both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures: hope for reconciliation, hope for peace, hope for the outcast, hope for the world, and hope in resurrection. Participants will learn three basic principles of story learning and will practice learning and telling a story.</p>		<p><b>The Rev. Dr. Dina Ferguson</b> is an Episcopal priest and the retired rector of St. Michael the Archangel Episcopal Church in El Segundo, California. She has regularly told scripture in worship services and has led many story learning workshops. She is a past president of NBSI board and currently serves as treasurer. She is also a member of the NBSI Scholars Seminar and has a D. Min. in Biblical Storytelling from United Theological Seminary.</p>
<p><b>Developing Biblical Storytelling Presentations Beyond the Pulpit</b></p>	<p>This workshop is for those who want to explore options for use of biblical storytelling beyond Sunday services, including spiritual retreats, liturgical season meditations, etc. Ruth will provide examples of presentations, show the process of creating engaging biblical storytelling events, and guide participants in developing frameworks for their own presentations. Participants should come to the workshop ready to work with their favorite biblical stories.</p>		<p><b>Ruth Elsbree</b> holds a Master Certification in Biblical Storytelling from NBSI. A retired high school English teacher, Ruth continues her life-long love of learning and teaching with biblical storytelling presentations. A popular presenter within her Christian community, Ruth’s goal is always to offer scripture in the cultural context of the time it was written and to engage her audiences in ways that make scripture memorable and relevant to their faith journey.</p>

<p><b>Addressing Ableism in Storytelling</b></p>	<p>The stories that we learn and tell from scripture often contain outdated language around disabilities that might have served the communities for which these stories were originally written. However, these ideas and much of the language can be harmful to people with disabilities in contemporary society. In this workshop, we will look at some of this language and these stories and explore how we can be sensitive to and inclusive of people today regardless of abilities and disabilities. We will learn how to consider the language critically in order to uncover what, today, are aggressions and micro-aggressions. And we will explore strategies to engage these stories faithfully now. We will also examine our own preconceptions around ability and disability.</p>		<p><b>Rev. Dr. Madelyn Campbell</b> is a Unitarian Universalist minister and Master Biblical Storyteller. Madelyn authored "<i>Guide to Biblical Storytelling for Military Chaplains</i>" (available on Amazon). Her doctoral thesis project was "Sacred Storytelling as a Tool in Transitional Ministry." She, too, has invisible disabilities.</p>
<p><b>It's Not Just What You Say, it's the Way You Say It</b></p>	<p>This workshop will use general discussion and small group and individual activities to explore the importance of the way we speak the words with our voices and even with our bodies when we tell the story. By listening to some passages told and playing with short biblical texts, we will try out different possibilities and look at ways of validating them.</p>		<p><b>Gillian Powis</b> lives in a carbon net-zero building in Adelaide with her husband, Leigh and takes advantage of all the city facilities – cafes, museums, theatres and cricket ground. She is a member of the Uniting Church in Australia and has been involved with the Network of Biblical Storytellers for over 20 years. She is a graduate of the Academy for Biblical Storytelling and recently finished a Masters in Theological Studies.</p>
<p><b>Presenting Scripture to Children of All Ages</b></p>	<p>Children are fast learners. Using the drama techniques Carole demonstrates, you will be able to engage children in new and exciting ways with biblical texts and have them enjoying biblical stories in no time.</p>		<p><b>Carole Danby</b> recently retired after working 30 years for the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in Children's and Family Ministry. She formerly served as co-chair of the Network of Biblical Storytellers in Australia and has attended 8 NBSINT Festival Gatherings. Carole has also travelled with the Network on mission trips to the Philippines, India, and the Holy Land. She currently serves as the Program Chair on the NBSI Board.</p>