

## DONALD DAVIS

Donald Davis was born in a Southern Appalachian mountain world rich in stories. While he heard many traditional stories about Jack and other heroic characters, he was most attracted to the stories of his own family and places of origin. Davis began retelling the stories he heard and then adding his own new stories to them until he was repeatedly asked to "tell it again, on purpose."

During his twenty-five year career as a United Methodist Minister, Davis began to use stories more and more. He was also asked to begin performing at festivals and in other settings until he retired from the church to tell stories full time.

The author of eighteen books and more than forty original recordings, Davis is the recipient of both the Circle of Excellence and the Lifetime Achievement Awards from the National Storytelling Network

**Donald Davis** (born 1944) is an American storyteller, author and minister. Davis had a twenty-year career as a minister before he became a professional storyteller. He has recorded over 25 storytelling albums and written several books based on those stories. His long career as a teller and his promotion of the cultural importance of storytelling through seminars and master classes has led to Davis being dubbed the "dean of storytelling".<sup>[1]</sup>

Donald Davis was born in Waynesville, North Carolina, a small town in the mountainous region of Western North Carolina. As a child, storytelling was a daily part of his family life. "My grandmother did lots of telling," Davis recalled to the Winston-Salem Journal. "I remember hearing those stories, and I remember by the time I was in the second grade telling other kids in school stories I'd heard my grandmother tell."<sup>[2]</sup>

He received a B.A. from Davidson College in 1966 and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School in 1969. Davis served as a Methodist minister in High Point, North Carolina<sup>[2]</sup> for over 20 years before retiring to become a professional storyteller.<sup>[3]</sup>

Davis has appeared on National Public Radio, CNN and ABC's Nightline.<sup>[3]</sup> He also conducts seminars and master classes on storytelling throughout the United States.<sup>[6]</sup>

Davis is a strong advocate of storytelling; not just the profession, but also storytelling in everyday life. He feels that we connect with one another through the stories that we tell each other across the family dinner table or at a bar after work.<sup>[5][7]</sup> He believes that stories are really about identity, about who we are, and that technology may be all about moving information but it is in our stories that wisdom is passed down.<sup>[5]</sup>

