

## ***Spiritual Directors List For the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, NJ***

The ministry and art of spiritual direction has been significantly renewed in the churches in our day, in a wide variety of forms, from informal “prayer and sharing” partnerships to regular meetings with trained directors. The art of directing/companionship/guiding souls in their relationship with God is first and foremost a gift of the Spirit rather than a technical skill. Directors differ in style and aims. Thus, it requires a real “fit” between the guide or director and the one seeking direction. Many spiritual directors ask for appropriate compensation, and this is now recognized widely as appropriate. Others do not ask for compensation.

Spiritual direction is not therapy, though both involve bringing the realities of one’s inner life before another person, and the two disciplines sometimes overlap. Whereas psychotherapy focuses on psychological dynamics, spiritual direction is properly focused primarily on how what is happening in one’s life, whatever it may be, is seen in relation to God.

This list is provided as an informational service through the Diocese, *and does not represent an endorsement or recommendation by me, or the Diocese*. Entering a spiritual direction relationship, both for the director and the directee, is a matter of mutual discernment and agreement. Additional information from those listed, as well as new listings are gladly accepted by writing [angelhold@earthlink.net](mailto:angelhold@earthlink.net). Please follow the format used below.

*The Rev. Dr. Robert Corin Morris  
Founder and Director, Interweave*

**Fr. Michael Allen**  
55 George Street  
Allendale, NJ 07401  
e-mail: [fathermichael@mac.com](mailto:fathermichael@mac.com)  
phone: 201-962-7144

*Description of Approach:*

Although I only took courses in Clinical Pastoral Counseling, I have been giving spiritual direction for over 20 years. I use a very traditional approach by encouraging a spiritual discipline, that is, creating venues for listening to God’s voice and experiencing the Light of Christ. I also encourage a regular commitment to private confession at least twice a year with someone beside myself. Since I was trained in the Clinebell model of family systems, I listen very carefully to each person’s “story telling” of

their journey throughout life and how the epiphanies of God’s grace and breath have been present to guide, nurture, light the way, and encourage them. (I use the techniques of Jungian dream analysis - that is - asking people what these experiences have meant to them, what and where they are telling them they are and are going, etc.) I encourage journaling as a spiritual discipline and also use people’s honest analysis of their personal checkbooks and calendars as mirrors of the where, what and how of their respective journeys. I am a committed proponent of retreats and therefore encourage individuals to do this at least once a year. Because the relationship that evolves in spiritual direction I am also upfront in the beginning that we will only meet no more than two to three times each year, and that I will strongly encourage each person to select a new spiritual director after we’ve been together for four to

five years. This has worked very well in my counseling of aspirants to holy orders, ordained clergy, seminarians and lay people who are seeking spiritual growth and direction. I have also been receiving spiritual direction for over 30 years and have a wonderfully challenging Orthodox confessor.

*Training:* As noted before, I have had no formal training in Spiritual Direction - but do offer a traditional venue for those interested. I have always perceived my role as a "companion" more than a director.

### **The Rev. Pamela Bakal**

Grace Church Nutley  
973-235-1177  
[fthrpam@optonline.net](mailto:fthrpam@optonline.net)

*Approach:* Discernment for ordained and lay ministry. Former Chair of the Commission on Ministry

*Experience:* Former Chair of the Commission on Ministry. Select Courses in Spiritual Direction at The General Theological Seminary and from the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

### **The Rev. Cooper Conway**

e-mail: [revcoopr@aol.com](mailto:revcoopr@aol.com)  
home phone: 201-763-6576

*Description of Approach:*  
As a director, I listen for places where I see the Spirit working in a person's life and I often reflect back what I perceive.

*Training:* I was trained at The Center for Christian Spirituality at GTS. I graduated the program in 1993.

### **Sr. Suzanne Elizabeth, CSJB**

Community St John Baptist  
82 W. Main Street, PO Box 240  
Mendham, NJ 07945

office phone: 973-543-4641 [srse@csjb.org](mailto:srse@csjb.org)

*Description of Approach:* I encourage directees to share how God is in their life and discern ways they may grow deeper in that relationship.

*Training:* I was trained at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Wernersville, PA. receiving a certificate qualifying me to direct 8-day Ignatian Retreats and Spiritual Direction.

### **The Rev. Sr. Eleanor Francis, CSJB**

Community St John Baptist  
82 W. Main Street, PO Box 240  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
office phone: 973-543-4641 Ext. 3  
e-mail: [sref@csjb.org](mailto:sref@csjb.org)

*Description of Approach:*

I enjoy adjusting myself to whoever comes. They vary from Fundamentalist Christians to those who question whether they are Christians at all. I work with people who are in transition between conservative and more liberal views. I have companioned a number of people through the ordination process, as well as going through it myself. Of course, I am interested in Eastern spirituality and interfaith work.

*Training:* I have been in religious life for 35 years. My formal training was from Margaret Guenther at General Seminary, but I consider all the spiritual direction I have received myself to be of more importance.

### **Sr. Lura Grace**

Community St John Baptist  
82 W. Main Street, PO Box 240  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
e-mail: [luralane@yahoo.com](mailto:luralane@yahoo.com)  
office phone: 973-543-4641 Ext. 6  
mobile phone: 862-222-7016

*Description of Approach:*

I usually meet with directees at the convent, but can make exceptions if necessary. I have in-depth experience with working with society's mentally, physically, and spiritually ill and/or marginalized, and have a special affinity with God's most broken and down-trodden children. I love the challenge of gaining someone's trust enough to actually *want* to talk about God. I lead retreats and quiet days, often using contemplative or Ignatian prayer as the root.

**Training:** Currently in Year Two of a three-year spiritual direction formation program at Quellen Spiritual Center, located at the Sisters of Christian Charity convent in Mendham. The class meets every week from September through May and is conducted by a trained staff and visiting presenters. Also a member of Spiritual Directors International.

**The Rev. Rose Cohen Hassan,  
CPCC, M.Div.**

e-mail: [trinateerose@gmail.com](mailto:trinateerose@gmail.com)  
mobile phone: 201-401-0358

*Description of Approach:*

I've loved the metaphor given to me by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Gunther, who compared spiritual direction to midwifery. I believe in walking the journey along with my directees; listening, and asking questions that provoke thinking about their lives. I celebrate their joys, and metaphorically hold their hand when they grieve.

**Training:** Trained at the Center for Christian Spirituality and received an STM in Spiritual Direction from the General Theological Seminary in 1997. Trained at the Coaches Training Institute, and received my certification in 2010.

**The Rev. Dr. Robert Corin Morris**  
Interweave Center at Calvary Church

P. O. Box 1516  
31 Woodland Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901  
908-277-2120 (W) 973-763-0416 (H)  
[angelhold@earthlink.net](mailto:angelhold@earthlink.net)

*Description of Approach:*

My intent is to be both companion and mentor to people as they seek to be aware and responsive to the Spirit's movement in their lives. My style involves "being available to God on behalf of the directee" as Tilden Edwards puts it, and to respond to what is being presented as I feel moved. This means at times listening for the most part, at other times being highly interactive and conversational, depending on the person and the spirit of the moment. While my grounding is what I call "classic Christianity," I have worked with a wide variety of people who have different belief frameworks, both within Christianity and beyond it. I hope to support the distinctive *attract* or attraction that God is using to draw people into communion and connection. After over 30 years of experience as a spiritual director, I have begun doing supervision of directors who request it.

*Training:*

In addition to formal training and certification in spiritual direction at The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, I had almost a decade long encounter with Jungian Analysis as someone being guided, as well as supervised in my pastoral work. While I do not practice any form of therapy, the Jungian map of the psyche and attentiveness to Archetypal patterns in the soul and the world informs my approach to spiritual direction.

**The Rev. John J. Negrotto**

Lanoka Harbor, NJ (GSP X74)  
e-mail: [fr\\_negrotto@yahoo.com](mailto:fr_negrotto@yahoo.com)  
mobile phone: 973-986-5526

*Description of Approach:*

I am trained as a good listener and reflective mirror. Contemplative in nature I am an Oblate at CSJB, Mendham. I do not give advise but offer affirmation, pastoral care and council. And I make house calls as needed, distance not a problem.

*Training:* Received formal training from the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

**The Rev. Dr. Shane Phelan**

St. Luke's and Our Saviour Episcopal/Lutheran Ministries  
Haworth, NJ 07641  
e-mail: [revdrshane@gmail.com](mailto:revdrshane@gmail.com)  
office phone: 201-384-0706  
mobile phone: 201-648-5310

*Description of Approach:*

I am honored to walk with individuals as they seek God. My role is to listen, to try to hear what each person is saying but may not notice, and to reflect with them so that they can hear God speaking to them.

*Training:* I participated in a course at the Center for Spirituality at Wernersville, PA, a Jesuit center. I do not consider myself "trained," but "practicing." I have worked for years with people in recovery.

**Angelina Rispoli**

464 Gorge Rd. 4 B  
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010  
Home: 201-840-5088  
Mobile: 201-694-6971

*Description of Approach:* For me spiritual/guidance/ companionship/ direction is a contemplative practice of being present to God on behalf of the directee.

*Training:* Formation for this ministry was with presenters and peers of SHALEM Institute. I'm a member of Spiritual Directors International and meet with a peer supervision group on a monthly basis, except for July and August.

*Meeting place:* All Saints, Leonia. In cases of necessity I'm willing to meet in a directee's home.

**Sun H. Spriggs**

Member: St. Peter's Church, Morristown  
Address: 30 Dorchester Drive  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
Phone: 908-326-3712

*Description of Approach:*

As a spiritual director, my role is that of a "midwife" who facilitates a deeper relationship with God by helping a person to be open to God. This openness creates space in the person so that the divine Spirit may freely move, and God's grace may freely fill the person. I also think of myself as a "co-listener", being present and attentive to how God is communicating with the person and what God is revealing to that person. We, together, will listen and discern God's will.

**Jane Sullivan**

201-891-6657,  
[janesullivan299@gmail.com](mailto:janesullivan299@gmail.com)

*Description of Approach:* I see people at my home office, usually monthly. My goal is to offer deep listening and a quiet space where, together, we sit open to the Presence. People often choose to examine or explore how they are experiencing God, where they are feeling called, various spiritual practices or whatever the Spirit brings forth.

*Training:* My training was at the Center for Christian Spirituality at the General Theological

Seminary. I participate regularly in a peer supervision group.

### **The Rev. Dr. Darlene Duryea Tittle**

25 Zeeland Dr.  
Toms River, NJ 08757  
732-281-8594  
[revdarlenetittle@aol.com](mailto:revdarlenetittle@aol.com)

*Description of Approach:* I am a contemplative and my prayer life is rich in the Holy Spirit. I hold unconditional positive regard for all my clients and rejoice over the loving way that God regards the unique spiritual journey of each of his children.

*Training:* I have practiced spiritual direction for many years. Now that I am retired I'd like to begin to do more. I live in Ocean County and have a counseling ministry. I hold a Masters degree in counseling from Virginia Tech, a Masters in Divinity from VTS, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC. I received a certificate in Spiritual Counseling and Direction from the Shalem Institute, Washington Dc in 1981.

### **Patricia Vine**

101 Cupsaw Avenue  
Ringwood, NJ 07456  
e-mail: [pvine@optimum.net](mailto:pvine@optimum.net)  
home phone: 973-962-4323  
office phone: 973-694-1026 (Tues-Fri, 9-5)  
mobile phone: 973-768-0471

*Description of Approach:*

I am open to direct both men and women of any faith or no faith at all who are seeking to explore their spirituality and possibility of God's action and direction in their lives. My style is non-threatening; I usually make a contract with the directee to meet once a week for 4 weeks, after which we have a mutual discussion about the effectiveness of what's happening during our time together. If the directee wants to continue,

s/he determines the frequency of meetings that would work. I usually do spiritual direction in my home in Ringwood.

*Training:* I was trained at the Center for Spirituality and Justice in the Bronx and received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction in 1997 after completing two semesters that included supervision.

### **Father Jim Warnke**

680 Albin Street  
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666  
e-mail: [jwarnke@optonline.net](mailto:jwarnke@optonline.net)  
office phone: 201-692-1858  
mobile phone: 201-835-8223

*Description of Approach:*

I began as a spiritual director thirty eight years ago when there were no real training programs for directors but we who were called to this ministry were mentored into it by our own spiritual directors. I understand this ministry as a kind of holy listening that involves the discernment of the movement of the Holy Spirit and the mentoring in the practices of the interior life. I received a certificate in Spiritual Counseling and Direction from the Shalem Institute, Washington Dc in 1981. There is no formal "fee" for this ministry, but I do ask a free will offering for my time spent in this work.

*Training:* Mentored by my own spiritual directors.

### **The Rev. Fain Webb**

Columbia, NJ  
e-mail: [FAINWEBB@aol.com](mailto:FAINWEBB@aol.com)  
phone: 908-496-4797

*Description of Approach:*

General Spiritual Friendship—Prayerful listening, reflection, and invitation to engaging something new. I am retiring in September, but

will still do Spiritual Direction if there are those out west who are seeking it!

*Training:* The Center for Christian Spirituality, at GTS

*More names can be obtained from the Spiritual Directors International Website:  
<http://www.sdiworld.org/>*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

*Other spiritual directors reported to us by spiritual directors in this area. No further information available at this time.*

Rev. Marc Oehler, [marc@westside.org](mailto:marc@westside.org)  
 (Presbyterian)  
 West Side Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood,  
 201-652-1966

*From Liz Ostuni:*

Deacon Jane Ellis Tenafly NJ, (cell) 201- 248-8103

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Evans, Jersey City NJ 201-333-1094 (Catholic)

Marie Bannister, NYC 212-691-5095  
 (Catholic)

Rev. Kathy Bozzati Johns, NYC 212-378-1273

Anne Graziano, Bloomfield, NJ 873-338-9535  
 (Catholic)

Rev. Gary Parker, NYC 847-946-1007

Jean Person, NYC 212-243-5150 (Episcopal)

Karis Kosaron Frank, RN Livingston, NJ 862-245-9062 (Jewish)

Dr. Pam Rauscher, Montclair, NJ 973-454-0708 (Catholic)