

Spiritual Directors of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Next Step
www.sdglv.org , invite you to this program*

SPIRITUALITY AND HUMOR

with VIRGINIA WILES,

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016, 7pm–9:30pm

St Francis Center for Renewal

www.StFrancisCenterForRenewal.Org, 395 Bridle Path Rd., Bethlehem, Pa 18017

Open to all those with an interest in spiritual growth.

Spirituality is a serious practice and discipline.

Sometimes we imagine that anything that is “serious” is something that requires, if not a frown, at least a respectably furrowed brow—as if we’re having to work hard at this thing that is so serious. But our souls know better. Spirituality brings lightness to our being. Our spiritual practices break open fresh ground inside. Every prayer is a seed planted, a seed that will burst into surprising new life. Spirituality is about freedom, about clarity, about hope.

The same is true for humor. The very core of what makes humor, well, *humorous*, is that it **surprises** us. If we knew the punchline, we wouldn’t laugh. If the friend’s witticism were cliché, it wouldn’t be witty. It is the structure of surprise that humor depends upon that can become an essential element in our spirituality. Jesus’ parables *surprised* the original hearers . . . and if we nurture a habit of surprise in ourselves, we, too, can be surprised afresh in hearing the Word.

Humor nurtures a habit of surprise in our spiritual practice.

Virginia Wiles is Professor of New Testament at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She received her Ph.D. from The Divinity School of The University of Chicago. Recently she completed a Master in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Spalding University. Her books include *Making Sense of Paul*, and *Partners in Peace: A Study in Romans*. She is currently working on two long works of fiction and a series entitled *Playdates with Scripture*.

Pre Registration is preferred; Please arrive at 6:30pm for day of event registration.

Please contact: Cathy Campanaro, catherinecampanaro@verizon.net, (610) 217-5993

We are offering this as a free program, however in appreciation for the presenter and the Center’s hospitality a "Love Offering" - \$15. (more or less) can be made the day of the event.

Please do not let this suggestion stop you from attending.

*Spiritual Directors of the Greater Lehigh Valley, www.sdglv.org, is a volunteer non profit organization. All love offerings go directly to covering expenses and to the presenters and hospitality provider. Our mission is to promote the value of spiritual growth through support and education and to be a resource for spiritual directors and the public. www.facebook.com/pages/Spiritual-Directors-of-the-Greater-Lehigh-Valley-and-Next-Step/

