

## **Steve Martin**

### **Spiritual Journey**

I began a meditation practice when I was 18. I have regularly meditated twice daily for over 49 years. I rarely talk about it, but consider it a foundation block of my spirituality. I was raised a Baptist, and joined the Episcopal Church in my early 30s. It was home. I thought it the perfect spiritual expression, the perfect way to commune with God, to connect with the community, and to cultivate an expression of faith and service and worship. The Episcopal Church has always been a presence of gentleness, and service in every community I have ever lived, promoting the best qualities of what it is to be Christian. I'm proud to be an Episcopalian. I joined St. Paul's in 2014.

### **What I offer**

I'm a certified public school guidance counselor. I'm certified in three areas of special education, and curriculum supervision. I spent 36 years of my life in special education advocating and educating for those who were struggling. I was a manager in a dynamic work environment for the developmentally disabled for over nine years of that time. I taught special education for four years in a juvenile prison and for 23 years in traditional public schools.

I've written nine books of poetry. The greatest gift of writing is being able to express myself, communicate, and know afterward that I have said, I have conveyed, connected exactly what I have wished to express. I love connecting with people deeply, below the surface of how we usually live and operate. My favorite expression is "the finest level of the intellect is feeling." Feeling is where we find our joy, our passion.

I have knowledge and expertise in how to walk a labyrinth. I have developed and led a workshop on how to walk a labyrinth that includes how to draw and walk your own. My pamphlet and audio on how to walk a labyrinth is on the St. Paul's website [here](#).

I have been on the vestry twice. In Black Mountain, NC, I was the chair of the fundraising committee when St. James Episcopal Church moved from a small chapel church to a new, magnificent church building in downtown Black Mountain the parish occupies today. I also have served once on the vestry at St. Paul's.

I love to sing in St. Paul's choir. When I sing in this sacred space that is St. Paul's, I become more than, larger than, and closer to God. I feel connected to the divine. I can feel this connection of all the worshipers in that space soaring, soaring, soaring in God's name.

