

Susan Sparks Bio

A trial lawyer, turned standup comedian and Baptist minister, Rev. Susan Sparks is America's only female comedian with a pulpit.

After ten years as a lawyer moonlighting as a standup, Susan left her practice and spent two years on a solo trip around the world, including working with Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro and driving the Alaska Highway. Upon returning home, she entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City where she earned a Master of Divinity and wrote an honors thesis on humor and religion.

Currently, the Senior Pastor of the historic Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City (and the first woman in its 165 year history), Susan is also a professional comedian. She tours nationally with Rabbi Bob Alper and Muslim Comedian Aman Ali in the Laugh in Peace Tour. Featured in *O Magazine*, the *New York Times*, on CBS, CNN and ABC, Susan is also a nationally known motivational speaker with clients such as the William J. Clinton Presidential Center, the World Bank, Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society and the Chautauqua Institution.

A blogger for [Huffington Post](#), [Psychology Today](#), Baptist News Global and [Day 1](#), Susan is the recipient of an award from [Intersections International](#) for promoting reconciliation among diverse communities through her comedy. Her book, [Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor](#) was named a best spiritual books of 2010 and has sold over 20,000 copies.

susansparks.com



Photos by [Tom Grill](#).