

MARBLE UPDATE

MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH 1 WEST 29TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001-4596 WWW.MARBLECHURCH.ORG 212-686-2770 212-685-0706 FAX

JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM

Dr. Michael Brown
preaching

Schedule for Live webcast
at www.marblechurch.org

10am – Bible Study with
Sr. Carol Perry

11am – Worship Service

12:15pm – Talkback with
Dr. Brown

12:45pm – Replay of
Bible Study

1:30pm – Adult Education

TV – Sundays @ 10am,
MNN Time Warner Ch. 67
and RCN Ch. 85

Radio – Sundays @ 7pm,
WOR Radio/710-AM

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 6:15PM

Begin Again...Again

Arthur Caliendo told me of how at the first of each new January, he felt called to proclaim the single message we all need to hear just now – the most appropriate message of all for a new year. His problem, he laughed, was how to annually re-package the same theme. "You Can Begin Again." "Yes, You Can Begin Again." "The Land Of Beginning Again." "It's Time To Begin Again." "Thoughts On Beginning Again." Well, that time has come again, and this year Arthur has passed the baton my way. He's right, you know: There is a message for a new year. It's one we've heard before but need to re-consider. And there's no better time than January to think about new beginnings.

You really *can* begin again. That's the meaning of the New Testament theme of "Conversion." It comes from the Greek word *metanoia* (the same root from which we get our word "metamorphosis"). *Metanoia* refers to a caterpillar that becomes a butterfly. Think of the cocoon as *metanoia*. Something happens that turns us into new creatures. We may have been one thing that lived in a certain way in times past...but now we can emerge as someone different who lives in ways that eluded us before. We can begin again. And the something that happens to change us is literally Someone.

Jesus so many times told people to go back to their villages and show others how new and different they were, and then tell them who had



made them that way. He did that with the demoniac in the cemetery, as well as the woman at Jacob's well, as well as the healed leper on the highway, as well as the man born blind, and so many others. They had been one thing; now, they were something else entirely. They had been given the opportunity to begin again. What He did for them, He will do for us, given a chance.

So, what will we do with this new opportunity, this new season of fresh starts and second chances? Why not approach it *reflectively* and *prayerfully*? Reflect on who you are, what you are, and how you have been living. Reflect about what has worked, and what has not. About what changes you would make if you had the power, but that power seems too grand or elusive to possess. Then, having reflected, pray. Ask the One who does possess that power to do with you, for you, in you, and through you what you cannot accomplish alone. Ask God for the grace to begin again, the strength to become the person you were created to be, and the wisdom to begin that journey now. Those miracles happen all the time. It can happen for you. You really can begin again.

Happy New Year!

- MARBLE CURRICULUM FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- PROGRAM MINISTRIES
- SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT
- OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE
- MARBLE MATTERS

Sunday Worship, 11am DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN PREACHING

JANUARY 3
Carpe Diem
Psalm 118:20-24

JANUARY 10
Are You Afraid
of God?
Psalm 111

JANUARY 17
How Risky Is
Your Faith?
John 1:38-51

JANUARY 24
What We Teach When We
Don't Know We're Teaching
Exodus 34:29-32

JANUARY 31
The Marble
Message
1 John 1:1-5



Sr. Carol Perry

Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO IN WORSHIP

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

As a worshipping people we come to God through the Word and also the Sacraments, such as Baptism and Holy Communion. Sr. Carol explores the biblical roots of Sacraments and how they can be a blessing for a more meaningful church experience.

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

LIVING STONES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

January 5, 12, 19 & 26

Sr. Carol leads an exploration of major passages of Paul's letters, the four gospels, and the Book of Revelation in an effort to understand key texts that are the core of our Christian faith. An in-depth investigation of these biblical building blocks can increase awareness of God's Spirit as we move forward in our personal growth.

Spirituality in the Workplace

WEEKDAYS, NOON-1PM

BOOST YOUR SPIRIT OVER LUNCH

Bring your lunch and join interactive Bible study in three Manhattan locations with Sr. Carol Perry. Return to work with a new attitude.

TUESDAYS

January 5 & 19: Downtown at 2 Wall Street, Law Offices of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, 18th fl.

January 12 & 26: Marble Collegiate Church, 3 West 29th St. (check lobby schedule for room).

THURSDAYS

January 14 & 28: St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Avenue (at 51st Street). Enter through Park Avenue doors and proceed to the Welcome Center, directly behind the chancel to the right.



Paulette Thompson-Clinton, Div.

Adult Education in Bay Hall

LIGHT FOR A NEW YEAR

In January, the Christian liturgical calendar brings us Epiphany, the feast of light, the familiar story of the Magi following a star. The new year itself holds promise, and invites us to look at what might light our way in the coming days, what spiritual tools and practices might equip us as seekers and disciples. This month, the 1:30 Adult Education hour includes a range of classes designed to help you embrace whatever your new year may hold, offering insight and strength from music, mindfulness, ways to experience

abundance, and how to manage change and procrastination.

SUNDAYS AT 1:30PM

NAVIGATING SEASONS OF CHANGE

January 3

Nina H. Frost

Transition can be a step toward our more authentic presence in the world.

— William Bridges, author of *Transitions*.

A new year is naturally a time to assess what is changing. Where are the endings, beginnings, and in-between times in our lives, and what empowers us to live with the tensions in each? This class explores ways to prayerfully connect with the spiritual demands and opportunities inherent in change.

MORE THAN ENOUGH: GOD'S WAY TO AN ABUNDANT LIFE

January 10

Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M.Div.

Scripture assures us that we can trust God to meet our every need. But when we feel inadequate or overwhelmed by life's challenges, how do we hold on to that promise? In this session, we will look at how Jesus and the disciples satisfied the hunger of the crowds with very limited resources. With this beloved story as our model, we will consider what we have, what we need, and how God equips us to accomplish great things no matter how daunting the situation before us may appear.

GOD'S CALL IN GOSPEL MUSIC

January 17

Djoré Nance and the Gospel Choir

The Marble Community Gospel Choir embodies powerful sound, a group spirit, and the stories of the many singers who give time and energy to what is a vibrant spiritual home. In this class you will hear a preview of soul-stirring music from their upcoming concerts and take an inside look at the process of crafting musical theology for worship and performance.

MINDFUL LIVING IN THE NEW YEAR

January 24

Diane Johnston

Mindfulness is a life-changing spiritual practice. Jesus modeled a way of being fully present, whatever His circumstances and whoever He was with. Many traditions call this intentional way of living and being present in the moment *mindfulness*. Diane Johnston offers an introduction to mindfulness as well as practical ways to cultivate a purposeful awareness in your life, especially during stressful times.

OVERCOMING PROCRASTINATION

January 31

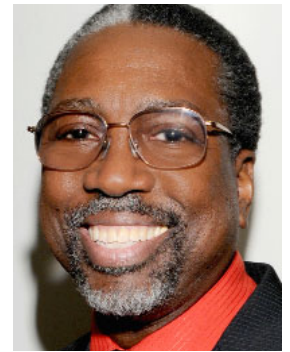
Mario Sprouse

Having trouble getting started with your goals for the new year? For whatever the reason we do it, procrastination can have major consequences in our lives. Internally we can feel miserable and frustrated because of repeatedly delaying what needs to be done. External consequences may be the loss of a job or relationship. This session helps you understand

what procrastination really is, the nature of “fear of failure” and “fear of success,” and how to gain control over procrastination by utilizing sound spiritual and biblical principals.

PRAYER CIRCLE EACH SUNDAY*Poling Chapel, 10am*

This informal get-together, led by ministers, centers on singing and prayer for individual and communal concerns. Holy Communion is celebrated January 10.



Mario Sprouse

Program Ministries**Arts Ministry****THROUGH THE NIGHT**

Monday, January 25

Daniel Beaty

The Arts Ministry and GIFTS Fellowship present Obie Award-winner Daniel Beaty in a staged reading of his one-man show, *Through the Night: Journeys of Friendship, Family and Faith*. See GIFTS article on page 4 for details.

Children, Youth & Families Ministry (CYF)**PARENTS' GROUP: EXPLORING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF CHILDREN**

Sundays, January 10–February 7, 9:45am

Our newly formed Parents' Group focuses on equipping parents and guardians with the spiritual tools to raise their children rooted in Christian values in a secular world. We will discuss questions such as “How do we understand our children as spiritual beings?” “Do children go through different stages of spiritual development?” “How can we best support our children in their spiritual growth?” Each Sunday begins at 9:45am with our Morning Assembly in Room 600. At 10am, children attend Sunday School or childcare while adults meet over coffee or tea. After Sunday School, children worship in the Sanctuary with their parents for the first 20 minutes of the service before they leave for choir rehearsal. All parents/guardians are welcome; no pre-registration is necessary.

CYF OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 24, 9:45am-12:15pm

Check out Marble's Christian education programs for infants through 18-year-olds. Parents and guardians are welcome throughout the morning to visit the children's classrooms, meet the teachers and music directors, and explore the CYF Library and Children's Chapel. After worship, come to Room 600 for a reception, 12:30–1pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sundays, January 31–May 16

In the Reformed Church in America tradition, it is common for infants and young children to be baptized into the faith. Confirmation is the process of a young person affirming the vows made at baptism at an age when he or she has reached the maturity to do so. It is a significant milestone in their spiritual journey. All youth, Grades 9-12, are eligible to be confirmed. Classes begin Sunday, January 31, ending with Confirmation Sunday, May 16. A Confirmation Retreat will be held the weekend of February 5-7 at Warwick Retreat Center in Warwick, New York.

Interested youth and parents should contact Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M. Div., or Brian Hampton, 212-686-2770, ext 442.

Committed Couples**REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS**

Sunday, January 10, 12:30pm

Rev. Steven Pierce & Liz Testa

Whether you've shared your lives together for a few months or several years, commit to each other at a reaffirmation ceremony in the Sanctuary led by Rev. Steven Pierce and Liz Testa. Afterwards, enjoy a special brunch by Chef Ron at \$24 per couple. Reservations required; contact Siobhan Tull (Stull@marblechurch.org) at the church (ext. 412) or register online at www.marblechurch.org. Childcare available.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, February 11 – St. Valentine's Dinner and *Concert à la Carte*. Make a date with the one you love and come to Marble for a romantic dinner, followed by “If Music Be the Food of Love,” a recital directed by Kenneth Dake.

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Michael Christensen



Olie Westheimer



Daniel Beaty

Entrepreneurs

A DANCER AND A CLOWN

Thursday, January 21, 6:30pm

Michael Christensen & Olie Westheimer

To launch our 2010 season of "Inspired Conversations with Leaders," Michael Christensen, Co-founder and Creative Director of the Big Apple Circus, and Olie Westheimer, Executive Director of the Brooklyn Parkinson Group, discuss the ground-breaking work they are doing with the arts and health. In addition to reintroducing the classic one-ring circus to American audiences in the 1970s, Michael founded Clown Care SM, the oldest professional hospital clowning program in the world. Olie Westheimer and her company are making life-altering differences to people with Parkinson disease by introducing them to dance. \$10, suggested donation.

GIFTS: A GLBT Fellowship

THROUGH THE NIGHT

Monday, January 25

Daniel Beaty

GIFTS and the Arts Ministry present Obie Award-winner Daniel Beaty in a staged reading of his one-man show, *Through the Night: Journeys of Friendship, Family and Faith*. Marble member Charles Randolph-Wright, director and playwright, directs Daniel as he portrays six African-American males, ages 10 to 60, who discover the power of possibility through one extraordinary event. With commanding skill, compassion and humor, Beaty gives voice to this community of men and those who love them. Register Sundays at the GIFTS Table in Bay Hall, or online at www.marblechurch.org. Dinner program; see column at left.

NEW YEAR COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, January 24, following worship

Join us for an informal discussion with Dr. Michael Brown over coffee/tea and cookies.

Marble Connection

YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20s & 30s

SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS, 12:30-1:15PM

We meet over light brunch and talk about what matters in our lives. Get to know other young adults as we share life and faith. On January 3, Rev. David Lewicki leads a discussion about "Setting Goals for the New Year." Meets on the 4th floor.

The remaining Sundays in January we'll enjoy coffee and fellowship at the Connection Table in Bay Hall immediately following morning worship.

40s & 50s Ministry

AFTER THE STORM

Thursday, January 28

A New Orleans-themed dinner precedes a screening of the documentary *After the Storm*, which follows a group of Broadway artists who arrive in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina to bring hope to the ravaged community. The creative team worked to reopen the damaged St. Mark's Community



Center and stage the Tony-award winning musical *Once on This Island* with local teenagers. This inspiring 90-minute film captures the lives of the kids and crew as create faith and purpose in the midst of devastation and despair. Lesley Mazzotta, Marble Member and 40s/50s lay leader, is associate producer of the *After the Storm* Foundation and was part of the team in New Orleans. Lesley will answer questions after the film. Dinner program; see column at left.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Form a special relationship with another member of our 40s/50s group and grow in faith and friendship while supporting each other on your spiritual journeys. This new ministry brings two people together for weekly prayer calls. To participate, contact Lesley Mazzotta, 917-623-4554.

Men's Ministry

MEN AND LONELINESS

Tuesday, January 19

Dr. Bill Lutz

The reasons for loneliness are both numerous and complicated. Loneliness is an emotional state in which a person experiences a painful awareness of being unable to connect with others and important needs are not met. There is no over-the-counter medication that can cure loneliness, but there are several proven methods to overcome it. Dr. Bill Lutz, former pastoral advisor to the Men's Ministry, returns to lead a thought-provoking discussion on this vital topic. Dinner program; see column at left.

BRUNCH & DISCUSSION: CONQUERING STRESS AND ANXIETY

Sunday, January 24, 12:30pm

We often become anxious or stressful when we are overwhelmed by too much work, debt, family and relationship problems. Often stress is caused by a threat or danger and can trigger

DINNER PROGRAMS AT MARBLE

TIME: 6pm, dinner*
7pm, program

COST: \$18, dinner & program
\$8, program only

*24-hour advance registration required for dinner programs. Reserve in Bay Hall after Sunday worship, online at www.marblechurch.org, or call the church, 212-686-2770.

physical and emotional problems – headaches, insomnia, tiredness, weight loss, weight gain, and moodiness. Men of Marble will join together to watch one of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's classic sermons on this subject. Friends are always welcome. Brunch, \$12 (no reservation needed). For inquiries, contact Rev. Steve Pierce or Tom Schneider at the church.

60+ Fellowship

LUNCH AND PROGRAM

12PM, LUNCH

Served promptly at noon. Regular meal (salad, soup & dessert), \$7. Special occasion meal (scheduled throughout the season): \$10, Fellowship members; \$12, guests.

1PM, PROGRAM

January 6 – Drew Kindred kicks off 2010 with refreshing chair yoga and lively group dances.

January 13 – Rev. Norm Tellier, financial planner, focuses on retirees' particular financial concerns and questions.

January 20 – Rev. Marion Gambardella helps you tap into your innate ability to promote healing for yourself, others, and the world.

January 27 – Singer Gary Thompson and accompanist Les Kurtz entertain with popular standards and Broadway favorites.



Gary Thompson

CLASSES, CLUBS & MOVIES

Classes and activities listed below are free, but registered membership in the 60+ Fellowship is required. Contact Colleen Cosgrove, 212-686-2770.

Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30am – Led by peer instructors certified by NYC's Dept. of the Aging. No pre-registration needed. Ellie Minor teaches line dancing January 6.

Bridge Club, 2:15pm – Experienced players welcome. On January 13, bridge master Mike Galatola teaches a class for intermediate players and above. \$2, requested donation for Mr. Galatola's instruction.

Movie of the Week, 2:15pm – Room 601.

1/6 – "The Great Dictator" (1940); Charlie Chaplin.

1/13 – "She Done Him Wrong" (1933); Mae West & Cary Grant.

1/20 – "Around the World in 80 Days" (1956); Charles Boyer & Marlene Dietrich.

1/27 – "Fancy Pants" (1950); Bob Hope & Lucille Ball.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

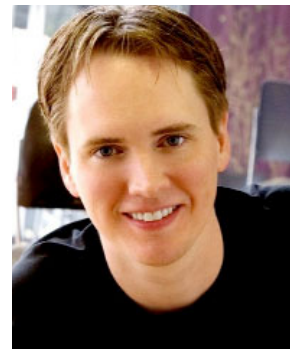
January 20 & 27, February 3 & 10, 2:15pm

Marble staff member Brian Hampton leads a 4-week stage workshop to sharpen the chops of those interested in enhancing their performance skills. Brian is a professional actor, singer, and playwright whose productions have been seen regionally as well as in New York City, most recently in the 2009 Fringe Festival and Midtown International Theatre Festival. Brian is currently putting finishing touches to the book adaptation of his play "Checking In." Pre-register with Colleen Cosgrove, 212-686-2770. Class is limited to 15.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

January 20, 2:15-4pm

June Jarvis, skin care expert, gets our year started off right and introduces some of the new rejuvenating, antiaging products on the market today. Space is limited to 12 people. Call Colleen Cosgrove, 212-686-2770.



Brian Hampton

Marble Women's Ministry (MWM)

SPA DAY FOR THE SOUL

Saturday, January 9, 9am-1:30pm*

All women are invited to an annual spiritual day retreat for mind and body, led by Dr. Kimberleigh Jordan and members of the MWM leadership team. This year, we explore the theme of "putting the pieces of life together." As women, how do we interlock the puzzle pieces of life and faith in our spiritual journeys? How do we draw on our faith to get us through trying times and tough transitions? The day includes Bible study, group interaction, prayer, worship and a special spa lunch menu.

Cost, \$30 (includes lunch, snacks, and materials) Register Sundays in Bay Hall after worship, online at www.marblechurch.org, or contact Elise Hanley (ext. 470) at the church (EHanley@marblechurch.org).

*Registration begins at 8:30 am.

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL WEEKEND RETREAT

February 19-21

MWM returns to the beautiful Seaview Resort in Galloway, NJ, for a weekend of centering, rest, and spiritual nourishment. Inquiries to Elise Hanley (ext. 470) at the church (EHanley@marblechurch.org).

Wednesday Worship @ 6:15pm

Beginning at 6:15, Gospel Choir director Djouré Nance provides musical leadership and Rev. David Lewicki offers insightful preaching. This mid-week service blends traditional and contemporary worship styles, taking the best of both, creating a mixture that is informal and reverent, often humorous, and always Spirit-filled.

The Labyrinth is available, 5–8pm, in Burrell Hall for walking meditation the first Wednesday of every month.

Small Groups

SAILING IN THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Are you facing the unexpected, such as divorce or unemployment, or planning a major lifestyle change? Wendy Dolber, Option Method teacher and author of *The Guru Next Door*, *A Teacher's Legacy*, and Marble member Paul Stanwick introduce a powerful life skill, the Option Method, to help you stay afloat in the roughest waters. No matter how adrift you may feel, learn to navigate back to the source of peaceful self-knowledge and happiness. An introductory workshop is offered Saturday, January 23, and the series continues select Tuesdays in February and March, 6:30-8pm. To register, contact Baleta McKenzie (BMckenzie@marblechurch.org) at the church (ext. 466).

SCHEDULE

Introductory workshop: Saturday, January 23 – 9am-12Noon

Tuesdays, February 2, 16 & 23; March 2, 9 & 16 – 6:30-8pm.

COST

(includes Saturday breakfast & materials)

Saturday only, \$15

Saturday and Tuesdays, \$60

PUTTING CHRISTIANITY INTO ACTION IN DAILY LIFE

How do we live out our Christianity amidst the challenges and harsh realities of daily life and work? How do we go about unleashing our unique ways of ministering to others in our weekday world? Through creative Bible studies, stimulating discussion, case studies, and small group support, *Unleashing Our Weekday Ministries* helps us to discover the caring minister within each of us and addresses such issues as:

- living by our core values;
- loving difficult people;
- managing relationships of power and authority;

- standing up for truth, and more.

To register, contact Baleta McKenzie (BMckenzie@marblechurch.org) at the church (ext. 466).

GROUP LEADERS

Roselyn Barranda, Baleta McKenzie, Robert Zanetti

SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, January 13, 20 & 27;

February 3 & 24; March 3 – 6:45-8:45pm

Saturday, February 13 – 9am-4pm

Thursday, February 18 – 6:45-8:45pm

COST

\$5 (for materials). Childcare available with advance notice.

Weekday Workshop

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR GOOD HEALTH

Mondays, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, 6:30-8pm

Bethany Butler

How would it feel to live full of energy and vitality in 2010? Join nutrition and lifestyle counselor Bethany Butler in learning step-by-step, practical ways to implement healthier eating and happier living. Bethany, a Board-Certified Holistic Health Practitioner, shows you how to bridge the gap between diet and lifestyle. In this 4-session workshop she helps you discover the God-given benefits of natural, wholesome foods and gives you spiritual guidelines to reduce stress, increase energy, and feel better in your body.

Cost, \$85 (includes four sessions and materials); space is limited. Reserve online at www.marblechurch.org or contact Siobhan Tull (STull@marblechurch.org) at the church (ext. 412).

Grief Recovery Group

Mondays, January 11 – March 29, 6:30pm

A new 12-week group facilitated by grief counselor Mark Glubke begins this month for those who have lost loved ones and are struggling with their sorrow. Mark holds a Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care from Fordham University and is a therapist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he leads a grief recovery group. Participants are asked to commit to the entire schedule; pre-registration is required. To register, contact Judy Tulin (ext. 709) at the church (JTulin@marblechurch.org).



Wendy Dolber



Roselyn Barranda



Robert Zanetti

Action Volunteers

WAYS TO HELP OTHERS

In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.

— Dag Hammarskjöld

Begin the New Year with an exciting growth experience – be a volunteer. This month we highlight Marble's annual Blood Drive on Sunday, January 17. The NY Blood Center hopes for our enthusiastic support of this vital, life-sustaining program.

Below are other ways to grow and serve in January:

Sunday, January 3 – Contribute food to HONEY (Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round) by bringing single-serving non-perishables to the Action Table on the Portico.

Sunday, January 3 – Help serve lunch to disadvantaged (and, in some cases, homeless) seniors after worship at a local church on East 31st Street.

Sunday, January 10 – Volunteers are needed to help prepare 50 lunches, 9:30-10:30am, for our Ecclesia Ministry (an open-air worshipping

congregation for the homeless in Madison Square Park). Others are needed to transport the lunches and host the service, starting at 1:30pm.

Sunday, January 17 – Marble Church's annual Blood Drive. Give the gift of life; sign up in advance for an appointment to donate blood.

Sunday, January 24 – The Action Committee sorts used winter clothing for the homeless. Volunteers help with the sort and, most importantly, drivers with cars are needed to deliver the garments to shelters.

Saturday, January 30 – Common Ground is looking for volunteers to serve lunch 12 Noon-3:00pm to guests at The Prince George (28th Street between Fifth & Madison).

Stop at the Action Table on the Portico after worship any Sunday to talk with a committee member about these opportunities and others, or call Gail Kitselman, Director of Volunteer Ministries, at the church. Experience the joy of sharing your talents with others.



Sorting clothes

Marble Matters

MARBLE TALKS: DAILY INSPIRATION IS JUST A CLICK AWAY

Marble Talks are blogs written by our ministers and spiritual leaders. Each day you can find helpful insight for life's journey. For instance, what does Dr. Brown say about the power of prayer (even if it's simply to find a lost set of keys)? Or, how did a fossil skeleton, aged 4.4 million years, influence Sr. Carol Perry's concept of creation and time? Find links to each writer on the home page of our website at www.marblechurch.org.

What follows are excerpts from a blog by Ken Dake, Director of Music, about singing in worship.

WHY DO WE SING?

Music is a pathway from the head to the heart.

We know that language alone cannot convey the full experience of faith, so we must sing our faith in order to more fully express it.

Singing helps move our faith from concept to reality, from the theoretical to the experiential in our lives. It takes the interior, spiritual journey and imbues it with breath, sound and harmony.

Singing is sacramental – an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In this case it is a tangible sign of our unity as Christians, audible evidence of that which we hold in common above all else.

WHY DON'T WE SING?

We are more apt to be observers rather than partakers of worship. This is a deeper systemic issue

in society, where we have become consumers of music rather than makers of music. Before the advent of the recording, singing was much more prominent in the fabric of our nation.

We've been told we can't sing or don't have talent. We might be ashamed of the sound of our own voice – concerned we might stick out. First of all, if you can talk, you can sing. Secondly, no one is judging how you sound (this isn't "America's Top Congregant.") Lastly, I'm convinced God doesn't even hear our voice, because in God's ears it's drowned out by the sound of our hearts.

Nothing to sing about.

Worship is a form of personal testimony – what transformative encounter with God has ignited your passion to praise? Or is your faith burning low, running on empty, so to speak?

HOW SHOULD WE SING?

Sing with your whole body. Breathe deeply. Imagine breathing in the Spirit of God right down to your ankles. Don't "phone it in" – let your entire self be overtaken by the music. Sing with understanding. Or in the words of John Wesley, "with an eye to God in every word." Even if you choose not to sing, for whatever (continued on pg 8.)

Blogs web page

THE LAST WORD...

*In prayer it is better to have
a heart without words than
words without a heart.*

— MAHATMA GANDHI

Music at Marble**"HOW I GOT OVER"**

Thursday, January 14, 7:30pm

As part of our *Concerts à la Carte*, this evening's performance is focused on music of enduring and overcoming. Hear the operatic side of Gospel Choir director Djoré Nance, who is joined by Cassondra Kellam and other guest artists. Admission, \$15 at the door (\$10, students 8–18. Childcare provided for children 7 and under.)

SAVE THE DATE

"THE POWER OF ONE"

Sunday, February 21, 2:30pm

In celebration of Black History Month, the Marble Community Gospel Choir honors the unique legacy of African-American music. Admission, \$15 (\$10, students 8–18)

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MARBLE UPDATE

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JAN 2010

**MARBLE TALKS: DAILY INSPIRATION
IS JUST A CLICK AWAY** (continued from pg 7)

reason, at least mouth the words and let their message be heard in your heart.

Sing as a personal testimony of your faith.

Has God done anything in your life worth singing about? Do you feel grateful, joyful, or hopeful? Have you been the recipient of God's grace? Then, to paraphrase the famous hymn, "How can you keep from singing?"

Sing as a ministry to others. There are those around you who need to be encouraged and comforted. There are those listening via the Internet or radio

that need to feel the strength of these hymns. It may be the thing that gets them through the week, or even the next hour.

Sing like nobody is listening. God hears your heart, and that's all that matters.