

# MARBLEUPDATE

MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH 1 WEST 29TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001-4596 [WWW.MARBLECHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.MARBLECHURCH.ORG) 212-686-2770 212-685-0706 FAX

## MARCH 2011

### SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM

DR. MICHAEL BROWN  
PREACHING

Schedule for Live Webcast  
at [www.marblechurch.org](http://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** – Fridays @ 4:30pm,  
MNN Time Warner Ch. 67  
and RCN Ch. 85

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

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 6:15PM

## Lent: Giving Up or Away?

A son came upon his father one evening after dinner, drinking a glass of wine. "Dad," the young man said, "I'm surprised at you! I thought you gave up alcohol for Lent." His father looked a bit sheepish, but replied: "No, son. I just gave up hard liquor." The next afternoon the father saw his son walking through the house, gleefully devouring a Snickers Bar. "Son," the father announced, "now I'm surprised at you! I thought you gave up candy for Lent." "No, dad," his son answered. "I just gave up hard candy!"

I still recall sitting over lunch a few years ago with a retired clergyman from North Carolina. As we placed our orders, I told him I would love to have the Spaghetti a' la Venice, but I had given up pasta for Lent. I asked what he had given up, to which he responded: "Liver. In fact, if I can live without it during Lent, I may just give it up for good!" I am very tempted to follow his example.

What may keep me from following that friend's example, however, is that I increasingly question the practice of giving up particular "things" for Lent. Oh, I probably will. I always do. But still, as sacrilegious as it may sound, I'm not sure it matters much what you or I give up, or if we give up anything at all. Bishop Charlene Kammerer (who preached my Installation Sermon here in '09) said: "I don't think it is half as important what we give up for Lent as it is what we give away!"

Jesus didn't "give up" His life on the Cross, nor did He "give up" on life! Instead, Jesus "gave His



life away" for a noble and sacred purpose. However you interpret that event, it was not an act of "giving up." Perhaps He gave His life to protect the historic principles of Judaism (His faith which he felt was being diluted and misused). Perhaps He gave his life as an advocate for the powerless and was, therefore, at cross-purposes with those who possessed power. Perhaps He gave His life that we might live. However you interpret it, this is what He said: "I have come not to be served but to serve, and to give My life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

To give something up is, at best, an act of self-denial. To give something away is an act of charity. To give up is an act of defeat. To give away is an act of love. So, I think the Lenten question we all should ask ourselves is not so much "What am I giving up," but rather, "What am I willing to give away for Lent?" For some it will mean an increased donation to the church. For others it will mean becoming involved in some form of church or community service. For some it will mean risking public approval by standing up and speaking out on a matter of conscience. For others it will mean tutoring a child, visiting in a nursing center, or working on a Habitat house. For some it may simply mean deliberately setting aside more quality time for those who love and need us. I can't fill in the blank for you, but I can encourage you to ask of yourself what I will ask of myself this year: "What am I willing to give away for God and neighbor in the season of Lent?"

## Lenten Sermon Series: Common Clichés with Christian Content

DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN PREACHING\*

**MARCH 6\***  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**Transfigured and Transformed**  
Mark 9:2-8

**MARCH 13\***  
**1st Sunday in Lent**  
**There's No Time Like the Present**  
Matthew 26:1-4, 14-19

**MARCH 20**  
**2nd Sunday in Lent**  
Rev. Shari Brink preaching

**MARCH 27\***  
**3rd Sunday in Lent**  
**Easy as Child's Play**  
Mark 10:13-16



## Lent 2011

### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP (WEWO) IN LENT

Every Lent is a journey, and this year's journey is going to be a new experience for Marble Church. We will partner with Rev. Susan Sparks and the members of Madison Avenue Baptist Church for our Lenten WeWo services. They have graciously agreed to host us, as our Sanctuary will not be available on Wednesdays due to the renovation project.

Our Ash Wednesday Worship, March 9, will be held in the Marble Sanctuary, but each of the succeeding Wednesday evening services will be held at Madison Avenue Baptist Church (on the Southeast corner of Madison Avenue and 31st Street). As always, Ken Dake and Djouré Nance will lead their talented singers and accompanists in providing an incomparable array of music.

Word, song, prayer, fellowship ... It is our hope that all of those components will enhance our experience of the Lenten message. Please join us.

### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 – AT MARBLE

*(Kicks off Sunday Sermon Series: Common Clichés with Christian Content)*

*Burying Our Head in the Sand*  
Dr. Michael Brown

THEME: LIFE AFTER LOSS

### MARCH 16 – AT MADISON AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH

*Weathering the Storms of Life*  
Rev. Susan Sparks

### MARCH 23 – AT MADISON AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH

*When My Prayers Bounce Off the Ceiling*  
Rev. Steve Pierce

### MARCH 30 – AT MADISON AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH

*Laughing in the Hard Times*  
Rev. Susan Sparks

*Madison Avenue Baptist Church is on Southeast corner of Madison Avenue and 31st Street.*

## At Marble, You Are Wanted, Welcomed, Loved.

### WELCOME CENTER

We are delighted to announce the opening of our "Welcome Center." All those new to Marble or interested in joining the church are invited to stop by Peale Parlor after worship each Sunday to be greeted, enjoy a cup of coffee, and have the chance to learn more about our faith community.

First-time visitors are invited to stop by the Newcomers' Table at the Fifth Avenue door before worship or the Welcome Center after worship. We'd love to greet you and give you a token of our appreciation for worshipping with us.

### SOMETHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

### SPONSORS ARE BACK AS NEW MEMBER PARTNERS

Kim Sebastian Ryan

Do you remember having a sponsor when you joined Marble? Some of you will remember very well and others will wonder what in the world I'm talking about. Created by the late, beloved, Dr. Florence Pert, New Member Sponsors were one of the most effective ways we had for making our new members feel that they were a welcome and important part of our church community. Florence designed a program of matching a new member with a member of the congregation, as a way of providing a welcoming contact and friend as they entered the New Member process. It helped new members build their sense of belonging and community as they became part of the Marble family. Well, the good news is, the program is back and has a brand new name – **New Member Partners**.

So what does it involve besides the blessing of making a new friend? Being a New Member Partner is something most of us do on some level already. Every time we take the opportunity to greet a newcomer and invite him or her to an upcoming program, or direct them to brunch or coffee hour, we are naturally making them feel welcome. As a Partner, we are simply asking you to take this welcoming step to the next level by specifically getting to know someone in the New Member class and helping to introduce him or her into the life of the Marble community. You would be introduced at a Meet & Greet before worship on New Member Orientation Sunday and then join your new member for lunch after the service. And, of course, you would be present on the following Sunday as they are received into membership. Afterward, the course of your partnership is up to the two of you. We will hold New Member Partner training throughout the year as New Member Orientation Sessions approach, providing you with helpful tips and information. Check future Marble Updates and Sunday bulletins for specific training dates.

This is a wonderful way to get involved in the life of our community as we welcome and nurture our newest members. It's a great experience, one that I hope each of you will take part in at some point in the future. I'm really excited we're revitalizing this program. Let's make Florence proud and our new members welcome!

For further details about how you can be involved with this new program please contact Kim Sebastian Ryan, (ext 475 or [KRyan@marble-church.org](mailto:KRyan@marble-church.org)).

### SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASS

*Sunday, April 3*  
10:00am – 3:00pm

If you've been thinking about membership – take that step. This class will be received into membership on Sunday, April 10. **Sign up required by March 27.** Please stop by the Welcome Center in Peale Parlor after Sunday worship, or contact Kim Sebastian Ryan for more details, 212-686-2770, ext. 475, or [KRyan@marble-church.org](mailto:KRyan@marble-church.org). (The following class will be June 5).

# Marble's Annual Easter Offering

In 2010, more than 1000 congregants and friends of Marble together donated more than \$155,000 to our annual Easter Offering with gifts ranging in amount from under \$20 to more than \$10,000. Every dollar of the Offering was awarded in 2010 as grants to a diverse group of non-profit organizations making significant contributions to the relief of suffering and the creation of opportunity and hope, both in our New York City neighborhoods and across the globe. Listed below are the 2010 recipients of the Easter Offering, and other support from Marble Church and the Collegiate Corporation.

## CAREGIVING

### Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program (SAVI)

support and counseling for survivors of sexual violence

### Search and Care

assistance to New York seniors in need

### Share the Caregiving

group support for caregivers

### United Neighbors of East Midtown

support for elderly New Yorkers in need

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICES

**"The Church" at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields**  
drop-in center offering food, programs and services to LGBTQ youth

### Grand Street Settlement

Asian American elders' program

### Project Find

provides low income and homeless senior adults with service and support to live enriched & independent lives

## EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

### Battered Women Resource Center

advocacy training for survivors of domestic abuse

### Contemporary Ballet Theatre

dance program for at risk children and youth

### College/Community Fellowship

educational support and community building for formerly incarcerated women

### Daniel's Music Foundation

music therapy program for people to overcome disabilities

### Exodus Transitional Community

reintegration support to formerly incarcerated men and women

### Palms For Life

addressing/ending poverty worldwide through educational programs and food distribution.

### Reading Excellence and Discovery Foundation (READ)

reading programs for at-risk 5 and 6 year olds and teen tutors.

### SEAM Christian Learning Center

education program for Philippine street children

## ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

### Opportunity International

funding for entrepreneurial small businesses in developing nations

## FOOD AND CLOTHING

### Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen

daily meals and services for hungry New Yorkers

## Sunday Lounge

Sunday lunches for neighborhood seniors in need

### Suzie Reizod Foundation

gifts of shoes to children in need

## HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### Covenant House New York

Shelter and services for homeless youth

### Hour Children

Housing, services and support for formerly incarcerated women and their children

### Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter

offers housing services, substance abuse, counseling and vocational programs in the effort to end homelessness

### Redemption Center

housing and household goods for ex-offenders

## MENTORING

### Girls Quest

mentoring program for girls

## PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

### Partnership of Faith

fosters relationships among people of faith while speaking out on issues of religious hatred, violence, poverty, and peace

## Search for

**Common Ground**  
training in cooperative resolution of global conflicts.

## SOCIAL ADVOCACY Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

monitoring and advocacy services to facilitate children in foster care

## Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary

leadership and advocacy training to congregations and individuals to work towards ending poverty

## SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES Ecclesia Ministries of New York

worship, fellowship and food for homeless neighbors in New York City

## Healthcare Chaplaincy

religious ministry to hospital patients

## Lumunos

empowering people to explore, discern and act on their many gifts and calls in their lives for the good of God's world.



Your generosity made a meaningful difference in the lives of all the people served by these organizations in 2010. This year, every dollar that you donate will be awarded as grants to organizations doing equally important work.

To make a donation, use the envelope that you will receive in the mail or find in a pew rack. You may also make an online contribution by going to [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) and click on Outreach/Easter Offering, or by mail to Marble Church, attn: Easter Offering.

For many years the Easter Offering has given us a unique opportunity to share our many blessings with others. It enriches our life as a community of the faithful. Please join us by giving as generously as you can.

## SAVE THE DATE

# National Easter Special on ABC TV

**Hope Is Back!** Is a dynamic, joyful celebration of Easter – filled with touching music, life-changing stories of faith, and a powerful sermon by Dr. Michael Brown.

**April 24, 2011, 11:00am/ET.** Tell your family and friends around the country to check their local listings for ABC broadcast information.



Sr. Carol Perry

## Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

### WHY FIVE SERMONS?

*March 13, 20 & 27*

Matthew's gospel is structured about 5 important sermons of Jesus. What does that tell us about the community that compiled that gospel and about ourselves as the modern listeners? Continues April 3 & 10.

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

### THE ONE-SIDED CONVERSATION

*March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29*

We forget that the Apostle Paul's letters are just one side of an ongoing conversation with early church communities. We continue working together to see what lies behind his later letters. Join Sister Carol Perry for an intriguing look at first-century society and culture.

WEEKDAYS, NOON-1PM

### SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE 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

**March 1, 15 & 29:** Downtown at 2 Wall Street, Law Offices of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, 18th fl.

**March 8 & 22:** Marble Collegiate Church, 3 West 29th Street (check lobby schedule for room).

THURSDAYS

**March 10 & 24:** St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Avenue (at 51st Street). Enter through Park Avenue doors and proceed to the Vestry Room, directly behind the chancel to the right.

## Marble Curriculum for Spiritual Growth

### FROM VISION TO ACTION

Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M.Div.

In March, Spiritual Growth opportunities at Marble encompass a wide array of offerings. At the 1:30pm hour, February's theme of doing and being church continues to weave itself throughout our weekly sessions. As the sacred season of Lent begins this month, Dr. Brown will help prepare the way by sharing with us his God-given vision for Marble. We will also learn about Church Leadership, which will enhance our understanding of how the church is organized to carry out its vital ministries which serve the people of God. Along our Lenten journey, we will broaden our spiritual horizons by looking at how Jewish and Christian devotional practices intersect, even in this season we tend to see as exclusively Christian. The month

concludes with a choral showcase harmoniously highlighting the poignant tension between belief and unbelief that characterizes our faith journey.

If intimacy is what you crave, then consider joining a Small Group – a powerful way to deepen your spiritual journey. **Our Spring 2011 Small Groups have been launched.** For a list of groups open to new members, see page 8.

Lastly, we are proud to launch a brand new pilot program for persons at any point on the job seeking or career changing path. It is called "You're Hired! Marble Job Search Seminars." Read more about this exciting initiative, also on page 8.

Whether you're looking for practical spiritual tools to help you with life's daily challenges, or inspiration to go deeper on your faith walk, Marble's Spiritual Growth offerings have something for everyone. Visualize yourself growing in the Spirit, and join us to put your faith in action. Let's grow together!

SUNDAYS AT 1:30PM

### VISION FOR MARBLE CHURCH, 2011 AND BEYOND

*March 6*

Dr. Michael Brown

The holy season of Lent begins on March 9. As we prepare to journey through Lent together, Dr. Brown will share with us the vision God gave him for Marble: To care holistically for the members of our local congregation, to be an academy presence in the local church community, and to be a vibrant force on the national religious landscape. In outlining this vision, Dr. Brown will challenge us to seek God's guidance during Lent as to how we are called to help bring this vision to life.

### MARBLE MATTERS: AN INFORMATIONAL SERIES BY THE CHURCH BOARD

*March 13*

Please join us for this interactive series hosted by the Elders and Deacons. Today's session, part three of four, focuses on **Church Leadership: The Board, Ministries Council and Collegiate Consistory.**

The series continues on Sunday, April 17, covering **Church Programs: Marble Staff and Lay Leadership.**

### A RABBI LOOKS AT LENT

*March 20*

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz and  
Rabbi Perry Berkowitz

The themes and practices of Lent have fascinating parallels in Judaism, the faith that nurtured Jesus. Find out about the Jewish versions of Lent and what they can teach Christians. Find out when Jews look to be "born again," and how the Jewish concept of resurrection (promoted by the Pharisees) shaped the early followers of Jesus. What do Jews believe about Resurrection today, and

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what are some of the “Jewish Lenten practices” that can inform the Christian journey? Come and be inspired by the Jewish roots of the Christian way.



Rabbi Leah Berkowitz and  
Rabbi Perry Berkowitz

Rabbi Leah Berkowitz and Rabbi Perry

Berkowitz, a unique brother and sister team, head the American Jewish Heritage Organization, a national New York based organization, dedicated to combating hatred and bigotry, advancing spirituality and Jewish renewal and promoting interfaith relations. They also are the rabbis of East Side Synagogue.

## DISCOVERING TRUTH BENEATH THE NOTES BELIEF AMIDST UNBELIEF

March 27

Sr. Carol Perry

This lecture is part of today’s concert. Those not attending the concert are invited to view the lecture via live streaming in Poling Chapel. See page 9 for information.

## PRAYER CIRCLE EACH SUNDAY

Poling Chapel, 10:00am

This informal gathering, led by ministers, centers on singing and prayer for individual and communal concerns. Holy Communion is celebrated March 6.

## Program Ministries

## Children, Youth & Families Ministry (CYF)

### FAMILY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 6 | 10:00am

CYF’s Family Worship is a creative and spiritually-moving service in which the children and youth participate. You don’t have to be a parent or child to benefit from this inspirational celebration of prayer and music. All are invited; meets in Rm 600.

### PARENTS’ GROUP

Sundays, March 13, 20 & 27 | 10:00am

Parents and guardians get together Sunday mornings while children attend Sunday School. Through book discussions, scripture, and sharing real-life parenting experiences, parents and guardians are equipped with the spiritual tools needed to raise their children with Christian values in a secular world.

## Arts Ministry

### THE PUZZLE:

### MARBLE’S FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK

Submissions Continue through March 14

This May we launch our week-long festival of New Works, led by Marya Spring. She has chosen our program as her graduate internship to complete her MFA in Directing at Carnegie Mellon University. See the new Arts Ministry page at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) to find out more about the festival and download the application.

### VOICE COACH: FINDING ONE AND BEING ONE

Thursday, March 17 | 6:30pm-8:30pm

The Marble Arts Ministry and Entrepreneurs welcome Rev. Shari Brink. See page 6 for details.

## Committed Couples

**CAN THESE BONES LIVE? One Couple’s journey from a life-threatening diagnosis to abundant life.**

Thursday, March 10 | 6:00pm

Paulette Thompson-Clinton M.Div. and Marc Clinton



Paulette Thompson-Clinton M.Div. and  
Marc Clinton

The biblical story of Ezekiel and the valley of dry bones is the scriptural backdrop for this evening. Marc and Paulette will share their inspirational story of how faith in God and each other helped move them out of a valley of dry bones and into a healing stream. All couples will be invited to strengthen their own partnerships to help prepare for the unexpected challenges that life brings. Childcare available. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Dinner program; see column on page 7. Advance registration required by March 8.

### SAVE THE DATE EASTERTIDE INTREAT: CLAIMING OUR GIFTS

Saturday, April 30 | 9:30am-2:30pm

Day retreat co-sponsored by the Committed Couples Ministry and Spiritual Enrichment Ministry. See page 8.



Rev. Shari K. Brink

## Entrepreneurs

### VOICE COACH: FINDING ONE AND BEING ONE

Thursday, March 17 | 6:30pm-8:30pm

*If a man does not keep pace with his companions perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away. – Henry David Thoreau*

Along the path of creating an original voice, comes the need at key moments for a coach or guide. Join Rev. Shari Brink, executive minister, as we discuss the many ways we explore our own voice and support others as they shape theirs.

Musician Henry Papale will add an inspiring footnote to our program by discussing the role of music in the crafting of his life and in the movie *The King's Speech*. (If possible, see *The King's Speech* prior to the program). \$10, suggested donation (includes light refreshments).

## GIFTS: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Fellowship

### PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Monday, March 14 | 6:00pm

Have you ever experienced the power of someone praying for you regularly? Marble members Sam Clover and David Sisco have been prayer partners for over six years. Having been witness to each other's major life changes and everyday miracles, they will share their story and give practical advice on how to start a prayer partnership. Dinner program; see column on page 7.

### SAVE THE DATE

### THE HISTORY OF THE GIFTS FELLOWSHIP

Monday, April 11 | 6:00pm

Mark your calendars for this special look back and celebration of the GIFTS Fellowship at Marble.

## Marble Connection

Young Adults in their 20s & 30s

### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23 & 30

7:15-8:15pm

Young adults from Marble join young adults from Madison Avenue Baptist Church in a Lenten Bible Study following WeWo. On Ash Wednesday, March 9, worship and Bible study will be at Marble. Then Wednesdays, March 16-April 13, we'll be at Madison Avenue Baptist Church.

## 40s & 50s Ministry

### A VISIT TO M.A.D.

Thursday, March 10 | 6:00-9:00pm

Join us for a visit to the Museum of Arts and Design, 2 Columbus Circle. Meet us in the lobby at 6pm. Museum entrance fee is pay what you wish.



Liz Testa

### HOME FOR THE HOLY DAYS

Monday, March 28 | 5:30-7:30pm

All are welcome to join our dinner discussion with Liz Testa as we explore what it means to celebrate Lent and Easter within a faith community. (5:30pm appetizers, 6:00pm dinner) Dinner, \$12.

Reservations required by Wednesday, March 23. Register online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) or contact Colleen Cosgrove (ext 453 or [CCosgrove@marblechurch.org](mailto:CCosgrove@marblechurch.org)).

## Men's Ministry

### MONTHLY BRUNCH & DISCUSSION

Sunday, March 20 | 12:15pm

All men invited to gather for brunch at our reserved table in the Meeting Place immediately after worship. At 1:00pm we convene upstairs to watch and discuss Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's sermon, "The Successful Life Principle." Brunch, \$12; no reservation necessary.

### LIFE THROUGH A SPIRITUAL LENS

Weekend Retreat, Friday-Sunday, April 1-3

Rev. Doug Wysockey-Johnson and Rev. Steve Pierce

It was Augustine who said, "Grant, Lord, that I may know myself that I may know thee."

Join Rev. Doug Wysockey-Johnson and Rev. Steve Pierce as they help you explore some of life's deepest questions: Who is God? Who am I? What does

God desire to do through me? Our retreat will concentrate on how men grapple with everyday challenges such as relationships, work, aging, money, among many others. Always refreshing and uplifting, the Men's retreats serve as the perfect getaway for making new friends, reflecting on our spiritual lives and having fun. As in previous years, we gather at St. Joseph's Villa in Saugerties, NY, located on 64 acres of quiet, wooded countryside.

Rev. Doug Wysockey-Johnson is Executive Director of Lumunos (formerly Faith@Work), a national organization to help people find greater spiritual meaning in the whole of their life.

Cost, \$195 (includes meals and lodging); registration required. Reserve with Tom Schneider (ext. 712 or [TSchneider@marblechurch.org](mailto:TSchneider@marblechurch.org)), or online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org). Transportation details forthcoming. Please indicate if you are able to drive and transport others to the retreat center.



Rev. Doug Wysockey-Johnson

## 60+ Fellowship

### LUNCH AND PROGRAM

#### 12:00PM, LUNCH

Served promptly at noon. March 2 and 16, Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's lunches: \$10, Fellowship members; \$12, guests. March 9, 23 & 30, regular meal (salad, soup & dessert), \$6.

#### 1:00PM, PROGRAM

**March 2** – Mardi Gras Celebration with a New Orleans style buffet lunch followed by Linda Ipanema and the Dixie Cats. (\$10, Fellowship members; \$12, guests).

**March 9** – Ash Wednesday Worship at 12:45pm, led by Dr. Bill Lutz, Ken Dake and Liz Testa.

**March 16** – St. Patrick's Celebration with Chef Ron's famous corned beef and cabbage buffet followed by Erin Hill and her Celtic Harp. (\$10, Fellowship members; \$12, guests).

**March 23** – Elise Hanley, Marble's Director of Mission and Outreach, will lead a discussion about what role the church plays in bringing peace and justice to the world, and how Marble is making a difference through the Annual Easter Offering and through its ACTION outreach efforts.

**March 30** – Gary Thompson returns to serenade us with "Songs of Joy."

### 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) for information on how to join.

#### EXERCISE/DANCE CLASS

**March 2 & 9 | 10:30-11:30am**

**March 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00-10:30am**

Led by peer instructors certified by NYC's Dept. of the Aging. No pre-registration needed. Line dancing March 2; Exercise March 9 & 23; Ballroom dancing March 16 & 30.

**Bridge Club | 2:15pm** – Experienced players welcome. On March 16, we welcome new bridge master Bob Cantara, who teaches a class for intermediate players and above. \$2, requested donation for Mr. Cantara's instruction.

**Acting and Singing Class | 2:15pm** – Led by Lynne Wilson.

**Movie of the Week | 2:15pm** – Room 601.

3/2 – "It's a Pleasure" (1945).

3/9 – "Letter's to Juliet" (2010).

3/16 – "Brigadoon" (1954).

3/23 – "The Grass Is Greener" (1960).

3/30 – "The Dancing Pirate" (1936).

### 60+ LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH SR. CAROL PERRY

*Wednesdays, March 16, 23 & 30*

*10:45-11:45am*

"Finding the Road to Jerusalem." To put new energy into our Lenten journey we need the example of biblical people who have gone before us with courage and grace on the way to life.

### AARP TAX AID

*Each Wednesday, 9:30am-2:00pm | Room 205*

Volunteers from the AARP Tax Aid Program help complete your IRS tax forms. This free service, for adults 50 years and older, continues every Wednesday through April 13. First come, first served. 2010 Federal and State tax forms provided. Please bring copies of completed 2009 tax forms and all 2010 income and interest statements.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### HMS PINAFORE

*Sunday, April 9 | 3:00pm*

Mark your calendar for our in-town outing to see The Blue Hill Troupe's HMS Pinafore. More details to come.

## Marble Women's Ministry

### ANNUAL WEEKEND RETREAT

#### HOLY BALANCE IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE

*Friday, March 4 – Sunday, March 6*

**Sister Carol Perry, Nina H. Frost, Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M.Div.**

In the midst of ever-changing times, how do we keep holy balance between living in the world and living in faith? How do we maintain peace in our hearts and clarity in our minds? Join us for the Marble Women's Ministry (MWM) retreat weekend for a rich offering of creative and centering worship, in-depth discussions, time for fellowship and contemplation, and a range of engaging workshops that will allow each woman to savor new and encouraging answers to these questions.

This year we will be at the beautiful Dolce Norwalk in Norwalk, Connecticut, housed in a former Catholic seminary, and close to public transportation. \$335 per person includes a single room, four meals and materials. Payment plans can be arranged, please contact Elise Hanley in writing: [EHanley@marblechurch.org](mailto:EHanley@marblechurch.org). The Dolce Norwalk is located approximately five minutes away from the South Darien Metro North train station, and shuttle service will be available. Space limited. Register Sundays after worship at the MWM table in Bay Hall, online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org), or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)).

### 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](http://www.marblechurch.org), or call the church, 212-686-2770.

## SAVE THE DATE

**EASTERTIDE INTREAT: CLAIMING OUR GIFTS***Saturday, April 30 | 9:30am-2:30pm*

In this season know as Eastertide, take time to revitalize your prayer life, nourish your soul and uplift your spirit. The Spiritual Enrichment Ministry and Committed Couples Ministry invite you to this restorative, nourishing, fun, and restful retreat at Marble. Sessions will be led by Rev. Pierce, Nina Frost, Sister Carol Perry, Liz Testa, and other Marble members.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Small Groups offer encouragement for your spiritual journey. Look at this list of Small Groups being offered between now and June. Do any of them speak to you? If so, for information on meeting days and times, please go the Small Groups page at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org), or contact Paulette Thompson-Clinton at [PTHompsonclinton@marblechurch.org](mailto:PTHompsonclinton@marblechurch.org).

- Arts Peer Support Group
- Bilingual Conversation Circle:  
Becoming One out of Many (Spanish/English)
- Body Acceptance, Sacred Esteem (BASE)
- Companions in Christ
- Fred's Group (for Men only)
- Hearing God's Call
- You're Hired! Marble Job Search Seminars
- Membership 101
- Parents' Group

- Positive Imaging: The Positive Way to Change Your Life
- Prayer and Temperament: Myers-Briggs and Spirituality
- Writer's Group

**YOU'RE HIRED! MARBLE JOB SEARCH SEMINARS**

Tired of looking for a job and not finding one? Have a job, but want a different one? Marble is pleased to offer this series of special job search seminars led by Jim Hajny, an experienced Human Resources professional, who is a career coach at Lee Hecht Harrison, one of the leading corporate outplacement firms in the industry. Come to any one, two or all three of the sessions. The content of each series will be the same. Registration is required, but participation is free. Register at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) or contact Paulette Thompson-Clinton at [PTHompsonclinton@marblechurch.org](mailto:PTHompsonclinton@marblechurch.org).

**THURSDAY SERIES | 6:30-8:30pm***Thursday, March 17: Resume Writing**Thursday, March 24: Networking and Talking with Strangers**Thursday, March 31: Interview Warfare 101***MONDAY SERIES | 6:30-8:30pm***Monday, March 21: Resume Writing**Monday, March 28: Networking and Talking with Strangers**Monday, April 4: Interview Warfare 101***Opportunities to Serve****Action Volunteers**

## WAYS TO HELP OTHERS

**MARBLE'S ANNUAL DRIVE FOR DIGNITY Continues through Sunday, March 13**

Our annual "Drive for Dignity" is a vital Marble outreach effort during which we collect new socks and underwear for New York City's homeless men and women. As our homeless population increases, the need for basic items like underwear is exacerbated. Please bring your gift of **NEW** socks and underwear for adults to the Action Table on Sundays or leave with the Marble receptionist. Questions? Call Elise or Tom at Marble, 212-686-2770.

**Sunday, March 6** – Contribute food to **HONEY** (Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round): bring single serving, non-perishable items to the Action Table on the Portico.

**Sunday, March 6** – Help serve lunch after worship to disadvantaged (and sometimes homeless) seniors at the **Sunday Lounge**, held in the parish house of Madison Avenue Baptist Church on East 31st Street.

**Saturday, March 12** – Join Elise Hanley at a **Habitat Build** in West Harlem. Four volunteers are needed. Time TBD.

**Sunday, March 13** – 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 needed to transport the lunches and host the service, starting at 1:30pm.

**Thursday, March 17** – Five volunteers needed to help prepare and serve lunch at **Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen**, 9:30am-1:30pm.

**Saturday, March 26** – **Common Ground** is looking for volunteers to serve lunch, 12 Noon-3pm, to guests at **The Prince George** (28th Street between Fifth & Madison).

Stop at the Action Table in Bay Hall after worship any Sunday to talk with a committee member about these opportunities and others. You may also sign up to receive notice of serving opportunities, "Action Alerts," by email. Contact Elise Hanley, Director of Mission and Outreach, [EHanley@marblechurch.org](mailto:EHanley@marblechurch.org).

## Stephen Ministry at Marble

Ted Gregory, Stephen Leader & Gospel Choir Member

*God comforts in our all our troubles that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. – 2 Corinthians 1: 4 NLT*

As some of you might be aware, seven Marble members along with Rev. Steve Pierce went to Orlando for a week in January to be trained as leaders to launch the **Stephen Ministry** program at our Church.

Stephen is well known in death as the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:59) but in his life (Acts 6–7) he was the first of seven laypeople commissioned by the Apostles to administer to the needs of their diverse and rapidly escalating congregation. Stephen was described in the above passages as being “full of faith and the Holy Spirit” and “full of God’s Grace and Power.”

The Stephen Ministry at Marble Collegiate Church will be a vehicle through which we can provide high-quality, completely confidential care and outreach to hurting people in our congregation and community. We anticipate rolling out this ministry by summer 2011.

Stephen Ministers are Marble members who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-to-one, God centered care. Each Stephen Minister will be carefully matched with a hurting person – men paired with men, women with women – and meet weekly with that person to listen, care, pray, encourage and affirm in a non-judgmental setting.

Stephen Ministers care for those grappling with divorce, grief, job loss, hospitalization, relocation, financial struggles, adverse diagnosis, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, and many other of life’s difficult situations. We walk with you through this time for as long as you need us.

If you have any questions or you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, email Rev. Steven Pierce at [SPierce@marblechurch.org](mailto:SPierce@marblechurch.org) and one of the Stephen Leaders will contact you personally.



Marble's Stephen Leaders

## Marble Matters

### Music at Marble

**CREDO: MUSIC OF FAITH & DOUBT**

Sunday, March 27 | 2:00pm

Marble Sanctuary Choir, Kenneth Dake, director with special quests Marble’s In Harmony Children’s Choir and the Training Choir of the American Boychoir School, Fred Meads, director

Theologian Paul Tillich said that doubt is not the opposite of faith, but rather one element in it. Masterworks that convey strong proclamations of belief as well as deep questioning cries will include Credo settings by Mozart and Finnish composer Einujuhani Rautavaara, Brahms’ beloved motet, *Warum ist das Licht dem Mühseligen* (*Why is light given to him that is in misery*), and other emotionally powerful works. Includes pre-concert lecture at 1:30pm, *Discovering Truth beneath the Notes* with Sr. Carol Perry.

ADMISSION: \$25, at the door (\$20, students/seniors).

Save \$5 – Order tickets in advance online with credit card at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org), or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org))

DISCOVERING TRUTH BENEATH THE NOTES  
**BELIEF AMIDST UNBELIEF**  
Sunday, March 27 | 1:30pm  
Sr. Carol Perry

Doubt and faith go hand in hand as we move forward on life’s journey. Light comes as we question, if we but wait for the answer. Join Sr. Carol Perry for this exploration of faith and doubt. This lecture is part of today’s concert. **Those not attending the concert are invited to view the lecture via live streaming in Poling Chapel.**



Training Choir of the American Boychoir School



Marble Sanctuary Choir

## An Informational Series by the Church Board

Please join us for this interactive series in Bay Hall hosted by the Elders and Deacons.

**Church Leadership: The Board, Ministries Council and Collegiate Consistory**  
Sunday, March 13 | 1:30pm

**Church Programs: Marble Staff and Lay Leadership**  
Sunday, April 17 | 1:30pm

## SPRING ARTISANS BOUTIQUE

Sunday, May 1 | 12:15pm

Calling all artisans! Marble members and friends are invited to bring custom creations and hand-crafted gifts to be showcased for sale. Table fees: \$40 for a six-foot table, or \$20 for half a table; proceeds go to a local charity and the CYF Ministry. Please reserve early as space is limited. Registration deadline is **April 25**. Register online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org), or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)).

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Sunday, March 13

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you retire Saturday evening.

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**MARBLE**UPDATE

MARCH 2011



### THE LAST WORD:

*Let your mind start a journey thru a strange new world. Leave all thoughts of the world you knew before. Let your soul take you where you long to be...Close your eyes let your spirit start to soar, and you'll live as you've never lived before.*

— Erich Fromm