

# 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

## MARCH 2010

### 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

(Lenten Worship details  
on pg 2)

## The Easter Surprise

"Easter is the story of  
God's wonderful window of  
divine surprise." — Carl Knudsen

Isn't that a beautiful quote?  
Each year we have an opportuni-  
ty to be part of "God's wonderful  
window of divine surprise"  
through our annual Easter  
Offering. You and I have the  
chance to provide assistance to  
people who really don't antici-  
pate it. They don't see it coming.  
Some of them hardly know how

they will manage from one day to the next, meet-  
ing basic needs, feeding and clothing children,  
dealing with medical costs, or just surviving. But  
here in our city there are agencies that discover  
those people and address their needs. The hun-  
gry are fed; the abused are sheltered; the  
children are cradled and clothed; the sick are  
treated; those who cannot help themselves are  
helped; and those who have lost hope are (to  
quote C.S. Lewis) "surprised by joy." At Easter,  
God embraces God's children who don't see it  
coming, and your gifts help create that "wonder-  
ful window of divine surprise."

This year our goal is to collect \$175,000 for our  
2010 Easter Offering. Knowing your faith, your  
love, and your generosity, I have no doubt that  
the goal will be met. Beginning Sunday, March 7,  
and continuing through Palm Sunday, you will  
hear brief but poignant testimonials of how your  
moneys have been used this past year. Also, on  
March 21, our annual Mission Fair will take place  
in Bay Hall – it's a chance to meet representatives  
from the wide variety of agencies we support,  
again learning how your gifts are used to make  
the world a better place. Later, at the 1:30pm



Adult Education class, the  
founder-director of *ShareTheCare*  
will highlight the important work  
her organization is accomplishing.

What follows are agencies that  
we will hear from during Sunday  
worship:

### HOOR CHILDREN

Located in Long Island City,  
New York, Hour Children is a multi-  
faceted family service organization  
that provides housing – permanent  
and transitional – and an array of

supportive services that transform the lives of  
women and their families involved in the criminal  
justice system. [www.hourchildren.org](http://www.hourchildren.org)

### PALMS FOR LIFE FUND

This not-for-profit corporation is dedicated to  
ending poverty by addressing its root causes and  
providing the poor with new opportunities to make  
the right choice for a better future. The Fund helps  
to alleviate hunger, support education and adult  
literacy, and offer health care for mothers and chil-  
dren. Marble supports an Ecuadorian soup kitchen  
project and the African Burkina Faso program for  
women's health and education.

[www.palmsforlifefund.org](http://www.palmsforlifefund.org)

### SHARETHECARE™

Welcomed by individuals, communities, and  
healthcare professionals as a loving, pragmatic  
approach to caregiving, *ShareTheShare* can  
succeed whether a patient is terminally ill, is recu-  
perating from a serious injury, or is aging and in  
need of assistance. It teaches ordinary people how  
to pool their efforts to ease the burden on family  
caregivers and those without family nearby.

[www.sharethecare.org](http://www.sharethecare.org)

MARBLE CURRICULUM  
FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

PROGRAM MINISTRIES

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MARBLE MATTERS

## Sunday Worship, 11am \*DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN PREACHING

**MARCH 7**  
**The Road to Ruin**  
Luke 13:1-9  
Rev. David Lewicki,  
preaching

**MARCH 14**  
**The Road Home**  
Luke 15:11-32  
Rev. Steven D. Pierce,  
preaching

**MARCH 21\***  
**Those Who Sat beside  
Jericho's Road**  
Luke 18:35-19:10

**MARCH 28 \* (Palm/Passion Sunday)**  
**The Road to the Cross**  
Luke 19:28-39

**MISSION FAIR***Sunday, March 21*

Visit the Mission Fair in Bay Hall immediately following worship. Learn about organizations Marble has provided for through the Easter Offering and discover volunteer opportunities.

## Some of the recipients of Marble's 2009 Easter Offering:

**Partnership of Faith in NYC** – Representing diverse faith communities in NYC for the purpose of creating a more loving, humane city.

**Battered Women's Resource Center** – Working to improve the court system's handling of housing and homeless policies for battered women.

**Centurion Ministries** – Seeking freedom for the imprisoned innocent.

**Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** – Monitoring and advocacy services for children in foster care.

**Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies** – Supporting 39 church-based feeding programs within NYC with emergency food assistance.

**Grand Street Settlement** – Supporting a thriving Asian American Elders Program located in Chinatown.

**Habitat for Humanity NYC** – Providing affordable homes for NY families in need.

**Health Advocates for Older People, Inc.** – Helping senior adults in Upper Manhattan maintain a level of independent living.

**Health Care Chaplaincy** – Offering religious representation of all faiths in hospitals to ailing patients.

**Little Kids Rock** – Providing trained instructors and free musical instruments to disadvantaged public school children.

**Lumunos (formerly Faith@Work)** – Helping individuals and churches discern and support their call to ministry.

**Opportunity International** – Providing loans to disadvantaged entrepreneurs in 28 countries to create jobs and provide for their families and neighborhoods.

**Rural & Migrant Ministry** – Ministering to the needs of rural and migrant workers, and especially their youth.

**SEAM Philippine Street Children Project** – Offering education to poverty-stricken street children in the Muntinlupa region of Manila, Philippines.

**Search and Care** – Helping the elderly live with dignity and comfort in their own homes.

**Single Parent Resource Center** – Supporting the Action Committee's Christmas Outreach Project.

**Springs of Hope** – Sponsoring the construction of a playground for the Springs of Hope Orphanage in Kenya.

**Susie Reizod Foundation** – Providing children in need with new shoes and other items.

**United Neighbors of East Midtown, Inc.** – Providing outreach support for seniors who live below the poverty line.

**Veterans Bedside Network** – Conducting a program of therapeutic activities, such as reenactments of TV and radio shows, for patients in veteran's hospitals.

**Volunteer Referral Center** – Matching candidates with not-for-profits that need volunteers.

## Lenten Worship

### NOURISHING OUR HUNGER

*Wednesday Evenings, 6:15pm*

Evening services in Lent are quiet and reflective with singing, silence, prayer, and short meditations on scriptural passages dealing with the theme of hunger. During each service, we are fed at Christ's table through Holy Communion.

The labyrinth is available in Burrell Hall for contemplative walking before and after the service, 5 to 9pm, Wednesdays in Lent.

**MARCH 3**  
**Dr. P. Kimberleigh Jordan**  
*Exodus 16:1-12; John 6:1-14*

**MARCH 10**  
**Rev. David Lewicki**  
*Psalm 42; Matthew 25:31-46*

**MARCH 17**  
**Dr. P. Kimberleigh Jordan**  
*Psalm 146:5-10;*  
*Matthew 5:1-12*

**MARCH 24**  
**Rev. Steven D. Pierce**  
*Psalm 130; John 6:22-40*

## Holy Week at Marble

This year Marble's Lenten journey, "Nourishing Our Hunger," culminates in Holy Week when we pilgrims follow Jesus into Jerusalem, through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and to Easter morning.

### MARCH 28, PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

**Prayer Circle** – Singing and prayer for individual and communal concerns in Poling Chapel. **8:30am**

**Worship** – "The Road to the Cross" (Luke 19:28-39) is Dr. Michael Brown's message. Members are encouraged to attend the early service to ensure that there are seats in the Sanctuary for visitors during the second service. **9 & 11am**

**Bible & Breakfast** – Journey through Holy Week with Bible Study led by Sister Carol Perry. **10:30am**

### APRIL 1, MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Tenebrae, Service of Shadows** – This moving service depicts Christ's last hours in dramatic readings, music, and a gradual dimming of lights symbolizing Jesus' dark hours on the cross. Directed by Marjorie Martin. The Marble

Sanctuary Choir, conducted by Kenneth Dake, is joined by guest artist Camellia Johnson (soprano). **7pm**

### APRIL 2, GOOD FRIDAY

**Music for Meditation** – 11:30am

**Worship** – "Betrayed By a Kiss" (Mark 14:43-50) is Dr. Michael Brown's message. Music Director Kenneth Dake leads the Marble Festival of Voices and Sanctuary Choir. **12 Noon**

**Prayer Vigil** – Join us in the Sanctuary and pray for members and friends of March Church, as well as requests received from across the country by the Peale Center for Christian Living. **1–3pm**

### APRIL 4, EASTER SUNDAY

**Breakfast Before Church** – 8-8:45am. (\$10)

**Easter Communion** – Poling Chapel. 8:30am

**Worship** – "The Road to Emmaus" (Luke 24:13-35) is Dr. Michael Brown's Easter message. Music for brass sextet, organ and choir. Families attend early worship with special activities for children following the service.

**9 & 11am (identical services)**

## Marble Curriculum for Spiritual Growth

### Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

#### THE LUCAN ADVENTURE

March 7, 14 & 21

Written toward the end of the first century, the Gospel of Luke underscores the broad humanitarian character of Jesus' ministry and records details not covered in other gospels. Let us use these weeks of our Lenten journey to travel with Jesus as Luke sees Him bringing His message to a wide world. (Rev. Steven Pierce teaches class on March 7.)

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

#### THE PUBLIC LIFE OF JESUS

March 2, 16 & 23

This class looks at key events in the public life of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. Sr. Carol Perry then makes a comparison study of the Passion and Death of Jesus described in all four gospels. An in-depth investigation of these biblical texts can increase awareness of God's Spirit as we move forward in our personal growth during Lent. (Class does not meet on March 9.)

WEEKDAYS, NOON–1PM

#### SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

*Boost Your Spirit over Lunch*

Need a spiritual pick-me-up in the middle of your workday? Bring your lunch and join a practical, interactive Bible study in three Manhattan locations with Sr. Carol Perry, Marble's resident Bible scholar. Return to work with a new attitude.

#### TUESDAYS

**March 2, 16 & 30:** Downtown at 2 Wall Street, Law Offices of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, 18th floor.

**March 23:** Marble Collegiate Church, 3 West 29th Street (check lobby schedule for room).

#### THURSDAY

**March 25:** 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.



Sr. Carol Perry

#### STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE:

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## Adult Education in Bay Hall

### THE LENTEN JOURNEY

As Dr. Brown has pointed out, Lent is traditionally a time of self-examination. Not in a self-absorbed way, but in a way that reflects the classic call to “repentance,” which means to “turn around,” to change directions where we need to. The movement into Lent is different for everyone, and this month’s Adult Education classes offer tools for the journey of “turning” that await us all: glorious music, chances to learn about caregiving and ways to end hunger, and a mini-workshop on reconciliation – ways to seek God’s forgiveness and healing through an honest look at ourselves.

SUNDAYS AT 1:30PM

### GETTING RIGHT WITH GOD

March 7

Nina H. Frost



Nina Frost

As one pastor observed, “Lent is about the mess.” Often it’s our mess – our mistakes, our sadness, our sins – that create a disconnect between us and God. Reconciliation, being in right relationship with God, is a classic Lenten theme. We are invited to clean ourselves out, to make room for the new, for resurrection. Nina Frost, Director of Adult Education, takes a wide-ranging and practical look at all that hinders our relationship with God, ourselves, and others, and presents ways to experience the forgiveness and freedom we are offered.

### CONCERT À LA CARTE: PRAYING TWICE

March 14

Sanctuary Choir & Soloists

“Whoever sings prays twice.” This quote attributed to St. Augustine serves as the inspiration for a 60-minute musical presentation in Marble’s Sanctuary centered on sung prayer. We know that music can transport us in ways speech alone cannot. And speech can convey wisdom and spirituality that music alone cannot. But

when music and words are joined in sung prayer the result is often a profound language of the soul, and a transcendent encounter with the divine. Hosted by Kenneth Dake with the Sanctuary Choir and soloists including Camellia Johnson (soprano). No admission charge; a free-will offering will be accepted.

### WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

March 21

Sheila Warnock

It has happened to us all: someone we know is facing the demanding role of caregiver and needs help. Sheila Warnock, founder and president of ShareTheCaregiving, Inc. (a recipient of Marble’s Easter Offering), talks about how ordinary people can organize and maintain a powerful group to support the family caregiver as well as the patient. The *ShareTheCare* model is effective whether the patient is in need of rehabilitation, suffering from terminal illness, facing difficulties associated with aging, or even recovering from a joyful event, like with the birth of quadruplets. It’s about community at its best.

### HOW WE WILL END HUNGER

March 28

Rev. David Lewicki

Marble welcomes key leaders and experts in the causes and solutions to hunger, both locally and globally. Rev. David Lewicki moderates a discussion among panelists, including representatives from The Hunger Project and Franciscans International, as well as a former UN Hunger Program officer. They will offer their solutions and give practical recommendations to our community about how our action and advocacy can end hunger.



Rev. David Lewicki

## Program Ministries



### Children, Youth & Families Ministry (CYF)

#### FAMILY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 7, 10am

Join us in Bay Hall for this creative and spiritually moving worship experience in which the children and youth participate in all aspects of the service, including singing, praying, and ushering. All are welcome.

#### PARENT’S GROUP

Sundays, March 14 & 21, 10am

“Talking with Kids about Jesus” is our theme for discussion, led by Rev. David Lewicki, two

Sundays during Lent. While children attend Sunday School or childcare, adults meet over coffee/tea to discuss their shared journey as parents and explore the spiritual lives of children. All parents/guardians are welcome; no pre-registration is necessary. Meets on the 6th floor.

#### PALM SUNDAY

March 28

Families are encouraged to attend 9am worship in the Sanctuary for our family-friendly service with participation from the children, youth, and families of Marble. Sunday School classes and Children’s Choir resume immediately following worship.

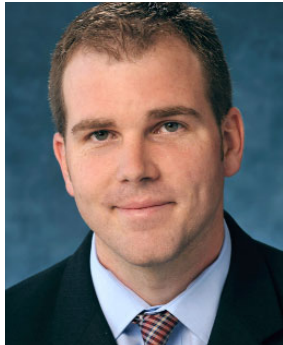
## Committed Couples

### NOT SURVIVING BUT THRIVING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Thursday, March 11

Rev. Steven D. Pierce

Just as a good marriage can be the foundation of a happy and contented life, so too a troubled marriage can be the source of stress and hardship. How does a couple move from simply *surviving* together to *thriving* together? What does the Bible say about healthy relationships? All couples are invited to join Rev. Steve Pierce for an in-depth look at both the challenges and rewards that relationships bring. Learn practical, helpful ways to keep your passion alive. Dinner program; see column at right. Childcare by request.



Rev. Steven Pierce

## 40s & 50s Ministry

### INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Thursday, March 25, 6-8:30pm

Liz Testa & Mamie McIndoe

Marble staff members Liz Testa and Mamie McIndoe host an evening of dinner and conversation in which we explore our connection and relationship to money. How do our financial and spiritual lives relate? How can we create healthier abundance for 2010 and beyond? Workshops designed from your suggestions and needs follow later in the season. Dinner, \$12; reserve at least 24-hours in advance. Register online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412) at the church (STull@marblechurch.org).

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

GIFTS embodies the inclusive theology of Marble Church, which holds that we are all "created in the image of God" and follows the teachings of Jesus inviting "whosoever will" to be a part of the Body of Christ. The group is energized by a Leadership Team of church members who plan programs and events. For information about upcoming programs, visit our web page at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) or stop by the GIFTS table in Bay Hall following Sunday worship.

## Marble Connection

YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20s & 30s

### SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS, 12:30-1:15PM

Get to know other young adults as we share our faith and what matters in our lives. On March 7, Rev. David Lewicki leads us in discussion that meets on the 4th floor. Remaining Sundays in March we'll enjoy coffee and fellowship at the Connection Table in Bay Hall immediately following morning worship.

## Men's Ministry

### SAMARITAN MAGIC

Tuesday, March 16

Bill Brunelle

When Paul Newman searched the country for the best magician he could find, he selected Bill Brunelle, the Magic Samaritan. Bill pops up all over Manhattan, surprising people in all kinds of settings with an astounding array of magic. From half-way houses to corporate conference rooms, he uses his talent as well as his own uplifting personal story to stimulate imagination and enliven the real magic each person carries within. Invite a friend to join you for an evening of magical possibilities and inspiration. Dinner program; see column at right.

### 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.



Bill Brunelle

### BRUNCH & DISCUSSION

Sunday, March 28, 12:30pm

Immediately following worship, we will gather for brunch in Burrell Hall. To be seated with other men, please look for our Men's Ministry volunteers to guide you to tables reserved for our use. At 1pm, we will convene in a separate room to discuss the chapter "How to Draw Upon Your Higher Power" from Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's book *The Power of Positive Thinking*. All men are welcome. Brunch, \$12 (no reservation needed). For inquiries, contact Rev. Steve Pierce or Tom Schneider at the church.

## Entrepreneurs

### FIRE: A LEADERSHIP CONVERSATION

Thursday, March 18, 6:30-8:30pm

FDNY Chief John Salka

Would the people who work for you follow you into a burning building? Join Chief John Salka, a twenty-five year veteran of The Fire Department of the City of New York who rose from firefighter to battalion chief, as he shares some of the most gripping stories of his own career and those of fellow officers on the front lines of the FDNY. His book *First In, Last Out* is the code of leadership at the foundation of one of the most effective organizations in the world. \$10, suggested donation.



Chief John Salka

## 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

**March 3** – Classical Productions, a multi-cultural vocal ensemble under the direction of Patricia Rogers, returns with a program of beautiful springtime music.

**March 10** – Robert Romagnoli, a Marble tour guide and NYC historian, talks about “Personalities of Marble,” a look at the famous and infamous people connected with the church over the years.

**March 17** – The Steele Duo, featuring multi-instrumentalist and Irishman Tony Steele, presents music from Ireland preceded by Chef Ron’s annual St. Patrick’s Day feast (\$10 Fellowship members, \$12 guests).

**March 24** – Singer Teresa Mazzilli entertains with music from Broadway to Opera.

**March 31** – Pianist Aleksandra Beliakovich presents a classical recital of her latest pieces.

### 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 Class, 10-10:45am** – Fitness and fun is led by peer instructors certified by NYC’s Dept. of the Aging. No pre-registration needed. Ellie Minor teaches line dancing, March 3.

**Bible Study, March 17, 24 & 31; 10:45-11:45am** – Sr. Carol Perry’s subject is “Lessons for the Road.” Each Lent we are called to renew our discipleship as we journey with Jesus to Jerusalem.



Aleksandra Beliakovich

**Bridge Club, 2:15pm** – Experienced players welcome. On March 10, 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)** – Serendipity, happenstance, chance meetings, heavenly mishaps, and telepathic dreams – it’s March movie madness:

**3/3** – “A Matter of Life and Death” (1946). David Niven, Abraham Sofaer and Kim Hunter.

**3/10** – “Brief Encounter” (1945). Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson.

**3/17** – “Tara Road” (2005). Andie MacDowell and Olivia Williams.

**3/24** – “I Love You Again” (1940). Myrna Loy and William Powell.

**3/31** – “Artists and Models” (1955). Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

**Ballroom Dancing, March 10 & 24; 2:15pm** – Fellowship member and ballroom dancer Judith Nocella leads a fun, uplifting session. Brush up your skills and learn new steps. Open to all; pre-register with Colleen Cosgrove. Appropriate footwear recommended.

### AARP TAX AID

*Wednesdays through mid-April*  
**9:30am–2pm, Room 205**

Volunteers from the AARP Tax Aid Program help complete your IRS tax forms. This free service, for adults 50 years and older, begins March 3 and continues every Wednesday through mid-April. First come, first served.

### KNITTING AND CROCHETING

*Fridays, beginning March 5, 11am-12:30pm*

Mary Duffy returns to help you learn to knit or to perfect your skills. All levels welcome. Please supply your own materials. Pre-registration required with Colleen Cosgrove.

## Spiritual Enrichment and Support

### Spiritual Enrichment Ministry Team

A dedicated group of lay persons, led by Rev. Steve Pierce, offer you spiritual support and encouragement in a number of ways:

**Prayer Requests:** Cards are available in the Sanctuary pew racks for you to record your request, which is held in prayer by the Spiritual Enrichment Team for two weeks.

**Prayer Circle:** Sundays at 10am, worship, singing, and prayer for individual and communal concerns take place in Poling Chapel. Holy

Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of the month.

**Prayer Room:** Sundays after worship, an intimate space is open for quiet reflection and prayer. Located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Bay Hall.

**Labyrinth:** This powerful tool for meditation is available in Burrell Hall for contemplative walking the first Wednesday evening of each month and every Wednesday during Lent, 5–9pm. Instructions are provided for those new to the experience.

## SAVE THE DATE

**ROADS TO PRAYER**

*Saturday, April 10, 9:30am–2:30pm*  
Day Retreat

Need to revitalize your prayer life? Nourish your soul? Lift your spirit? The Spiritual Enrichment Ministry sponsors a restorative, nourishing, fun, and restful retreat at Marble led

by Rev. Steve Pierce, Nina Frost, Jean Ando, and others. The day includes guided meditation, journaling, dance and movement, walking the labyrinth, and time for reflection and sharing. Cost, \$20 (\$15, Students/Seniors); includes light refreshments. Pre-registration required; contact Judy Tulin (ext. 709) at the church (JTulin@marblechurch.org).

**Marble Matters****Reading, Writing & Rebirth**

*John & Racquel LeGeros*

The 14-year-old girl sits in the classroom looking like any other teenager in her new school uniform. She is attentive and participates well in class discussion. She learns fast. But her teacher reports that she is frequently absent because she works at night, sometimes foraging through garbage to find things to sell for the adults who protect her. Home is a makeshift cardboard shelter near the railways. Her uniform and the one solid meal she may eat that day are provided by her school. She is one of more than 3,000 poverty-stricken children living on the streets of Manila.

The Philippine Street Children Project was brought to Marble's attention by John and Racquel LeGeros, longtime members of the church. Racquel grew up in Manila. Her parents, the late Bishop Bernardo Zapanta (a Methodist minister) and his wife, Jacqueline, planted churches in small, out-of-the-way places in Manila suburbs. "My parents laid the foundation for our current work with street children," says Racquel. "Now that both parents are gone, our entire family in the U.S. and the Philippines is committed to this project."

Racquel's brother enlarged one of the churches and built a structure with the idea of founding an orphanage. The family voted to turn the building into a kindergarten and elementary school for children from low income families. John suggested focusing the mission of the school to recruiting and educating disadvantaged, illiterate street children to serve as a model for other private schools to follow.

John adds, "These children, ages 7 to 18, cannot read or write any language when they come to us. If we don't help them, many will be exploited and forced to beg. And the temptation to turn to delinquency and crime is strong." The LeGeros have made it one of their missions to give the children an education and a chance for a better life.

Currently, the school has 60 students, grades 1-6, and about two-thirds are street children. The remaining students pay tuition and have their own learning program which enables the school to be accredited by the Philippines Department of Education. Three curriculums are offered: a creative program with music, art, cooking and social activities in which all children participate; a regular school syllabus for tuition-paying children; and a specially-designed study for the street children. The goal is to teach these kids literacy so they can advance into the public school system and continue to learn.

A livelihood training center has recently been created and partially funded by the United Nations, local and foreign churches (a portion of Marble's Easter Offering was given to help the venture), and the Zapanta and LeGeros families. The center contains a sewing facility and a bakery that offers vocational instruction to help older children prepare for the job market.

Last October the area around Manila was hit by four typhoons which blew down the walls of the school and damaged a third of the structure. Repair costs have forced school administrators to spend the bulk of its 2010 budget.

"There are times we get discouraged," admits Racquel. "We're not rich and a great deal of our personal money is going to support the school. But when these children, who live in unbelievable squalor, put on their uniforms and hold a book in their hands, they are transformed. It shows in their faces. The joy of seeing that 14-year old girl, who came to us not knowing how to read and write and who can now do both, is beyond words."

*The LeGeros express gratitude for the many spiritual blessings they have personally received from the ministers and members of Marble. For further information on the Philippine Street Children Project or other outreach programs Marble supports with its Easter Offering, please contact Mamie McIndoe at the church, 212-686-2770 ext. 423.*



John & Racquel LeGeros

## Action Volunteers

### WAYS TO HELP OTHERS

*There is no greater happiness than that which comes from sharing...no greater joy than that which comes from loving, giving, and caring.*  
— Unknown

### DRIVE FOR DIGNITY

**Sundays, March 21-April 25**

This month kicks off our annual "Drive for Dignity," a vital Marble outreach effort during which we collect new underwear for New York City's homeless adults. As our homeless population increases, the need for basic items like underwear is exacerbated. Please bring your gift of new underwear for adults to the Action Table,

Sundays on the Portico. Other volunteer opportunities this month include:

**Sunday, March 7** – Contribute food to HONEY (Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round) by bringing non-perishables to the Action Table on the Portico.

**Sunday, March 7** – Serve lunch to disadvantaged (and, in some cases, homeless) seniors after worship at a local church on East 31st St.

**Sunday, March 14** – 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.

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MAR 2010

MARBLE UPDATE

## Action Volunteers continued

**Saturday, March 20** – Be part of our Habitat for Humanity team as we support Habitat's new building project in Brooklyn's Bed-Stuy neighborhood.

**Saturday, March 27** – Common Ground is looking for volunteers to serve lunch, Noon-3:00pm, to guests at The Prince George (28th Street between Fifth & Madison).

**Sunday, March 28** – The Action Committee sorts used clothing for the homeless. Volunteers help sort and, most importantly, drivers with cars are needed to deliver the garments to shelters.

*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.*

### THE LAST WORD...

Always dream and shoot higher than you know how to. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.

— WILLIAM FAULKNER (1897–1962)

## Music at Marble

### PRAYING TWICE

**Sunday, March 14, 1:30pm**  
Concert à la Carte

Music director Kenneth Dake hosts the Sanctuary Choir, with special guest artist Camellia Johnson, in an intimate musical presentation centered on sung prayer. Details on page 4; see Adult Education. No admission charge.