

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM

Dr. Michael Brown
preaching

- For live webcast, visit www.marblechurch.org
- TV – Sundays @ 10am, MNN Time Warner Ch. 67 and RCN Ch. 85
- Radio – Sundays @ 7pm, WOR Radio/710-AM

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 6:15PM

Details on pg 6

Listen for the Whispers of God

I love words and the magic of how some people put them together to create mental images. Read the poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning or Robert Frost. What they did with words elevates us to places we, alone, cannot ordinarily go.

Songwriters do that. My parents loved the Gershwins and Irving Berlin. They would often observe how my generation's music didn't "say it" the ways theirs did. Now I do the same thing with my kids. I am always pointing out the lyrics of Bob Dylan or Nanci Griffith and others who can tell such intriguing stories in three minutes of song. Listen to Gordon Lightfoot's "Bitter Green" or Mickey Newbury's "San Francisco Mabel Joy"—tragic love stories, poetic, powerful, poignant, moving mind-movies, all done with lyrics in less than four minutes. There is true magic to words.

No wordsmith does a better, more eloquent job than the saints of the ages who wrote about faith. Sometimes a simple biblical phrase can capture in a sentence what I could never adequately articulate in a hundred sermons. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..." "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me." "And the Word became



flesh and dwelt among us." "Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of all is love." The beautiful, inspiring, transforming power of words!

As we begin a new church year, I think everyone's faith journey would be enhanced by finding a setting in which The Word can be explored. Certainly worship is one of those settings. But, in addition to that, there is inexpressible merit in becoming part of a class or a study group where you can engage the Bible and be engaged by it...where, in company with other students, you can

wrestle with it and seek its deeper truths. It is too easy either to claim its literalism on the one hand or dismiss it as archaic on the other. Either extreme cheats the one who chooses it. I think we are all well advised to find a group in which we can read together, ask questions together, share our faith and our doubts together, and listen together for God's whispers which are so powerfully present in the words of scripture.

If you're an adult, give Nina Frost or Baleta McKenzie a call. If you're a youth, talk to Paulette Thompson-Clinton. They will help you find a place and a way to listen for those whispers.

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

Sunday Worship 11am

*DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN PREACHING

SEPTEMBER 6

Can You See Anything?

Mark 8:22-26

Sister Carol Perry

SEPTEMBER 20*

Salads and Onion Rings

Luke 9:12-18a

SEPTEMBER 27*

Why Reading the Bible Is a Good Idea

Psalm 119:103-105

Annual Volunteer Fair in Bay Hall follows worship

SEPTEMBER 13*

Two Reasons Not to Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

Service of Prayer and Remembrance for 9/11

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 8:45-9:15AM

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." – Psalm 46

A 30-minute service of prayer, music, and meditation commemorating September 11, 2001, is led by Rev. David Lewicki with music by Kenneth Dake. The sanctuary remains open through 2pm for individual prayer. Childcare available.



Nina Frost

The Spirit of Exploration

"God's call is a never-ending call, to the unknown, to adventure... God's call is like the call to become an explorer." – Ernesto Cardenal, "Love"

Marble has a reputation for being a superb place to be an explorer – a place where questions about faith can be lived safely, passionately, and in the good company of fellow travelers. In that spirit of exploration, I want to announce some exciting changes in Adult Education, starting September 13 — the Marble Curriculum for Spiritual Growth.

Sister Carol Perry continues her incomparable Bible Study Sundays at 10am and Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm (as well as her weekday noontime "Spirituality in the Workplace" series). Her presentations are vivid, pertinent, and rich with accessible wisdom.

A second Adult Education offering meets Sundays, 1:30-2:30pm, in Bay Hall. Each month, this class takes an intriguing topic central to our faith and looks at it a different way, through lenses that are biblical, theological, psychological, or practical. Speakers are drawn from the Marble community and outside experts; classes are a range of lecture, Q&A, panel discussion, personal exercises, and more.

This Sunday afternoon class is a place to "live your questions," to link up your own experience of each topic with the larger invitation inherent in the faith journey. The curriculum is always unfolding – in the world, in your life, and at Marble. My hope is to dive deeply into vital waters in ways that both clarify and preserve the mystery that is at the heart of the holy.

In his book *Bottom Line Beliefs*, Dr. Michael Brown states the role of the church is to "discuss faith, practice love, and provide a place where people can experience God." That, in a nutshell, is the hope behind this new curriculum: to offer discussion, exploration of discipleship, and tools to deepen the journey toward God.

— Nina. H. Frost, *Director, Adult Education*



Sr. Carol Perry

Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM
DUST OFF YOUR BIBLE
September 13, 20 & 27

Just what are you holding in your hands when you pick up a Bible? Biblical scholar Sr. Carol Perry takes a fresh look at how the centuries-old text was put together and how each book was intended by its original compilers to enliven your spiritual journey. Sr. Carol is a gifted teacher who takes a practical, down-to-earth approach to exploring the Scriptures.

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM
LIVING STONES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
September 8, 15, 22 & 29

Throughout the year, we explore major passages of Paul's letters, the four gospels, and the Book of

Revelations 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.

WEEKDAYS, NOON–1PM

SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Bring your lunch and join interactive Bible study in three Manhattan locations with Sr. Carol Perry, Marble's resident Bible scholar. Return to work with a new attitude.

TUESDAYS

September 8 & 22: Marble Collegiate Church, 3 West 29th Street, Room 205.

September 15 & 29: Downtown at 2 Wall Street, Law Offices of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, 18th floor.

THURSDAYS

September 10 & 24: St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Avenue (at 51st Street). Note new meeting room: enter through Park Avenue doors and proceed to the Welcome Center, directly behind the chancel to the right.

Adult Education in Bay Hall

Sacred Beginnings – As a new school year commences, whatever your age, September invites reflection on beginnings. What summer realizations need to be honored? How is God urging you forward and what spiritual practices help most with the call of the new? Three classes in our afternoon Adult Education series this month reflect on the promise and the power of beginnings old and new.

SUNDAYS AT 1:30PM

FINDING YOUR CURRENT GENESIS

September 13

Nina H. Frost

Theology, poetry, psychology and literature have a lot to say about how the new comes into our lives. There can be chaos in new beginnings, and also opportunity. Each of us is an artist of the coming year, and this class offers a range of practices and opportunities to discern the often surprising and subtle call of new beginnings in your life and ways to respond in faith. Led by Nina Frost, director of Adult Education.

NEW AMSTERDAM TO FIFTH AVENUE: OUR DUTCH HERITAGE

September 20

Dr. Edwin Mulder

People who no longer remember their history are in danger of losing their soul.

– Alexander Solzhenitsyn

With its roots planted in 1628 by Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam, the Reformed Church in America has been instrumental in defining what New York City is today. Dr. Ed Mulder reflects on two periods of this rich history: the emergence of the Collegiate

Churches of New York in the 1600s and Marble Church's renowned ministry beginning in 1854. As modern beneficiaries of a remarkable heritage, we do well to remember those who came before.

Dr. Mulder is General Secretary Emeritus of the Reformed Church in America and a former minister of Marble. He and his wife Luella have been spiritual beacons in the life of the church for many years.

HOW DO WE START?

September 27

Dr. Kimberleigh Jordan

Beginnings beckon throughout our personal and professional lives. One of the hardest aspects is the impetus to begin: How do we step out and "get off the dime"? Dr. Jordan engages a panel of Marble congregants in discussion about this vital dilemma from both spiritual and practical perspectives, weaving the insights and life experiences of many who have stepped fruitfully into new lives.

PRAYER CIRCLE EACH SUNDAY

POLING CHAPEL, 10AM

This informal get-together, led by an Associate Minister of the church, centers on the day's scripture reading, singing, and prayer for individual and communal concerns. Holy Communion is celebrated Sunday, September 6.

WEEKDAY WORKSHOP

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR GOOD HEALTH

Mondays, September 21, October 5 & 19, November 2, 6:30-8pm

Bethany Butler

Are you living a life of health and vigor? Do you enjoy fulfilling relationships, passionate work, fun physical activity, and nourishing spiritual practices? Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone," and while a healthy life includes the foods we eat, it encompasses so much more. Bethany Butler, a Board-Certified Holistic Health Practitioner, shows you how to bridge the gap between diet and lifestyle. She helps you discover the God-given benefits of natural, wholesome foods and offers spiritual guidelines to reduce stress, increase energy, and feel better in your body. This 4-session workshop gives you practical information to guide you along your journey of health, wellness, and spirituality.

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).



Bethany Butler

Program Ministries

Children, Youth and Families Ministry gets a makeover!

CYF – the Children, Youth and Families Ministry at Marble (formerly known as the Church School) – is all new this season. With a new mission statement and logo, we are geared up to share God's love with our children in fresh ways.

For the first time in recent memory, Sunday School for children and youth (pre-K through grade 12) is scheduled 9:45-10:45am, before the morning service. This gives older children and teachers the opportunity to attend Sunday School and then join their families for worship at 11am.

Children grades 1-6 attend 11am worship for the first part of the service, and leave the sanctuary for choir rehearsal, 11:30am-12:30pm, on the sixth floor. Childcare for infants and toddlers remains unchanged, 9am-1pm.

Working Vision/Mission Statement:

The Children, Youth and Families Ministry inspires children and youth to develop a loving relationship with God, Jesus Christ and their neighbors through creative and age-appropriate activities that include learning about the Bible, studying our shared Christian history, service to others, and fellowship.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Beginning this fall, children pre-K to grade 3 use Godly Play, a dynamic program that nurtures children's relationships with God through story, wonder, and play.

Godly Play is an approach based on Montessori principles that responds to the child's request to "help me do it by myself." This puts the teacher in the role of spiritual supporter or guide who accepts that each child has his or her own relationship with God already.

Students grades 4 to 12 also benefit from a new curriculum "Gather Round" in which they experience the importance of gathered community – coming together to share God's love through Bible study, honest discussions, and prayer. Teachers journey with students as they discover how their personal relationships with God manifest in every aspect of life – at home, at school, and with friends.



CYF
Children, Youth
& Families Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS

CYF OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 13, 12:30–1:30pm

Parents/guardians meet their children's teachers, tour the classrooms, enjoy lunch and fellowship with other families.

A DAY OF GODLY PLAY FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

Saturday, September 19, 8:30am–3:30pm

Accredited Godly Play trainer Linda Clapp leads parents and teachers in a day of spiritual renewal where we nurture the spirituality of the child within each of us. \$25 per person (continental breakfast and lunch included; free child care is provided). Advance registration required by Monday, September 14; register with Brian Hampton (ext. 442) at the church (BHampton@marblechurch.org).

Committed Couples

GROWING IN SPIRIT, SERVICE, AND LEARNING

NY METS VS. FLORIDA MARLINS

Thursday, September 10, 7:10pm

Register now for an evening of fellowship and baseball at the Mets' new Citi Field stadium. All couples in a committed relationship are welcome. \$45 per couple; seats limited. Advance paid registration required; contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412) at the church (STull@marblechurch.org). Payment may be made by check (payable to Marble Collegiate Church), cash, or credit card. Refunds not available unless there is a waiting list.

TIME AWAY...TIME TOGETHER

Weekend Retreat, September 25-27

Join other couples for a relaxing weekend exploring and celebrating the unique joys, challenges, and invitations of being in a relationship. Enjoy fellowship, gourmet cuisine, outdoor activities, worship and music, all in the beautiful retreat setting of the Trinity Conference Center located in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains.

Committed relationships need time apart from the routine—time to nourish yourselves and experience an even deeper connection with your partner. Retreat leaders Nina H. Frost and Dr. Robert Close offer us the opportunity to continue growing in both self-understanding and intimacy with one another.

Two cost options are offered: Option A (2 nights/\$470 per couple). Option B (1 night/\$350 per couple). Register online at www.marblechurch.org, or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412) at the church (STull@marblechurch.org). Space is limited.

A complete brochure and Registration Form is available through Marble's website or in the church lobby.



Dr. Robert Close & Nina Frost

Entrepreneurs

ON A PILGRIMAGE 2009

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD: CREATING A DAILY SACRED DISCIPLINE

Thursday, September 17, 6:30–8:30pm

Sister Carol Perry

Entrepreneurs thrive on innovation, inspiration, and inventing new products for new markets. Change and creativity are the feet of an entrepreneur's pilgrimage. In this highly chaotic environment you might ask: What can give me stability? Is there some daily discipline to furnish a footing, an order, a sense of peace when the ground is shifting?

Sister Carol Perry explores the nature of spiritual disciplines as well as how to create a sacred daily practice. Not only will you benefit from the wisdom of someone who walks the talk, but prepare for the unexpected as you design your own unique daily practice. Suggested contribution, \$10.

GIFTS: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Fellowship**KICKOFF BRUNCH**

Sunday, September 20, after worship

The GIFTS Leadership Team and Dr. Kimberleigh Jordan invite you to brunch (\$12) following worship. Enjoy good company and delicious food as we kick off another exciting year for the GIFTS community. All are welcome. Register Sundays after worship at the GIFTS table in Bay Hall, online at www.marblechurch.org, or contact Elise Hanley (EHanley@marblechurch.org).

Marble Connection

YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20S & 30S

2009-10 KICKOFF CELEBRATION

Thursday, September 10, 6:30-8:30pm

Young adults gather at Marble to let loose and look forward to a year of service, spiritual programs, and social events. Your ideas for the year ahead are welcome; bring your friends. Food, free stuff, and live music help us start the year out right. Free but please RSVP to Siobhan Tull (STull@marblechurch.org) at the church (ext. 412).

SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS, 12:30-1:15PM, 4TH FLOOR

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. Rev. David Lewicki facilitates. Discussion points in September include:

September 13 – "Designing Your Spiritual Life"

September 20 – "Your Money and Your Life, Part I: Sound Financial Principles for Living a Fulfilled Life"

September 27 – "Your Money and Your Life, Part II: Investing Your Time to Serve the Community"

October 4 – “Your Money and Your Life, Part III: Giving with a Global Vision”

SAVE THE DATE

SPEAKING OF FAITH

CONNECTION SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Weekend, October 23-25

Young adults travel together for a spiritual retreat led by Rev. David Lewicki at Falling Waters/St. Joseph Villa on the banks of the Hudson River in Saugerties, NY. For details and to reserve a place, visit www.marblechurch.org.

Connection is a faith-guided family of young adults, led by the spirit of Jesus, that strives to reach the highest levels of love, compassion, and service through engagement with the world and one another. All are welcome on this journey.

60+ Fellowship

Liz Testa and Colleen Cosgrove welcome back longtime Fellowship members and new faces alike as our 2009-10 season kicks off Wednesday, Sept. 16.

LUNCH AND PROGRAM

12pm, Lunch

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

1pm, Program

September 16 – Marble musicians Djoré Nance and Miriam Chaudoir, accompanied by pianist Brent Funderburk, take you around the world with gems by Mozart, Rachmaninov, Grieg, and Fauré.

September 23 –

Harpist/singer Erin Hill returns with selections ranging from Celtic tunes and Puccini favorites to hits by Buddy Holly and Neil Young.



Erin Hill

September 30 –

Horizon Concerts presents a program of beautiful music. David Rosenmeyer, director.

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, 10:30-11:30am – Fitness, fun, and fellowship are led by peer instructors certified by NYC's Dept. of the Aging. No pre-registration needed. Ellie Minor teaches line dancing September 16.

Bridge Club, 2:15pm – Experienced players welcome. Bridge master Mike Galatola teaches a class for intermediate players and above on September 23. Requested donation, \$2 for Mr. Galatola's instruction.

Singing & Acting, 2:15pm – Taught by Estelle Randolph. All are welcome; no prior experience needed.

Movie of the Week, 2:15pm – Room 601.

9/16 – “Stand Up and Cheer” (1934). Shirley Temple.

9/23 – “Lassie Come Home” (1943). Roddy McDowall, Elizabeth Taylor and Lassie.

9/30 – “Listen, Darling” (1938). Judy Garland and Freddy Bartholomew.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Wednesdays, September 16 – October 28, 2:15-3:30pm

Paula Hazlewood, Marble member and author, helps you put pen to paper and write about some of life's most memorable experiences. Class space limited, please register early.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING

Fridays, September 18–December 11, 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. (No class November 27.)

SAVE THE DATES

ART CLASS: CAPTURE THE COLORS OF THE SEASON

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21 & 28, 10-11:30 am

Instruction and materials provided by Judy Tulin. Register early; space is limited.

Men's Ministry

VISION FOR MARBLE, VISION FOR OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES

Tuesday, September 15

Dr. Michael Brown

Why is vision so important? What does it provide that nothing else can? Senior minister Dr. Michael Brown shares his vision for our historic church and how we each can play an important role in fulfilling that vision. Dr. Brown believes that when our work supports and contributes to a larger vision (God's vision), our labors are never in vain. Growing God's kingdom remains the most exciting work on earth. Attend our first program of the new season and find out why. Dinner program; see column on page 6.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, September 20, after worship

Men of the church are invited to our first monthly brunch (\$12), hosted by Rev. Steve Pierce. Meet new people and learn more about the events planned for the Men's Ministry this year. After brunch, we move to Bay Hall for Dr. Ed Mulder's presentation about Marble's Dutch heritage.



Miriam Chaudoir



Djoré Nance



Rev. Steve Pierce

40s & 50s Ministry

Men and women in their 40s and 50s are the heart-beat of Marble and provide much of the church's diversity, spiritual energy, and fiscal support. We've been around the block enough times to identify issues that are essential to us: maintaining friendships, building financial security, caring for aging parents, serving others, creating new life directions, and discerning God's will are just a few areas we want addressed.

Staff members Liz Testa and Colleen Cosgrove inject new life into what was formerly called MidLIFE Ministry and are redeveloping this important program group. Liz and Colleen host a monthly dinner, beginning September 24, which provides fellowship and a forum for stimulating discussion. Other offerings throughout the year will grow out of the needs and interests of our community.

Contact Liz (LTesta@marblechurch.org) and Colleen (CCosgrove@marblechurch.org) and let them know the topics and activities that appeal to you.

WELCOME DINNER

Thursday, September 24, 6-7:30pm

Hosts Liz Testa and Colleen Cosgrove invite you to get together with a lively group of men and women and share your ideas for the 40s/50s Ministry. How do we "put feet" on what we know is relevant at this stage in life? What might God be envisioning for us this year? All adults are invited to participate in this community of individuals from a range of backgrounds.

Dinner, \$12; reserve at least 24-hours in advance. Register online at www.marblechurch.org, or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412) at the church (STull@marblechurch.org).



Colleen Cosgrove & Liz Testa

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.

Marble Women's Ministry (MWM)

A GATHERING OF WOMEN

Sunday, September 13, after worship

MWM launches its new program season and all women of the church are invited to come together to break bread and have a cup of coffee or tea following worship. Connect spirit-to-spirit and enjoy conversation with other women in the community and meet the MWM Leadership team. RSVP to Elise Hanley (ext. 470) at the church (EHanley@marblechurch.org).

TELLING HER STORY: A COUNTRY AT WAR – LONGING FOR PEACE

Tuesday, September 15

Agatha Pratt

Last fall, Marble member Agatha Pratt, a UNICEF veteran and a committed Christian woman, received a calling to a new mission: a 3-month posting to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the African country formerly known as Zaire that has been at war since the late 1990s. Agatha shares experiences and tender stories of the most vulnerable victims of war – the women and children. Don't miss this thoughtful evening, enriched with the visuals and sounds of the DRC. Chef Ron creates a Congolese-inspired dinner. For inquiries, Elise Hanley (ext. 470) at the church (EHanley@marblechurch.org). Dinner program; see column at left.



Agatha Pratt

Spiritual Enrichment and Support

Grief Recovery Group

Tuesdays, September 22–December 8, 6:30pm

Those who have lost loved ones and are struggling with grief are encouraged to participate in a 12-week grief recovery group facilitated by Mark Glubke. A member of Marble for more than 10 years, Mark has a Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care from Fordham University. He is a therapist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he led a grief recovery group.

Participants are asked to commit to the entire schedule; pre-registration is required. To register, call Judy Tulin (ext. 709) at the church (JTulin@marblechurch.org).



Mark Glubke

Wednesday Worship@6:15pm

On September 16, Rev. Lewicki begins a 5-week preaching series exploring what it means to live together as a Christian community. Using 20th century German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic book, *Life Together*, as our guide, each week we examine a chapter of the book in the sermon, then meet together after worship, 7:30–8:30pm, to explore Bonhoeffer's vision of church.

September 16 – Community; **September 23** – The Day with Others; **September 30** – The Day Alone; **October 7** – Ministry; **October 14** – Confession and Communion

The Labyrinth is available, 5–7pm, in Burrell Hall for walking meditation the first Wednesday of every month.

Action Volunteers

WAYS TO HELP OTHERS

This summer, Marble's volunteers:

- prepared a total of 225 meals the first Sunday of each month for seniors living in neighborhood SROs;
- sorted and delivered 1,320 pounds of clothing to homeless shelters;
- collected 1,320 cans of food;
- served 90 meals for our Ecclesia ministry (to the homeless in Madison Square Park);
- spent a Saturday working on a Habitat for Humanity build in the Bronx.

ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

Through September 20

Last fall we collected over 6,828 school supplies for children living in homeless shelters and as part of after-school and youth leadership programs. Both SCAN (Supportive Children Advocacy Network) and Single Parent Resource Center report they have the same number of children in their programs this year. These organizations work with at-risk children or children and families already in homeless shelters, including 130 neighborhood children living in the Latham Hotel on East 28th Street. Visit the Action Table on the Portico through Sunday, September 20, and select a Back-to-School card with suggested donations.

Below are other ways you can begin to change the world by volunteering:

Sunday, Sept 6 – Contribute food to HONEY (Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round) by bringing single-serving non-perishables to the Action Table on the Portico.

Sunday, Sept 6 – After worship, help serve lunch to disadvantaged (and, in some cases, homeless) seniors at an East 31st Street location.

Sunday, Sept 13 – Volunteers are needed, 9:30-10:30am, to prepare 50 lunches for our Ecclesia Ministry (an

open-air worshipping congregation for the homeless in Madison Square Park.) We also need others to transport the lunches and host the service starting at 1:30pm.



Ecclesia volunteers prepare lunch

Sunday, Sept 27 – The Action Committee hosts our annual Volunteer Fair in Bay Hall, immediately following the 11am service, in which we honor the ministries of all our volunteers. Over 30 agencies are present with information on service opportunities in our community. Stop by and find out how to show you care by volunteering.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 17 – NY Cares Day is your chance to create cleaner, brighter public schools.

Visit the Action Table on the Portico after worship any Sunday to talk with a committee member about your interests, or call Gail Kitselman, Director of Volunteer Ministries, at the church.

Festival of Voices Seeks Motivated Volunteers

Put more music in your life and give Marble the priceless gift of yourself.

The Marble Festival of Voices (FOV), under the direction of Kenneth Dake, seeks motivated volunteers to become a part of the musical season ahead.

In addition to serving in worship once a month, the Festival of Voices will present their acclaimed Advent Concert on Sunday, December 6, as well as a first-ever joint concert with the West End Collegiate Choir in May, and a noontime service of music on Good Friday. Monday evening rehearsals begin Sept. 14.



FOV in rehearsal

FOV is for people who are passionate about choral singing, desirous of a deeper connection with fellow travelers on the journey, and enthusiastic about contributing something meaningful to the church. You should be a secure music reader with a good ear and the willingness to achieve seamless vocal blend. Most of all, you should be ready to become part of a team that will bring forth your musical gifts and encourage you to grow spiritually. Prospective candidates are asked to sing an informal audition to demonstrate basic music-reading skills and determine vocal placement in the choir.

Here's what FOV members have to say:

It's my weekly refuge, my welcome escape from the pressures of life in the big city, where quality music goes hand in hand with the comfort of group camaraderie. – Brian Farrell

I have laughed and cried, I have been challenged both musically and spiritually in beautiful ways, I have made dear friends and I have met a part of me I may never have known. – Kimberly Sundt

I'm consistently overwhelmed by the warmth, wisdom and depth of faith of this musical family. It's a church within a church that has lifted me up and cheered me on through the trials and joys that living in New York City brings.

– Sam Clover

To discuss membership with Ken Dake or schedule an audition, contact music administrative assistant Miriam Chaudoir (ext. 711) at the church (MChaudoir@marblechurch.org).

THE LAST WORD...

Sometimes the answer to prayer is not that it changes life, but that it changes you.

— JAMES DILLET FREEMAN

Dutch Heritage Day

Sunday, September 20

Celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage and the origins of our Church in New Amsterdam. Morning worship at 11am includes Dutch-inspired musical selections, directed by Kenneth Dake. Following worship, Chef Ron's brunch features authentic recipes from New Amsterdam. Then move to Bay Hall for a presentation at 1:30pm by Dr. Edwin Mulder entitled "New Amsterdam to Fifth Avenue: Our Dutch Heritage" (details on page 2).



MARBLE UPDATE

SEPT 2009

Marble Collegiate Church
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Visit the Holy Land: A 10-Day Pilgrimage

March 4-13, 2010

Led by Sr. Carol Perry & Dr. Michael Brown

Join hosts Sr. Carol Perry and Dr. Michael Brown in an inspiring and informative tour of the Holy Land that will enrich your understanding of the Story of Faith. Walk the ground that Jesus walked as you visit the Old City of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, and numerous other sites of His ministry. Reserve by **September 30** for this life-changing pilgrimage as space is limited.

Pick up a travel brochure in the church's West 29th Street lobby, or contact Dr. Brown's office (212-686-2770) to have one mailed to you.

"Marble Update" Gets a Face-lift

You might notice that the Update looks a little different. This full-color version of the newsletter is the first redesign in ten years, and we didn't break the piggy bank to do it.

We have saved in printing costs by negotiating with an out-of-town printer that doesn't bear high operating costs of a Manhattan company. Combine that with the fact that many congregants have requested the newsletter by e-mail rather than U.S. post, and Marble's printing and mailing expenses have been significantly reduced. And that's good news for all.

(If you have received this newsletter by U.S. mail and would prefer an electronic version, please notify Donna Trombetta (phone: 212-686-2770; e-mail: DTrombetta@marblechurch.org.)