



## DECEMBER 2011

### SUNDAY WORSHIP 11AM

DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN  
SENIOR MINISTER  
PREACHING\*

### DECEMBER 4\*

Second Sunday in Advent  
Special Music at 10:45am

#### Credits

Matthew 1:12-16

### DECEMBER 11\*

Third Sunday in Advent  
Special Music at 10:45am

#### Prince of Peace

Isaiah 11:1-10

### DECEMBER 18\*

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Special Music at 10:45am

#### The Gift of Incarnation

John 1:1-14

### DECEMBER 25\*

Christmas Day  
From Fear to Joy  
Luke 2:8-14

### CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES

See page 3.

### MARBLE UPDATE INDEX

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## Embrace Christmas

Recently (early November), I was in an uptown store as clerks dressed it for the holidays. Already they were busier than usual. Already they were anticipating the December flood of customers and their own increased responsibilities. That particular day they had been assigned the dual duties of waiting on patrons while also giving their store a holiday look. So, I do not want to be insensitive to the young man who said this. Still, I did find it somewhat surprising. A young clerk, knee deep in boxes of Christmas decorations, said to a young woman nearby (also knee deep unpacking her own boxes): "I am so over Christmas!" "Over Christmas" ... in November?

There's a lovely line in the movie *Farewell to Kris Kringle*, where a woman visiting in Santa's house says, "Living here must make you feel like Christmas all year long," and he answers, "That's the point of Christmas, isn't it, to last more than merely a month?" I like Kris' sentiment more than

the clerk's. We're never supposed to be "over Christmas."

Well, here we are on the front end. I can assure you the season of Advent will be busy at Marble.



Dr. Michael Brown

It will be festive, full, and probably fast-paced. There will be more to do than most of us can fit in, but everything we do fit in will bless our lives in ways that are rich and rewarding. There's a spirit about this season that is matched by no other, and I believe you find more of that spirit in church than any other place at all. So, here's my promise to those of you who participate in church throughout Advent and also who reflect on the deep meaning of the season:

If we embrace it for what it is really all about, when Christmas this year is over, you and I will not be "over Christmas!"

## Marble's Gift of Love

I started to work at Marble as a security guard in 2005. Little did I know that by working here, I would find the love that we all need and a powerful sense of spiritual stability that keeps me balanced every day. Someone once said, "There's no such thing as coincidence... that coincidence is merely God's way of remaining anonymous." Well, it's no coincidence that I came here. God gave me the gift of Marble, a gift I will thank Him for, for the rest of my life.

Sunday, by far, is my favorite day. I meet and greet a couple hundred fellow members of our family each week. We allow our hearts to open while listening to Ken Dake's genius at the organ and his wonderful arrangements with the choir. It's the day we pray together and become inspired by Dr. Brown's poignant words giving us a spiritual recharge for the upcoming week.

Then there's Wednesday and The 60+ Fellowship. I've come to know and love this group more than I could ever have imagined. Every so often I get to sing them a song when the staff puts on a show, and I've even had the privilege to demonstrate my painting techniques during one of their art classes. When a smile comes to their faces it means the world to me and I know God is smiling along with us too.

One day not too long ago, I was walking down 29th Street with my friend Russell from the Gospel Choir and I told him that since most of my family had passed away, if I died there would probably be only a few people to come to my memorial. Russell looked me in the eye and said, "Frank, after getting to know you, I can tell you for sure Marble Church will be full of people who have come to love you."



Frank Converse

It's true. I am once again part of a loving family. I didn't realize how much I needed to be loved and wanted until I experienced this firsthand from all you loving people that **are** Marble.

I've been told that I have made a difference here and that I have a ministry in the lobby. How wonderful that makes me feel. I am quite proud of my association with Marble and the special relationship that's developed between me and this community. I hope that the outpouring of love that I've continuously encountered since I first entered this hallowed building is what you receive in return from me when you walk through those 29th Street doors.

## LIVE WEBCAST SCHEDULE

If you can't be here in person, visit [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) for Live Webcast

### SUNDAYS

**10am** – Bible Study with Sr. Carol Perry

**11am** – Worship Service

**12:15pm** – Talkback with Dr. Brown

**12:45pm** – Replay of Bible Study

**1:30pm** – Spiritual Growth Hour

### WEDNESDAYS

**6:15pm** – Wednesday Worship

**TV** – Fridays @ 4:30pm, MNN Time Warner Ch. 67 and RCN Ch. 85

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

## Celebrate the Creative Spirit!

### ART, FAITH, AND THE IMAGINATION OF JESUS

Sunday, December 11

Creativity is at the heart of Christianity: Jesus was an artisan, poet, and visionary, and our faith has flourished through storytelling, fine arts, theatre and music.



Marble Church embraces the gifts of imagination and creativity, and our community is filled with astonishing talent. Come and "Bring a Friend" to our unique celebration of the creative spirit. We'll begin with a Blessing of the Artists by Dr. Brown during worship, followed by a Marble Artisans Christmas Boutique in Bay Hall, a Fine Arts Gallery, and works by Marble writers, poets and musicians at the 1:30pm Spiritual Growth Hour and throughout the afternoon.

A Bake Sale hosted by our CYF Ministry adds to the festivities. All proceeds go to our Hurricane Irene Relief Project.

*Come. Be gifted. Be inspired!*

Marble Members and friends are invited to participate by displaying and selling their work, either in the Fine Arts Gallery or Artisans Boutique. Fees are \$40 for a six-foot table, or \$20 for a half-table. Please reserve early as space is limited. **Registration deadline is December 5.** Register online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org), or contact Rebecca Vigil (ext. 470) or [RVigil@marblechurch.org](mailto:RVigil@marblechurch.org).

## Join the Marble Family!

### DECEMBER NEW MEMBER CLASS

Sunday, December 11 | 10:00am-2:45pm

Sunday, December 18 | 9:30am-12:15pm

Give yourself a gift this Christmas, become a Marble member. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of our new December Class! Please stop by the Welcome Center in Peale Parlor after Sunday worship or contact Kim Sebastian-Ryan for more details, (ext. 475 or [KRyan@marblechurch.org](mailto:KRyan@marblechurch.org)).

*The next class will be in February.*

This class will be received into membership on Sunday, December 18. **Deadline for registration is Sunday, December 4.**

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



## Advent & Christmas at Marble

### MUSIC FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC PRELUDES

Sundays, December 4, 11 & 18

10:45am

During Advent, arrive for worship a few minutes early for beautiful music in the Sanctuary.

### ADVENT CONCERT: THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD

Sunday, December 4 | 2:00pm

Join Kenneth Dake, the Marble Sanctuary Choir and Festival of Voices with Chamber Orchestra for a glorious musical celebration of the season – truly Marble at its finest. You will be transported beyond the clamoring demands of the holiday to a deeply sacred place. Through beautiful lighting, readings and music expect to be transformed by what you experience and to reconnect with the true meaning of it all. Narrated by **Simon Jones**, celebrated Broadway, motion picture, television and radio actor. *Childcare available.*

### ADMISSION:

**\$25, at the door**, or \$20 when ordered 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)).

(\$15, students/seniors)

### CHURCH-WIDE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL READING: THE GIFT OF WAITING

Join the Marble Church Family as we together unwrap the priceless gift of anticipation during this Advent Season. The perfect companion to Sr. Carol's classic Advent devotional booklet, the book *Simply Wait: Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent* by Pamela Hawkins will help you experience the peace of this season through daily readings and contemplative exercises. Available for purchase Sundays after worship on the Portico, \$10.00.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias decorating our Sanctuary at Christmas are made possible by the contributions of members and friends in honor or memory of loved ones. The name of each donor, along with the person honored, is listed in the Sunday bulletin on December 18. To pay tribute to someone in your life while adding to the beauty of the Sanctuary, please return the Christmas Poinsettias card (in the pew racks) with your contribution by **Tuesday, December 6.**

### A MARBLE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 16

Please see page 8 for details.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP***Saturday, December 24*

You have three services from which to choose:

**4:00pm** – Told through word, movement, and music, our family-friendly service centers around the theatrical piece **"Filled with the Spirit."** The birth of Jesus Christ based on the Gospel according to Matthew and Luke is combined with the picture book, *For All the World* by Helene Earle Simon, as retold by Colleen Cosgrove. A birthday party for Jesus follows the service.

**6:30 & 8:30pm** – Dr. Michael B. Brown offers a meditation entitled **"A Baby's Cry"** (*Luke 2:1-20*). Festive reception in Bay Hall between the services at 7:45pm. Holy Communion celebrated at 8:30pm service. *Childcare provided for both services. Preceding worship, Kenneth Dake directs the Sanctuary Choir, with brass ensemble, in joyful music at 6:10 and 8:10pm.*

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP***Sunday, December 25 | 11:00am*

It's not often that we have a Christmas Day service, so please consider joining us this year. Dr. Brown, preaching.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP***Saturday, December 31 | 7:30pm*

**"Renew Your Spirit; Cleanse Your Heart: Welcome 2012!"** (*Ezekiel 36:25-27 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-17*), Elizabeth Testa, M.Div. and Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M.Div., presiding. Music led by Kenneth Dake and Djoré Nance. *Childcare provided.*

All are invited to this intergenerational and interactive service where we will give thanks for our past, celebrate who we have become, and pray with joyful expectation about where God is leading us in 2012! **Followed by a festive reception.**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP***Sunday, January 1 | 11:00pm*

Start your 2012 by worshipping with us. Dr. Brown, preaching.

**MARBLE'S MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY DURING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

If you'd like to help pass along our welcoming spirit during the Christmas season, please contact Siobhan Tull, (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)).

**More Than Just A "Consumer"**

We are all aware of how easy it is to get caught up in the consumer-driven messaging that bombards us at this time of year. We all struggle with it.

Many have commented that they enjoyed hearing Win Jackson's testimonial from the pulpit in November on giving and how he was able to go from Consumer to Contributor. For those who didn't get a chance to hear it that day:

"Paul, my partner of 16 years and I have attended church services with reasonable frequency for years. Our idea of a good church was defined by the quality of the sermon in the Sunday service. We went to church, listened to the sermon, were happy when it was a good one, and went off to lunch. We were consumers of what the church had to offer. When we came to Marble, we found excellent preaching here, but also many other compelling consumables. Some of which for us were, the incomparable Bible study, retreats, small groups, Marble Vision, and an unforgettable trip to the Holy Land.

But remarkably, as satisfying as those consumer experiences were, we found something here that was new and different for us; a chance to move from being consumers at Marble to becoming contributors at Marble. Moving from "Consumer to Contributor" (and I must give Tom DeVries, the RCA's General Secretary, credit for that phrase) has given Paul and me the opportunity to grow closer to each other in our relationship, deepen our faith together, and see the Christ in each other.

We became more involved at Marble. Paul

joined the Ushering Team, the New Members Leadership Team, and has offered his experience and skills in advertising to be of help to the Marble Communications Team. I am serving on the GIFTS Leadership Team, as Churchmaster, as a Deacon, and on the Operations Committee at the Consistory. Together we have served at the Pride Parade Water Table, delivering clothing to the homeless, meals to the homebound and gifts for children at Christmas. But we know that sharing our time and talents is just not enough to insure that the Marble experience that we cherish will continue.

When we were asked to tell you why we pledge each year, we looked at each other and said why wouldn't we pledge each year? So I ask you, to take a close look at how this church has changed your life. Take an inventory of all the wonderful things here that you consume, all of the ways this church has enriched and expanded your faith, and contribute a pledge that will help insure that this church that you love, and that loves you, can continue its glorious mission."

Many people who pledge to Marble have asked themselves, "What does Marble mean to me?" and "How do the transformative or touching experiences inspire me to make a pledge in thanks to a loving and generous God?" We hope you will too. For more information on how to support Marble visit [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org)



Win Jackson & Paul Trantanello

## How Are You Touched by Marble?

### A VISITOR FROM ENGLAND RESPONDS

*Dear Dr. Brown – As a reader of Dr. Peale's work I was pleasantly surprised to find out that we were staying just a couple of blocks from Marble Church so, one Tuesday evening we visited. We were really taken by the welcome and the warmth that we received and were invited to a WeWo service the next day. At the service you preached a sermon on 'letting go' and letting God take some of the strain, something that was very relevant to my partner. The message has stayed with her and she uses it every day to this day. We love your style of telling the message and fully believe that God led us to Marble's door that day. Since then I regularly watch your sermons on the 'I-Pad' and get a*

Our Congregation at 5th and 29th is our heart, but that heart sends energy and love throughout our larger community. Through live-streaming, sermon booklets, and more, the legacy and life that is Marble touches spirits everywhere it goes.

*great deal out of your message. God's spirit is truly with you and you have an enormous gift of communication. God's grace, compassion and love pour out of you and the Church. A big thank you Michael to you and Marble. I pray that God continues to work through you and the Church and to reach out to seemingly unseen individuals as me. The ripples of your teaching spread far and wide! Best wishes,*

— J.C., Cotswolds, England

## Spiritual Growth and Education



Sr. Carol Perry

### Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

#### ADVENT SERIES: THE TIME IS NOW

December 4, 11 & 18

Each year Advent invites us to step back into the biblical story and to move forward as we join it to our lives today. Be with us as we come again to Bethlehem.

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

#### THE BOOK OF REVELATION

December 6

What did this book mean when it was written and what can it still mean for us today? It is a journey of discovery! Led by Sister Carol Perry. (Classes resume January 3, 2012).

WEEKDAYS, NOON–1:00PM

#### SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Boost Your Spirit over Lunch

Bring your lunch and join interactive Bible study in two Manhattan locations with Sr. Carol Perry. Return to work with a new attitude. Sessions at both locations resume in January 2012.

TUESDAYS

**December 6:** Marble Collegiate Church, 3 West 29th Street (check lobby sign for room).

THURSDAYS

**December 8:** 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.

### Prayer Circle

Each Sunday | 10:00am

This informal gathering in Poling Chapel, led by Rev. Gregory Johnson, centers on singing and prayer for individual and communal concerns. Holy Communion is celebrated December 4.

### Spiritual Growth Hour

SUNDAYS AT 1:30PM

#### LIVE SERMON TALKBACK WITH DR. MICHAEL BROWN

December 4

Join us for the first-ever live talkback. Bring your questions about the day's sermon. Following this interactive and inspiring session, be sure to cap your day by attending our annual Advent Concert, featuring the gifts of our Marble Music Ministry led by Kenneth Dake. (Details on page 2).

#### FAITH IN SPOKEN WORD

December 11

Members of our Marble Community will read original creative pieces that have ministered to them in times of joy, concern, and healing. Part of our Celebration of the Creative Spirit.

#### WHEN CHRISTMAS AND CHANUKAH MEET

December 18

Rabbi Perry Berkowitz and Rabbi Leah Berkowitz



Rabbi Leah Berkowitz and Rabbi Perry Berkowitz

Christmas and Chanukah are festivals that we often think of as related, due to their proximity on the calendar and the commercialism

of December gift giving. And yet, there are other connections that help us appreciate them both. Brother and sister Rabbis Perry and Leah Berkowitz return to help us explore the links to these two celebrations.

#### DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas! No Spiritual Growth Hour.

## Children, Youth & Families Ministry (CYF)

### FAMILY WORSHIP

*Sunday, December 4 | 10:00am*

All are invited to this inspirational celebration of prayer and music in which the children and youth participate. Meets in Room 600.



### PRAYER AND PARENTING SMALL GROUP

*Sundays, December 11 & 18 | 10:00-10:45am*

Parents and guardians come together to pray and to discuss the book *Grace-Based Parenting* by Tim Kimmel. Books are available during the group for \$8 each. Led by Pat Ohikuare.

### A MARBLE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

*Friday, December 16 | doors open at 5:30pm*

The CYF Ministry plays a role in Marble's celebration for the entire community. Details on page 8.

*Sundays, December 25 and January 1*

There will be no Sunday School or Parents' Group. Nursery care will be available 9:00am-1:00pm on the 2nd Floor.

## Committed Couples

### A MARBLE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

*Friday, December 16 | doors open at 5:30pm*

All couples are invited to join us for this All-Church celebration. Details on page 8.

### SAVE THE DATE

### REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS

*Sunday, January 8, 2012 | 12:30pm*

All couples invited to our annual reaffirmation ceremony in the Sanctuary followed by a special brunch. \$28 per couple. Reservations required; contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marble-church.org](mailto:STull@marble-church.org)). Childcare available.

## Marble Connection (20s & 30s)

### WORLD AIDS DAY DISCUSSION

*Wednesday, November 30 | 7:15pm*

Following WeWo, the 20s & 30s participate in this discussion on current AIDS/HIV research and medical breakthroughs. (*Bible Study returns December 7*).

### CONNECTION CONVERSATIONS

*Sundays, December 4, 11 & 18 | 12:15-1:15pm*

Join us for fellowship and discussion of the day's sermon. (*Please note: no discussions on December 25 and January 1; resume January 8*).

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY – THE JOURNEY

*Wednesdays, December 7, 14 & 21*

*7:15-8:15pm*

In Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey*, he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in his book *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Hamilton approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. Books available for purchase. No RSVP or preparation is necessary. (*Note: no session December 28. Resumes January 4 with study of Exodus*)

### ICAHN HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Saturday, December 17*

*Set-up: 9:00am - 12:00pm*

*Party: 12:00 - 4:00pm*

Volunteer to help host this festive party for families of the Icahn House East, a transitional shelter for single mothers and children. Come for all or part of the day. Contact Sammy Shecter (ext. 477 or [SShecter@marblechurch.org](mailto:SShecter@marblechurch.org)).

### FIRST FRIDAYS

*December 2 | 6:30pm*

Join other 20 or 30-somethings after work for our monthly social gathering, which may include gift wrapping for some of Marble's Christmas outreach. Stayed-tuned to the Connection e-blast for details.

## GIFTS: An LGBT Fellowship

### WORLD AIDS DAY WORSHIP

*Wednesday, November 30 | 6:15pm*

Please join us for Marble's annual service with guest preacher Rev. Barbara Crafton and music by Djoré Nance and the Marble Community Gospel Choir. A discussion on current AIDS/HIV research and medical breakthroughs, locally and globally, follows worship.

### CHRISTMAS CABARET

*Tuesday, December 6*

*6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Program*

Celebrate the joys of Christmas with a light-hearted night of music and entertainment. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend. (Dinner and program \$18, program only \$8). Register online at [marblechurch.org](http://marblechurch.org) or contact Sammy Shecter (ext. 477 or [SShecter@marblechurch.org](mailto:SShecter@marblechurch.org)).

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT "THE CHURCH": AN LGBT YOUTH DROP-IN CENTER IN THE VILLAGE

To participate, contact Sammy Shecter (ext. 477 or [SShecter@marblechurch.org](mailto:SShecter@marblechurch.org)).

For more information on GIFTS and to sign up to receive the GIFTS e-blast, contact Sammy Shecter.

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## 60+ Fellowship

Please see our 60+ newsletter for more details on all our events. If you are not yet a member, contact Colleen Cosgrove (212-686-2770, ext. 453) for information on how to join (\$15 registration fee).

### LUNCH AND PROGRAM

#### 12:00pm, Lunch

Served promptly at noon. December 7: Pasta and birthday cake (\$7). December 14: Soup/salad (\$6). December 21: Christmas Dinner (\$10, Fellowship members; \$12, guests).



Kate Troy, Miriam Chaudoir,  
Brent Funderburk, Ashley Johnson

#### 1:00PM, PROGRAM

**December 7** – Kick off the Christmas season with the musical trio of Miriam Chaudoir, Kate Troy and Ashley Johnson with Brent Funderburk on piano, as they sing a variety of solos, duets and trios of classical and holiday favorites.

**December 14** – Celebrate Christmas with Broadway veteran Jane Seaman as she sings songs of the season by Irving Berlin and other composers. Be prepared to sing along!

**December 21** – Our annual Christmas party is **A Cool Yule!** hosted by Gary Thompson. Marble Staff and our own 60+ Singers add to the festivities. Chef Ron's delicious Christmas dinner precedes (\$10 members, \$12 guests).

**December 28 & January 4** – No Fellowship. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

### CLASSES, CLUBS & MOVIES

Classes and activities listed are free, but registered membership in the 60+ Fellowship is required.

**Exercise/Dance Class / 10:30-11:00am** - Led by peer instructors. For all fitness levels. No pre-registration needed.

**Singing with Lynne / 2:15-3:00pm** - Lynne Wilson's class rehearses December 7 & 14 for their special appearance at the 60+Christmas Celebration with Gary Thompson on December 21.

**Bridge Club / 2:15pm** - Experienced players welcome. On December 14, bridge master Bob Cantara teaches a class for intermediate players and above. \$2, requested donation for Mr. Cantara's instruction.

**60+ Movie Club / 2:15pm** - Sermons from the Norman Vincent Peale Video Collection.

### KNITTING AND CROCHETING

**Fridays, December 2, 9 & 16 / 11:00am-12:30pm**

Mary Duffy helps you learn to knit or to perfect your skills. All levels welcome to join this friendly and supportive class. Please supply your own materials. Registration required. *Please note: December 16 is the last session until spring.*



Gary Thompson

## 60+ CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

Donate luxury bath items and toiletries for gift bags to be given to the homeless mothers of Icahn House. Bring donations on Wednesdays or leave with Colleen Cosgrove. A joint project with the 40s&50s Ministry.

## Men's Ministry

### MONTHLY BRUNCH & DISCUSSION

**Sunday, December 4 / 12:15pm**

Gather for brunch at our reserved table in the Meeting Place immediately after worship. At 1:00pm, we convene in a separate room to watch and discuss "The Power of Love," by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. Brunch, \$12; no reservation necessary. Join us for the conversation even if you don't want brunch.

## 40s & 50s Ministry

### CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

Spread cheer to those less fortunate by donating luxury bath items and toiletries for gift bags to be presented to the homeless mothers of Icahn House. Leave donations with Colleen Cosgrove. A joint project with the 60+ Fellowship.

### A MARBLE FAMILY CHRISTMAS

**Friday, December 16 / doors open at 5:30pm**

Be part of the All-Church celebration. Details on page 8.

## Marble Women's Ministry (MWM)

### WOMEN'S FILM NIGHT

**Friday, December 9 / 6:30pm**

All women invited to watch the movie *The Bishop's Wife* as our Bay Hall movie series continues. No charge. Popcorn and beverages provided.

### SAVE THE DATE

### SPA DAY FOR THE SOUL

**Saturday, January 7, 2012**

Our annual day retreat for the body, mind and spirit. Details to come.

### SAVE THE DATE

### ANNUAL RETREAT

**Friday-Sunday, February 24-26, 2012**

We return to the Dolce Norwalk. Mark your calendars now.

**WEWO: WEDNESDAY WORSHIP @ 6:15PM**

"WeWo" blends traditional and contemporary worship styles, taking the best of both, creating a mixture that is informal and reverent, often humorous and always Spirit-filled. Music led by Djouré Nance. Meets in Bay Hall.

**December 7** – Dr. Michael Brown, preaching

**December 14** – Paulette Thompson-Clinton, M.Div., preaching

**December 21** – Rev. Charlene Han Powell, Associate Minister, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, preaching

**December 28** – Elizabeth Testa, M.Div., preaching; music by Anwar Robinson.

**WORLD AIDS DAY WORSHIP**

*Wednesday, November 30 | 6:15pm*

Please join us for our special service with guest preacher Rev. Barbara Crafton and music by Djouré Nance and the Marble Community Gospel Choir. Worship is followed by an interactive panel discussion focusing on current AIDS/HIV research and medical breakthroughs locally and globally.

*One Spirit. Many Gifts.*

**THE MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH SPIRITUAL GIFTS ITINERARY**

*"Kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you."  
— 2 Timothy 1:6*

**YOUR ONGOING EXPLORATION**

Much of the foundational material on the Bible and spiritual gifts that was covered at the class in November is still available on the Marble website and in Bay Hall during Coffee Hour. This includes Sr. Carol's overview and the "Starting Point" Spiritual Gifts Inventory, as well as weekly supplements to the Guidebook.

SAVE THE DATE

**YOUR JOURNEY CONTINUES: LOOKING TO JESUS**

*Saturday, January 28 | 9:30am-2:30pm*

During this powerful day retreat we will explore how the life and example of Jesus calls us to some very specific and transformative gifts.



Pick up a brochure or visit us at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org) to learn more.

**Opportunities to Serve****Action Volunteers: What Will You Do?****WAYS TO HELP OTHERS**

Throughout Advent and Christmas, the Action Committee collects gifts for children and adults in need. New clothing, personal grooming articles, books, toys, stuffed animals, and more are welcome. "Dear Santa" letters from at-risk children and "Jingle Bell" wishes from un-housed children offer opportunities to purchase gifts for specific children in difficult circumstances. Visit Poling Chapel on Sundays after worship through December 4 to select a letter. We also have many ways to live out your faith by giving gifts of your time and service to children, and to homeless and elderly men and women.

Here are other ways you can serve:

**Sunday, December 4** – Be part of the Hospitality Team for the Advent Concert. Contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)).

**Sunday, December 4** – Contribute food to **HONEY** (Help Our Neighbors Eat Year-round) by bringing single-serving non-perishables to the Action Table on the Portico. Or help serve pre-Christmas dinner to elderly (and, in some cases, un-housed) guests at the **Sunday Lounge**, Madison Avenue and 31st Street.

**Sunday, December 11** – Join Marble's **Gift-Wrapping Party** after the service and wrap presents for our many Christmas outreach projects.

**Sunday, December 11** – Volunteers are needed to help prepare 30 lunches, 9:30-10:30am, for our **Ecclesia Ministry** (an open-air worshipping con-

gregation for the community in Madison Square Park). We also need others to transport the lunches, Christmas presents and host the service which begins at 2:00pm; meet in the 29th St. lobby at 1:30pm. Donations of individual-sized juice boxes, small snack foods, and jars of peanut butter and jelly for Ecclesia may be left any Sunday at the Action Table in Bay Hall.

**Friday, December 16** – Be part of the excitement at our Marble Family Christmas Dinner. Assist with tickets, pour coffee, and more. Contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)).

**Saturday, December 17** – Help host our annual Christmas Party in Bay Hall for single mothers and their children residing in Icahn House East, a transitional family shelter on East 28th Street. Volunteers needed 9:00am-4:00pm.

**Friday, December 24** – Be part of the hospitality team after the 4:00pm Christmas Eve service, and/or at the reception in Bay Hall following the 6:30pm service. Contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)).

**Sunday, December 25** – Celebrate Christmas with un-housed guests of **Mainchance Drop-In Center** by cooking and serving breakfast Christmas morning. We'll also sing carols and help Santa and his elves distribute gifts.

**Sunday, December 25** – Help cook and serve Christmas dinner at a residence for the un-housed on the Upper East Side.



Gift-Wrapping Party



ALL-CHURCH CELEBRATION  
**A Marble Family Christmas**

**DINNER AND PROGRAM**

Friday, December 16

5:30pm – Dining Room Opens

5:45pm – Dinner Buffet Begins

7:00pm – Caroling in the Sanctuary

7:15pm – Program Begins

Everyone is warmly invited to our annual Christmas celebration for all ages where spirits will be lifted and hearts filled with joy! Chef Ron and Staff will cook a delicious traditional Christmas din-

ner, followed by a festive program including group caroling and performances by our award-winning Gospel Choir and talented CYF children and youth. Share the Christmas Spirit with your Marble family at this heart-warming event!

Dinner: \$15, adults / \$7, children (5-11 years)

Program: free admission, all are welcome!

Dinner reservations required; register Sundays in Bay Hall after worship, online at [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org), or contact Siobhan Tull (ext. 412 or [STull@marblechurch.org](mailto:STull@marblechurch.org)). Childcare available.

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**UPDATE**  
**MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH**  
DEC 2011

**THE LAST WORD**

*May the spirit of  
Christmas bring you peace,*

*The gladness of  
Christmas give you hope,*

*The warmth of Christmas  
grant you love.*

— Author Unknown

**STEPHEN MINISTRY AT  
MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH**

The Christmas Season can be especially stressful. Are you or a family member experiencing loneliness, struggling with faith in God, hospitalized, grieving or facing a life transition?

If so, Marble's Stephen Ministers may be able to help. Stephen Ministers are laypeople who have received fifty hours of training and are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one Christ-centered care. Although God alone is the one who takes broken individuals and makes them whole, we will walk with these people for as long as we are needed.



**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

For more information or if you would like to be contacted as a potential care-receiver, visit the Stephen Ministry table in Bay Hall after Sunday worship, email [StephenMinistry@marblechurch.org](mailto:StephenMinistry@marblechurch.org), or call Judy Tulin, 212-686-2770, ext. 709.

SAVE THE DATE  
**MARBLE COMMUNITY GOSPEL  
CHOIR CONCERT**

Sunday, January 15, 2012 | 2:00pm

The Marble Community Gospel Choir, directed by Djouré Nance, celebrates the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ticket details to come.