



FOUNDED 1628

## MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

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MINISTER

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Dear Friend,

When new members join Marble Collegiate Church, the same question is always asked: "Will you be loyal to this church, and support it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?" It's kind of a bottom line expectation of persons who choose to be part of a family of faith.

This year, we have decided to ask everyone to live by these four principals of Prayer, Presence, Gifts and Service. Obviously, "gifts" are an important part of the equation. This church supports a wide variety of ministries and has a plethora of expenses associated with them. Simply put, there is no way a church can keep its doors open or its ministries intact without financial support. Entering a new program year, we need your gifts perhaps as much as at any time in recent history. The national economy has profoundly affected not-for-profit organizations, churches included. Allocations from the Collegiate Corporation have been reduced. In order for us to maintain the quality of ministry to which you are accustomed, and which you deserve, we need to raise 1.8 million in pledges to meet our goal this year. We need everyone to make as strong a financial commitment as you are able to make.

That being said, discipleship is about more than just money. That is only one slice of the pie. We are a community of prayer, a fellowship that remembers one another in God's presence. I hope that every day you will set aside a "Marble prayer moment" and that you make it a part of your pledge for the coming year.

The same is true regarding your "presence." We need you here. We need you at Worship and the many other programs Marble has to offer. There is a place at Marble that only you can fill. Your life inexpressibly benefits others when you are here. As an individual, you bring something that no one else has to offer – and something that the rest of us need. To the extent possible, please make your presence a part of your pledge for this church year.

The other word is "service." What do you have to offer in terms of time and talents? What can you do? What are your passions? However you answer these questions, there are needs in our church and community where your talents can be immeasurably helpful. Our willingness to serve is a vital part of our commitment to the life of Marble Church and our community.

There is a biblical text that says "the Lord loves a cheerful giver." I have observed you long enough to know that you are that kind of people. You love God, you love each other, and you love Marble. It shows in how you live and give and serve. Please take the enclosed pledge card, give prayerful consideration to what you can do and return it at your earliest convenience. Or bring it with you to worship on Commitment Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for the faithful way I know you will respond to this year's Stewardship Initiative.

God bless you!

Michael B. Brown