



One West 29th Street, New York, New York 10001-4596 [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org) 212-686-2770 212-685-0706 fax

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, 11AM**

DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN  
SENIOR MINISTER  
PREACHING\*

**SEPTEMBER 7\***

**Refreshed and Renewed**  
Matthew 14:13-22

**SEPTEMBER 14\***

Education/Bring a Friend Sunday  
**Information, Knowledge, Wisdom**  
Luke 2:39-52

**SEPTEMBER 21\***

**Everyday Blessings**  
Luke 12:22-27

**SEPTEMBER 28\***

**Divine Illogic**  
Matthew 5:3-12

**WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

**6:15PM**  
Every Wednesday

**JAZZ REVELATION**

**6:15PM**  
First & Third Fridays

## Welcome to a New Church Year!

Summer was good. It was bright and beautiful, but not oppressively hot. It was busy enough without being exhausting. Most of us had some time to get away, renew and restore, and that only increased our joy at coming back home. Summer may have sped by too quickly, but this was a good summer. I am genuinely thankful.

However, a new page is turning on the calendar, and it says "September." All of us at Marble know that means shifting back into high gear for the program year. Sister Carol is returning. Small Groups will be in full force. Education opportunities will be numerous. Mission and program projects will resume in earnest. Children and youth ministries will be back in force. And before you know it, we will be talking about things like Thanksgiving and Advent.

Just as I am thankful for the semi-down time, I am also ready for the geared up new time. Ministry at Marble is active (*some even claim it occasionally approaches being hyper-active*), but it is also fun. There are so many options for each of us: in worship, education, fellowship, and service. New doors will open

that we had not imagined before. New friends will be made. New dreams will be fashioned. New Vision and Mission statements will be embraced. And our spirits, refreshed by summer, will be renewed by this sacred journey we know as "church."



**Dr. Michael Brown**

Sometimes the Calls of Jesus were so straightforward and simple. And those who responded found their lives were enriched beyond any means to describe it. He frequently said to those whom He chose to be disciples: "Follow me." Just two words, Clear. Concise. Challenging. "Follow me." And those who rose and followed found that Jesus led them to places of meaning, depth, and joy that they could never have discovered on their own. In this program year, we will listen

again for that Call, those two words: "Follow me." And, as we seek to follow where He leads (through study, prayer, fellowship, worship and service), who knows what beautiful places He will take us? Welcome to a new church year!



Join us for a special series of creative expressions examining diversity and inclusivity in America. For details on the *Paul Robeson* musical play on

Sunday, September 14, please see the back page, and for other upcoming events see page 3 and [www.MarbleChurch.org/DiversitySeries](http://www.MarbleChurch.org/DiversitySeries).

**MARBLE UPDATE INDEX**

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Dr. R. Mark King  
Executive Minister

## Re / M A R K / s

By Dr. R. Mark King

One of my most cherished mentors recently died. Dr. Gene Watterson was pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelby North Carolina for twenty-six years. For most of that time, the church was the second largest Baptist congregation in North Carolina.

I count Gene among those rare few whose preaching was among the best I ever heard, without fail week after week (and yes, I place Dr. Michael Brown in that select class too!). My own preaching style is heavily influenced by Dr. Watterson's. He was a story teller and I can still recall many of his grand tales. One I remember was about a fellow student during their college days. This other person had several special needs and one such challenge was a speech impediment. Yet, one day he announced to his friends that he was going to ask the most beautiful girl on campus for a date. Gene relayed how months and months of practicing took place until he was finally able to muster an approach. In Gene's low deep bass voice (of which I was so envious), he repeated his friend's speaking, "May I have a date with you." Of course, the young

lady was so impressed at the transformation and all his effort in her behalf, she said yes. Gene went on to say the two of them have enjoyed a wonderful marriage. It was a sermon that encapsulated a "can do" discipline that can transcend to all of us.

I am re-reading Dr. Peale's classic, *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Gene obviously, in his own preaching, was familiar to Peale's timeless exhortations. I am being reminded too that a positive spirit and deep commitment to the way of Christ can take our ordinary everyday challenges and turn them into extraordinary moments of grace. It doesn't mean we will never suffer or that we will never have challenges. But as the Apostle Paul affirmed, "we are more than conquerors," we have a power and we have a will that affords us a mighty means against a world that beats us up and beats us down.

Thank you Gene Watterson and thank you Norman Vincent Peale. Most of all, thank you our wondrous God who created us and instills within us that "can do" spirit as long as we know we can and we trust in the One who overcame all. It is simply amazing what we can do with grace and faith.



Chris Whittaker  
Jazz Revelation Music Director

## New Season of Jazz Revelation

By Chris Whittaker

Jazz pianist Bill Evans once said, "Jazz is not a what, it is a how." What Evans meant was that jazz isn't a single style or sound, but rather it's the way musicians relate to each other. Each week for Jazz Revelation we bring in guest artists from all different styles and backgrounds – sometimes no one in the band has met before! – and it's awesome to experience the new and exciting interactions of different voices.

See, when we're playing jazz, we're relating to each other. We're listening; we're interacting – following each line and solo, imagining how we can better support where the music goes. Very little in the music is predetermined. So this also takes a lot of trust in one another – and in our own abilities to listen and respond – but in that relationship we continually find unexpected and wonderful places.

And it's not about us as individuals. The worst thing a jazz musician can do is get so caught up in his or her own sound that in that moment they abandon the group and forget about the bigger music we are creating together.

So I want to invite you into creating this experience with us. You're a part of the music, too, and your presence in our community shapes and affects the lives of others and also your life as well! We want to build a community that's authentic, improvisatory, open – like

the style of "real jazz" that we play. At Jazz Revelation we're often *making this up as we go along*, note by note, worshiping with our own unique voice and then together discovering God in places where we least expect.

See you there!



**Chris Whittaker** is a talented composer, jazz pianist, and conductor from York, PA, and his musical language of jazz, classical, and gospel, melds genres and brings people together. His music and compositions have been performed and broadcast throughout the United States. He received his Masters in orchestral conducting at the University of Michigan and studied composition at the Peabody Institute. Chris also serves as the Assistant Music Director at Fort Washington Collegiate Church.

### JAZZ REVELATION FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS AT 6:15PM

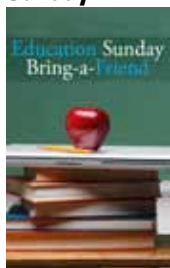
Join us for our Jazz inspired Worship in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave)! Connect with a community of people in a cozy setting of bistro tables and refreshments, enjoy a time of worship led by Dr. Mark King, and music led by Chris Whittaker with talented guest artists.

## In the Marble Spotlight

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

### Annual Education / Bring a Friend Sunday

Have you been meaning to invite a friend to experience the warmth and welcome of Marble? Are you or your friend an educator or a student? Do you have a friend who enjoys being entertained and educated about history at the same time? **Sunday, September 14 would be a wonderful opportunity to bring a friend to Marble!** During 11:00am Worship we celebrate all those involved in Education and at 2:00pm we present the first creative event in our Diversity Series. And of course at 10:00am there is Prayer Circle and Sr. Carol's Bible Study, and the Children, Youth and Families Ministry kicks off their new year. Come be a part of this special day and bring a friend or two!



Also, let's make a big push today — please do all you can to bring your donations for the **Back to School Drive**. (See page 7 for details).

### Children, Youth, and Families Ministry

Join us for our first day back to school in the CYF starting at 10:00am at 276 Fifth Ave (at 30th St). Meet your teachers, see friends from last year, and perhaps meet some new friends! Our choir rehearsals also start with directors Karie Brown and Michael Finke. If you are new to the CYF this year, please contact Brian Hampton (BHampton@MarbleChurch.org) so he can put you on his email blasts and send you a CYF 2014-2015 registration form. It's going to be a great year. We hope we will see you!



### REMEMBERING, REFLECTING, RECONCILING JOURNEYS OF HOPE, FAITH AND LOVE – A SERIES ON DIVERSITY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 2:00PM

### African American History: Paul Robeson, a Musical Play. See page 10 for details.

Mark your calendars for these events in our 2014-15 Series and visit [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org) for details. More events coming in 2015!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

### LGBT Understanding: Level Ground Film Series

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

### Native American Awareness: Purchase of Manhattan Opera

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015

### Multi-Faith: Our Annual Trialogue

### THANK YOU BILL LUTZ!

We express deep gratitude to Dr. Bill Lutz for his years of heartfelt ministry as he retires. Bill has been a pillar on our staff for years in many roles including Associate Minister and Administrative Minister, and worked with Pastoral Care, Men's Ministry, 60+ Fellowship, Divorce and Grief Recovery, Parenting classes, Marble Connection and more. He also served on the Senior Minister Search Committee. His wonderful smile and calming demeanor made him a staple among us as a spiritual leader and compassionate pastor. While he "retired" a few years ago, he gladly answered the call and returned to the ministry of which he is most passionate, pastoral counseling. Bill and his wife Judy hope to travel, spend time with their two sons and families (the grandkids!) and enjoy a full retirement this time. Bill will always be a part of us and we know we will see him at Marble from time to time.



Dr. Bill Lutz

### SAVE THE DATES!

### MARBLE'S 160TH ANNIVERSARY

Join us as we celebrate Marble's 160th Anniversary and the 12th Annual Open House New York Weekend.

**Saturday, October 11 | 12:00-4:00pm** – An afternoon of tours and exploring Marble's rich history, and current mission.

**Sunday, October 12 | After Worship** – Join us for a festive catered Anniversary Reception in the Marble Loft, followed by a very special "Homecoming" program in the Sanctuary!

## Membership at Marble

Faith is a journey and we warmly invite you to join with us as you travel along. For more information about our upcoming New Member Orientations, after Sunday Worship please come to the Deacons' Pew (to right of Chancel) where the Membership team will help you (they will be wearing red carnations), visit the Welcome Table after WeWo, or contact Kim Sebastian-Ryan (KRyan@MarbleChurch.org). We'd love to have you join us!

SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, September 21 | 10:30am-2:30pm**

**Sunday, September 28 | 9:30am-1:30pm**

NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, November 5 | 6:00-9:00pm**

**Wednesday, November 12 | 6:00-7:45pm**





Rev. Shari K. Brink  
Minister for Strategic Advancement

## “The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men...”

*By Rev. Shari K. Brink*

Do you find you are an optimist or a pessimist when it comes to planning? Would you say you are a person who plans everything out to the finest detail, including a well-developed “plan B”? Or are you more skeptical than that, agreeing with Robert Burns that “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry”?

Most of you would likely guess that I fall into the first category, that I am an optimist about planning. You’d be right. Thinking and dreaming about the future is one of my favorite activities, along with “solving the puzzle” of how to make those dreams a reality.

Looking back over my life, however, I see that planning hasn’t always taken me quite where I had expected. Oftentimes, some of the biggest adventures of life “found me” along the way to other dreams. I had a plan to go to seminary, but along the way, took a two-year detour to live and teach in Papua New Guinea. I had a plan for my life that didn’t include Marble Church, but along the way – lo and behold – as I executed MY plan, God intervened and brought me here.

My guess is that each of us – no matter how well we have planned – have been surprised along the way by the plans God has had for us.

And so, though I’m most comfortable when I have a plan, I can see the wisdom of Winston Churchill when he said, *“Plans are useless, but planning is invaluable.”* Even if our plans don’t take us where we expect, it is in the process of planning that we can

begin to dream of new possibilities and are awakened to adventure. It is in dreaming of the future that a new path can open up before us and the courage to follow it can be kindled.

Recently, at a Marble Church Board retreat, Dr. Michael Brown – referring to the work we have done as a congregation to find the future God has for us – said “the process we’ve been engaged in is as important as the product. We’ve learned a lot about ourselves in the process.”

The work of three Think Tanks, discussions by the Board and Ministries Council about the “essence” of Marble, presentations by Dr. Brown of a vision for Marble Church, Town Halls in which so many of you have asked good questions and offered exciting ideas – each of these have been part of the process. A process of opening ourselves to God and saying “we want to be attuned to what you would do through us.” **The act of planning – when prayerfully engaged – has helped us align ourselves to God’s plan for the future of our beloved church.**

If all goes as planned, on Sunday, October 5, we will hold another Town Hall at which we will share with the congregation Marble’s new Vision, Mission and Values Statements and some of the exciting ways we will live into that vision. And if it doesn’t go as planned, well, we will have learned something along the way about the plans GOD has for us.



Rev. Kirsty DePree  
Associate Minister

## Learning to Walk in the Dark

*By Rev. Kirsty DePree*

“If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I bet they would live a lot differently.”

“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

I am currently reading Barbara Brown Taylor’s book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. These quotes and the book caused me to go outside this week late in the evening and to peer up at the sky. I was struck by the darkness I felt at first, but I eventually found light, clarity and focus as I gazed into the night sky and began thinking about the stars and what they represent. I began thinking about different people in the congregation and found myself praying for them by name, thinking about their stories, their legacy, their faithfulness. I also searched the sky for the distant stars and found myself praying for people around the world; the children in Gaza, the families of the plane crash victims, my parents in Scotland. I looked at the stars and was reminded of people who have shaped me, taught me and blessed me with their radiant light. I also found myself looking at the stars and finding comfort in the

myriad of ways that light provides hope in the midst of darkness. I found glimmers of Christ’s light as I prayed, gazed and began to form my pastoral prayer.

I discovered that this may be a new spiritual practice, and there was no need to be scared of the dark, rather an opportunity to embrace it.

In *The Book of Common Prayer* there is an old prayer that goes like this:

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And Wendell Berry writes, “To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight, and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings...”

This fall as we enter into a new year, we will be focusing on Hope, Faith and Love. To look at the power of hope in our lives, there will be two Small Groups reading, digesting and exploring Barbara Brown Taylor’s book. I hope you sign up for a group and that we as a church can walk in the dark together. For when we do we will embrace the hope we have in The One who walks with us both day and night.

## The Power of Prayer

By **Sandy Diaz and Katherine Gotshall English**

Our Power of Prayer Small Group began last September with a desire to explore in community the mystery of the power of prayer. We were curious and a little uncertain about openly discussing prayer. We not only discussed prayer but we prayed. There is obviously something about prayer that accounts for its persistent vitality. What do all world religions share? Prayer. The twelve of us can now see why.

With Anne Lamott's book entitled, *HELP, THANKS, WOW*, we learned that prayer can be in the form of asking for help, thanking God, and sometimes experiencing a miracle; that which makes us say "wow!" As Anne Lamott puts it, "Wow means we are not dulled to wonder. We click into being fully present when we're stunned into that gasp..."

Along this journey, we have made friends as well as prayer partners. Together we talked about ways that we could pray... we begin each gathering with a quiet time and with scripture... sometimes a

Psalm of thanksgiving, sometimes a scripture verse of hope. We made a commitment to end each gathering with written prayers submitted by all. We then take those prayers with us and make them a part of our prayer time.

A year later, our Small Group continues to meet. We have welcomed new friends as well as moved on from another book by Anne Lamott to our current book, *Man Is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion* by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

As a group we have grown in faith and in our prayer lives. It has become a sacred place for many of us... a place where we welcome God's grace in our lives. Personally for me (Sandy Diaz), my prayer life has been enriched. I've learned to make my quiet time more creative and to sit in His presence... "Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10



Sandy Diaz



Katherine Gotshall English

## A Coincidence?

By **Kim Sebastian-Ryan**

Do you believe in coincidences? Please don't stop reading. This is not going to be one of "those" articles. I hope it will be interactive. First, I want to tell you a funny story and then I want you to send me your story.

A few weeks ago I went to the Sunday summer series, "I Believe," led by Rev. Kirsty DePree and Brian Hampton. I was really excited about this new class since I wasn't exposed to these opportunities in other churches. The class was great. It was accessible, real, and down to earth. It was also interactive with genuine interest in questions and answers. For the interactive portion, Brian had placed question marks around the room and on the reverse side was a question. He asked for volunteers to pick a question mark, read the question on the back and then, they, and members of the class could respond. After a few questions, I decided to volunteer. I had a migraine that morning and knew one way to help me forget about it was to jump in and participate. Ok, finally, here's the coincidence and the funny part... my question was "Why do you come to Marble?" Now for those of you who don't know me, I am in charge of Membership and recently named Director of Church Growth... and that's actually the question I randomly chose. Really?! You can't make this stuff up! The whole class erupted with laughter and thought I was truly a "plant." That this had been set up beforehand,

but with Sr. Carol as my witness, this was totally unplanned. There I was holding this question, asking it out loud, answering it, and waiting to hear others respond. After a deep breath, and a promise it wasn't a membership drive – I launched in.

"Why do you come to Marble?" Well... making a long story short – initially it was the positive spirit, the message, the diversity and inclusiveness. Then over the years, as life happened, I realized I was learning more about God and about myself in relation to God than I ever had anywhere else. I felt at home. A sense of belonging. It was real, and honest, and that is so important to me. I'm still learning to this day and I'm excited about it. It helps me and in my new job it helps me to help others.

Afterwards, I realized what a gift this was – totally unexpected. It reminded me of things that I hadn't thought about expressing out loud in a while. Was it a coincidence as I find myself in this new job? I think it was a gift.

So now, I ask **you**, "Why do **you** come to Marble?" And if you've been attending a while – "What brings you back?" Send me an email, [KRyan@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:KRyan@MarbleChurch.org), and share your story with me. I'd love to hear from you. As we approach Marble's 160th Anniversary this fall, let's remind ourselves and others why we chose Marble. We'll be glad we did.



Kim Sebastian-Ryan  
Director of Church Growth &  
Connecting Ministries



Karla Fritsch  
Publications Manager

## Reflections from the Editor

By Karla Fritsch

I might take a news fast. Once again it seems there is bad news at every turn – conflict in Missouri, in the Mideast, Ebola in Africa, flooding across the country, Robin Williams' suicide... It's so discouraging. Do you ever feel like giving up? I've certainly had moments where I'm not sure if I can take any more.

And yet, there are also plenty of hopeful messages out there that can help us hold on. I'm amazed at the positive messages God sends me at just the right moment.

Last November I was particularly stressed and felt like I was "losing it". For some reason that morning

I walked on 34th St rather than my usual route. My head was down, like my mood, then "something" made me turn to my right. I couldn't believe what I saw. I took a photo of the signs in the window display to remind me. "Not allowed in the breakdown lane" gave me a hint of strength that I would NOT break from the stress. "Keep going" helped me put one foot in front of

the other that day, and the next. It seemed that God made that display just for me.

On January 13 I was on a bus and saw a cab out the window with an ad on top, "Transform Today." I got teary-eyed. Another message just for me. On that day,



37 years before, my dad died and I entered a darkness that had been hard to move beyond. That sign helped me celebrate a transformation I'd been making to turn that day into joy-filled, living gratitude.

Recently I had a weekend where "I'll never change" got stuck in my head. On Monday morning I came up the Penn Station escalator just in time to see an AT&T Wireless sign flash, "Rethink Possible". I had seen the sign before, yet as if for the first time, that day it gave me the reminder I needed right then. It's like when I used to listen dozens of times to motivational tapes from speakers like Zig Ziglar and Denis Waitley. "All of a sudden" I'd hear something so fitting for what I was going through at that moment – and could swear those words hadn't been on that recording before.

I've received encouragement through chalk on the sidewalk, ads at bus stops, vanity license plates... There are times when I'm looking for the positive messages and, similar to gratitude, when I keep looking, I keep finding more. Yet I'm blown away by how God surprises me with reassuring and inspiring revelations when I'm NOT looking for them.

A lot of these signs have been crafted by ad agencies, yet the designers had to get a spark of Divine Inspiration, that, coupled with Divine Timing, has become a Divine Gift over and over in my life.

Are you open to receive God's modern-day messages that may come your way when you need them most? I bet they're waiting for you at any turn.

## Spiritual Growth and Education



Sr. Carol Perry  
Bible Scholar

### Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

**HOW DID IT BEGIN?**

*September 7, 14, 21 & 28*

The first books of the Bible hold some of our most familiar but often least understood stories of faith. Are Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, in any way still pertinent? Let's find out.

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

**A BIBLE TOOL BAG**

*September 9, 16, 23 & 30*

To make the Bible our own we need some knowledge of other cultures, of literary devices and of what scholars have learned through the years. Each of these can make our Bible study richer and more spiritually fruitful.

WEEKDAYS, NOON–1:00PM

**SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE**

Bring your lunch and join interactive Bible study in two Manhattan locations with Sr. Carol Perry. Return to work with a new attitude.

TUESDAYS

*September 9 & 23:*

Meets in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave).

THURSDAYS

*September 11 & 25:*

Meets at St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Ave (at 51st St). Enter through Park Ave doors and proceed to the Vestry Room, directly behind the chancel to the right.



## Prayer Circle

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

This informal gathering centers on singing and prayer for individual and communal concerns. This year our focus will be: *From the Beatitudes to the Be-Attitudes, the Prayer Circle in Action*. All are welcome! Led by Rev. Gregory Johnson. Meets every Sunday. (*Holy Communion on September 7.*)

## Spiritual Growth Hour

SUNDAY AT 1:15PM

This year through our monthly Spiritual Growth Hour, we seek to illuminate, educate, and empower people to experience **Hope, Faith, and Love** that is lived, learned, and that liberates.

## HOPE, FAITH, AND LOVE THAT IS LIVED, LEARNED, AND LIBERATES

September 21

Join us as we launch this year's theme. (*Next session will be October 26.*)

## Small Groups

Small Groups at Marble are designed to be mission-al, transformational, and relational. They change us, help us grow, and get us to go out and do good in the world. We encourage you to consider participating in one of the many new offerings that begin this fall! To learn more, visit [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org) or contact Anna Nugent ([ANugent@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:ANugent@MarbleChurch.org)).

*See the articles about Small Groups on pages 4 & 5.*



Rev. Gregory Johnson  
Prayer Circle

## Missions and Outreach: Opportunities to Serve

### Action Volunteers – Ways You Can Serve

If you don't see what's right for you below, contact Tom Schneider ([TSchneider@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:TSchneider@MarbleChurch.org)), for more ideas and referrals to organizations that are in need of volunteers.

**Sunday, September 14** – Volunteers are needed to help prepare 50 lunches, 9:30-10:30am, for **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 which begins at 2:00pm; meet in front of 276 Fifth Ave at 1:30pm.

**Marble Fights Hunger** – Please support our continuous food drive by donating non-perishables. Food is given to residents of **Icahn House**, as well as to **City Harvest** and various food banks in NYC which distribute the food to at-risk families. Leave donations at the 29th St Reception area, the Fifth Ave Narthex or the Marble Loft.

### New Congregational Care Initiatives

We invite you to get more involved in reaching out to our homebound members and others in our community! If you are interested in volunteering for one of these new ministries, or if you have a name of an individual to whom we can reach out to, please contact Judy Tulin ([JTulin@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:JTulin@MarbleChurch.org)).

- **Phone Ministry Outreach**

Commit to a once-a-week short conversation and prayer. We hope to reach out to people beginning around Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. If mutually decided, the ministry may be extended.

- **Friendly Calls & Visits / Adopt a Senior**

This has been a pilot program to bring together elderly and others in need with a member of the Marble Community who can befriend them in a meaningful way. Time commitment would be six months. Each volunteer would be trained.

- **Knitting Ministry: Creating Prayer Shawls**

Knit shawls for those who are ill or homebound. Knitters would gather weekly for prayer and knitting.

### Annual Back-to-School Drive

Through September 21

There are over 23,200 children living in homeless shelters in NYC! Marble's Back to School Drive provides school supplies to city agencies that serve those children in need. Our Back to School Drive is important because:

- One of the most devastating consequences of homelessness is the effect that it has on a child's education.
- A new backpack, filled with school supplies, provides the tools a child needs to succeed in school.
- It also provides a confidence boost, helping each child to feel more like their housed classmates.

Please bring your donation to the Action Volunteer Table on Sundays during Coffee Hour in the Marble Loft. During the week you may drop off your donation at the church switchboard at 1 West 29th St. Please mark your package "Attn: Action Committee". If you are unable to purchase supplies, a donation of \$25 will fill three backpacks. Please make checks payable to Marble Collegiate Church and write "Back to School Drive" in memo section. Mail to the attention of Tom Schneider or place in the offering plate during Worship. For more information, contact Tom Schneider.



*Stop at the Action Volunteer Table after Sunday Worship during Coffee Hour to talk with a committee member about these opportunities and others. To receive notice of serving opportunities, "Action Alerts," by email, contact Tom Schneider ([TSchneider@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:TSchneider@MarbleChurch.org)).*

Keep up with our different Program Ministries by attending Coffee Hour after Worship and visiting their pages at [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org).

## Adult Ministry

Our monthly dinners will be on Mondays this year and our first is on **September 22** with Sr. Carol Perry. See the Calendar of Events or the website for details. Contact Colleen Cosgrove (CCosgrove@MarbleChurch.org)

## Connection (20s&30s)

After taking a break this summer, Connection is gearing up for the Fall! This year, we will be combining Wednesday nights and Sundays after Worship. Join us for Spiritual Growth discussions, Bible studies, life and faith conversations, and special activities throughout the year. To receive Connection emails (including the year's schedule of events), contact Brian Hampton, (BHampton@MarbleChurch.org).

## Entrepreneurs

Anyone who is self-employed, or who dreams of being self-employed, is welcome! The season begins with our *Peale Parlor Soul Salon* on **September 11**. Inquiries to Katherine Gotshall English, 212-529-8512.

## GIFTS: LGBTQ Fellowship

We kick off the year with a brunch on **September 14**. On October 1 our Fall Small Group begins. Contact T.J. Houlihan (GIFTS@MarbleChurch.org).

## Men's Ministry

Sign up now for our Retreat, *Living in Hope*, **Friday, October 24 – Sunday, October 26**. For information on upcoming events and fellowship opportunities, check the website or contact Anna Nugent (ANugent@MarbleChurch.org).

## 60+ Fellowship

Our new season begins on Wednesday, **September 17!** See the Calendar of Events and the 60+ newsletter for details on our lunch programs. **Exercise Class:** 11:00-11:45am; **Bridge Club:** 2:15-3:30pm. To register for the new year or for more information, please visit our 60+ Information Table during Coffee Hour on Sundays or contact Colleen Cosgrove (CCosgrove@MarbleChurch.org).

## Women's Ministry

Our theme for the 2014-15 church year is *Embracing Wholeness: Looking In & Reaching Out* which we'll introduce at our Welcome Back Brunch on **September 14**. For more information, see the website, or stop by our table during Coffee Hour. Contact Anna Nugent, (ANugent@MarbleChurch.org).

## Calendar of Events



Dr. Michael Brown and Mario Sprouse  
Sermon Talk Back

### EACH SUNDAY

#### Live Sermon Talk Back with Dr. Michael Brown 12:15pm

Remain in the Sanctuary after Worship to join Dr. Brown and Marble's online community for a brief discussion/Q&A about the day's sermon. Hosted by Mario Sprouse.

### EACH WEDNESDAY

#### 60+ Fellowship

For details on our exercise classes, bridge club and more, check our 60+ Fellowship monthly newsletter or visit our table at Sunday Coffee Hour. Inquiries to Colleen Cosgrove (CCosgrove@MarbleChurch.org).

#### Walk the Labyrinth | 5:00-6:00pm

Take a moment for a walking meditation before WeWo. Please call to confirm schedule.

#### WeWo: Wednesday Worship | 6:15pm

"WeWo" blends traditional and contemporary worship styles, with sermons by Dr. Brown and others, plus dynamic music led by a praise vocal ensemble and band. Meets in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave).

### FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS

#### Jazz Revelation | 6:15pm

Dr. Mark King leads this celebratory service in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave). September 19 is a special Rhythm & Blues night with our own Djoré Nance! See *Chris Whittaker's article on page 2*.



Djoré Nance

### FIRST SUNDAYS

#### Walk the Labyrinth | 1:00-3:00pm

A facilitator will be available to help guide you and answer questions, while allowing you the space to walk in your own way, at your own pace. (Please confirm, schedule could vary.)



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**Festival of Voices Seeks Volunteers**

The Marble Festival of Voices seeks singers to become a part of the musical 2014-15 season, which includes singing in Worship once a month and the popular Advent Concert on Sunday, December 7. Weekly Wednesday evening rehearsals begin September 10. Prospective volunteers should have some prior choral experience and be able to read music; an informal audition is required. To discuss membership or schedule an audition, contact Korland Simmons (KSimmons@MarbleChurch.org).

## THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11

**Entrepreneurs: The Peale Parlor Soul Salon**

6:00-8:30pm

All welcome to hear eight speakers in eight minute talks about *The Extraordinary Healing Power of Ordinary Things*. \$10. 6:00pm refreshments; 6:30pm program.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**Women's Ministry Brunch** | 12:30pm

All women invited to join us for brunch at Pergola (36 W. 28th St). Register online or in the Marble Loft after Worship. Afterwards a group of us plan to attend *Paul Robeson* in the Sanctuary. See page 10 for details.

**GIFTS: LGBTQ Fellowship Brunch**

12:30pm

All welcome for our kick-off brunch and as we celebrate Jobe Forte's 99th birthday!



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

**60+ Fellowship Lunch & Program** | 12:00pm

Catered pasta lunch and birthday cake (\$8) followed by program at 1:00pm: *Songs for September* – Our beloved Gary Thompson welcomes the Fellowship back with this cabaret.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

**Marble Adult Ministry Dinner** | 5:30-8:00pm

*The Spirit of Inaction: Learning from the Fallow Times* with Sr. Carol Perry. (5:30pm appetizers, 6:00pm dinner, 6:45pm discussion) \$20, dinner; \$10, discussion only. Paid dinner reservations required 48 hours in advance; reserve online.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

**60+ Fellowship BYOL & Program** | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch (with potluck desserts and coffee/tea provided), followed by a film at 12:30pm: 42 - *The Jackie Robinson Story*.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

**Monthly Brunch** | 12:15pm

Our monthly brunch returns! All are invited for this time of fellowship and good food. In the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave). \$12.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

**Men's Ministry Discussion**

Dr. Bill Lutz returns for an evening of discussion and fellowship. Check website or contact Anna Nugent for more information.

## SAVE THE DATES

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

**Town Hall Meeting** | 12:15pm

Hear about Marble's new Vision, Mission and Values Statements and some of the ways we will live into that vision.

**Exploring...** | 12:30pm

This new series continues the types of questions and discussions that began with our summer "I Believe..." classes. Led by Rev. Kirsty DePree, Kim Sebastian-Ryan and Brian Hampton. Also meets November 2, February 1, March 1 and May 3.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

**60+ Fellowship BYOL & Program** | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch, followed by a program at 1:00pm: *160 Years of Faith, Hope & Love*, Robert Romagnoli spotlights Marble's people and history with this presentation and Sanctuary tour.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

**Men's Ministry Retreat**

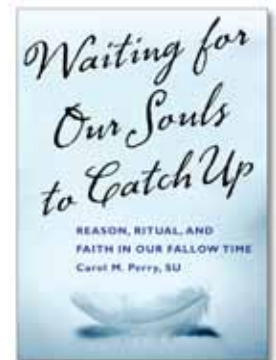
*Living in Hope* is our theme for this weekend of reflection and fellowship at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, NJ. All men are invited. Registration deadline is September 8. For more information, visit [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org) or contact Anna Nugent (ANugent@MarbleChurch.org).

## Calendar of Events

For more details, to register, or for the full listing of all our programming, please visit [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org) or stop by the Welcome Center after Worship.



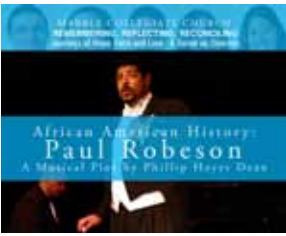
Gary Thompson

Marble Adult Ministry Dinner  
September 22**Staff for this Issue:**

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**Paul Robeson, a Musical Play  
by Phillip Hayes Dean**  
*Sunday, September 14 | 2:00pm*

Join us for this musical play starring Jason McKinney that tells the story of Paul Robeson, the famous African American athlete, singer, actor, and advocate for civil rights around the world in the 1920s-60s.

Admission: \$20, at door; \$15, seniors/students. Save \$5 when ordered in advance. Tickets available at the MarbleVision Table on Sundays during Coffee Hour, at [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org), or contact Siobhan Tull, [STull@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:STull@MarbleChurch.org).

REMEMBERING, REFLECTING, RECONCILING  
**Journeys of Hope, Faith and Love –  
A Series on Diversity**

This year we present a special series of creative expressions examining the past, present and future of diversity and inclusivity in America. As we hear the remarkable stories of our fellow men and women through these artistic events, it shows us that what unites us is stronger than what divides us. And we are reminded that all peoples have had their struggles, all of us seek reconciliation with each other, and that our diversity adds to the richness as we sit at God's table.

See event dates on page 3 and for details, visit [www.MarbleChurch.org](http://www.MarbleChurch.org).

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**LIVE WEBCAST SCHEDULE**

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

**Sundays**

**10am** – Bible Study with Sr. Carol Perry  
**11am** – Worship Service  
**12:15pm** – Talk Back with Dr. Brown

**Wednesdays**

**6:15pm** – Wednesday Worship

**TV** – Fridays @ 4:30pm,  
MNN Time Warner Ch. 57 (Manhattan)

**MARBLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

There is something for everyone at Marble! Connect with our online community on social media:

Like us on Facebook: **Marble Collegiate Church**

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram:  
**@marblechurchnyc** for Twitter and  
**marblechurchnyc** on Instagram

Follow and Pin from our boards on Pinterest:  
**Marble Collegiate Church**

**WOR RADIO**

To those of you who listened to us on WOR, we thank you for your years as part of our audience and invite you to visit our website sermon archives, where you can access sermons anytime. There you will also find blogs and much more.

**THE MARBLEUPDATE ONLINE**

Remember, you may access the MarbleUpdate anytime at [www.MarbleChurch.org/Connect/Newsletters](http://www.MarbleChurch.org/Connect/Newsletters). There you will find back issues starting in January 2010 plus the current issue. If you'd like to help us save trees and receive the MarbleUpdate via email instead of a printed copy in the mail, please contact Shana Wolfe ([SWolfe@MarbleChurch.org](mailto:SWolfe@MarbleChurch.org)) and let her know to remove you from the regular MarbleUpdate mailing list and to add you to the email list.

**THE LAST WORD**

Mitkuaye Oyasin (*we are all related*)

— Lakota