



One West 29th Street, New York, New York 10001-4596 www.MarbleChurch.org 212-686-2770 212-685-0706 fax

APR-MAY-JUNE 2014

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 11AM

DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN
Senior Minister preaching*

APRIL 6*

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Two Criminals

Luke 23:32-33, 39-43

APRIL 13*

Palm/Passion Sunday

A Needy Crowd

Mark 11:1-10

APRIL 20*

Easter Sunday

Witnesses at the Empty Tomb

Matthew 28:1-10

APRIL 27

*Dr. Karoline Lewis, preaching
Assoc. Professor of Biblical Preaching
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN*

May/June Sermons Listing

Please see page 2.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

6:15PM

Every Wednesday (except April 16)

JAZZ REVELATION

7:00PM

First & Third Fridays

MARBLE UPDATE INDEX

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Following The Great Commission

Shortly before His Ascension, Jesus spoke what across the years has been called The Great Commission: "Go into all the world, making disciples . . ."

All Christians seek to respond to that Commission in personal ways. Here and there between now and the end of July, I will do so as a representative of Marble Church out there in the world. Soon Page and I will spend a few days in Israel and Turkey, studying under renowned biblical scholar and author, Dr. Ben Witherington. We do this specifically to determine if this trip (or some variation of it) might be a good travel-and-learning experience for the Marble congregation next year. Such trips are part of a historic commitment here, dating back across decades, offering interested congregants opportunities to see, learn, celebrate, and grow.

Another historic commitment here is to offer others the richness Marble's unique slant on Christian faith and theology. So, from late June to mid-July I will be preaching and lecturing at Chautauqua events at Epworth Assembly in Michigan for one week and at Lakeside Assembly in Ohio for another week. Each time, I have been invited to represent Marble, i.e., to preach and teach the gospel of Christ and also to "tell the Marble Story." In June, I will be doing the same in Worship behind the bars at Sing

Sing Prison. Later this year I have been asked to do so at Duke University Chapel. Understand that none of



Dr. Michael Brown

this is about me. It's about things far bigger and more important than that. It's about God . . . and about you. You need to know that. People all across America want to hear about this church, how you worship, how you serve, how you impact the world, and how your theology of Hope can give them courage to face life day by day. So, whenever possible I "go into all the world" telling them about Christ and about you.

This year, a good amount of what I usually employ as vacation time I will use as Great Commission time – going into places beyond our city, telling The Story in order to "make disciples."

I write this for a couple reasons. First, I covet your prayers as I try to be faithful both at home in NYC and in places beyond 29th and Fifth. And second, I also want you to know that even on those occasional Sundays when I am not physically present here, you and I will still be spiritually connected. Everywhere I go, every sermon I preach, and every lesson I teach, you will be there. I will tell others that if they want to see what Jesus is like, they need to take a close look at you.

Holy Week 2014

APRIL 13, PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Prayer Circle – 10:00am A time for singing and prayer. Led by Rev. Gregory Johnson.

Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry – 10:00am
Take a fresh look at the last week Jesus spent in Jerusalem.

Family Worship – 10:00am Rev. Elizabeth Testa leads this sacred drama, "Hosanna! A Palm Sunday Parade," written by Colleen Cosgrove. All ages are invited. 9:30am, fellowship.

Worship – 11:00am "A Needy Crowd"
(*Mark 11:1-10*), Dr. Michael Brown preaching.

Easter Offering 2014

Help us overflow the Easter Egg Thermometer!

This year's goal is to raise \$185,000, 100% of which will be given as grants to top-notch non-profits. Whether you can give \$1, \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, let's all join together to express God's love and make a difference in our world.

See Susanah Wade's article on page 3.



MAY & JUNE 2014**SUNDAY WORSHIP, 11AM**

DR. MICHAEL B. BROWN
Senior Minister preaching*

MAY 4***The Keys of the Kingdom**

Matthew 16:13-19

MAY 11**When All Else Fails**

Deut. 31:7-8; Ps. 118:1-6; Heb. 13:5b
Dr. R. Mark King, preaching

MAY 18**Power in Weakness**

II Corinthians 4:5-12; 12:7-10
Rev. Shari K. Brink, preaching

MAY 25**Fleet Week Celebration**

Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben,
preaching
Chief of Chaplains, US Marine Corps

JUNE 1***A Good Christian**

Luke 18:9-17

JUNE 8***Pentecost Sunday**

Is Church Relevant?
Acts 2:37-47

JUNE 15***Trinity Sunday****One in Three?****Three in One? What?**

Matthew 28:16-20

JUNE 22***Allies**

Judges 7:4-7

JUNE 29

Rev. Shari K. Brink, preaching

Re / M A R K / s

By Dr. R. Mark King

Are we not ready for spring? As I write this in early March, we can all attest that this winter has been a harsh one, for New Yorkers and all others surrounding all the way around. It is my first winter and I pray NY winters are not always like this one! As we have embarked on Lent, it is no coincidence that Spring and Easter are just upon us. I think it is so amazing that most of the time, Easter comes in April and certainly even as the calendar date for Spring is March, April is seen as the first of Spring.

Do you want to know something I think fascinating? April is also a month with the most tragedies of any other month. Consider that both Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. were assassinated in April. The Titanic sank in April. The great San Francisco earthquake that claimed over four thousand lives occurred in April. The Columbine shooting, the Branch Davidian episode in Waco, Texas, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the Virginia Tech shooting all occurred in, yes, April! And just last year, so close to home, the Boston Marathon bombing occurred on April 15. It's no wonder tax day comes in April too.

Guess what else comes in April? Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox which could be from March 22 to April 25. So more often, it does come in April.

Holy Week 2014**APRIL 17, MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Worship – 7:00pm “An Anonymous Host” (Luke 22:7-13) is Dr. Michael Brown's message with dramatic readings and music by The Marble Choir. Includes Holy Communion.

APRIL 18, GOOD FRIDAY

Music for Prayer and Meditation – 11:30am
Kenneth Dake

Worship – 12 Noon “Simon of Cyrene” (Mark 15:16-22), Dr. Michael Brown preaching. Music Director Kenneth Dake leads The Marble Choir, Festival of Voices, and orchestra in Fauré's *Requiem*.

Prayer Vigil – 1:30–3:00pm Join the Prayer Ministry Team to pray for members and friends of Marble. Come when you can, leave when you wish. Good Friday Prayer Request cards may be found in the pews; please complete them and return by Palm Sunday, April 13.

Jazz Revelation – 7:00pm A Jazz Funeral for Christ. Dr. R. Mark King, preaching.

After Lent, we need Easter. In the journey to the cross, we eventually find it hanging bare and go to the tomb. We need Easter for the tomb to be empty. After winter's cold, we need the Easter spring. After all is dormant in nature, we need the vitality that comes with flowers bursting forth, the sun warmer on our faces, the trees lush with greenery and just returning to the flavor of outdoors. As beautiful as Central Park is in any season, no time is it more astounding than Spring. In the midst of overwhelming tragedies and the harshness of life, even in April more than any other month, we need Easter.

We are not quite there yet. April is upon us but Easter is a few weeks off. But it is around the corner. I pray this April will not be another historical one. I do pray that as you and I come to the end of our cross journey this Lent, Easter can be the renewal we all need. Easter can bring forth a newness of life and the discovery of Christ's warm love and enveloping grace. And we find God all over again.



Dr. R. Mark King
Senior Associate Minister

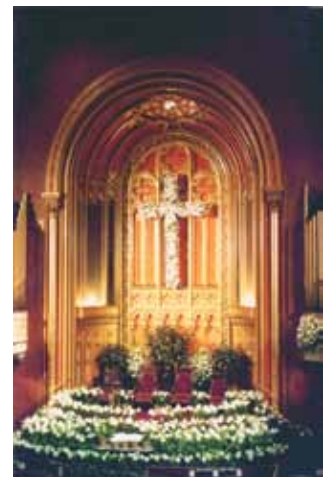
APRIL 20, EASTER SUNDAY

Prayer Circle – 8:30am

Prelude for Brass and Organ – 8:45 & 10:45am

Worship – 9:00 & 11:00am “Witnesses at the Empty Tomb” (Matthew 28:1-10) is Dr. Michael Brown's Easter message at two identical services. Music by The Marble Choir with festival brass ensemble.

Easter activities for children 2nd Grade and under during services. Children 3rd Grade and up are encouraged to worship with their families.





By *Susanah Wade*

The season of Lent can be marked by a time of abstinence when we may give up something that has become a part of our everyday life. When we give up our favorite candies or foods for Lent, we are committing to something of greater significance in our lives. We are committing ourselves to a journey with others who share the common thread of the Christian faith, in which we believe in a Christ who died and rose to save us. We are also committing to embracing the love that Christ demonstrated for us.

I invite you to reflect for moment on what it might mean for us in turn to express love for others and to invest in the lives of the vulnerable in our city and the world. What do we gain by this expression of love and investment, is a question that is more aptly extended to ask, "what does the world gain?" In the discipline of giving of our gifts and investing in the lives of those in need, we heed Christ's call to express love for one another, the world in turn feels loved, and is healed by that expression in multiple ways.

Saving Children in Somalia:

SAACID and Your Church at Work

By *T. Hunter Dare*

From 2011 to 2012 Somalia experienced famine from severe drought and armed conflict that prevented aid from reaching large segments of the population. A joint report of the UN and USAID estimated that 258,000 people died of malnutrition and related disease, more than half of them under the age of five. That was more than one out of every ten Somali children. While rains have come, the conflict continues. Food and water supplies have not been fully restored, international aid still cannot reach parts of the country and children continue to die.

As the crisis intensified, Marble and the other four Collegiate ministries felt called to help. In seeking a way to make the greatest impact, we were connected with SAACID, a Somali-based aid organization. As a local organization, they operated with little overhead expense and could safely reach parts of the country that international organizations could not.

SAACID saw a need for a Severe Acute Malnutrition ("SAM") Center, a specialized children's hospital for treating the worst cases of malnutrition. SAM fatality rates without treatment are 30% to 50% and many

For decades, the Marble Community has generously supported our annual Easter Offering, and has risen to the call of expressing Christ's love by alleviating human suffering – feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, educating at risk youth and contributing to reconciliation around the world. This is echoed in a thank you letter we received from one of the recipients of our 2013 Easter Offering grants:

There are over 3000 low-income students in Lower Manhattan in need of academic assistance. On behalf of those students, I would like to thank you for your grant of \$2,500 in support of the GO Project's innovative, holistic and individualized educational programming for underperforming students... Your support helps to strengthen our impact on children and families in need...

Won't you join us in continuing to support Marble's annual Easter Offering? And if you have never done so, we extend an invitation to you to do so. Please accept our thanks in advance and we know that those who will feel your expression of love, will thank you also.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." – John 15:12

that live suffer permanent damage. Treatment goes beyond providing food as many children suffering from SAM are too weak to eat or digest food, suffer from infections because their immune systems have shut down and are at risk of fatal mineral imbalances in the days after they begin receiving essential nutrition.

SAACID had secured a donation of land and about half the funds needed to build the facility. They believed they could secure operational funding from UNICEF, but UNICEF would not commit before construction was fully funded. Our church stepped in and provided the other half needed to build the SAM Center. While this gift was a budgetary challenge for our church, it was a true expression of our Christian values and love. Construction started in 2012, and the first patient was treated in June 2013.

Today, over 350 children have been treated with more arriving every week. These are children's lives that have literally been saved by the wonderful work of SAACID with the assistance of our church. In coming months you will be hearing more about SAACID. I hope you will be as interested as I am in following their story.



Susanah Wade
Director of Missions and Outreach



T. Hunter Dare
Deacon



Dr. Michael B. Brown is one of the recipients of this year's OTTY Awards!

Every year, for over 10 years, Our Town newspaper recognizes the special contributions of individuals to their community with The OTTY (Our Town Thanks You) Awards. Recipients include organizational, civic and clergy leaders, and this year also include NYC Police Commissioner William Bratton and NY State Senator Hon. Liz Krueger. The awards will be handed out at a special ceremony on April 2. We congratulate Dr. Brown on this distinguished honor.

In the Marble Spotlight

MEMBERSHIP AT MARBLE

For more information, 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).

MAY CLASS

Wednesday, May 7 | 6:00pm-9:15pm

Wednesday, May 14 | 6:00pm-7:45pm

Registration deadline is Sunday, May 4.

JUNE CLASS

Sunday, June 1 | 10:30am-2:30pm

Sunday, June 15 | 9:30am-12:30pm

Registration deadline is Sunday, May 25.

WOMEN'S HISTORY CONCERT

This Is Her Story... This Is Her Song

Sunday, May 4 | 2:30pm

Ken Dake directs The Marble Choir as they celebrate the masterful contributions of women composers to sacred choral music. The concert also features texts by women poets and great female spiritual leaders. *(This concert had been postponed from its original date in March.)*

ANNUAL MARBLE CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, May 31 | 11:00am – 4:00pm

Everyone is invited to join us at Doe Meadow in Lewis Morris Park for our annual picnic. Marble will provide the hamburgers & hot dogs, the rest of us bring side dishes and desserts.



In addition to delicious food, there will be softball, volleyball and kickball games, nature walks, table games, sack races and more! Park amenities include a children's playground and indoor restrooms. There is something for everyone, so don't miss out on this exciting event for the whole faith community.

There is one bus available, so sign up early to guarantee your seat! Children under 4 will need to sit on an adult's lap. Bus leaves Marble at 10:00am. Park is located in Morristown, NJ, approximately one hour from midtown Manhattan. Onsite parking is free.



Admission: \$20, at the door; \$15, student/seniors. Save \$5 when ordered in advance at www.MarbleChurch.org, or contact Siobhan Tull (STull@MarbleChurch.org). Discounted ticket pricing and online sales end at 4:00pm, Thursday, May 1.

MARBLE MUSIC NEXT DOOR

Ken Dake hosts this intimate salon concert in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave) featuring some of New York's most exciting emerging young artists from The Marble Choir, along with special guests.



Sarah Griffiths



Tami Petty

Tickets available at the door: *(cash/checks only)* \$15 general admission; \$10 students/seniors.



Ken Dake



Christopher Thompson

GARDEN SOIRÉE

Enchanted melodies of spring and rebirth

Thursday, May 8 | 7:30pm

Sarah Griffiths, Tami Petty, *sopranos*; Christopher Thompson, *tenor*; Ken Dake, *piano*.

COST: Adults: \$10, picnic only; \$30 picnic & bus.

Children (ages 4-12): \$5, picnic only; \$20 picnic & bus.

Register at Coffee Hour following Worship, online at www.MarbleChurch.org, or contact Siobhan Tull (STull@MarbleChurch.org).

POWER IN PRAISE

Sunday, June 8 | 2:30pm

Marble Community Gospel Choir in Concert
Djoré Nance, *director*

The Marble Music season culminates with our award-winning gospel choir presenting a joy-filled celebration of gospel music.

Tickets: \$20 at the door, or \$15 when ordered in advance; \$10, students/seniors.

Order online with credit card at www.MarbleChurch.org, or contact Siobhan Tull (STull@MarbleChurch.org).



Djoré Nance

A Circle of Love

By Rev. Gregory Johnson

Prayer Circle has been one of the longest, ongoing ministries at Marble Church. This sacred and special time brings together “people who pray” in a focused, family of faith setting, that worships in song, Scripture, sharing and praying.

Each Sunday, I begin this time of reflection, remembrance and reverence with piano, playing hymns, old and new, as the pathway to our time of prayer. For many of us, hymns of youth and childhood have been unknown prayers that blessed us, supported us and guided us in many circumstances of our lives. Thus, beginning our Prayer Circle with these hymns invites memories, blessings, and frames the environment for prayer as we are made aware of the Presence of God and our Oneness in Love and Faith through prayer.

Email, facebook, and other devices of modern technology have had a positive effect on Prayer Circle. As a family of choice, a family of faith that unites in prayer, we often communicate throughout the week when support is needed; news is shared, blessings are received, burdens are lightened. In prayer we are not alone, we are “One in the Lord” living our faith through love and prayer.

We have also attracted a wonderful group of persons who join us in prayer each week though many, many miles away.

I send out weekly emails sharing some of the

coming Sunday’s theme and invite all “to join us in person or join us in prayer.” And, each week emails arrive from all over the world:

“On Sunday night, 10am NYC time, I joined all of you in prayer. Thank you for praying for me.”
— Singapore

“I really needed support. It was late afternoon on Sunday here and I remembered your post on facebook, ‘Pray with the Marble Collegiate Prayer Circle...’ so I sat quietly and joined all of you. Blessings for blessing me.”
— Belgium

We presently have persons praying with us from Singapore, Indonesia, South Africa, Belgium, UK, and many parts of the US – not to mention, members who because of illness or bad weather cannot be present.

Each year we also select a theme, most frequently focusing on the words of Jesus. This church year, 2013-14, we are focusing on each of the clauses of The Lord’s Prayer, finding new, deeper, more treasured meaning for our prayer lives and for our daily lives.

We celebrate being children of God united in love. Together we walk, talk, laugh, cry, grow, share, pray and meditate with gratitude, and always honor our role as part of the Communion of Saints. “O blest communion, fellowship Divine; we feebly struggle; they in glory shine... Yet all are one in Thee for all are Thine. Alleluia.” And so it is.

Please join us, in person or in prayer, and share with your friends. All are welcome in this place!



Rev. Gregory Johnson

The Heart of Hospitality

By Rev. Elizabeth Testa

Marble’s Ministry of Hospitality is made up of eleven lay teams, members of the church who dedicate themselves in some way to graciously welcoming all who enter our faith community – whether for worship, fellowship or a program.

We acknowledge that this is not always easy in our New York City context, where getting on the subway can rob one of every ounce of hospitable spirit within a second of being jostled rudely or glared at! But it is the commitment and even passion of these 125+ Marble “ambassadors of hospitality” to overcome whatever veil of pain, anger, confusion people might be carrying with them and respond with the kindness and compassion Jesus was talking about when he commanded us to “love one another”.

To strengthen this mission and deepen the overall culture of hospitality in our beloved church, our teams are engaging in a seasonal three-part Hospitality Intreat series this program year. Our tri-fold focus has



been spiritual nurture, community-building and workshops to expand our practices of authentic hospitality.

At our winter intreat, facilitator Carla Iliescu led a session on listening. It was amazing to see our lay leaders delighting in learning best practices and sharing with one another both the blessings and the challenges of listening. We emerged with an understanding of listening as a practice of the soul, mind, body and spirit. It is a connection between us and God, and with each other. It’s about being truly present and “in the moment”. You see, as we build connections with each other, barriers break down and melt away.

Our congregation is very fond of the expression “you may be the only Christ someone will see”. How truly this manifests when we welcome people and are present with them – listening attentively and building meaningful connections. I experienced this personally the day of the intreat, February 8. As some of you know, my dear father had died earlier that week and the visitation service was scheduled for that evening. Those in attendance knew this and lovingly honored

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Rev. Elizabeth Testa
Associate Minister

THE HEART OF HOSPITALITY... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

my need to focus on our task at hand. They listened, they were present, they were patient. During our closing worship, as our day's learnings were shared and I was preparing for the Lord's Supper, Rick Harper and Agatha Pratt felt led to gently interrupt our worship flow and invited the group to gather around me, surrounding me with love and prayers. It was a powerful, Spirit-led moment in which we all felt the blessing of our connectedness, of Christ's love, kindness and compassion flowing through the room. It filled my

heart with gratitude and gave me strength and deep peace.

In the months ahead, may we all remember the difference we can make when we extend ourselves to others through a warm smile, a caring touch, a loving prayer – taking time to listen, be present and in fact, be Christ to another. The hope of the Ministry of Hospitality is that this will continue to an ever-expanding culture at Marble – please join us and feel the blessing of our connectedness – to God and to each other!



Brian Hampton
Director of CYF, Connection, and
Producer of The Puzzle

The Puzzle 2014

By Brian Hampton

I recently attended a meeting at the Dramatist Guild regarding a new online initiative that's being launched by the National New Play Network. This program will hopefully revolutionize the process of a playwright submitting a new play for production and serve as a matchmaker for the perfect theatre to search for, discover, and produce the perfect new play for their theatre.

And, I'm hoping it will. As a playwright, I have a stack of rejection letters, and a folder full of "thanks, but no thanks" emails. And, even though sometimes it seems as if I'm sending out a play into the dark night never to return again, as I often tell writers, you gotta play to win. And, the reality of putting yourself out there is just the way it goes in life and in the arts.

The fact is, there are around 10,000 playwrights in the USA right now. And there are only approximately 500 "slots" for new plays a year at theatres across the country. So, let's pretend that each of those playwrights only had one new play they were shopping around. That's 9,500 plays a year that don't get to see a cast and crew fully realize their dream on stage.

As I was sitting in this jam-packed playwright's meeting, I thought about not only how lucky I am to be a playwright who has seen his work come to life, but how lucky I am to be the producer of "The Puzzle," our new play festival, here at Marble. To think that Marble Collegiate Church has served the theatre-makers of the USA (and even Canada) with 32 readings or productions of new plays in the last three years is something that I quite often cannot put into words. It's quite the gift from the people of Marble to the world of theatre.

And this year, I'm especially excited to be headed into "The Puzzle." I'm looking forward to see which plays will rise to the top in this year's lineup. It's always an exciting process, and it's a thrilling and



fun week watching performances of these plays, meeting the writers and creative teams behind them, and listening to the effect they have on their audiences.

And, this year, Marya (my artistic director) and I are shaking "The Puzzle" up a bit. Not only are we specifically looking for 10-minute plays for our festival, but we're incorporating a "process" segment. During our festival week, we will be offering opportunities to get involved in the process. We will be offer-

ing two acting workshops (one for teens and one for adults) and a writing workshop for all ages.

As I type this – plays are rolling in from around the country and the world, filling my mailbox. And, as someone who has been on both sides of the submission process, I don't take what we do in "The Puzzle" lightly. Because with each play, tucked in its manila envelope, is a person's voice and a person's story—their views of the world, the human condition, and of faith.

When thinking about the artistic community of this country, this city, and this church, I'm always reminded of something we have in common with God. God was an artist. Just look at the first verse in the Bible, "In the beginning God created."

And, I can't help but think, "I wonder what kind of play God would submit for "The Puzzle?" Not sure what it would be about, but I'm sure it would be perfectly suited for our festival.

So, I hope to see you at the theatre. Look for the schedule of "The Puzzle" (running **June 23 - June 28**) at www.MarbleChurch.org beginning in late May.



Two of Brian's plays have been published!

The Jungle Fun Room (Off-Broadway, FringeNYC, The Puzzle 2011) has been published by Original Works Publishing and is available at Amazon.com or at www.originalworksonline.com.

Gossip (New York Premiere, The Puzzle 2013) will be published by Pioneer Drama and released in May. Available at www.pioneer-drama.com.

Reflections from the Editor

By Karla Fritsch

Do you have a favorite chair – a comfy place where you can settle in to play games on your iPad, read, write in your journal, or pray?

Mine is in my office. It's comfortable and is home to a big catfish pillow Chef Ron gave me, even though it clashes with the fading slipcover. When I had a very small office it was still important to have that chair there. It isn't just any chair, it's **Joanie's chair.**



Joanie Collyer is a long-time Marble member and was on staff for over 30 years. I don't know when she first acquired the chair, but I have many memories of her sitting there. She was in charge of publications so spent a lot of time editing in that chair and also taking shorthand notes as she reviewed books for Small Groups.

One of the biggest blessings in my life came when Joanie asked me to help her with the Sunday bulletin. Often I was sitting in that chair as we discussed the red marks on my drafts – early on there was a lot of

red. Joanie's sweet voice, faith-filled spirit, and wonderful British wit helped me learn, and laugh, at the same time – about the job and myself. Even ten years after she retired, somehow I feel I do better work while sitting in Joanie's chair.

Many of my current co-workers don't know Joanie, but know that chair as a safe spot for heart-to-heart conversations, just as it was when it was in Joanie's office. Of course, it's not about the chair. Imagine a spirit so bright that after you've been in its presence it stays with you – a positive version of the way your eyes continue to see a camera flash. Joanie's light is so bright that we all experience some of it in her chair.

Joanie's light comes from God and seeing her shine inspires me to do the same. Each one of us has been given our own unique light. Who has inspired you to shine? Next time you curl up in your favorite chair say a prayer of gratitude for the bright lights in your life.

Thank you, Joanie!



Karla Fritsch
Publications Manager

Spiritual Growth and Education

Bible Study with Sister Carol Perry

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

THE EARLIEST JESUS

April 6

Mark's gospel is the first to present what he calls the Good News to a world that has had only an oral tradition. What is the main thrust of his portrait of this man from Nazareth?

PALM SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

April 13

See Holy Week schedule on page 1. *(Please note: no Bible Study on Easter Sunday, April 20).*

HERE IS OUR HOPE

April 27, May 4, 11, 18 & 25

There are many stimulating images of hope in both the gospels and the letters. To renew our acquaintance with them is to reanimate our Post-Easter journey.

SACRED PLACE / HOLY PEOPLE

June 1, 8 & 22

Our biblical ancestors saw the Temple as God's earthly dwelling place. They also knew they were called to be a holy people. Finding the link between those two beliefs is our daily challenge too. *Bible study with Rev. Winckler on June 15.*

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

HOW IS THE NEW COVENANT NEW?

April 1, 8 & 22, May 6, 13 & 20

"What is this? A new teaching – with authority!" In the gospels, Paul, Peter and the Book of Revelation, the new is emphasized. What is it and how do we live it? *May 20 is last session until September.*

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. *No sessions during Holy Week.*

TUESDAYS

April 1 & 22; May 6 & 20:

Meets in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave).

THURSDAYS

April 3 & 24; May 8 & 22:

Meets at 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.



Sr. Carol Perry
Bible Scholar

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Dr. Karoline Lewis

Spiritual Growth Hour

SUNDAY AT 1:15PM

APRIL 27

Today's guest preacher, Dr. Karoline Lewis, and Rev. Travis Winckler will explore the spiritual practice of worship.

MAY 18

We will look at a text written by Martin Luther King, Jr. and discuss the relationship between spiritual formation and mission outreach. Led by Susanah Wade and Rev. Travis Winckler. *(Please note: due to Memorial Day Weekend this is on third Sunday of month.)*

JUNE 22

TBA. Stay-tuned for details.

Prayer Circle

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

This informal gathering centers on singing and prayer for individual and communal concerns. All are welcome to join us. Led by Rev. Gregory Johnson. Meets downstairs in the New Chapel. *(Holy Communion: first Sunday of month). Meets at 8:30am on Easter.* See Rev. Johnson's article on page 5.

Parenting Class

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

April 6 & 27; May 4 & 11

All parents and guardians welcome as we discuss techniques for parenting God's children in today's world. Led by Emily Begin, Tracy Cook-Person and Rev. Kirsty DePree, with special visits from Dr. Bill Lutz.

Mission and Outreach: Opportunities to Serve



Tom Schneider
Director of Volunteer Ministries

Marble's Neighbor

By Tom Schneider

So, who is our neighbor? Is our neighbor more than the guy next door? Could he or she be someone in our community or almost anyone we meet? Could our enemies also be our neighbors? Matthew 7:12 says: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

A neighbor need not be someone who lives next to you. I am sure many congregants at Marble Church are not aware of how they are helping our neighbors on 28th Street in Manhattan. CRS House East, formerly called Icahn House, is a temporary residence for women with children under 12 years of age who have been victims of domestic violence. CRS provides temporary housing and job search skills to assist them in finding employment. Marble has had a relationship with this organization for many years.

Here are some of the ways that you as part of the Marble Community are helping these neighbors:

- You donate food to our "Marble Fights Hunger" program, some of which goes to CRS House East. The families have a microwave in their rooms and must prepare their own meals. CRS does not supply food but your donations aid those families until they are able to get back on their own feet.
- You donate toiletries items. Many families enter the CRS facilities without basic items.
- You donate baby food and clothing. The baby food, and new and used baby clothing goes to CRS to support their families.

- You donate school supplies to our "Back to School Drive" so when the children at CRS House East go to school they have the basic essentials.

- You donate new undergarments to our "Drive for Dignity" which goes to the mothers.

- You provide Christmas gifts through our "Santa Letter" program to youngsters who would probably not get a Christmas gift.

- You who volunteer at our annual Christmas Party provide an opportunity for the mothers and children to spend a few hours enjoying the holiday spirit.

So, that is some of what you as a Marble congregant do for your neighbor on 28th Street.

Remember, our second commandment says in Mark 12:31, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Thank you for being a good neighbor!

Action Volunteers – Ways You Can Serve

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

Annual Drive for Dignity Continues through April 20 – Please donate new boxers, briefs, bras, t-shirts, tank tops and socks for homeless adults living in shelters. Bring to the Action Table in the Marble Loft Sundays after Worship.

Saturday, April 12 – Paint, rake, plant and more during “Hands on New York Day” sponsored by **New York Cares**. Join Marble’s team as we spruce up one of NYC’s outdoor spaces.

Sundays, April 13, May 11, June 8 – 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.

Sunday, May 4 – Join us for the 14th Annual NYC **CROP Hunger Walk**.

English in Action – Volunteer tutors needed to converse in English one-on-one with non-English speaking students.

Sunday, June 29 – Help serve water to those marching in the annual **New York City Pride March**. This is one of our greatest opportunities to publicly serve and show that ALL are welcome at Marble Church, and loved. Period.

Donate Metrocards for LGBTQ Youth in Crisis served by “The Church” at St. Luke in the Fields, a partner in mission with our GIFTS Fellowship. Metrocards should contain at least one full fare.

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).



Program Ministries

Adult Ministry

See the Calendar of Events for our **April 26 Intreat**. Attend the **May 31 All-Church Picnic** with us, register online. On **June 20** we gather after Jazz Revelation. Contact Colleen Cosgrove (CCosgrove@MarbleChurch.org).

Connection (20s&30s)

We meet most Wednesdays after WeWo for Bible Study, conversations, or special activities. Contact Brian Hampton, (BHampton@MarbleChurch.org).

Entrepreneurs

An Entrepreneur for All Seasons, our series in celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit, continues on May 29. Inquiries to Katherine Gotshall English, 212-529-8512.

GIFTS: LGBTQ Fellowship

Join us for our first-Sunday-of-the-month Coffee Hours and stay-tuned to the website for all our activities during Pride Month. Contact T.J. Houlihan (THoulihan@MarbleChurch.org).

Men’s Ministry

For information on upcoming events, Bible study, and fellowship opportunities, check the website or contact Rev. Travis Winckler (TWinckler@MarbleChurch.org).

60+ Fellowship

Our activities continue through June 18. **Bridge Club** every Wednesday, instructor Bob Cantara teaches first and third Wednesdays. **Arthritis stretch**, first and third Wednesdays; **Yoga**, second Wednesday; **Exercise and gentle aerobics**, fourth Wednesday. **Book Club** will resume in April 16 and continue on third Wednesdays. Visit our 60+ Information Table during Coffee Hour on Sundays. Contact Colleen Cosgrove (CCosgrove@MarbleChurch.org).

Women’s Ministry

Join us for our very special event **A Women’s Interfaith Conversation on April 10**. See Calendar of Events and the website for more information. Contact Rev. Kirsty DePree, (KDepree@MarbleChurch.org).

Keep up with our different Program Ministries by attending Coffee Hour after Worship and visiting their pages at www.MarbleChurch.org.

Calendar of Events

For more details, to register, or for the full listing of all our programming, please visit www.MarbleChurch.org or stop by the Welcome Center after Worship.

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.



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 | 7:00pm

Dr. Mark King leads this celebratory service in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave).

FIRST SUNDAYS

GIFTS: LGBTQ Fellowship Coffee Hour | 12:15pm

All are invited to our first-Sunday-of-the-month coffee hour. Please invite your friends!

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. (Not available May 4 due to the concert.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

60+ Fellowship Recital Series

All are welcome to join us for a recital in the Sanctuary at 1:00pm: Classical piano with Alexandra Beliakovich. Preceded at Noon by a catered soup & salad lunch (\$7) in the Marble Loft.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

GIFTS Small Group: *Ambiguously Christian*

7:00-8:00pm

We explore our identities as Christians. Meets Thursdays through May 22. Attend as you are able.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

60+ Fellowship BYOL & Program | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch (potluck desserts; coffee/tea provided), followed by a program at 1:00pm: NYU Dental School and Professor Karl Dixon return with a customized program as part of our speaker series.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

A Women's Interfaith Conversation | 6:00pm, food samplings; 6:30pm, program

In the Marble tradition of the Interfaith Dialogue, the Marble Women's Ministry welcomes special guests, Laila Al-Askari, Tehilah Eisenstadt, and Maggie Richter for this conversation about all aspects of faith and love that move us as women of faith. Sample heritage foods from each tradition. Invite your friends! Meets in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave). \$15. Register Sundays at the Women's Table during Coffee Hour, online or contact Rev. Kirsty DePree.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

60+ Fellowship Lunch & Program | 12:00pm

Catered pasta & salad lunch (\$7) followed by program at 1:00pm: Manhattan School of Music's annual Musical Theatre Cabaret.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

60+ Fellowship Lunch & Program | 12:00pm

Special catered Easter lunch (\$12 members; \$15 guests) followed by program at 1:00pm: Harpist Erin Hill entertains with a variety of musical styles and original compositions.



Erin Hill

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Adult Ministry Intreat: *Patient Trust, Benevolent Process* | 9:30am-3:00pm

How can we accept God's benevolence while knowing that we must be a driving force in our own life's process? What is the balance between prayer and personal responsibility; trust and action? Led by Rev. Liz Testa and the Adult Ministry lay leaders: Lesley Mazzotta, Sandra Dickerson, Diane Janovas and Pat Johnson. \$25, includes lunch/materials. Register online or contact Colleen Cosgrove.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Monthly Brunch | 12:15pm

All are invited for this time of fellowship and good food! In the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave). \$12. Coffee Hour is in the Labyrinth Room today.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

**Marble Adult Ministry Small Group:
Holy Spirit, Here and Now**

How can we engage in a Spirit-led life and trust God's presence into all areas of our lives? Led by Lesley Mazzotta. Meets Mondays through June 9. Register online.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

60+ Fellowship BYOL & Program | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch (potluck desserts; coffee/tea provided), followed by a program at 1:00pm: published authors from the 60+ Fellowship share their work and what inspires them.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

**60+ Painting the Beauty of
Spring** | 10:00-11:30am.

Judy Tulin leads this class each Wednesday in May. Bring a photo or idea to paint, materials provided. Pre-register with Colleen.



Judy Tulin

60+ Fellowship Recital Series

All are welcome to join us for a recital in the Sanctuary at 1:00pm: Classical Productions performs selections from *Porgy and Bess*, *Show Boat*, *The Mikado* and more. Preceded at Noon by a catered soup & salad lunch (\$7) in the Marble Loft.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

60+ Fellowship BYOL & Program | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch (potluck desserts; coffee/tea provided), followed by program at 1:00pm: Social Worker Janet Smith and guests offer important information on Long Term health care and Advanced Directives.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Family Worship | 10:00-10:45am

All are invited to join this celebratory service where the children and youth will "move-up" to their next grades and receive Certificates of Participation. 9:30am, fellowship and coffee. Meets in the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

60+ Fellowship Lunch & Program | 12:00pm

Memorial Day celebration with catered picnic lunch (\$12, Fellowship members; \$15, guests), followed by program at 1:00pm: Singer Jane Seaman entertains with patriotic and Broadway favorites.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Monthly Brunch | 12:15pm

All are invited for this time of fellowship and good food! In the Marble Loft (274 Fifth Ave). \$12. Coffee Hour is in the Labyrinth Room today.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

60+ Fellowship Lunch & Program | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch (potluck desserts; coffee/tea provided), followed by a film at 12:45pm: *The Butler*.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Entrepreneurs: A Soul Salon | 6:30-8:00pm

Dr. Mark King will talk about the way of the soul followed by a showcase of soul talks, music and poetry from the diverse and talented members of the Entrepreneurs. \$12. Light refreshments, 6:15pm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

60+ Fellowship Recital Series

All are welcome to join us for a recital in the Sanctuary at 1:00pm: David Sisco presents "My Faith I Sing", a collection of his favorite hymns and songs of faith, including several songs he wrote during his spiritual journey at Marble. Preceded at Noon by a catered soup & salad lunch (\$7) in the Marble Loft.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

60+ Fellowship BYOL & Program | 12:00pm

Bring Your Own Lunch (potluck desserts; coffee/tea provided), followed by program at 1:00pm: Rev. Paulette Thompson-Clinton brings us an inspiring word on the topic of mind, body and spiritual healing.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

60+ Fellowship Lunch & Program | 12:00pm

Grand Finale Luncheon (\$12, Fellowship members; \$15, guests), followed by program at 1:00pm: Gary Thompson and friends present a music revue.

PRIDE! 2014

There will be opportunities for you to march in the parade, sing with the Collegiate Pride Chorale, display your talents, hand out water at Marble's water table plus fellowship and worship. Stay tuned to the



website and GIFTS e-blast for details on all our events including **Pride WeWo on Wednesday, June 25;** **Women's March Water Table, Saturday, June 28;** **Pride Breakfast and Water Table, Sunday, June 29.**

Calendar of Events

For more details, to register, or for the full listing of all our programming, please visit www.MarbleChurch.org or stop by the Welcome Center after Worship.



David Sisco



Rev. Paulette Thompson-Clinton

Note: Schedule subject to change. Please call to confirm.



THIS IS HER STORY... THIS IS HER SONG

Sunday, May 4 | 2:30pm

The Marble Choir presents this concert featuring the masterful but often unheralded contributions of women composers to sacred choral music. Kenneth Dake, *director*.

GARDEN SOIRÉE

Thursday, May 8 | 7:30pm

Enchanted melodies of spring and rebirth.

POWER IN PRAISE

Sunday, June 8 | 2:30pm

The Marble Community Gospel Choir in Concert, directed by Djoré Nance.

See page 4 or www.MarbleChurch.org for details on these upcoming concerts.

The Puzzle! 2014

Monday, June 23 – Saturday, June 28

Join us for the 4th Annual The Puzzle: Marble's Festival of New Work, produced by Brian Hampton, with Artistic Director, Marya Spring Cordes. This will be another exciting week of dramatic work fresh off the press. Look for a full schedule of the performances at www.MarbleChurch.org, or at the Welcome Table starting in late May.

For more information, please see Brian's article on page 6.



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UPDATE

APR / MAY / JUNE '14

LIVE WEBCAST SCHEDULE

If you can't be here in person, visit 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. 1997 (Manhattan)

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

OUR NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED!

It was created with you in mind, to provide a better user experience, easier navigation and more dynamic content. Content continues to be added, but we hope you like what you see, and will visit us online often for compelling videos, timely information, historic sermons and much, much more.



www.MarbleChurch.org

VOLUNTEER FOR THE SUMMER CHOIR

The Marble Music Ministry never takes a vacation! Continue Marble's weekly commitment to musical excellence by joining the Summer Choir. Rehearse at 9:00am each Sunday before 11:00am Worship, June 1 through August 31. It is not necessary to commit to every week, but prospective singers must be comfortable reading music and have prior choral experience. Those not already in Marble Choirs may be asked to audition. Please contact Korland Simmons (KSimmons@MarbleChurch.org).

THE LAST WORD

Life is Change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.
— Anonymous