In the most essential ways, this past year was about more than programs. In a season of shadows, it was about living into the words of Jesus when he said, "Now you are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) This church continued to be that light, as it has across the years. In a time of intense divisiveness, we remained a house of unity amid diversity. In a time of distrust, we proclaimed “the Truth that makes us free.” (John 8:32) In a time of anger, we demonstrated the beauties of peace. In a time of fear, we were a safe and secure place where all were welcome. In a time of national and global political unrest and fears, we reminded the city and the world that there is One above all earthly powers Whose love is eternal and, thus, Whose will cannot be derailed by any momentary unrest. My deepest satisfaction as I review the year past is that you were light in the world’s darkness.

Let me take a moment to lift up just a very few concrete examples of how Marble kept that light on in the world: This year your dollars and volunteer efforts were making an impact in our city and beyond it. Locally, it was a banner year in our efforts with Habitat for Humanity, as volunteer workers from Marble have almost completed the first of four houses we have promised to those searching for a place to call “home.” Likewise, Marble mentors continued to work one-on-one with students from P.S. 30, and their Principal has attested due to that work, test scores in Math and Reading skills have shown a marked improvement. Volunteer teams also traveled to our partner church in St. Thomas, V.I., to witness and help support the mission work there and to Thistle Farms in Nashville, where we join in the fights against human trafficking and for human dignity and hope.

And, the ever-expanding members of our community need not be with us physically in order to share in that light. We have created new ways to increase our virtual outreach through social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, and online media outlets like The Huffington Post and Thrive Global. We created a new app so you can have Marble with you on-the-go, and a podcast for downloading and listening without the need for an internet connection. The numbers of people finding us on the web increases weekly. As of this writing, people from 133 countries now enter our website for information, guidance, inspiration, and to worship with Marble online through live streaming or by accessing our archives. Additionally, we were seen coast-to-coast via ABC-TV’s Marble Easter Special. In short, our virtual ministry is enabling us to literally say “Yes” to Christ’s Great Commission: “Go ye into all the world, making disciples ….” (Matthew 28:19) Finally, during the past year, the Collegiate Churches of NY (including Marble) added an additional affiliation with The United Church of Christ, one of America’s leading Protestant denominations. We did not end our historic relationship with The Reformed Church in America but simply broadened our association with the larger national Protestant community, enabling us to access a wider range of mission and ministry opportunities and bring that light farther into the world.

You will find many more highlights of this past program year within these pages, and I encourage you to transcribe your own memories, as well (either mentally or through journaling). Offer thanks for what God has done in our wonderful church. Then, ask God how in the coming year you can contribute to making the Marble Story even more wonderful.

Senior Minister
Marble Collegiate Church
The Labyrinth provides walking prayer for spiritual and psychological transformation in the presence of God.

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
—Matthew 18:20

LaToya Roberson & Kennisha Clayton
We discovered Marble through a subway ad in 2008. Seeing the GIFTS Ministry listed we thought, “Huh! Maybe we should try this place.” We came to a WeWo service and were hooked. Everyone’s different; it’s all love. When you walk in there’s a feeling of safety and comfort, what you think church and welcoming Christians should be. Having GIFTS allows us a sense of community with people who share what we go through. GIFTS Coffee Hours feel like a little family on the path to becoming our full selves. Marble is a church with real-life stuff — sermons give us what we need spiritually, the message of the music, and walking the Labyrinth give practical tools for our lives. We’re here on Sundays and Wednesdays in-person or we grab our phones and coffee for live streaming. This place is our sanctuary with so much chaos in our life.

Steve, Michele, Walker, Harry & Stevie McSween
We started coming as a young couple, but then having young children made it difficult to get here. We took a break, always feeling the pull to come back. We tried churches closer, but none were Marble. One Christmas Eve we said, “Let’s just go.” Walking into the Loft after Worship a minister said to us, “Welcome home.” We realized we are home, and it felt amazing. Everyone was wonderful and welcoming. Someone said, “This happens. Families don’t come for a bit because they’re so busy. But then they come back and we’re happy to have you.” That’s exactly what we needed to hear. That’s it. We are here. We knew we wanted our children to have the feeling of a church family, a comfort zone and safe environment. Marble is big but it feels like a small family. We come, start our week off fresh, ready to take on whatever is in store for us. It’s something we rely on to help us get through parenting and job struggles. We feel grounded when we leave Marble.

Through Grace Notes Director of Music Kenneth Dake shares historic and theological background on Sunday’s choral selections, hymns, preludes and postludes.

Returning to head our Arts Ministry, Mario Sprouse (at piano) introduced a new summer Marble Arts Festival including drama, music, dance, visual arts, crafts, and a wide array of creative expressions.

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Jerry Williams

Four years ago my sister April, who was Marble’s Receptionist, suggested I apply to be part of the maintenance staff. Despite growing up attending church in the Bronx I said, “I don’t know sis. I don’t think I’ll fit in there.” She said, “Jerry, they take everybody at Marble Church.” I thought there’s no such place where they accept everybody. When I came here I looked around and realized little sis was right. Whether you’re black, white, Hispanic, gay, straight, American-born, foreign; I have come into contact with people from all walks of life in this place.

A highlight of my responsibilities here is preparing for the Advent Concert. I’ve finally found the place from where I’ll retire; hopefully, a long time from now.

When telling others about Marble I describe it much like my sister. If you’re looking for a faith community, you’ll want to check it out.

Marcus Hummon’s musical play Frederick Douglass: The Making of an American Prophet made its NYC debut at Marble featuring Bakari King in the title role.

We welcomed Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, to our Sanctuary for a unique service celebrating Christian unity.

Marble’s Easter Offering supported the work of the St. Thomas Reformed Church including My Brother’s Workshop a non-profit program helping local young adults through mentoring and job placement.

Marble volunteers refreshed the participants of NYC’s annual Pride March with cups of water as they passed by our doors.

Jan Arthur

Ten years ago, I was missing the feeling of attending church after we started spending weekends away from our Salem, Virginia home. When our daughter began attending a NYC university, I walked into Marble and just felt wrapped in love. It answered a prayer for me. Live streaming Marble services made me feel like I was going to church even though I was sitting on the porch of our lake house. I became more involved through the online Small Groups and felt I was a part of Marble. Now when I visit NYC I have friends there. That’s what the online ministry gives me – a sense of fellowship and belonging. I’ve even taken Communion online. Two years ago, after attending New Member classes online, while on my computer at home, I joined Marble with my fellow classmates. Marble just feeds my soul. I can feel the love even through the live stream. It’s wonderful.

Marble’s mentoring program with P.S. 30 focused on Math and Reading comprehension skills through building relationships with tutor and student.

“love your neighbor as yourself”
— Matthew 22:30

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Marble creates the space to allow people to inhale love and exhale fear.
— Rick Harper, Elder

“Look around at the people here who don’t look like you. You are family because Jesus has said so.”
— Sister Carol Perry, S.U.L., Marble’s Bible Scholar, 37 years

“I see this church in the middle of Manhattan as a safe harbor from the angry waves.”
— Rev. Jeff Nevel, Pastor, St. Thomas Reformed Church, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

“At Marble I found what I’d been missing: positive scripture for practical living.”
— Diana Koss-Rodriguez, 2017 member

“Marble is all about finding grace to help in time of need.”
— Melinda Barnes, Festival of Voices member

“We have great power in this room... in this city where many are coming who are lost and wondering — How great you are at what you’re doing.”
— Rev. Becca Stevens, Founder, Thistle Farms

“I can’t imagine my life without Marble. 36 years & counting...”
— Crawford K. McDonald, Facebook review

“I can’t imagine my life without Marble. 36 years & counting...”
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Many of us joined Marble in young adulthood and the positive experience shaped our lives. The Board of Elders and Deacons is committed to increasing resources for the growth of our youth and young adult ministries. Each generation has its own group norms, expectations and motivations. What appeals to one generation may not yet developed the financial resources to fully support the growth of their own ministries. They need the help of the entire church community.

I recognize the audacity of my request. Not only am I asking our congregation to take some risks, I am also asking for funding. In order to preserve the terrific ministries that we have today, we will need new funding resources for our expansion. Please prayerfully consider how you might help Marble touch the lives of our next generation. I am blessed to be a part of this wonderful church community. I am thankful for our gifted, hard-working and caring Ministers and Staff. I appreciate our Elders and Deacons who enthusiastically participated in Bring a Can Sundays as part of Marble Fights Hunger to support a local food pantry.

“as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone”
—Galatians 6:10

The Peale Society, which recognizes members who have included Marble in their estate plans, honored Liz Peale Allen and Maggie Peale Everett at its annual luncheon.

Marble’s Prayer Shawl Ministry met in Peale Parlor for prayer and crafting shawls for members who are ill or homebound.
Sunday, May 28 was a momentous day as we did our best to celebrate and thank our beloved “Nun in the Basement”, Sister Carol Perry. We were blessed that her six week experiment with Dr. Peale stretched to 37 years and became the longest running underground Bible Study in New York. Her depth of biblical knowledge and teaching ability helped us grasp sacred insights, discover biblical Truth, and understand the context of what that Truth says to us in specific situations or moments in time.

We’ll miss her annual Labor Day Sunday sermons, her succinct and powerful Advent and Lent devotionals, the homework reflections that helped us look at things in new ways, and so much more. Yet her wisdom, joy of learning and humor will go on as she lives this next chapter of her life. Sr. Carol, thank you for how you’ve impacted us in ways that will continue to ripple through our lives and out into the world.

Rev. Greg Johnson added Wednesday Morning Prayers in the Chapel to his Prayer Circle ministry at Marble.

Marble Staff and Board

Ministers
Dr. Michael B. Brown, Senior Minister
Rev. J. Elise Brown, Ph. D., Executive Minister
Rev. Kirsty DePree, Senior Associate Minister
Rev. Chad Tanaka Pack, Associate Minister
Dr. Kenneth Ruge, Minister for Counseling and Staff Consultation
Rev. Barbara Cavethorne Crafton, Spiritual Teacher
Daryl Lobban, Associate in Ministry
Rev. Gregory Johnson, Prayer Circle

Program Directors
Kenneth V. Dake, Director of Music
Christina Morano Kaisar, Director of Media
Catherine Ortiz, Director of Marketing & Communications
Gayle F. Robinson, Chief Operating Officer
Kim Sebastian-Ryan, Director of Membership & Connecting
Susannah Wade, Director of Missions & Outreach

Board of Elders and Deacons
Elders
Stephanie M. Bailey
Peter Barnett
T. Hunter Darce
Marcelle E. Doss
Rick Harper
Sheila B. Moses
Eileen A. O’Connell
John E. Rorer, II
Clair J. Zak, Elder Emeritus

Deacons
Trenessa Darusker
Sandra Diz
Nick Gilman
Ted Gregory
G. Gregory Lozier
Barbara Sagan

Serving as Deacon to Intersections: International
Barbara Costigan

Staff
John Angello, Controller
Virgilio Balen, Maintenance
Karla Brown, Children’s Choir
Stuart Cole, Facilities & Events Manager
Colleen Cosgrove, Director of Welcoming Ministries & Hospitality, 60+ Fellowship, Adult Ministry
Michael Finke, Children’s Choir
Kari Frittsch, Publications Manager
Luis Funuel, Maintenance
Nick Giardina, Senior Audio-Visual Technician
Deah Harriott, WeWo Musical Director
Ashley Johnson, Marketing & Communications Manager
Daphne Kim, Human Resources Manager
Greg Luen, Art Director
Beatriz Marín, Accounts Payable Manager
John McGibony, Properties Manager
Balesta McKenzie, Small Groups Coordinator
Stacy Penzone, Gospel Choir Director
Lauren Perez, Receptionist

Don Piper, Program Coordinator
Yvon Plaisimond, Maintenance
Andres Ramirez, Maintenance
Desmond Roberts,_PA, Receptionist
Tom Schauder, Media
Jesse Schovell, Director of Children’s Ministry
Mario Sbroe, Arts Ministry Coordinator
Jaroslav Somr, IT Administrator
Gary Thompson, Receptionist, Wedding Coordinator
Kate Troy, Executive Assistant to Senior Minister
Judy Tutin, Congregational Care Associate
Siobhan Tull, Director of Worship Services
Denise Weagle, Music Administrative Assistant
Jerry Williams, Membership
Shana Wolfe, Database & Accounts Receivable Manager
230 million potential households viewed Marble's Easter Special on nationwide ABC affiliates.

Easter Offering
$235,000
Helping over 57 local & international service organizations.

Count your blessings

Worship Attendance
25,500 Cups of Water
Serving marchers in NYC's Pride March.

45,459 Food/Toiletry items
21% increase in Marble Facebook “likes”
Supping non-perishable goods to NYC food banks and shelters.

985 Christmas Gifts & Santa Letters
Spreading God’s love to those in need.

414 Marble App downloads
A new way to connect with Marble anytime you want.

2521 Food/Toiletry items
(11% increase from LY)

Drive for Dignity
Providing new undergarments to homeless men & women.

31% increase in Annual WeWo Attendance

1,468 items collected
(23% increase from LY)

Small Group Attendance
15% increase in
Disaster Relief Donations
$10,800
Providing aid to Louisiana and Haiti flood victims and Syrian Refugees.

270 Stuffed Back-to-School Backpacks donated
Equipping homeless and at-risk children with school supplies.

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Connecting the world via social media.

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