



Marble's Future: From Strength to Strength

Dear Marble Family,

December 2021

What a year it has been! As you are aware, we have been facing several new challenges in our ministry, and yet we are so encouraged by the way our community has met these challenges with faith, not fear.

As it says in the Psalms, "Blessed are those whose strength is in God.... They will go from strength to strength" (84:5&7). Marble is a ministry that has always found a way to move from strength to strength.

This past year, our faith in God is showing signs of strength as we move into a new future:

- We have been facing limitations on in-person gatherings through the pandemic, yet Marble has been able to expand its livestreaming and virtual ministry for all ages to all fifty states and over 109 countries.
- We faced a foreclosure on the Collegiate real estate project next door and with it came greatly diminished financial support from Collegiate (see the e-blast communication sent out on September 30, 2021. The link to this can be found on our website: Marblechurch.org/September-30-Email-Update. Yet Marble has been rising to the challenge and, with your support, we will strongly continue our ministry of healing and hope.
- We are facing reduced available space as our leases end in the property next door (276 Fifth Avenue), yet Marble has been able to renovate much of our existing campus, allowing us to house our programming. We can't wait for you to see it!

Honestly, it has been a hard year. But, as we said in our Christmas letter, we remain steadfast in hope. Our hope is rooted in what God is doing in our midst and the deep-seated conviction that together we can move from strength to strength (Psalm 84).

To do this, we need to spend time in spiritual discernment, asking some very important questions, such as:

- Where are we, as a ministry, now?
- Where is God leading us?
- What new things is God doing in our midst?

To help us with this, we are pleased to announce we are working with a team from Fuller Theological Seminary to help us listen to God and one another as we develop a strategic plan for our future. Fuller is one of the largest and most influential seminaries in the world, and there's one thing they know well: churches!

They are passionate about congregational ministry and are deeply creative and imaginative in their approach. They know how to ask questions that draw our minds and hearts from "what was" to "what can be." They are professional, confidential, and hopeful in their approach, and we are very pleased they are so interested in and enthusiastic about working with Marble.

We will be kicking off this initiative **on January 9 during Worship and with a Town Hall** immediately afterwards in the Sanctuary, which will be in-person and livestreamed. We hope you will make it a priority to be a part of this important planning process.

During this process, there will be a variety of ways for you to participate and hear about our progress along the way. In addition, there will be opportunities in the coming months for you to meet our consultants and engage in learning, growth and provide input and feedback to our planning process.

We are living in a time when our ministry has never been more needed. God is using Marble to bring healing to people's brokenness, to draw people into community beyond their differences, to lift up those who are vulnerable and marginalized, and to be beacons of hope for what can be in this chaotic, divided world in which we live.

May our faith in Christ guide us and move us from strength to strength!

In Christ,



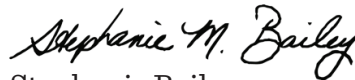
Dr. Michael Bos,
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Dr. J. Elise Brown,
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Stephanie Bailey,
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