It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Dr. Michael Bos

As a child, every Christmas we listened to “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” as part of our holiday cheer repertoire. I know the cast of Glee and the Pentatonix have recorded this, but Andy Williams’ original version is still my favorite. It’s one of those happy songs with which you can’t help but sing along. As I contemplate Christmas, I find myself coming back to it as a way to describe what the birth of Jesus can mean to us.

On the surface, Jesus’ birth doesn’t seem like the most wonderful time. Parents from the margins of their community give birth to a son in a place on the fringe of society. Furthermore, we mark this occasion in the winter when it is dark and cold. It doesn’t paint a cheery picture of something to celebrate, but I think that’s the point. Imagine instead that Jesus had been born into an upwardly mobile family on a beautiful summer day in the comforts of a grand villa by the sea. It sounds idyllic, but it may not communicate that this signifies great news for all people. It may seem it is only for people who are in a good place in life.

I think the power of the Christmas story is that the light and love of God broke into the world in an unexpected place with unexpected people. It came on a dark day to people for whom life was hard. Yet when the shepherds encountered the infant Jesus, they left “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen” (Luke 2:20). For them, it was the most wonderful time of the year.

The message to us all is this: there is no situation so difficult or place so dark that the light and love of God cannot shine.

Christmas is when we celebrate that God meets us wherever we are, in the midst of whatever we are facing. It reminds us that today is the day the light and love of God can break into our lives. That’s why it’s the most wonderful time of the year.

Merry Christmas and have a Blessed New Year!

“...the light and love of God broke into the world in an unexpected place with unexpected people...”

Dr. Michael Bos
Senior Minister

RICK HARPER JOINS THE MARBLE STAFF

We welcome Rick Harper to his position on the Marble Staff as our new Events and Space Usage Manager! He is a long-time Marble member, most recently served as an Elder and Vice Chair of the Marble Church Board, has volunteered for MarbleVision since 2001 and is also a trained Stephen Minister.

Rick’s multi-faceted background includes work in the hospitality and catering industries, in addition to years in event planning, advertising and marketing graphics, and line production for TV. He attended the University of Denver, NY Institute of Technology and Nassau Community College. Rick feels, without realizing it, his career trajectory has led him to this opportunity and he looks forward to bringing his work life and his passion for Marble’s Ministry together.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are placed in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones whose names will appear in the Sunday, December 22 bulletin. To pay tribute to someone in your life in this special way, please return a Christmas Poinsettias envelope (in pews and at Reception) with your contribution by Sunday, December 8. You may also contact Clay Hale (CHale@MarbleChurch.org).
A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE MINISTER

THE PROPHET

By Rev. J. Elise Brown, Ph.D.

He called himself “the Prophet,” and sat on the corner of 94th and Broadway most days with an outstretched straw hat turned upside down in which he collected money thrown in by passersby. That straw hat would be emptied into his pockets and then placed on his head as he meandered down Broadway speaking words only he could understand.

94th and Broadway was a good spot for him to sit, a strategic spot, with lots of foot traffic in and out of the Duane Reade on the corner and close enough to the busy subway stop at 96th Street. Many of the neighborhood residents had come to know the Prophet over the years and would put a bit of change in his hat when they saw him.

On days when it was really cold, the Prophet would come inside our church at 93rd and Broadway and sit for a while to warm up. It was hard to understand him when he spoke, his words being garbled and fairly incomprehensible. While sitting in a pew, he would write voraciously and sometimes leave writings behind. Even though they were also pretty garbled, the word “God” always appeared in them. Sometimes a simple “Thank you, God.” Or, “Help me, God,” could be found on them.

The Prophet came to church on Sundays. Every week. Both Sunday services. Maybe it was because it was warm inside our church. Maybe it was because we always had hot coffee and treats downstairs between services. Maybe it was because some kind congregants always slipped the Prophet a few dollars before they went home.

Or maybe it was because he wanted to worship the God about whom he wrote in his scrambled writings.

Maybe it was connected to why he called himself “the Prophet.” I never figured it out. But each Sunday while in church, the Prophet would put an offering envelope in the plate with “the Prophet” written on the outside. He never provided an address or a phone number or email address. Just his name. The Prophet.

Inside that offering envelope was money he had most likely collected on the street corner one block away from our church.

One day, I spoke to the Prophet after church, “You should really keep your money. You need it.” But he shook his head with a firm “no.” “I give. I give. Thank God. Thank God,” were his words back to me.

Somewhere in the midst of the incredible challenges of homelessness, mental illness and isolation, the Prophet found joy in giving. I give. I give. Thank God.

The Gratitude Celebrations at Marble in November were profound experiences of thankfulness and generosity. I am moved and deeply grateful for the strong response of the congregation to an effort to step out in faith and courage and give beyond ourselves, trusting in God and believing these steps of faith go to much greater good being done in the world. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has participated so far. Estimate of Giving cards are still welcome! Look for updates in the weekly bulletins and e-blasts as we continue to receive commitments from our faithful congregation.

Many thanks to all of you. We give. We give. Thank God.

Women’s Ministry Advent Blog — Visit our 2019 Advent Blog at marblewomen.com — take a breath and start or end each day with inspiring quotes, reflections, prayers and more. It’s a spiritual resource to help you explore the role Advent plays in transforming your life and the lives of others during this busy holiday season.

INSPIRATIONS FOR YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY

Online Advent Calendar – We hope you’ll join us on social media this Advent, as we take time each day to find some holiday cheer and spread a little Christmas joy with our online Advent calendar. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter and don’t forget to share your #ADVENTures.
Advent & Christmas at Marble

MUSIC FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
MASTERWORKS HERALDING THE PRINCE OF PEACE
Sundays, December 1-22 | 10:45am
Arrive early for Worship for this special time of quiet meditation and beautiful music. Generously underwritten by Lynda Packard in loving memory of her father, John W. Packard, who worshiped at Marble for more than 60 years and always delighted in the extraordinary music, especially The Marble Choir and holiday music under the heartfelt direction of Ken Dake.

ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT
Sunday, December 15 | 2:30pm
Encounter the spirit of Advent with music from The Marble Choir, Festival of Voices, and Chamber Orchestra directed by Kenneth Dake. Inspirational readings and dance add to this journey toward the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. Invite your friends. Tickets: $30 general admission; $25 student/seniors. $5 discount for advance purchase (does not apply to reserved seats). Advance pricing ends 3:00pm, Thursday, December 12. Order tickets at MarbleChurch.org (Eventbrite fees apply when purchasing online), or during Coffee Hour.

ALL-CHURCH COOKIES, COCOA AND COMFORT
Sunday, December 8 | 12:15-2:00pm
Bring a dozen, or two of your favorite homemade or store-bought cookies, bars or brownies to share as we enjoy fellowship and the warmth of the season while Building Christmas Bags of Comfort and Warmth for our friends at Icahn House. Inquiries to Siobhan Tull (STull@MarbleChurch.org). In the Marble Loft (next door, 274 5th Ave).

ARTS MINISTRY POP-UP SHOP & FESTIVE COFFEE HOUR
Sunday, December 22 | 12:15-2:00pm
Support some of Marble's talented artists and do your last-minute Christmas shopping. In the Marble Loft (next door, 274 5th Ave).

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
4:00pm – Worship
Merry Christmas, NYC!
Celebrate the season with a playful heart at this family-friendly service. Led by Rev. Brittany Juliette Hanlin and Jessica Scovel. Followed by a birthday party for Jesus.
6:30 & 8:30pm – Worship
From Fear to Faith
Meditation by Dr. Michael Bos. Festive Coffee Hour in the Marble Loft between the services at 7:45pm. Holy Communion celebrated at the 8:30pm service. Childcare provided for both services. Preceding Worship, Kenneth Dake directs The Marble Choir, with brass ensemble, in joyful music at 6:10 and 8:10pm. (6:30pm service live streamed.)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SPOTLIGHTS

MERRY, MERRY MARBLE
Friday, December 6 | 6:00-8:30pm
PrimeTime Fellowship hosts this festive evening of fun for all ages. Create DIY ornaments, trim a tree, decorate wreaths, sing carols and share Christmas joy with family and friends. Trees will be donated to those in need. $15 each; $25 for 2; $30 for family of 3+. Register by December 2 at MarbleChurch.org or during Coffee Hour.

CYF CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 22 | 11:00am
The Children, Youth and Families Ministry helps us celebrate the season during Worship.

COMMUNITY CAROL SING AND ALL-CHURCH PARTY
Wednesday, December 18 | 6:15pm
All ages are invited for this festive and fun evening with a carol sing in the Sanctuary, followed by a party in the Marble Loft. Share the celebration of this joyous season with your Marble Community, and invite a friend or neighbor to share some Christmas cheer!
CYF CORNER

FAMILY WORSHIP
Sunday, December 1 | 10:00am
Join CYF in the Marble Loft for their Advent Worship. Both Children’s Choirs will sing and families will participate in the service. The message will be by Dr. Michael Bos. All invited!

CYF CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 22 | 11:00am

FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORSHIP
Sunday, January 12 | 11:00am
All families are invited to join us for Worship in the Sanctuary. (Child Care still available.)

MARBLE STORYTIME
Visit MarbleChurch.org each month to watch Rev. Brittany as she reads a new book, ending with some questions for your family to ponder. December’s Book: A Birthday Party for Jesus.

PARENTING CONNECTION
Sundays, December 15 & January 26
12:30-1:30pm
All parents/guardians welcome to participate in this group led by Marble parent, Geoff Goodman, Ph.D. Meets monthly. 276 5th Ave, Room 300. Child care provided.

In the Marble Spotlight

SCRIPTURAL REASONING SESSIONS
Thursdays, December 5, January 16 & February 20 | 6:30-8:30pm
All are invited to study texts from the Quran, New Testament and Hebrew Bible with Christians, Jews and Muslims with trained facilitators as we explore the common heritage of the three Abrahamic religions. No experience required. In the Marble Loft (274 5th Ave). Free; register at MarbleChurch.org. Inquiries to Rev. Susanah Wade (SWade@MarbleChurch.org). The Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee and Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST) are partners in this series.

REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS
Sunday, January 5 | 12:30pm
All couples welcome to join us for this annual ceremony in the Sanctuary. Childcare available.

PARENTING CONNECTION: THINK LIKE A KID
Marble Parenting Support Group
By Geoff Goodman, Ph.D.
My name is Geoff Goodman. I’ve been a member of Marble since 2002. I’m also a child clinical psychologist, practicing for 27 years, and have been teaching and supervising clinical psychology doctoral students at Long Island University for 20 years.

Most importantly, I’m known around Marble as “Carlyn’s dad” — the 6-year-old cutie in the Cherub Choir. One of the new CYF initiatives this year is a monthly parenting support group led by me. In this hour-long group, we’ll discuss any issues you might have about parenting — anything from “my teenage daughter likes to sleep all day on the weekends” to “my 5-year-old son throws tantrums in Stop and Shop” to “my husband and I have grown more distant since our baby was born”. No parenting topic is off limits in this group. I will try to provide safety, insight, and support within a loving Christian context, and participating parents will respond with love and understanding as we all try to make our way through the ups and downs of parenting our kids. Please join me as we journey together!

MLK CELEBRATION SUNDAY
January 19
Special guest Ken Medema. Please see page 6.

ALL-CHURCH SKI TRIP
Saturday, January 25
Please stay tuned for details.

MEMBERSHIP AT MARBLE
Join the Marble family – become a member in 2020! You’ll be so glad you did. For more information, please look for one of our Membership Team, someone wearing a red carnation, after Worship in the Sanctuary to right of Chancel, next door in the Marble Loft during Coffee Hour or contact Kim Sebastian-Ryan (KRyan@MarbleChurch.org). Online Membership also available.


Support the Marble Youth Service Trip
See page 7.
MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

ALL THE LOVE AND JOY WE CAN GET
By Rev. Anthony Livolsi

It is the unofficial duty of a minister in December to become something of a religious Scrooge: to carry on about how Christmas carols ought not to be sung in Advent (which is supposed to be a time of sober self-examination and penitence), to scold people for thinking more about presents and parties and travel plans than about Christ, and to not-so-subtly let it be known that if you are stressed about the company coming or will so-and-so like their gift, about the wrapping and the baking that is still not done, about the dollhouse or the bicycle that is still not built—well, then it is your own fault for forgetting that Jesus is the reason for the season!

But I confess: I’m a sucker for the cheesy songs—and, speaking of cheesy, for the cheese platters and cheese logs and cheese balls that appear at all the open houses and office get-togethers this time of year. I love the sweaters with big knit reindeer that grandmas wear; I love the lights, the department store windows, the dinners, the cookies, the gifts, the trees, the smell of pine, the Santas,…crying through It’s a Wonderful Life for the umpteenth time.

Probably I should decry the commercialism and sentimentality and whatnot.

But Lord knows, this world needs all the goodness, all the gladness, all the small kindnesses, all the light and warmth and generosity—we need all the love and all the joy we can get.

So, minister’s orders: Watch A Charlie Brown Christmas. (Is there ever a dry eye in the house when little Linus reads from the Gospel of Luke?) Feel the charge in the air around Rockefeller Center. Put on Nat King Cole or Bing Crosby, Handel’s Messiah or even Mariah Carey (“All I want for Christmas is youuuuuuuuu, baby!”). Eat too much. Meet that special someone at the mistletoe. Spread the joy. Share the love. For Jesus’ sake.

MLK CELEBRATION SUNDAY
CONVERSATIONS AROUND JUSTICE
January 19

Singer/Songwriter/Pianist Ken Medema will be our featured guest in Worship as Dr. Bos preaches on Justice: The Other Side of Love. The morning will include a 10:45am Mini-Concert by Ken Medema in the Sanctuary, and a “Sing-Back” with Ken for 30 minutes immediately following Worship. All are encouraged to remain in the Sanctuary for this session called Conversations Around Justice, which will be a time of storytelling from congregants’ own struggles and encounters with prejudice and oppression, followed by Ken spontaneously setting those stories to music.

Though Ken Medema has been unable to see with his physical eyes, his inner vision and profound music carry a prophetic vision for the world today. Starting his career as a music therapist, in 1973 Ken launched his international performing career, electrifying audiences with his dazzling improvisations, reframing of Biblical stories, and his deeply emotional connection with everyone on their spiritual and human journey. Today, Medema performs in a wide variety of venues, from local congregations to charity fundraisers, to high school and university campuses, to denominational youth gatherings, to universally televised religious programs, to corporate conventions, to annual assemblies of national organizations.
Reflections from the Editor

By Karla Fritsch

I have fun watching the variety of shoes roaming around New York City. Frequently, I’m looking down at people’s shoes when I’m on the subway or I’ll sit at Verdi Square watching all the feet walking by and I’ll see which shoes in the crowd catch my attention the most — the white Keds (how often do those need to be washed in order to stay white in the NYC dirt?!), the gray canvas slip-ons with fake fur pom poms (someone has a sense of fun), and no surprise, a lot of black boots. As I watch the shoe parade, I’ve often wondered about the many journeys those shoes have taken.

Like all the diverse shoes in NYC, we each have a variety of shoes that represent our own journeys throughout our lives. Even without a Carrie Bradshaw love of shoes, most of us have at least a few pairs that support us as we travel through life. There are our everyday shoes that journey with us to work or school and back home; our workout shoes that assist us in the journey to take care of ourselves; our dress shoes that can take us to places that feed our spirits – to church, the theatre and out dancing.

As part of the treks our shoes make, I’ve also thought from time to time about what might get stuck to the bottom — crumbs of asphalt that can make us slightly off balance, wet leaves that can be slippery, yucky gum that can be so sticky and frustrating.

I’d prefer thinking about what adventures the shoes have taken or will take. Of course, imagining walking in someone else’s shoes is an important exercise that can help connect us to better understanding and more compassion for others. That can also stir up ideas of new possibilities for our own lives or spark temporarily forgotten memories.

I recently saw a woman in a pair of bright red pumps and I was reminded how much I used to love wearing red shoes. Whether boots or pumps, I always felt happier in my red shoes — but I haven’t had a pair of red shoes in a very long time.

Now is an ideal time to reflect on what shoes we’d like to wear on our 2020 journeys and which shoes we’d prefer to leave back in 2019. Maybe we’ll decide that a lot of our old comfortable shoes will go with us into the new year, but first we need to check if there’s anything stuck to the soles that could be scraped off — old limiting beliefs that keep us stuck or even the smallest bad habit that can make us stumble.

Keep in mind though, it’s not only bad stuff that gets stuck to the soles. Maybe our shoes have some seeds in the treads that we want to keep with us until we find a good time and place to plant them. Seeds of possibilities sparked by seeing someone do something and then thinking, if they can do that, maybe I can too.

What kind of sole prints do you want to make going forward? I know some of mine will be made by a new pair of red shoes.

SUPPORT MARBLE YOUTH SERVICE TRIP
Purchase Christmas Ornaments and Wreaths
Sundays, December 8 – 22

The Marble youth are headed to St. Thomas for their first “international” service trip this February. This is a wonderful opportunity to have some of our youngest members reach out into the community and deepen their Faith.

The youth will be helping with after school care at the Long Path Community Center, spending time with My Brother’s Workshop, participating in an island clean-up, and caring for displaced animals through the Humane Society.

To help finance their trip, the youth will be selling handmade ornaments Sundays, December 8-22, and creating wreaths for a silent auction after Worship on Sunday, December 8. We encourage everyone to participate and/or to donate whatever they can so that our young volunteers can go out into the world and experience first-hand what it is like to put Faith into action and create lasting memories. To make a donation, please contact Brittany Hanlin (BHanlin@MarbleChurch.org or 212-686-2770).
**Spiritual Growth and Education**

**Bible Study**

**SUNDAYS AT 10AM**

Marble’s 10:00am Bible Study is a casual, come-as-you-can forum that is open to all, and especially newcomers. Come for the stimulating conversation and for the free, light breakfast. Meets in the Labyrinth Room (1 W. 29th St, downstairs).

Remember to visit MarbleChurch.org to live stream if you can’t attend in person or to catch up if you miss a session.

**Three Women and a Baby**

*December 1, 8 & 15*

In this Advent series, we will see the miracle and mystery of Christ’s birth through women’s eyes. Guest presenter Rev. Dr. Julie Faith Parker, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at General Theological Seminary, will guide us in contemplating Elizabeth and the gift of faith, Mary and the strength of courage, and Anna and the power of vision.

**Dudes & Duds**

*December 22*

Rev. Anthony Livolsi will – absolutely anticlimactically! – follow Dr. Parker’s exploration of the inspiring women of the Christmas story with a look at the less-than-inspiring guys who seem to get in their way.

Please note, no Bible Study on December 29; returns January 5.

**JANUARY SERIES**

**January 5, 12, 19 & 26**

Stay tuned to MarbleChurch.org and bulletins for the topic.

A reminder for online students, ask your questions! Click on the blue “Send a Question” button on the live streaming page.

**Prayer Circle**

**SUNDAYS AT 10AM**

This informal gathering centers on prayer for individual and communal concerns, Scripture reading, hymn singing and Holy Communion. Rev. Gregory Johnson leads Sundays in December. In the Chapel (1 W. 29th St, downstairs). The Circle is always open – all are welcome!

On the last Sunday of the month, connect with Prayer Circle from around the world via https://meeting.broadviewnet.com/j/1126517182 to access video conference. Questions? Contact Siobhan Tull (STull@MarbleChurch.org).

**Deep Dive Bible Study**

**TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM**

Please note, no class in December; returns January 14.

In January, Rev. Anthony Livolsi begins a deep, searching read-through of 1 Kings. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! Please contact Rev. Livolsi ahead of time for the week’s reading, (ALivolsi@MarbleChurch.org). In the Labyrinth Room.

**Small Groups**

Being part of a Small Group is a way to grow spiritually and connect in a deeper way with others at Marble. We encourage you to consider participating when new groups begin in January.

**SG Book Club: A Skeleton in God’s Closet**

by Paul I Maier: Monthly Sundays, beginning January 19, 12:45-2:00pm

To learn more and sign-up, stop by the Small Group Table during Coffee Hour on Sundays after Worship, contact Baleta McKenzie (BMckenzie@MarbleChurch.org), or visit MarbleChurch.org.

**MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

Mondays | 11:00am-12:15pm

Are you experiencing the loss of a loved one? Grief has no expiration date. Any significant loss changes life forever. All are welcome to participate in an understanding and supportive community to share your personal story in a confidential atmosphere of love and faith. Meets in Peale Parlor (enter at 1 W. 29th St).

If you’re interested in attending, please sign up with Judy Tulin (JTulin@MarbleChurch.org; 212-686-2770, ext. 207). No session December 23 & January 20.

**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**

Saturdays, December 7 & January 11

1:00-3:00pm

Learn how to provide better care to loved ones while protecting your own health and well-being. Please contact group leader Rev. Marion Gambardella (magambardella@yahoo.com) or Judy Tulin (JTulin@MarbleChurch.org).
In the Action Spotlight—Christmas

SANTA LETTERS
Pick up your letter after Worship during Coffee Hour at the Action Volunteer Table and buy a gift for children from SCAN (Supportive Children’s Advocacy Network) and Icahn House (single homeless mothers with children under 12 years of age). Please return gifts by December 8.

If you are unable to purchase a gift, a donation of $35 will buy a toy for a child in need. Make checks payable to Marble Collegiate Church, write “Toys for Kids” in memo and mail to the attention of Tom Schneider or place in offering plate during Worship.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR IC AHN HOUSE
Saturday, December 7
Help host our annual Christmas Party in the Marble Loft for single mothers and their children residing in Icahn House, a transitional family shelter on East 28th Street. Volunteers needed 10:00am-3:00pm.

BUILDING CHRISTMAS BAGS OF COMFORT AND WARMTH
Sunday, December 8 | After Worship
Enjoy cookies and cocoa as we band together to build bags filled with sheets, towels, blankets, and quilts, sharing all the comforts of home with those who could really use them.

“Build a” Series – This fall, all ages came together to help build backpacks and Thanksgiving food bags. We’ll continue our series in 2020. Please join us!

Action Volunteers - Ways You Can Serve

If you don’t see what’s right for you listed here, stop at the Action Volunteer Table on Sundays during Coffee Hour to talk with a committee member or contact Tom Schneider (TSchneider@MarbleChurch.org), for more ideas and referrals to organizations that are in need of volunteers. To receive notice of serving opportunities by email, “Action Alerts,” contact Tom.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Mondays, December 2 & 16; January 6 & 27
4:00-5:00pm
Knit or crochet prayer shawls for members who are ill or homebound. Gather in Peale Parlor for prayer and creating together. All levels welcome. Materials provided. Contact Judy Tulin (JTulin@MarbleChurch.org).

Ecclesia Ministry
Sundays, December 8 & January 12
Volunteers are needed to help with this worshiping congregation for the homeless in Madison Square Park. Prepare lunches, 10:00-10:30am; and/or transport lunches at 1:30pm and host the service which begins at 2:00pm.

Habitat for Humanity Partnership
Saturdays, December 21 & January 18
Help work on a home for a low-income family. No experience necessary. To volunteer, please visit the Action Table during Coffee Hour or contact Susanah Wade (SWade@MarbleChurch.org) or Tom Schneider (TSchneider@MarbleChurch.org).

Marble Fights Hunger — Please support our continuous food drive by donating CANNED FOODS for Icahn House East (a temporary shelter for homeless mothers.) Leave food at the 29th Street Reception area, the Fifth Ave Narthex or the Marble Loft. Nutritious, canned/bottled items only. Suggestions: fruits, vegetables, pasta sauce, meats, fish, pasta, soups, peanut butter, jelly, juice, etc. Also, vacuum-packed cartons of milk/juice and baby food in plastic/glass containers. We encourage everyone to bring something every time they come to Marble!

Used Eyeglasses — Donate used glasses and sunglasses which are given to The Lion’s Club who recycles the glasses and distributes them in developing countries.

Marble Coffee Pourers — Volunteer one Sunday a month to serve after Worship. Contact Kim Sebastian Ryan (KRyan@MarbleChurch.org).

MarbleVision Team — If you’re interested in helping with Marble’s Media Ministry, contact Siobhan Tull (STull@MarbleChurch.org).

WeWo Visuals Ministry — Volunteer to help with the projected visuals during Worship, approximately one Wednesday a month, contact Jennifer Clover (JClover@MarbleChurch.org).
SUNDAY WORSHIP
11AM
December 2019
January 2020
Dr. Michael Bos
Senior Minister preaching

A New Name for a New Beginning
DECEMBER 29
Mini-Concert at 10:45am with Pure Sound Youth Choir from Houston

JANUARY 5
Dr. Kenneth Ruge, preaching

The Anticipation:
For Something New
1st Sunday in Advent
DECEMBER 1
Rev. Anthony Livolsi, preaching

For Someone New
2nd Sunday in Advent
DECEMBER 8

For a New Way
3rd Sunday in Advent
DECEMBER 15

For a New Life
4th Sunday in Advent
DECEMBER 22

#WEWO: WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, 6:15PM
Every Week, except December 18, 25 & January 1

Justice:
The Other Side of Love—A Vision for What Could Be
JANUARY 12

A Need to Make a Difference
JANUARY 19
Mini-Concert at 10:45am with Ken Medema

The Hope That Keeps Us Going
JANUARY 26

Arts Ministry
Join us for our Christmas gathering on Monday, December 16. Celebrate some of Marble Artists at our Pop-Up Shop on Sunday, December 22. Please see page 4. Contact Mario Sprouse (MSprouse@MarbleChurch.org).

GIFTS: LGBTQ Fellowship
All Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allies invited to our first monthly Coffee Hour of 2020 on Sunday, January 19. Contact Don Piper (DPiper@MarbleChurch.org) or Rev. Anthony Livolsi (ALivolsi@MarbleChurch.org).

PrimeTime (55+) Fellowship
We host Merry, Merry Marble for everyone on Friday, December 6, see page 4. Join us for our Christmas lunch program on Wednesday, December 11. Our first lunch of 2020 will be January 15.
For details, contact Baleta McKenzie (BMcKenzie@MarbleChurch.org).

Program Ministries
Keep up with our different Program Ministries by visiting their pages at MarbleChurch.org and attending Coffee Hour after Worship.
EACH WEDNESDAY
Walk the Labyrinth / 5:00-6:00pm
Take time for a walking meditation before WeWo. Please note, no labyrinth on December 18 & 25, January 1.

#WeWo: Wednesday Worship / 6:15pm
This blend of traditional and contemporary worship styles can be a helpful mid-week spiritual boost. Our ministers offer thoughtful preaching, there’s joyful music led by Deah Harriott with a praise vocal ensemble and band, all in the relaxed atmosphere of the Marble Church. Bring a friend! Please note, no WeWo December 18 & 25, January 1.

FIRST SUNDAYS
Walk the Labyrinth / 1:00-3:00pm
Feed your spirit with this walking meditation. 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.

MONDAYS, DECEMBER 9 & JANUARY 13
Young Adults Pub Theology / 7:00pm
Gather at a local bar to discuss ideas and issues with other young adults – a great way to meet people and grow in faith. Meets second Monday of each month. For details, contact Rev. Anthony Livolsi.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
PrimeTime (55+) Fellowship Lunch and Program / 12:00-2:00pm
Gary Thompson hosts the Marble Staff Christmas Revue at 1:00pm, preceded by special buffet lunch ($12, PrimeTime members; $15, guests). All welcome! In the Marble Loft.

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 22 & JANUARY 26
Young Adults Breakfast / 12:30pm
Get to know other young adults and enjoy a tasty breakfast, including some sugary treats from childhood. Monthly. Free. In Peale Parlor (1 W. 29th St).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
Women’s Open House / 12:15pm
All women invited to our first gathering of the New Year. Enjoy the company of this warm and welcoming community and hear about upcoming events. Newcomers are especially encouraged to attend. In the Labyrinth Room (1 W. 29th St, downstairs).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
GIFTS: LGBTQ Fellowship Coffee Hour / 12:15pm
During this time of fellowship, members of our LGBTQ community continue to tell of the struggles and joys of coming out and coming home to themselves. Meets in the Labyrinth Room (1 W. 29th St., downstairs).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
Monthly Brunch / 12:15pm
Join us for this time of fellowship and good food, with live music. $12. No reservation needed. In the Marble Loft.

Note: The Calendar of Events schedule subject to change. Please call to confirm.

Women’s Ministry
For Advent inspiration, visit marblewomen.com for our daily blog. Join us on Sunday, January 12, for our Open House. Save the dates for Spa Day for the Soul on Saturday, February 1, and our Annual Retreat, March 6-8. Questions? Visit our Table during Coffee Hour or contact Don Piper (DPiper@MarbleChurch.org).

Young Adult Ministry
Newcomers always welcome to join us for our monthly gatherings: Pub Theology, second Mondays, December 9 and January 13; Breakfast after Worship on Sundays, December 22 and January 26. Contact Rev. Anthony Livolsi (ALivolsi@MarbleChurch.org).
LIVE WEBCAST SCHEDULE
If you can’t be here in person, visit MarbleChurch.org or Facebook.

Sundays
10am – Bible Study
10:48am – Grace Notes: Inside the Music (Returns in January)
11am – Worship
12:15pm – Talk Back

Wednesdays
6:15pm – #WeWo: Wednesday Worship

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

Sermon Podcasts:
Subscribe at MarbleChurch.org.

Marble Collegiate Church
1 West 29th Street (at Fifth Ave)
New York, New York 10001
212-686-2770

MARBLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A BLESSED COMMUNITY
MOMENTS & MEMORIES

Children process with artful expressions of their gratitude, All-Church Costume Party, Blessing of the Animals – from stuffed animals to police horses, Apple Picking

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL ON ABC-TV
Tuesday, December 24
Broadcast around the country on ABC-TV, Christmas Eve at Marble Collegiate Church, is a dynamic, joyful program filled with a powerful Christmas message from Dr. Michael Bos, beloved carols and music from The Marble Choir directed by Kenneth Dake. This opportunity was made possible through our valuable partnership with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission. Tell your family and friends around the country! (Stay tuned to MarbleChurch.org and check local TV listings for time.)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT MARBLE
There are so many ways Marble can help you experience the true spirit of Christmas. Please see page 4 for details on the Advent Concert on Sunday, December 15, and our Christmas Eve services, as well as Merry, Merry Marble on Friday, December 6, All-Church Cookies, Cocoa and Comfort on Sunday, December 8, Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 15, and a Community Carol Sing and All-Church Party on Wednesday, December 18.

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL TRI-FAITH SUNDAY
February 2 | 11:00am
Marble has been a pioneer in interfaith cooperation in New York City. One of the ways we lift up the importance of interfaith relationships is through our annual “Triologue.” This year during our service Dr. Bos will have a conversation with Mohammed Al-Samawi, author of The Fox Hunt, and Daniel Pincus. Worship followed by a Book Signing. We celebrate our Tri-Faith Sunday as part of the United Nations’ World Interfaith Harmony Week. Invite friends to join you for this special experience.

THE LAST WORD
Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. — Arthur Ashe