



*The mission of Marble Retreat is to help bring healing, hope and restoration to those in vocational Christian ministry and the Church at large through Christ-centered brief intensive counseling.*

Fall Edition 2012 • Providing Care since 1974 • Marble, Colorado

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## MUSINGS ON MARBLE RETREAT AND THE TRINITARIAN COMMUNITY

By a 2012 Alum during an 8-day group

We've been raised to see God, yes as love, but also as a large divine will - willing His way in the world, staring at us with His scrutinizing glance when we conform not to the cosmic plan. This Will looks a lot like us since our tendency is to will a life for ourselves and those caught in our web of will. We bend, stretch, contort, and wrestle this will of life around us, manipulating it with urgency to follow the path we've carved out of stone. After all, life is a plan that we must follow! The Will rarely goes according to our plan, but this doesn't stop us. We cast scrutiny's stare on others who don't conform to our will, just like God, the great Oz of will behind the cosmic veil.

But here, in this fellowship at Marble Retreat, we are like Frodo, each trying to get our ring to Mt. Doom. Around this circle of fellowship there are no wills, only presence. The agenda is love. The collective will is for each to be whole and filled up with joy. This will is to dance without decorum, to be alive in love's flourish, to rest into joy, and to be awed with delight in the ordinary glories of mundane life. The goal is to experience deeply and profoundly the unending ring of love.

We've tasted only three days of this love and it has turned strangers into loved ones. Why is this so? We have become echoes of the Trinity as this love weaves around the room. Echoes of Trinity don't 'do' anything, but in our 'nothings' we do everything. We weep, we cheer, we feel for each other when we are numb, and we believe for each other when faith cannot be mustered. We love each other when it has not been earned by years of service, each mysteriously first loving the other. There are neither wills nor webs in this Trinitarian echo—only the cherishing gaze of hoped for wholeness, safety, belonging, and joy.

The iconic dance of love's Trinity - Father loving Son, Son loving Father, Spirit bonding and sealing the eternal fellowship of self-giving love. This is the DNA of the universe, going on forever, having no start and no end to this love.

I want to thank you for being so unlike most of the everyday world that I have come to know too well. May Marble Retreat continue to echo the world we long for, a world where selfless love dances for all eternity in and through and out of the Father, Son, and Spirit. May this love make us whole!



## WASH AND WEAR

By Mike MacKenzie

Recently I bought a pair of khakis that had a tag attached which read, "Wearing and washing will increase the character of this garment." I thought this captured, in a very simple way, the heart of our ministry here at Marble Retreat. The vast majority of the Christian leaders who come here have had a lot of "wearing." The struggles and stressors of ministry life, the heartaches and disappointments of working with people, and the spiritual battle of being on the front line have left "dirt" on their hearts. They come here for washing. The washing happens through the shedding of tears, the love, grace, and truth of the group, the quiet and strong voice of our Lord, and through time for prayer, rest, reflection, and play in God's magnificent creation. Time and time again, we see how God uses the wearing and the washing to increase His servants' characters and make them more like Him.

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## OUR GROWING EXTENDED MARBLE RETREAT FAMILY

By Steve Cappa

The “family” of Marble Retreat not only grows via those who partake of our ministry services, but also through those we meet while travelling and promoting the ministry and our wonderful volunteers. Marble Retreat has a long and wonderful history of welcoming interns, providing them with a rich and expansive in vivo learning experience of how to best help the church leaders and couples who arrive desperately seeking transformation and restoration of hope. Training and equipping people for ministry via some kind of internship is not only biblically-based, it is a very sound and solid method of expanding this kingdom work throughout the world! One can see this kind of experience occurring even in the Lord’s selecting his apostles to accompany him on his ministry journeys, gaining field experience. Moreover, it is pretty clear that Timothy functioned as an intern to Paul as he, Timothy, “learned the ropes” of ministry.

Typically, we welcome interns during our summer season and, on average, we have about 3-5 per season. They initially act as observers and do so only during the group counseling sessions. Prior to even attending one of our group dates, we secure consent from all attendees, providing them with a brief biography of each intern which includes their vocational/ministry goals. We all gather during the group sessions and provide debriefing/supervision of their counseling impressions and experiences subsequent to each group session. As this experience in the group session progresses, the interns are inevitably “captured” by the other group members and become a helping partner and member of the group. They wonderfully become Marble Retreat Family!

We are quite proud of this now well established tradition of welcoming interns at Marble Retreat and hope to continue this practice in the years ahead!

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## VOLUNTEERS!



*Pam & Chuck Otapoulik*

Volunteers continue to be a huge addition to our workforce here at Marble Retreat. Every fall for the last few years, a crew of volunteers has helped us put up wood for the coming winter months. This year was no exception. Patti even had help in the kitchen as the volunteers needed sustenance to continue the heavy lifting and cutting.

We also had a new host couple, Pam and Chuck Otapoulik, who were fantastic with their many gifts. The meals were great and Chuck lent his expertise to many facets of the building, with special attention to the window sashes.

It would be incomplete and improper not to mention the many prayer warriors that keep this ministry covered with their prayers of petition and gratitude. These prayers are quiet and anonymous but are very important gifts to those who serve and are being served here. We thank you all.



# BE STILL!!!

By Patti Cappa



VICTORY!

This morning I awoke to the sound of softly falling rain on the gold and green leaves outside our bedroom window. It was a lovely way to wake up after a tough night filled with sinus pain. Fall brings lovely colors and allergies to me. As I listened to the rain, the verse, ***“Be still and know that I am God,”*** came back to me again for the umpteenth time during these last few weeks.

Our most recent group left just a few days ago. It was filled with eight dear people who were in the middle of various struggles, challenges and suffering. One couple shared their life verse, ***“Be still and know that I am God.”*** It grew into a verse for the whole group, or maybe; it was especially for me. I often tell the people who come here that it is a special place. God shows up and does amazing things with people’s hearts. We wrestle and work to find truth in the hearts of the people in the lodge. We work to find truth in the word of God. And we work to find truth in each other. It is an amazing journey.

One morning before group started, I heard in my mind, “Psalm 46.” I had been wrestling with a personal challenge and it seemed funny to have Psalm 46 keep popping up in my consciousness. Finally, after my second cup of coffee, I pulled out my Bible and read Psalm 46, which begins ***“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*** And wouldn’t you know it, verse 10 says, ***“Be still and know that I am God.”*** Well, of course, I then realized that we had been mentioning Psalm 46 in group throughout the days. The whole Psalm is a reintroduction to who our God really is.

Many of us in the trenches of ministry can have faith and hope for other people, but sometimes, that faith and hope gets a little dusty for ourselves. Maybe it is fatigue, maybe discouragement, maybe a bit of deadly cynicism. But this week, during and after the group, and even now, I am reminded that ***“Be still and know that I am God,”*** is God speaking to me just as much as anyone else. AND I am grateful!

## GROUP SCHEDULE FOR 2013

December 4 – 13, 2012*	April 16 – 25	August 20 – 29
January 22 – 31	April 30 – May 9*	September 17 – 26
February 5 – 14	June 18 – 27	October 22 – 31*
February 19 – 28	July 9 – 18	November 5 – 14
March 12 – 21*	July 23 – August 1*	December 3 – 12
April 2 – 11	August 6 – 15	

*\*Indicates group is open to all believers. All other groups for those in vocational Christian ministry. Session dates are subject to change on occasion. Please call to confirm a reservation prior to booking flights.*

*When making travel plans, plan to arrive Tuesday afternoon and depart on Thursday morning of the following week.*

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New Marble Retreat videos can be accessed via youtube.com.  
In the search box, type Marble Retreat and all four current videos we currently have will come up.

# THANK YOU

We thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. It informs you of what is happening at the retreat. The Alumni Notes section provides a bit of a first person reflection of what this ministry is all about. The first page of this edition has a longer testimony from a participant during the journey here. Some of the staff's writings give a bit of an idea of who we are as well.

Thank you for your continued interest in Marble Retreat and for supporting it with your prayers and gifts. This holiday season, please look for our new Christmas card/fundraising mailing. It is one time this year that we hope you will consider making a contribution to this ministry. Scholarships are always needed for those in Christian service. We are all especially grateful for any gift that you share with us. May your holiday season be blessed.



*Mike & Kari MacKenzie and Patti & Steve Cappa*

***“Be still and know that I am God.”***

Psalm 45:10

Marble Retreat is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. You have several ways to donate, on-line click the donate button, check or credit card by mail or phone.

Fall 2012

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