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Cover photo ©Pam Spurden
Friday Mission Lunch, photo exhibition, p17-19
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Happy Easter to you all! The refrain of “Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!” has been declared and the Hallelujah Chorus sung as a glorious affirmation of faith at the close of our services of worship on Easter. Now then, how shall we live? Karl Barth once wrote, “The empty tomb was obviously a very ambiguous and contestable fact (Mt.27: 62f.; 28:11f.). And what has happened around this sepulcher is a warning against making it a primary focus of attention. The empty tomb is not the same thing as the resurrection. It is not the appearance of the Living; it is only its presupposition. Hence it is only the sign, although an indispensable sign. Christians do not believe in the empty tomb, but in the living Christ.”

Barth reminds the church that while the historical fact of the Resurrection is an important and essential point of doctrine, our object of faith today and each day is the Risen Lord, the “living Christ.” We are called to remember that God is on the loose (indeed the heavens have been torn asunder) and the Holy Spirit reveals the presence of God through the breath of life in all living things, but more specifically wherever and whenever the love of Jesus Christ is shown to our neighbors and our enemies.

The Easter hope that we have to share with the world is not a mere historical fact to remember, but a meta-historical love that has invaded the world in the event of the Risen Christ and in which alone we can put our hope. As we live into our baptismal vows to obey the Lord and show his love, we usher in the Easter reality into the world today.

Barth goes on to declare, “What happened on that day (of Easter) became, was and remained the center around which everything else moves. For everything lasts its time, but the love of God – which was at work and was expressed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – lasts forever. Because this event took place, there is no reason to despair, and even when we read the newspaper with all its confusing and frightening news, there is every reason to hope.”

What good news that is for us to embrace in order to strengthen and inspire us as we consider the challenges before us and the tasks that are involved in fully engaging the ministry of reconciliation amidst the brokenness of our world today. And what good news we have to share, that our mission of proclaiming in word and deed the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ is not sustained merely by our will or determination, but by the Risen Living Lord himself.

On Saturday, 19 March 2016, as much of our city was glad to read the news of the capture of Salah Abdeslam, the remaining fugitive from the terrorist attacks of 13 November, I was deeply moved and inspired to take part in the Russian Orthodox service of worship blessing the crosses and installing the main onion dome and large cross atop its spire just down the quai near Pont de l’Alma (1 quai Branly). The sung liturgy was led by His Holiness, Russian Orthodox Bishop Nestor, who oversees the parishes of the Moscow Patriarchate in France, Spain, Switzerland, and Portugal. It was a beautiful worship and historic moment. While the forces of evil still threaten and instill fear in many, the church universal quietly and joyfully declares the hope of the world in Jesus Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come!

As we welcome our new Associate Pastor the Rev. Tim Vance and his lovely family, we also welcome our new Orthodox neighbors down the street. May we remember that with all the saints, our purpose, as summarized in the Westminster catechism, is to “glorify God and enjoy God forever.” May our lives and life together in the months and years to come share with all the faith, hope, love and joy that is ours.

In the Risen Christ,

Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics V.1, ed. by Bromiley and Torrance (Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson, 1977), 385.
Thurber Thursdays

19h00: Dinner in the Thurber room
19h45-21h00: Presentation, then Q&A
All are welcome.
If dining, please bring a donation to offset costs.

Missed out?
If you can’t make it to Thurber Thursday, you can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions. The video is available at http://acparis.org/thurber-thursdays-archives.

7 April – Christopher Hays: Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God? Five Biblical Answers

14 April – Christopher Hays: In the Beginning Were the Words: The Origins of Writing and the Alphabet

Read more on page 6.

The sessions on 7 and 14 April are the only Thurber Thursdays scheduled this month. In May, watch for the Alpha course that will launch on Tuesday, 3 May.

Bloom Where You’re Planted Planning Team

The next Bloom Where You’re Planted Program will be held on 8 October. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help organize this well-known, ground-breaking program that helps Anglophone newcomers settle into their new life in Paris. If you’d like to find out more about how you can help, please attend the informational meeting on Sunday 17 April from 12h30 – 13h15 in G2. You are also welcome to contact Kim at bloom.acparis@gmail.com.

Bible readings for April

3 April  Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

10 April  Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

17 April  Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

24 April  Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org Note: Deadline for the May Spire is Thursday 19 May.
He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and butter, butter, butter... Where is the butter... where is the butter? Is that butter? Beurre... I think that's butter. Wait, there are like a dozen different beurres. What is moule? Beurre aux cristaux de sel de mer? Beurre Gastronomique? That doesn't sound right!

How are they doing the check out? I hope they have a screen that shows the price. Do I pack up the groceries? Are there bags? Maybe I should walk around the store a few more times before checking out.

“Sorry, Honey. I only got about one-tenth of the things you wanted me to get at the store. I just couldn’t figure it out. I think I need a nap.”

I have been walking through a fog these first few days (or is it weeks) here in Paris. I have discovered that jet lag is a real thing and I’m daily coming face to face with my limitations. I am dependent not only on the grace of God, but on the kindness, hospitality and grace of the people in this city and everyone here at ACP. I’m a stranger in a new land and I need help doing some rather simple things.

I must confess, however, that my family and I are unbelievably fortunate. We have been welcomed here to Paris with an incredible amount of generosity and kindness. For months you have been praying for us and getting ready for our arrival. For all of this we are continually grateful! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

But these frequent experiences of futility and your hospitality are waking me up to this repeated theme in the Bible that says, “We were all once strangers.”

This is actually a really big deal because if we forget that we “were once strangers in Egypt” we may also forget about God’s heart for “the orphan, the widow and the stranger.” And if we forget about God’s heart for those in need then we may fail to see our own humanity in the refugee, or the new kid at school, or the poor guy staring at the butter in the grocery store. And if we fail to see these people, then we will likely miss the Jesus who is standing with them.

I imagine that we have all felt like strangers in one way or another. It can be just as easy to feel left out or alone in a familiar place. So in those moments when we feel like a stranger, may we know that we are not alone. Jesus is standing with us. And my first impressions of ACP tell me that this is a welcoming community of people who have remembered their story. And because they have not forgotten, this is a place where all of us strangers can find a home.

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, 18 who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. 19 You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt - Deuteronomy 10:17–19

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:16-17
Thurber Thursdays is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.

Christopher Hays
Thurber Thursdays 7 and 14 April, 19h

7 April
Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God?
Five Biblical Answers

14 April
In the Beginning Were the Words: The Origins of Writing and the Alphabet

For two Thurber Thursdays in April, our guest speaker will be Dr. Christopher B. Hays, D. Wilson Moore Associate Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies, School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary.

Christopher Hays joined the Fuller faculty in 2008, as occupant of the D. Wilson Moore Chair of Ancient Near Eastern Studies. In 2013, he was one of ten scholars around the world to receive the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise. He has previously held teaching and research positions at Emory University, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the University of Notre Dame Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. He has participated in archaeological research in Israel and conducts study trips there.


Hays has published articles on diverse topics in journals such as the Journal of Near Eastern Studies, the Journal of Biblical Literature, Vetus Testamentum, Biblica, Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft, Ugarit-Forschungen, Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections, and the Journal of Theological Interpretation. He has also contributed essays to various edited volumes.

Hays teaches courses on the Old Testament and directs the master’s program in Ancient Near Eastern Studies in the School of Theology. His languages include Hebrew, Akkadian, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Greek, and Latin. Hays is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

19h00: Dinner in the Thurber room; 19h45-21h00: Presentation, then Q&A

Youth@Noon

Every second Sunday of the month, 12h15-13h15 in G2

Are you a youth (ages 11-18) who is unable to attend other youth group events or are you looking for another chance to hang out and grow in faith? Join us for a time of fellowship once a month to discuss everything from the week’s scripture lessons to current events, and how they relate to you! French and English speakers welcome. Lunch will be provided. For more information, email youthpastor@acparis.org.
Resurrection Sunday. A day filled with hope in the endless possibilities of new life as Christians all over the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This singular event signals the climax of God's redemptive plans for the world. Through Jesus Christ's resurrection death is defeated and the hope for everlasting life springs forward into our existence here and now. It's something worth celebrating. And it's something worth reflecting on in the wake of a week of violence concluding with the crucifixion of the Reverend Thomas Uzhunnalil, a Salesian priest, who was kidnapped in Yemen earlier this month.*

As news reports poured in the morning after Easter, like many of you, my heart was filled with deep despair for the victims of senseless violence in the name of religion. And I thought about how easy it is to lose hope in goodness when acts of terror and unspeakable violence are carried out. In these moments we echo the psalmist who says “How long, Lord?”

To be honest, there is a lot in the world to find saddening.

But as I reflect on this past Holy Week I can’t help but look at Jesus on the cross. Luke 23 tells us two things that Jesus does that should give us a model for how we are to react to the violence of the past week.

First, Jesus forgives the very people who are nailing him to the cross. In the middle of excruciating pain and unbearable fatigue, Jesus does not retaliate. He forgives. There’s a strong temptation for us to want to retaliate against those who wrong us. Including those who wrong people in our tribe (i.e. other Christians). But Jesus clearly demonstrates that, as Christians, forgiveness is always to be the norm.

Second, Jesus says to the criminal hanging on the cross next to him, who asked that he remember him when Jesus comes into his kingdom, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus, even in his own pain, shows compassion.

So what can we learn from this? What do Jesus’ final moments tell us about how we should respond to the unspeakable horror of crucifixion and mass murder of Christians in the 21st century?

Lots actually.

First, forgiveness. Is there a more difficult concept to grasp in our context than forgiveness? Evil runs rampant in this world. And we feel the pull of vengeance, but often disguise it in the name of justice. But if Jesus’ own story is any indication of how we are to orient our own lives, then forgiveness is the natural (though instinctively unnatural) response to violence. Remember the words in Colossians 3 to “forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Second, compassion. This characteristic is a slightly more nuanced. Compassion demands that we not only forgive our oppressors but have compassion for them. The people who are capable of such heinous acts as crucifixion are also people in deep need of the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ who was obedient to death, even death on a cross. And so we are required to be ambassadors for Christ through our posture of compassion to even the cruelest of aggressors.

Is this easy? Of course not. There is something counterintuitive. Something so foreign to saying to someone who has hurt you so severely, “I forgive you.” And yet, as Christians, that’s exactly what we are urged, compelled, even commanded to do.

I don’t know the way forward. I don’t know how to resolve the crisis of a terrorist group who is hell-bent on committing such brutal and unconceivable acts of terror. I do know that death and hate do not have the final word. I do know that on the cross Jesus shows us that self-sacrificial love, including forgiveness is normative for his followers.

And I do know that resurrection changes things. Resurrection says that no matter how deep the despair. No matter how much things seem like they are lost, broken, damaged, etc. Death and sin and loss and terror do not have the last word. The surprising, beautiful reality of Jesus’ resurrection is that there is always hope for new life where hope and healing are possible in the midst of death and darkness.

Let’s practice resurrection.

One of the unexpected gifts of my first three months at ACP has been the Thurber Thursday fellowship. Warm table fellowship and thoughtful discussions from January through March have brought people together on the themes “Simplify,” “Spiritual Gifts,” and “Health and Healing in Marriage.” March concluded with the Reverend Dr. John Huffman, speaking on the theme “A Profile of the Church that Will Not Just Survive but Flourish in the 21st Century.”

Thurber Thursdays will continue in April, beginning with what promises to be an exciting two-part series with Dr. Christopher B. Hays.

First, a reminder of the schedule and format! A light dinner is served each week at 19h00. (There is no charge, however donations to offset costs are always gratefully accepted). Mary Bovind-Gay and her team from Community Life prepare and serve excellent meals! The programs then begin at 19h45, and end by 21h15.

Dr. Chris Hays is the Associate Professor of Ancient Near East Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California (the Seminary of ACP Pastors Billy Roberts and Tim Vance!).

On Thursday, 7 April, Dr. Hays will address the topic, “Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God?” And then on 14 April, his theme will be “In the Beginning Were the Words: The Origins of Writing and the Alphabet.” Author of several books and dozens of articles on biblical sources and specializing in Old Testament, Dr. Hays brings a rich understanding of the sources of our faith and related faith traditions. Don’t miss this extraordinary opportunity!

On Thurber Thursdays the subject matter is always engaging ... the food is great ... and the table fellowship is a rich blessing. I hope to see you there!

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If you were in the capacity crowd at either Easter service last month, you probably noticed an especially festive addition to the usual lineup of choir, organ, and hand bells.

Simon Fournier and Fabrice Tissier, occasionally joined by the third Easter trumpeter, Patrick Carceller, have been bringing their shiny sound to ACP holiday services for quite some time now – 13 years, in the case of Simon, whose specialty is the high, bright-sounding piccolo trumpet.

Fabrice (like Patrick, he plays a C trumpet) estimates he has played for ACP Christmas or Easter services for a total of six years. It was he who first invited Simon, who has ended up the most faithful of all and will be playing at the Fred Gramann anniversary concert on 4 June.

“Easter is magical,” Simon said after rehearsal on Holy Saturday. “Fred jokes that if we couldn’t come they’d have to cancel Easter. But no need to worry – I have it reserved up to the year 2063.”

While some of the brassy flourishes they play are part of published scores, many are written especially for them by Fred.

“He does a majority of the arrangements. He’s an amazing man,” Simon said.
I am excited to let the ACP community know that from 11-22 July, students and community leaders from Pacific School of Religion, Zaytuna College and UC Berkeley will be coming to Paris for the theological immersion course, Immigration/Refugees Crisis, Religion, Globalization, and the Post-Colonial State. The course will be taught by three faculty:

**Dr. David Vásquez-Levy**, President of Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley; Faculty, Homiletics

**Dr. Hatem Bazian**, Co-Founder and Faculty, Zaytuna College; Faculty, Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley; Director, Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project

**Dr. Karla Suoloma**, Faculty, Hebrew Bible, Luther College, Iowa

This is one of the required immersion courses that I work with as Director of Contextual Education, part of my work at Pacific School of Religion. These courses stretch students’ awareness and strengthen theological and multicultural capacities as leaders and change agents.

This course will explore firsthand and reflect on the causes, consequences of movement of immigrants into Europe and the U.S. and will seek to prepare lay and clergy leaders to engage emerging multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious societies.

In addition to teaching practice of ministry and practical theology and social change work at PSR, I am Faculty Director of Field Education (placing students in 1-2 year internships) and of Contextual Learning (required cross-cultural immersion courses and intensives).

In past years, PSR delegations have participated in international immersion courses to Israel/Palestine, Jordan, the Samoas, Southeast Asia, Uganda, Rwanda, El Salvador, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Mexico, Taiwan, India, and Colombia.

This year, courses included:

**Holy Places and Displacements: An Immersion in the Middle East**, led by Dr. Yii-Jan Lin, and Dr. Peter Makari, challenged participants to engage holy places, divine inheritance, exile, and displacement both in biblical times and in today’s Middle East.

**Guatemala: Roots of Migration**, led by Dr. Boyung Lee and Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, Changemaker Fellows traveled to Guatemala, hosted by urban and rural communities, such as Tierra Nueva and Casa del Migrante. This Immersion was in partnership with Iglesias Hermanas.

**Refuge in the City**, our local San Francisco Bay immersion course, led by Bishop Yvette Flunder, allies students with a church that works in the midst of the most marginalized populations in San Francisco and Oakland. Participants engage in on the ground hands-on theological learning as they practice the City of Refuge theology and inner-city model for ministry development.

It is a joy to do this work and I am so glad that one class will be in Paris (as well as in the south and north of France), learning by experiencing engagement with many communities. It is also a joy to know that they will be here, even though I will in transition back to Berkeley at that time!.

I am learning the many ways that ACP is a place where immersive learning is possible every day!

The questions we ask of the God we know in Jesus Christ, of ourselves and our assumptions, of each other about current global realities make all the difference.

If you are interested in learning more about this course, or about how to participate in some way, please let me know.

Grace and peace!

Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris

By MaryClaire King

A selection of interesting events for Christians in and around Paris in March. All events are in French.

Liberated by the Gospel – A Reform to Follow Together

As part of the Institut Supérieur d’études oecuméniques’ annual 3-day conference, which brings together theologians, philosophers and historians from Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions, Elisabeth Parmentier, a Lutheran pastor and professor at the University of Geneva, will give a public lecture on “Liberation by the Gospel — a Reform to Follow Together.”

Wednesday, 13 April, 16h30 at the Institut Catholique de Paris, 21, rue d’Assas, 75006 Paris. For security reasons, registration is required at the web site of the Institute: www.icp.fr/a-propos-de-l-icp under Agenda.

Artificial Intelligence: Between Myth and Progress

The Association of Scientific Christians brings together researchers in robotics and prosthesis development with philosophers and theologians to discuss the ethical and personal implications of current advances in Artificial Intelligence.

Saturday, 3 April, 10h-16h30. Collège des Bernardins, 20 rue de Poissy, 75005 Paris. Cost is 10€ (6€ for reduced fees). Registration & Info: www.collegedesbernardins.fr

Religious Transmission in the Mediterranean: A Shared Challenge

The Collège des Bernadins and the European Institute in the Science of Religions conclude two years of reflection with a colloquium. Whether transmission of religion is done at the state, church or institution level, a common culture of peaceful coexistence is needed within the democratic and pluralistic rule of law. The colloquium will examine current models and discuss their points of convergence in the face of the challenge of maintaining peace and dialogue in our societies.

Friday, 8 April, 14h-18h30 and 20h-22h. Collège des Bernardins, 20 rue de Poissy, 75005 Paris. Registration, fees & Info: www.collegedesbernardins.fr.

7th Annual Salon of Christian Education

Opening to the public with an artistic evening concert, the salon continues on Saturday with exhibitions, lectures and roundtables for all who have or will have educational responsibilities in families, schools or churches. (10€, with 50% discount for registrations received before 4 April).

Friday, 15 April, 19h-23h; Saturday, 16 April, 9h-18h; Sunday, 17 April, 10h-13h. 215 avenue du Président Wilson, La Plaine-St-Denis, (RER B Stade de France). For more information, and registration http://www.salon-educationchretienne.fr.
What’s up in Paris

April event listings

By Karen Albrecht

Carambolages
Pastor Scott’s Easter Sunday sermon recommended this unusual show at the Grand Palais, evoking the "ricochet" effect that gives the show its name. Go along and see for yourself the striking array of images, and the even more striking connections the show encourages viewers to trace between them. A playful and thought-provoking exercise for young and old alike.

La Foire du Trône
If a stomach-churning spin on a contraption with a name like Crazy Mouse, Rotor, or Top Spin is your idea of a good time, Paris's traditional spring fun fair at the Bois de Vincennes is for you. Just don't gorge on too much cotton candy before climbing aboard the dreaded Moonraker or the Infernal Toboggan. If you prefer a gentler spin cycle, one of the traditional merry-go-rounds may be more your speed.
Until 23 May. Fireworks on 1 May, www.foiredutrone.com

L’art et l’enfant
A hundred French paintings of children from the 15th to the 20th century have been gathered at the Musée Marmottan Monet, with masterworks by Fragonard, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, and a typically ebullient Picasso. A visual feast, and a chance to explore the changing vision of children and childhood across the ages, from solemnly robed miniature adults to coddled prodigies, child soldiers and haunting street urchins.

Barbie
OK, so you knew that since her birth in 1959, Barbie has made fashion statements galore and been dressed by the world’s top designers. But did you know that, after her first job as a flight attendant, Barbie has gone on to do stints as an aerobics instructor, astronaut and scientist, and has even run for president... four times? This show at Paris's decorative arts museum features 700 dolls and a dizzying array of Barbie’s very best outfits, plus context on her parallel career as a cultural icon. Just try to stay away.

Le Magicien d’Os
Within the superb natural history museum at the Jardin des Plantes, the comparative anatomy and paleontology wing is showcasing an intriguing series of monumental sculptures by Quentin Garel, the "Wizard of Bones": giant bird skulls and animal vertebrae fashioned out of iron, bronze and wood, emphasizing the haunting artistry of natural forms.

Youth is not just for the young
You don’t have to be a kid for these youth-inspired events to put a spring into your step this spring.

Founding Myths: From Hercules to Darth Vader
This engaging show in the new kid-centric Petite Galerie of the Louvre Museum looks at how mythology has influenced art throughout the centuries. After Greek, Egyptian, and Islamic creation stories and depictions of mythological heroes across both classical and contemporary art, the show zooms in on modern-day mythological figures, from Star Wars to Japanese mangas.
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of concerts, see http://acparis.org

**Sunday Concert Series**

**Robert SCHUMANN**
Kreisleriana Opus 16

**Maurice RAVEL**
Jeu d’eau
Valses nobles et sentimentales

**Paul RHOADS**
Variations sur “Je m’appelle Hélène”

**FRANS BREKELMANS**
GUITARE

**Dimanche 24 avril 2016 à 17h**

ŒUVRES DE
RAMEAU, GLUCK, CHOPIN,
DEBUSSY, TANSMAN, PONCE,
MORENO TORROBA

**Raj BHIMANI**
Piano
Dimanche 17 avril à 17H

Piano Steinway de 1888

Ludwig van Beethoven
Sonate en sol majeur, Op. 10, No. 2

Henri Dutilleux
Prélude pour Piano

Gabriel Fauré
Barcarolle No. 6 en mi bémol majeur, Op. 70

Emmanuel Chabrier
Myth, extrait des Pièces Pittoresques

Cécile Chaminade

Maurice Ravel
Moulin de la galette mineur

Albert Roussel
Pièce pour Piano, Op. 98, No. 3

**Gregory Thompson**
piano

**Dimanche 1 mai 2016 à 17h**

Œuvres de
W.A. MOZART
MAURICE RAVEL
ADOLPHUS HAILESTORK
SERGEI RACHMANINOFF
FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

12 ACP Spire, April 2016
ACP Choir: A bit of history
By Rebecca Brite

The church choir that preceded Fred Gramann’s tenure as music director consisted of a small ensemble of paid singers, most of them French. With the changing of the musical guard in 1976, the American Church chose to abandon a “professional” choir, asking Fred to build a volunteer choir assisted by four paid section leaders.

Fred’s predecessor, Edmund Pendleton, was 77 when Fred arrived, and had been choir director and organist at the church for just over 40 years. He was a composer of some note – it was he to whom the Paris-based Irish writer James Joyce, himself a talented amateur tenor, turned for the arrangement and piano accompaniment of Joyce’s sole foray into songwriting, “Bid Adieu.”

In the decade between Fred’s arrival and Ed Pendleton’s death in 1987, the newly formed and quickly growing volunteer choir sang a fair number of Pendleton compositions. (Check out the wooden plaque dedicated to Mr. Pendleton in the chapel and you’ll see the opening bars of his anthem “Come Ye Blessed,” a setting of Matthew 25:34-35.)

The Christmas concert in 1984, for example, consisted of a fully staged and costumed performance of Mr. Pendleton’s one-act Christmas opera, “The Miracle of the Nativity.” One of the last works he wrote as ACP music director, it had its premier at the church in 1974.

Fred didn’t have far to look for his Mary: Lynn Jackson, a Californian then working as both a section leader in the choir and nanny to Fred and Nancy Gramann’s son, Ben. For the role of Joseph, however, Fred went outside the choir and called on another young American, Mark Ross Clark, who had been studying in Germany.

Mr. Pendleton watched the production from the front pew with his wife, Aline, and was very enthusiastic about the performance. But even more enthusiastic were the young stars: “Mary” and “Joseph” were married two and a half years later. They are now professors at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, where Mark heads the opera program and Lynn teaches in the doctoral program.


After Edmund Pendleton’s death, Aline set up a fund to promote his music, and the choir participated in performances connected to that effort. But by then it also had works to learn by a new resident composer: Fred Gramann. (See the January and February issues of the Spire for more on some of Fred’s works.)

Over the years, some notable singers have performed with the ACP choir. They include the Metropolitan Opera bass Gregory Reinhart, who early in his career spent several months as a choir section leader.

Other appearances were more fleeting. Kerry Lieury, a longtime member of the alto section, remembers the Easter when, in the traditional close to the service, people from the congregation came up to sing the Hallelujah Chorus with the choir. Afterward, the ACP altos gathered excitedly around two tall women who had joined them.

Kerry led a post-Chorus chorus of ACP regulars in marveling at the women’s voices and urging them to join the choir. They demurred, saying they were just visiting. They were Metropolitan Opera stars Susan Graham and Christine Goerke, in Paris to perform at the Palais Garnier.

Even if they could not become members of Fred’s Quai d’Orsay crew, Kerry recalls, they raved about his conducting and said they loved singing under his direction.

If you have anecdotes to share from the ACP choir’s history, please send them to spire@acparis.org by 30 April.

Serve the City Mission Project

The Serve the City Mission Project is distributing food donated by Prêt à Manger to the needy. There are now nearly 20 American Church volunteers serving up to 150 meals five days a week to the less fortunate in and around Paris. Additional volunteers are needed to help pick up sandwiches from the Prêt à Manger’s Neuilly-sur-Seine shop at 8h and distribute them to homeless people. Come join the team and help us Serve the City! Contact parisservethecity@gmail.com.
Youth music programme

By Sara Barton

The ACP Youth Music Program has grown beautifully over the past year, and is now filled with 20 marvellous young singers, chime and bell players of ages 4-14.

These great kids have had a wonderful time preparing music and participating regularly in worship. The Junior and Angel Choirs have enjoyed singing for services once a month, and our Advanced Bells were especially thrilled to play their “Joyful Carillon” during the 11h service on Valentine’s Day. They did an amazing job! If you want to join our fan club check out the video on Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ScjvS9bna8E&feature=youtu.be

We were also very proud to participate in a Sunday School sing-along in January in which the children in the choir led the Sunday Schoolers in a mini-rehearsal of joyous music. Everyone sang with gusto - adult teachers included!

Coming up soon are a couple of very special events: we are preparing for not one, but two concerts! First, mark your calendars for the Youth and Family Concert here at ACP on Saturday, 28 May. This promises to be an evening of well-loved joyous music sung by the all the children in the Music program with the added bonus of some great adult singers! On the program are both sacred anthems and fun-filled musical theatre numbers that are sure to have you singing along!

We also have the special honor of being invited to sing an hour-long concert to finish a full afternoon event called the “English Forum” held on Wednesday, 18 May at the Mairie of the 7ème arrondissement. This is a wonderful chance for the children and youth to bring their musical talents to the wider community and share our love of singing with others.

While preparing for these exciting events, we will continue to sing on Sunday mornings once a month, and are continuing to grow as a group. Newcomers are always welcome to come to our rehearsals if they would like to see what it is like. Recruitment is ongoing throughout the year, and even to the end of the school year, so if you think this might be the place to be you are more than welcome to join us! Our schedule is below, if you have any questions contact Sara Barton at ymusic@acparis.org

### Wednesday Schedule

(every week during the school term, unless marked otherwise)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choir</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angel Choir (ages 3-6)</td>
<td>13h- 14h (biweekly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Choir/chimes</td>
<td>14h-14h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Choir</td>
<td>14h30 – 15h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Handbells</td>
<td>15h30 – 16h30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ACP Youth and Family Concert

An evening of favorite anthems and extended selections from well-loved musical theatre

**Saturday, 28 May at 19h in the Sanctuary**
Got questions about life…

By Lisa Prevett

Ever wanted to explore the meaning of life or ask challenging questions about the Christian faith? Do you have a family member, friend, neighbor or colleague who is asking questions about life? If you answered “yes” then the Alpha Course is for you! Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly way. It welcomes all those big questions – and it’s free!

Some history...

The Alpha Course was started in the UK in 1990 by Rev. Nicky Gumbel at Holy Trinity Brompton, a church in central London. Since then, over 22 million people around the world have heard about Jesus through Alpha. Alpha is currently running in 169 countries and in 112 languages, including in churches, bars, coffee shops, homes, schools, universities, work places and prisons.

Alpha at ACP

Following the success of past Alpha courses, most recently in 2014 and 2015, all-Church Alpha (open to all ages) is back in 2016, starting with the Launch Party on Tuesday 3 May. The course will then run every Thursday from 12 May, for 10 weeks. Using the latest video talks, each session starts with a meal at 19h00 followed by a short video looking at different aspects of the Christian faith, with topics such as How can I have faith? and Does God heal today?. Afterwards there are small group discussions, where you can talk about what you have heard and ask any questions you might have.

No question is too simple or too hostile. Whether a participant has never heard of God, has recently come to faith, or has been a Christian all of your life, this course has something for everyone! Even if you’ve been a Christian for many years, Alpha is a great way to review the fundamental aspects of faith, and it is also perfect to invite friends to who are seeking answers about life...so why not invite them to come along with you?

How can I support the course?

There are many ways that you can be involved with Alpha. The first and most important way is through prayer. We welcome your prayer support throughout the preparation phase and during the course itself. There are also many other ways that you can help, for example, by volunteering to help the kitchen team prepare the meal. Invite people along - a personal invite is most effective, so take the plunge and ask a friend if he/she would like to accompany you to the Launch Party.

Is there more to life than the status quo? Come and join us at the free Launch Party on 3 May at 19h30 and let’s find out together. Over 22.5 million people around the world have done Alpha – have you?

For more information, please contact secretary@acparis.org. Details about the Launch Party and the course are available via the website at acparis.org and our social media channels.

What people said about Alpha on the last course at ACP

“Since doing Alpha I have started Bible reading. Using the verses spoken about it has been great to go away and read them for myself...work at them with a deeper understanding”

“The videos were theologically rich and stimulated great discussions”

“I came here as a non-believer and now I think that life without God and faith makes no sense”

“Great food, great atmosphere, great discussions”
Congregational meeting, 20 March
By Mary Crass Fenu

The first semi-Annual congregational meeting was held Sunday 20 March following a time of coffee-cake fellowship and a joint service with all members of the ACP family. The main objectives of the meeting were to present several important reports from Council to the Congregation: the 2015 Annual Report, the 2016 budget proposal and the report of the ACP160 capital campaign. If you have not yet had occasion to familiarize yourselves with these, they can be picked up at the Welcome Table on Sunday after church.

This first annual gathering of the church family is an opportunity for the Congregation to consider and approve the financial and budgetary framework that enables the ACP to carry out its multiplicity of programs and missions throughout the year. The 2015 report highlights the wonderful initiatives undertaken with guidance from the pastoral staff and with dedicated leadership of the ACP Council to strengthen and enrich the faith community within the ACP as well as to reach out to brothers and sisters in need throughout Paris and around the world.

With thanks to God and to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to end what began as a challenging budgetary year with a balanced result. How encouraging for us all! This sets the basis for us as a church collective to continue to move towards greater autonomy in providing the necessary resource for our church house, staff, activities and missions. In this context, we renew our gratitude to our AFCU brothers and sisters who continue to accompany us with their prayers and support from afar.

2016 opens with bright perspective, with renewed scope in programming and missions planned after some needed belt-tightening in 2015. Though care must be taken to ensure efficiency, continued faithfulness in stewardship should help ensure an equally balanced budgetary result for 2016.

I’d like to personally acknowledge once again Julia Kung, Yinka Bisiriyu and the rest of the Finance and Stewardship Committee team for their prayerful, insightful preparation of the 2015 results and the 2016 budget proposal.

Sunday Women’s Gathering 10 April, 12h15 – 13h30, Thurber Room
The Importance of Forgiveness: discussing the ins and outs of truly letting go and moving on, with Pringle Franklin, author of Hope & Healing in Marriage and editor of Living on Jesus Street, a blog where the mundane intersects the divine. Note: Childcare is provided in G1.

Prayer Chain Team
Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?
If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org. Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential. Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available. Meet in the chapel next to the theater.
We’ve all heard the expression “Every picture tells a story,” but when long-time ACP member Elizabeth H. Rand decided to share her talents as a semi-professional photographer to capture the essence and heart of the Friday Mission Lunch ministry, it proved to be a blessing to all. Elizabeth, along with her camera, attended and followed the FML for over five months, giving her time and focus not only to the lunch, but also to each unique guest and volunteer, opening her heart and lens to their diverse and individual stories. **We are privileged to have her traveling photo exhibition at the ACP, from 3-10 April.**

The Friday Mission Lunch was created in 1992 by American Cathedral parishioner Tom Myers and nearby St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, “in response to the growing need of those finding themselves isolated or living on the margins of society.” While there are many homeless meal programs in Paris, Tom’s objective was to create a program that catered to more than just physical hunger; but to also create a place that provided a compassionate safe haven, where guests are treated with respect and dignity no matter what their social circumstances.

So each week guests are welcomed and seated at tables with tablecloths, and served on real plates, glasses, and silverware. Initially serving began for around 20 persons once a month, but now the program has grown to serving 64-80 people every Friday of the year, including holidays. Most similar programs are closed on holidays and for the entire month of August. Seating capacity is limited by fire code regulations in the parish hall but many take-away meals are also distributed. While many of the guests are truly homeless or foreign refugees, others are elderly living alone or just trying to survive on minimal resources.

Over the years the program has grown to include five participating churches and groups, each taking the responsibility to plan, shop, prepare, serve, and pay for the meal one Friday a month. These groups are: 1st Friday: The American Cathedral; 2nd Friday: The American Church; 3rd Friday: The Bridge Church; 4th Friday: St. Joseph’s Catholic Church; and when there’s a 5th Friday in the month, Kehilat Gesher Synagogue & AAWE. .../... continued

.../...
The meals consist of a hot nutritious main course (usually meat, vegetable and carb), a salad and cheese course, followed by coffee and dessert. The current budget for feeding 80+ persons is 200 euros per meal which works out to just over 2 euros per person, a growing challenge in trying economic times.

The program runs solely on the efforts of volunteers, many coming from the local community and participating churches. Each week a group of 10-20 volunteers are needed between 10h-14h to set up, prep, cook, serve, and clean up. Anybody interested can sign up for specific Fridays at fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com. While we have a great outpouring of volunteers, committed leadership/chefs are our greatest current need. Some of our chefs actually have professional experience, but most are just individuals who like to cook and have fallen in love with the program. We take all chef-newbirds lovingly under our wing and provide training and support until they feel ready to fly (with a seasoned co-chef). If you think cheffing might be a service calling for you please contact Co-Coordinator kristieworrel@hotmail.com

Other ways you can help:

Donate food staples at one of our 3 yearly food drives. Food can be brought to the ACP in November or directly to the American Cathedral, 23 av. George V (the host church) any time of the year and left at the reception desk marked for FML. Our basic staples include pasta, rice, napkins, coffee, sugar cubes, olive oil, vegetable oil, mustard, salt & pepper, dish soap, sponges, aluminum foil.

Sponsor a Lunch: For only 200 euros per meal, you or your organization can provide a complete meal one Friday for 64-80 needy and homeless men, women and children. What a great way to honor a loved one or coworker.

Make a financial contribution: We are always needing to replenish our supply of cookware, dishes, glasses, silverware, cooking utensils, etc. and monetary contributions are a wonderful way to help us stay properly equipped.

Whatever you do don’t miss this exclusive opportunity to get a peek at the pulse of this heartwarming and life-giving ministry through the amazing Photo Exhibition at the ACP, 3-10 April.
For a course I was taking on building photography projects, I proposed as a topic the Friday Mission Lunch (FML) because I knew, from my days as one of its volunteers, that this was a most special event, and I wanted to capture and convey its signature features.

The staff at the Cathedral and the chefs from the four other supporting congregations agreed to the project, provided I did not impede the work of the volunteers, nor disturb the experience of the guests. This meant no posed photos, no flash, and no tripod, even where lighting at best was dark or mixed. Thankfully, there was always another Friday to try again!

The next challenge was one that most photographers find dreadful, namely the need to obtain written permissions from one’s subjects. At first most of the guests and some volunteers refused to sign the release, but when two of the guests finally agreed, loved their images and asked for prints (which I would provide the following week), we were on a roll. The residual challenge was to find spontaneous group shots, to convey the ambiance of the crowd, while avoiding images of those who had still declined to sign.

The final challenge of editing, condensing and sharing the results turned into a blessing. I initially reduced the number of images from more than 1,000 to 72. To make the cut I required that an image both be integral to the story of a day at the FML, while also conveying some element of the essential spirit of the mission. I then presented the images to the team at the Cathedral as a slideshow, with the idea of giving to each sponsor, as a thank-you present, a USB key containing the slideshow for their archives.

But when the Cathedral team enthusiastically proposed that I display all 72 images as prints, to be mounted in the sanctuary for the 40 days of Lent, I realized I should try to take it on the road, so as to help all five of the sponsoring congregations generate new interest and participation in FML. But how to make, frame and hang so many prints in so many different places? Enter Alice, from the Dupon print lab. Alice, who was once a chef herself, proposed embedding 52 of the images in 6 panels of foam board. I then added captions to help the viewers along .... et voilà!

We should all be immensely grateful to Kristie Worrell for her faithful and talented leadership. Kristie creates a mood of calm, competence and compassion, so if ever you wanted to grow your own gifts or even go so far as to become a head chef, hers is a great wing to be under as you learn!
Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated more than 800,000 homes around the world, providing more than 4 million people with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Anyone who can hold a hammer or a paint brush is welcome to the work of Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers provide manpower that allows the building of homes or making renovations at considerably lower costs.

More importantly, the volunteering experience transforms lives: both for the volunteers who work alongside Habitat homeowners and for partner families who see people who care enough to help them break the cycle of poverty.

The American Church in Paris is organizing a Habitat for Humanity trip for August 2016. If you're interested in joining the Habitat trip to Kyrgyzstan this summer (end-July to 8 August), please contact the Habitat leader Kaï-Marcel Grunert via email: awaiting_further_informations@yahoo.com or have a look at the information on the ACP website. Note: Volunteers must be 16 years old or older.

Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner

Friday 15 April - 20h - Thurber Room

Calling all multicultural couples. You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion. For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss at multicultural@acparis.org

The Movie Discussion Group

Thursday 14 April - 19h30 – G2

This month’s movie listings: Midnight Special by Jeff Nichols, Quand on a 17 ans by André Téchiné, No Land's Song by Ayat Najafi, and 10 Cloverfield Lane by Dan Trachtenberg. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org

Formula E race in Paris

It's not the Formula One, but the Formula E championship putting the pedal to the metal in Paris from 7 to 29 April. It's a recently created competition between electric-powered cars, and the course in Paris will be centered around Les Invalides. The actual race takes place on Saturday 23 April, but the setup and clean-up will disrupt the area for almost the whole month.

It isn’t kiddie cars, these automobiles will be traveling faster than 200 km/hour (125 mph). The events kicks off Saturday morning with two practice sessions in the morning, the first from 8h15-9h, the second from 10h30-11h. The qualifying session is from noon to 13h, and the race itself at 16h. Read more at www.paris-eprix.com
Masterpieces of Budapest

By Karen Marin

What does a museum do with its masterpieces when it has to close for a major overhaul? It can clean and restore some, protect and lock away others, or it can lend them out to be appreciated in temporary exhibits. This is the dilemma faced by the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, a world-class institution faced with a three-year renovation project. Blessed by a long-term partnership with the Musée de Luxembourg, Budapest’s loss is Paris’ gain as the crème de la crème is on temporary display here until 10 July 2016 in the “Masterpieces of Budapest” exhibit.

The Szépmüvészeti Museum (or Fine Arts Museum) has an interesting heritage dating back to the 19th century. In 1871 the Esterhazy princes decided to donate over 600 pieces from their vast collection to the state. Note that the Esterhazy family rose to prominence in the late 16th century, building their wealth from steady land acquisition while being extremely loyal to the ruling Hapsburgs and the Pope. Their gracious gift was the catalyst that inspired other collectors to make generous contributions, and by 1896, Parliament decided to build a museum. The timing coincided perfectly with an economic boom and golden age for the arts in Hungary. The museum eventually opened to the public in 1906 and is currently recognized as one of the richest institutions in Hungary, if not all of Central Europe.

Over 80 paintings, drawings and sculptures are on exhibit at the Musée de Luxembourg, organized by period and by theme, ranging from medieval sculpture to 20th century Symbolism and Expressionism. Among the Renaissance paintings are several exquisite works attributed to students of Leonardo da Vinci. The hand of the master is evident in the brush strokes, the faces of the madonnas, and the “sfumato” technique Leonardo is known for. Not to be missed is the extremely rare equestrian statue by Leonardo. This small sculpture depicts a horse rearing on its hind legs as the rider struggles to maintain control.

The German Renaissance is well represented by works from Cranach, Dürer and Altdorfer while works from the Italian Cinquecento by Bellini and portraitist, Giovanni Battista Moroni await discovery. Religious painting is further evoked by a striking trio of El Greco paintings (The Annunciation, Mary Magdalene, and Saint Joseph, said to be a self-portrait.)

There is a small representation of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, before the exhibit finishes with space dedicated to symbolism and modernity, a period during which Hungarian artists were seeking to be measured against the rest of Europe while asserting their national identity.

This is definitely an eclectic mix of art, recommended to those who wish to venture beyond the well-known, and who enjoy a fresh perspective.

Masterpieces of Budapest, until 10 July, Musée de Luxembourg, 19 Rue de Vaugirard, 75006 Paris

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Did you know that you can learn French at ACP? Classes are held every Saturday from 17h-18h30. It is taught by two native French speakers: Francois and Yasmina.

The class is intended for beginners who are seriously committed to learn French. In addition to the class, personal effort and commitment are required. Attendance is limited to 20. The sign-up fee is 30€, and you will have to buy a book. There is no age requirement and any nationality can apply.

If you are interested, send your personal data (name, address, phone, nationality) to fkpierre@gmail.com
**ACP Spire Diary – April 2016**

**events, meetings and concerts**

(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker/Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 1</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:parisservethecity@gmail.com">parisservethecity@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 08h00, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>2 Apr</td>
<td>8h00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Suzanne FOURNIER, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>3 Apr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Professor Christopher Hays</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h00; 19h45</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Jim Lockwood-Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God? Five Biblical Answers</td>
<td>7 Apr</td>
<td>Dinner; Lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>visitingpastor</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-6)</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10h00 - 12h00</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare available. Come “flourish fiercely” with us.</td>
<td>8 Apr</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10h00 - 14h00</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for</td>
<td>8 Apr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>fridaymissionlunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 Apr</td>
<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth@Noon</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15 - 13h15</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Billy Roberts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A time of fellowship for youth (ages 11-18) unable to attend other youth group events or looking for another chance to hang out and grow in faith. French and English</td>
<td>10 Apr</td>
<td></td>
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<td>youthpastor</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Gathering - Pringle Franklin speaking on</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15 -13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kim Herr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Importance of Forgiveness: discussing the ins and outs of truly letting go and moving on” A time of fellowship and a discussion. Childcare will be available in</td>
<td>10 Apr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO Atelier Concert this week</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10 Apr</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Professor Christopher Hays</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h00; 19h45</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Jim Lockwood-Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the Beginning Were the Words: The Origins of Writing and the Alphabet</td>
<td>14 Apr</td>
<td>Dinner; Lecture</td>
<td></td>
<td>visitingpastor</td>
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<td>@acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 14 Apr</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This month’s movie listings: <strong>Midnight Special</strong> by Jeff Nichols, <strong>Quand on a 17 ans</strong> by André Téchiné, <strong>No Land’s Song</strong> by Ayat Najafi, <strong>10 Cloverfield Lane</strong> by Dan Trachtenberg. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite</td>
<td><a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 15 Apr</td>
<td>20h00 Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:multicultural@acparis.org">multicultural@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 15 Apr</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:parisservethecity@gmail.com">parisservethecity@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
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<td>13h30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Raj BHIMANI, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 17 Apr</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
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<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
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<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Frans BREKELMANS, guitar</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 24 Apr</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Gregory THOMPSON, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 May</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
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(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)

### The ACP app

The ACP now has its own app. You can use it to hear past sermons, ACP Today broadcasts, Thurber Thursday sessions and even access the Sunday bulletins. Check out the latest happenings at ACP in the "events" section. Sign up to volunteer, or get more info on how to get involved in the "connect" area. Learn about the church history and its various programs under the "about" tab. You can even read the latest Spire issue and access the Bible.
YOU’RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL CELEBRATION
40 YEARS OF MUSIC MINISTRY AT THE AMERICAN CHURCH

In June 2016 Fred Gramann will have served for four decades as the Director of Music at the American Church in Paris. We are marking this milestone by celebrating the importance of music ministry to this congregation and to the larger community.

What will be happening?

On Friday 3 June at 17h30 there will be a “Meet and Greet” evening reception for the many out-of-town guests who will be present.
On Saturday 4 June there will be free gala concert at 19h30, followed by a champagne reception with “40 Cakes for Forty Years”.
On Sunday 5 June there will be special music at the 11h worship service.
On Sunday 5 June at 17h there will be wine and cheese reception prior to the special Atelier Concert at 18h.
On Sunday 5 June at 18h the Raleigh Ringers from Raleigh, North Carolina will thrill us with their music.

How can you help?

Many volunteers will be needed, from decorating, ushering or preparing food, to donating a cake or being a server at a reception. You’ll find a complete list of needs on the ACP website under “Fred’s 40th” or by requesting a list from music@acparis.org.