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Cover photo: ©Charlie Gay
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

One of my mentors reminds me, “Everyone is on a journey.” Are you on a journey? As I prepare for the Camino Santiago as part of my sabbatical beginning in May, everyone says about a backpacking trip that the longer you travel, the lighter your pack becomes. One of two things happens: Either you start tossing stuff you realize you don’t need, or you simply become stronger and the weight seems lighter. As we approach the steeper climb of the last week of our Lenten journey, however, the weight is crushing. Holy Week, as promising as it is for us this side of the Easter Event, still requires that we sojourn by way of Gethsemane and the cross.

The name of the garden where Jesus prayed, “Not my will, but yours,” Gethsemane, comes from the Aramaic ܓܕܣܡܢ, and literally means “oil press.” This foreshadows how the betrayal, arrest, and torture pressed the life out of Jesus. The cross was an instrument of cruel death. It was the tool of terror that the Romans used to assert the “Pax Romana” on the subversive tribes of the Near East in the first century. The cross was designed to inflict a slow and humiliating death on its victims and signal a clear and intimidating warning to all passersby.

During Holy Week, from 10 to 16 April, we will stop to reflect at some of the key “places” of Jesus’ passion with services in the sanctuary: Monday through Wednesday with Holden Evening Prayer communion (at 19h00); Maundy Thursday communion and Good Friday Tenebrae (20h00) services. I would encourage you to attend as many of the services you can as a way of preparing for joyful Easter celebrations. After a pause for Holy Saturday, we will celebrate the Resurrection on Sunday, 16 April, with an early sunrise service (7h00); Easter breakfast (8h00); traditional communion services (9h00 and 11h00); and a contemporary communion service of worship (13h30). Easter is a time when the backpack comes off and we enjoy the surprising and refreshing good news that even out of the worst situations, even death, God’s love brings forth new life.

We will affirm the heart of the gospel, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

Later along the way this month we will welcome the Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp to the pulpit on Sunday, 23 April. Then for a Thurber Lecture on 27 April, Dr. Chip Dobbs-Allsopp will share his insights on “Shalom and Hebrew Poetry.” Both Leslie and Chip are classmates from Princeton Theological Seminary and it will be a pleasure to welcome them for some time to enjoy our community and Paris. It is a gift to have our paths cross again over the years.

Some of you have been wondering about the progress of the “Lift Project” so that we can offer universal access to our building for those who are mobility impaired. The permits have been received, and construction is to begin the first week of April! Workers will clear the space for an elevator that will accommodate wheelchair access, and the actual lift will be custom-built and installed over the summer holidays, to lift people from the street level to reception level. Part of this project involves installing a new door to the reception area and the door will be completed during spring school holidays this month.

Yes, we are all on a journey of some kind. For some it is an external journey, for some it is an inner journey, and for most of us it is both. May God’s Spirit give us wisdom for where and how we are traveling, and lighten our loads, even in the midst of suffering. We have a sure and certain hope that Christ leads us, comes alongside us, and often carries us along the way to joyful new life.

As we continue our travels, I love the benediction of Jude: “Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” Travel well, friends, and may we all arrive to that place of Resurrection joy and Easter new life.

In Christ,

May God’s Spirit give us wisdom for where and how we are traveling, and lighten our loads, even in the midst of suffering.
But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- Jeremiah 29:7

Missed out? If you can’t make it to Thurber Lectures, you can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions. The video is available on the website at acparis.org, under “Prayer & Learning”.

Winter & Spring 2017 | 19h00 - 21h15
The American Church in Paris
At our Thurber evenings, we’ve heard from two friends who by their own admission shouldn’t be friends because of the color of their skin. We’ve had a controversial Muslim professor and a Nigerian American writer looking for some sense of home in a foreign land. But wait, I thought this season of Thurber lectures was supposed to be about shalom (peace). So what’s with all the controversy, conflict, and dissonance?

Perhaps you can blame it on the naiveté of a relatively new pastor who didn’t really know what he was doing. This would, of course, be true. But maybe there is also some movement of God’s spirit in all this. Throughout the Biblical story the outsider, the foreigner, and the enemy will often speak prophetically to God’s own people to call them back to a greater faithfulness.

In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25). No king in Israel? No King?! But God is king! Has everyone really turned so far away that they have forgotten their king? In enters Ruth. A woman. A foreign woman. A foreign woman who reflects back to God’s people what God’s faithfulness actually looks like.

Then there is Jonah, THE PROPHET OF GOD, God, God... (echo, echo). Jonah is introduced triumphantly into our story as the hero. And then our hero runs away. In enters the evil, no-good, really bad Ninevites (hear the imperial march from Star Wars playing in the background). Wait, are they repenting? No, it can’t be, because not even God’s people are repenting. How is it that they are turning toward God, when we are not?

And then Jesus comes along and he is from Nazareth. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” (John 1:46). And what types of people come to the front in Jesus’ life and in the stories he tells?

We often expect that the path to encountering God’s peace will be paved only with positive feelings and peaceful encounters. But is that really our story? Again and again the Biblical story is the story of human conflict, division, controversy and the God who shows up in midst of all that to redeem us and make us new. In fact as we move toward Easter we are reminded that we arrive at resurrection only once we have traveled with Christ to the cross.

Seek the peace and prosperity of the city (Jeremiah 29:7). God’s call to peace comes not in a time of peace, but importantly, in a time when all sense of peace has been lost. Jerusalem is destroyed, the temple is destroyed, home is lost, and God has seemingly been defeated. But then God continues, Seek the peace of your enemy. Make your home in this foreign land. Build relationships with people who are not your people.

Perhaps there are times when turbulence wakes us up to the voice and call of God. Maybe we need to enter into the conflict, controversy, and dissonance of our world so that God might carry us through it all, to a place of peace and shalom.

Coming up for our next Thurber lectures we have a Hebrew scholar, a Rabbi and a historian. Will their lectures provoke us toward peace? I don’t know. Maybe God’s Spirit will switch directions and call us to peace through a time of comfort and encouragement. That would be nice. All we can do is show up and listen, trusting that God is moving us toward his peace in the midst of the real world in which we live.

Corporate Prayer Meeting: Saturdays at 15h
Meet to pray for the world on Saturdays from 15h-16h at ACP in room G7.
Contact Selen Flores via the secretary at secretary@acparis.org. All are invited!
Why Easter lilies?

The magnificent white lily known as the Easter lily has long been a symbol of purity, hope, innocence and peace. Also called the Bermuda lily, the Trumpet lily, and Jacob's Tears, the Easter lily is a biblical flower commonly associated with the resurrection of Christ and the hope of eternal life.

During the Easter season, churches line their altars and envelop their crosses with a multitude of Easter lilies. They are very popular for Easter gifts, and their unique trumpet-shaped blossoms symbolize the spiritual meaning of Easter along with the promise of spring.

History, mythology, and art are filled with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. One of the most famous Biblical references to lilies is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Lilies are often called the "White-Robed Apostles of Hope." According to one legend, the flowers were formed when Eve cried repentant tears upon leaving Eden. Also, in early paintings of the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, when she announced that Mary was to be the mother of the Christ child.

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter at ACP

Palm/Passion Sunday, 9 April

Three worship services, at 9h00, 11h00, and 13h30

Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10-12 April

Holden Evening Prayer Services at 19h00. The Holden Evening Prayer is a lovely setting of vespers, following the traditional form and using contemporary and inclusive language.

Maundy Thursday, 13 April

Worship service at 20h with communion and optional foot-washing.

Good Friday, 14 April

Tenebrae "shadows" worship service at 20h00. During the service you will hear portions of the Passion narrative from the Gospels as we move towards darkness and silence. Special music by Ensemble Lumina.

Easter Sunday, 16 April

Sunrise Service at 7h00 in the park on the quai d'Orsay in front of the ACP
Easter Fellowship Breakfast at 8h00 in the Thurber Room
Traditional celebrations of the Resurrection at 9h00 and 11h00
Contemporary celebration of the Resurrection at 13h30

Nursery and toddler care provided at 9h, 11h00, & 13h30; Children's worship at 11h00 and 13h30.

Note: Attendance at the Easter morning service at 11h00 always exceeds church capacity. If you look forward to worshipping at the traditional service, please consider attending at 9h00.
The rest of the story

By the Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell
Visiting Pastor

I remember growing up listening to the broadcast of Paul Harvey on ABC Radio called "The Rest of the Story." The program consisted of stories presented as little-known or forgotten facts on a variety of subjects with some key element of the story (usually the name of some well-known person) held back until the end. The program always concluded with the tag line "And now you know the rest of the story."

A number of people have shared with me their appreciation of the beauty and power of *The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in Choral Form* that the ACP pastors and the congregation sing at the 9h00 and 11h00 communion services. People have asked me how this practice came to ACP. Allow me to attempt to play Paul Harvey and give you the "rest of the story."

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in Choral Form* is as follows:

```
From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator’s praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung through every land,
in every tongue. Alleluia!

The night that Jesus was betrayed
He blessed and broke the loaf and said, Alleluia! Alleluia!
“This is my body here for you,
my gift that frees and makes you new.” Alleluia! (5x)

Then Jesus also took the cup,
After those gathered had all supped. Alleluia! Alleluia!
“This is my lifeblood shed for you,
The measure of my love for you.” Alleluia! (5x)

“Do this,” He said, “till time shall end,
In mem’ry of your living Friend.” Alleluia! Alleluia!
“Meet at my table and record,
The love of your triumphant Lord.” Alleluia! (5x)

Jesus your feast we celebrate.
We eat the food you consecrate. Alleluia! Alleluia!
We glimpse that glad eternal feast,
To which you welcome great and least. Alleluia! (5x)

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to you let earth accord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Creator and Spirit one. Alleluia! (5x)
```

I don’t know who wrote the lyrics for *The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in Choral Form*, but you may recognize the tune *Lass Uns Erfreuen*, which is also the tune used in the popular hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King*. Peter von Brachel composed the music in 1623 to the words by Francis of Assisi, and the harmony was provided by Ralph Vaughan Williams in *The English Hymnal* in 1906.

Back in 1992 I began my ministry as Senior Pastor of the Tokyo Union Church in Tokyo, Japan. The Associate Pastor of the congregation was Pastor Mari Thorkelson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Before entering the ministry she sang for eight years in the Norman Luboff Choir in Europe. She introduced me to the “Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in Choral Form” and we enjoyed singing it together at the Tokyo Union Church. I think that she first heard the musical piece at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale Divinity School, where she studied. After Mari moved on from Tokyo I continued to use the sung liturgy with Pastor Barbara Lund.

Then I moved on to my next pastoral call in London, and Pastor Barry Dawson was called to be the Senior Pastor of the Tokyo Union Church. He continued to use the sung communion liturgy. According to Fred Gramann, the ACP Music Director, Pastor Barry Dawson brought the singing of “The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving in Choral Form” from Tokyo to Paris when he was called to be Senior Pastor of ACP in 2004.

We are truly blessed with rich spiritual, musical and human resources by being part of the international network of Christian churches.

And now you know the rest of the story.

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 Wednesday 19 April.
## Bible readings for April

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<td>Fifth Sunday in Lent</td>
<td>Psalm 130, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-14</td>
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<td>12 April</td>
<td>Wednesday of Holy Week</td>
<td>Psalm 70, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Hebrews 12:1-3, John 13:21-32</td>
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<td>13 April</td>
<td>Holy/Maundy Thursday</td>
<td>Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41</td>
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<td>23 April</td>
<td>Second Sunday of Easter</td>
<td>Psalm 16, Acts 2:14a, 22-32, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31</td>
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### ACP congregational meeting, 26 March

Of the 150 people present, 123 were members, so with 38 proxies we met our quorum of 137 votes. All committees submitted a report of their accomplishments for the year, and these are available on the ACP website at http://acparis.org/ministryreport. The finance committee have postponed reporting on the budget for 2016 until the congregational meeting on 21 May, although Pastor Scott said it looks like we will be able to report a successful financial year. He also reported that we plan to hire a full-time accountant in the fall.

The meeting finished with participants breaking into small groups to get food, and then share together their most significant experiences of God here at ACP, and what contributed most to their sense of community shalom. There were smiles, tears, and hugs. And the lunch was delicious!

### Divine Lines: Walt Whitman & the King James Bible

Dr. Chip Dobbs-Allsopp is a Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. Chip will be joining us at The American Church in Paris to explore how the poetry of Walt Whitman was influenced by the language, stories and rhythm of the King James Bible. Join us on Thursday, 27 April for dinner and lecture starting at 19h00.
As your “newly seen” Youth and Young Adults pastors we’re surely aware that our role is temporary (interim). This is why we’re committed to focusing on what is “unseen” throughout our limited season of ministry at the American Church in Paris.

We’re grateful for the gracious welcome we’ve received at ACP...particularly from the youth and young adults we’ve been called to serve. There are some amazing young people who are central to the life of ACP. In fact, they’re all amazing! Perhaps what surprises us most is that they accept us- wrinkles, gray hairs, creaking bones and all. It just goes to show you that we all have the capacity to see something unseen in others and to respond to it with acceptance and love.

Throughout the time that we share with you in ministry, it’s our commitment as youth and young adult pastors to always look for, to affirm, and to nurture the unseen eternal beauty that God sees in each of the students and young professionals entrusted to our care.

Long ago, this is what others did for us. God knows how grateful we are for the Christian youth and young adult leaders who invested in our lives. They all had a special way of helping us see Jesus for who he is, and how Jesus longs for us to see ourselves as he sees us.

The youth and young adult ministries are vibrant. They were before we came, thanks to Emily and other committed youth and young adult team leaders. These people are fun to serve with and they care deeply about their roles as team leaders and mentors.

This summer we’ll be saying goodbye to Emily and a few of our team leaders...which means there could be a great opportunity for you to join one of our teams as we gear up for the autumn season. We can assure you it will demand time and energy, but you will be a blessing and be blessed by serving God in this capacity.

For an overview of our ongoing ministries please visit acparis.org and click on to Worship and Mission- then Youth ministries or Young Adult ministries.

If you’re interested in learning more about being a youth or young adult team leader send us an e-mail and we can set up a time to meet.

Doug Fondell- youthpastor@acparis.org, or Jodi Fondell - interimyouthpastor@acparis.org

We feel privileged to be called to serve at ACP. This experience (one month in) has already served as a gift to us. Thank you for placing your trust in us. We trust, hope, and pray that God will seek to use us as interim pastors for his grander, eternal purposes.
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 9 April 17h00
*The Atlantic Ensemble*
Wei Tsun CHANG – violin; Seanad Dunigan CHANG – viola; Kirsten Cassel GREER - cello

Sunday 23 April 17h00
*Raj BHIMANI – piano*
Maurice Ravel
Sonatine (1915)
Thérèse Brenet et Jean-Thierry Boisseau
Double Mixte (2015)
Maurice Ravel
Valses nobles et sentimentales (1911)
Johannes Brahms
Variations et Fugue sur un thème de Händel, Op. 24 (1861)

Sunday 30 April 17h00
*Robert CASSIDY – piano*
Les deux livres de
Préludes pour piano
de
Claude Debussy

A concert in support of
**Habitat for Humanity**

**Friday 19 May 2017 at 20h**
At the American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay 75007 Paris

**Johannes BRAHMS**
Liebeströder Walzer, Op. 52
This year marks the 500th anniversary of the religious schism that many view as the beginning of modern history.

The Ninety-five Theses or Disputation on the Power of Indulgences (Latin: *Disputatio pro declarazione virtutis indulgentiarum*) are a list of propositions for an academic disputation written in 1517 by Martin Luther, professor of moral theology at the University of Wittenberg, Germany, that started the Protestant Reformation. They advance Luther's positions against what he saw as abusive practices by preachers selling plenary indulgences, which were certificates believed to reduce the temporal punishment for sins committed by the purchasers themselves or their loved ones in purgatory.

In the Theses, Luther claimed that the repentance required by Christ in order for sins to be forgiven involves inner spiritual repentance rather than merely external sacramental confession. He argued that indulgences lead Christians to avoid true repentance and sorrow for sin, believing that they can forgo it by purchasing an indulgence.

They also, according to Luther, discourage Christians from giving to the poor and performing other acts of mercy, believing that indulgence certificates were more spiritually valuable. Though Luther claimed that his positions on indulgences accorded with those of the pope, the Theses challenge a 14th-century papal bull stating that the pope could use the treasury of merit and the good deeds of past saints to forgive temporal punishment for sins. The Theses are framed as propositions to be argued in debate rather than necessarily representing Luther's opinions, but Luther later clarified his views in the Explanations of the Disputation Concerning the Value of Indulgences.

Luther sent the Theses enclosed with a letter to Albert of Brandenburg, the Archbishop of Mainz, on 31 October 1517, a date now considered the start of the Protestant Reformation and commemorated annually as Reformation Day. Luther may have also posted the Theses on the door of All Saints' Church and other churches in Wittenberg in accordance with University custom on 31 October or in mid-November. The Theses were quickly reprinted, translated, and distributed throughout Germany and Europe.

They initiated a pamphlet war with indulgence preacher Johann Tetzel, which spread Luther's fame even further. Luther's ecclesiastical superiors had him tried for heresy, which culminated in his excommunication in 1521. Though the Theses were the start of the Protestant Reformation, Luther did not consider indulgences to be as important as other theological matters which would divide the church, such as justification by faith and the bondage of the will. His breakthrough on these issues would come later, and he did not see the writing of the Theses as the point at which his beliefs diverged from those of the Catholic Church.

The first thesis has become famous: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." In the first few theses Luther develops the idea of repentance as the Christian's inner struggle with sin rather than the external system of sacramental confession.

Theses 5–7 then state that the pope can only release people from the punishments he has administered himself or through the church's system of penance, not the guilt of sin. The pope can only announce God's forgiveness of the guilt of sin in his name.

In theses 14–29, Luther challenged common beliefs about purgatory. Theses 14–16 discuss the idea that the punishment of purgatory can be likened to the fear and despair felt by dying people. In theses 17–24 he asserts that nothing can be definitively said about the spiritual state of people in purgatory. He denies that the pope has any power over people in purgatory in theses 25 and 26.

Luther's theses were intended to begin a debate among academics, not a popular revolution, but there are indications that he saw his action as prophetic and significant. Around this time, he began using the name "Luther" and sometimes "Eleutherius," Greek for "free," rather than "Luder." This seems to refer to his being free from the scholastic theology which he had argued against earlier that year.

Editor's note: Most of this text was extracted from Wikipedia.
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris

By MaryClaire King

A selection of interesting events for Christians in and around Paris. All events are in French unless otherwise stated.

Time over space

Pope Francis has often called it an essential principle that time prevails over space. What does such a claim mean theologically and philosophically? The Holy Land has been lost several times by Israel; holy history will never be interrupted. Time is the place of human freedom and humility while space is the place of mastery, of possession. Yet time prevails over space, it does not cancel it.


Veneration of the Crown of Thorns

The crown of thorns worn by Christ in his Passion was brought to France by Louis XI in the 13th century, who built the Sainte-Chapelle to house it. Although many other locations claim to have relics from the crown of thorns, the relic held in France is considered to be authentic by Catholics. Either way, the relics are rarely on display, and their veneration is an ancient Christian practice.

Good Friday, 14 April, 10h-17h. Notre Dame de Paris. There will also be Stations of the Cross services at 12h30 and 15h.

Mois de la Photo

Wide Angle

The "Mois de la Photo" is reinventing itself by moving up to a springtime slot, and broadening its scope to encompass the entire “Grand Paris” metropolitan area. A series of “intense weekends” with the themes “North” (8-9 April), “South” (22-23 April) and “Diagonal” (29-30 April) will try to lend some focus. Much needed, since the festival boasts some 96 shows scattered across 32 municipalities, and ranging from seminal figures Doisneau and Cartier-Bresson to cutting-edge contemporary creation and a playful collective show celebrating "French Spirit, 1969-1989."

Throughout April, moisdelaphotodugrandparis.com
Happy hundredth, Ella!

Born on 25 April 1917 in Newport News, Virginia, Ella Fitzgerald went on to become the world’s best-loved jazz songstress. To commemorate this extraordinary musical heritage, the satin-voiced Donna Lorraine will hold an Ella-themed evening with legendary jazz pianist Alain Jean-Marie at the Sunside on 11 April. On the 25th, the close-harmony vocal trio Sweet System will bring an infectious new lilt to Ella tunes at Caveau de la Huchette (yes, the Paris club everyone heard about in the hit film “La La Land”), and at the Sunside on the 29th. Even the kiddies can get in on the act, at a special edition of the Sunset’s “Jazz & Goûter” matinée on 30 April, with Ella’s tunes sung by Josée Pascale Perrette, plus cake and candy to sweeten the deal.

11, 29 and 30 April, www.sunset-sunside.com

That crucial first Impression(ist)

This jewel of a show traces the long and prolific career of Camille Pissarro (1830-1903), the man Cézanne called “the first Impressionist.” Amidst his many stylistic forays it’s hard not to marvel at the striking points of intersection between Pissarro’s work and that of his younger, more noisily acclaimed colleagues. But above all the show is a gathering of some truly gorgeous scenes, colors, forms and brushwork, powerful impressions which overshadow the need to speculate on their author’s exact place within the development of the “ism.” At the end of the exhibit visitors are conveniently deposited into the superb Monet collection in the basement, all the better to admire the common threads connecting the two masters.


It’s in his “Kiss”

This colossal retrospective honors the larger-than-life talent of Auguste Rodin, who died 100 years ago, leaving behind a huge legacy of iconic sculpture in marble and bronze. The greatest hits are all here: the knotty and deeply absorbed “Thinker,” the tragic troop of “Burghers of Calais,” and of course the languid yet intense couple eternally poised in their world-famous “Kiss.” These icons and scores of less familiar but equally exquisite figures display the immediate energy and emotive detail that make Rodin’s work so compelling and so unforgettable.


No bull

Bizet's 1875 opera "Carmen" is the world’s most often-performed lyrical work, the tale of a gypsy girl who seduces a soldier to distract his attention from her smuggler pals, and whose love for a bullfighter ends tragically. Taking to the giant stage of the Opéra Bastille, this well-travelled 1999 production by Spanish director Calixto Bieito is iconoclastic to say the least. Miles away from the florid flounces of a conventional "Carmen," the stark sets are littered with automobiles and a telephone booth, and instead of the kitsch pageantry of a corrida, just a bleak roadside billboard forming the abstract silhouette of a bull. The singers however are top-rate, with superstar Roberto Alagna as the protagonist Don José for part of the run.


April event listings

By Karen Albrecht

Nobel gestures

This month sees the long-awaited opening of the huge music venue La Seine Musicale on the Ile Seguin. After much wrangling, the venue, with its 1,150-seat auditorium and a concert space for 4,000-6,000 fans, is finally ready for prime time. The inaugural concert on 21 April will feature musical legend and reluctant Nobel laureate Bob Dylan and his band. That will only be the start of an ambitious program of crowd-pleasing entertainment ranging from Herbie Hancock or the Alvin Ailey dance company to the hit musical "West Side Story."

21 April, www.laseinemusicale.com

©AFP/ Fred Tanneau

©Vincent Pontet/OnP

©Christian Baraja
ARE YOU LONGING FOR TIME WITH GOD?

Would you like to learn about a form of prayer that will open you up to experience the great love Christ has for you? Then join us for this year’s women’s retreat. First, you will learn about the history and purposes of labyrinth pathways and why the faithful have been walking the labyrinth for centuries. You will then be guided in various ways to use this spiritual tool yourself. There will be plenty of space and time for quiet and solitude, allowing you to experience this beautiful way of connecting with God... praying the labyrinth.

ACP Women’s Ministry

Build a circle of friendships. Help equip yourself to use your God-given gifts to serve your God, your family, your church and your community. Grow and rest in Christ.

To further these aims, we offer numerous Christ-centered groups and activities. As well as groups for women, there are numerous ways for women to serve.

Any and all women are welcome in the women’s ministry.

For more information on how to get involved, email women@acparis.org or visit the women’s ministry page on our website www.acparis.org.

We hope to see you! God bless!

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday 20 April, room G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand: The Lost City of Z, L’autre côté de l’espoir, A United Kingdom, The Eagle Huntress/La jeune fille et son aigle. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org
Discovering how Serve the City works

By Axel Krause

It was on a damp, chilly morning in late February that I rode my bike from the Alésia area of Paris to suburban Neuilly, for my first encounter with Serve the City (STC). This program was the primary, if not the only, reason I had joined the American Church in Paris a few weeks earlier.

I and some 20 others were - and are - hoping to do our small part in alleviating hunger among the city's many homeless and disconnected men and women, including asylum-seeking refugees from war-torn countries such as Afghanistan. As a longtime journalist in Paris, I had always seen them but had hardly ever encountered any “sans-bris” face-to-face.

The first stop on the morning's round was the Pret-à-Manger food chain restaurant near the Sablons métro stop. Our leader Tara Manning was already there, organizing today's distribution of available unsold sandwiches, salads, and the like, as other volunteers arrived. Soon, with our knapsacks and baskets filled, we split – some heading westward to the La Defense area, some to downtown Paris, on foot or by métro, a few of us on our bikes - with the goal to have our day's task completed well before noon.

With Tara in the lead, we quickly came across one of our first homeless: a young man, 20-ish, stepping out of his tent in a quiet, secluded corner of the Tuileries Gardens. Charles, gratefully taking sandwiches and salads, tells me he is from Côte d'Ivoire; unemployed, poor, he recognizes me from “Kiosque,” a French TV5 show, and says he is delighted to accept the food.

We arrive at the church, step into an overcrowded, spacious room filled with asylum-seekers, mainly from Africa. They patiently wait their turn at tables manned by volunteers from CIMADE, a non-profit association linked to French Protestants since the 1930s; it was active in the wartime, anti-Nazi resistance movement. Its volunteers are mainly retired lawyers and other French legal experts who help the needy to fill out the necessary papers required for them to remain legally in France.

We hand out our sandwiches and salads, and I converse with Ali, who tells me of his long, arduous journey from Afghanistan, leaving his family behind. He is in his 20s, lives with relatives in Mantes-la-Jolie, an hour's ride away on the RER, and hopes to learn French and remain here. “I hope to find work; many of us do not see London as our only destination... I admire your efforts and that of the Protestant church here,” he says.

Jim Hobbs, who with Jurie Ane Feleo helped establish STC, said “We have other programs, which include gathering and distributing clothes, toiletries, and the like.” But, he notes, the Pret-à-Manger contract was a successfully negotiated breakthrough.

An eye-opener for me was learning about Pret-à-Manger, which describes itself as a mix of restaurant, Italian café, and TGV train, serving “handmade natural” food. Founded in 1986 by two young British businessmen, today there is a total of some 350 outlets, mainly in the UK, but also in the US, Shanghai, and a dozen in France. Its uniqueness stems from its corporate policy of providing free unsold food every working day to charities and to our church for distribution to the homeless, adhering to a strict rule that all sandwiches be wrapped to insure hygiene and freshness.

A French social worker, accompanying a young refugee from war-torn Sudan to the CIMADE space, commented: “I am impressed by the quality of the food being offered here to the needy, and the almost unheard-of presence of an American lawyer in your midst...you don't see many if any French lawyers doing your work.”

Continued.../...
She was referring to our new leader and coordinator Salomon Kobongo-Kooper, born in the formerly Belgian-controlled Republic of the Congo, a graduate of McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and with wide experience in social work in New York City. He is taking over from Tara.

I asked him how his previous experience compares to the STC operation. “My past work was focused on enabling the organization to grow in capabilities and establish financial stability. What is different and special about STC is the ability to attend to people's prime need – hunger.”

What’s the future? “My top priority is to equip STC with the corresponding status that will enable us to widen our range of aid,” Salomon said. “That includes building communications, and developing and fostering relationships with our volunteers. People like to be asked for their service, and to feel valuable.”

For those considering a sign-up to volunteer for STC, a question may arise: Does age matter? As an active senior in relatively good shape, I would say that for anyone who enjoys walking, hiking, biking, or any other form of moderate outdoor exercise, not much more is required; except a will to pitch in. As Salomon rightly notes: “We need to do our part, and God will do his part.”

Axel Krause is the Paris-based contributing editor of TransAtlantic Magazine, based in Washington. For decades he was variously correspondent, bureau chief and editor in Paris, Moscow and Washington for Business Week, and the International Herald Tribune. He is author of Inside the New Europe (Harper Collins).

What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 3 and 17 April. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

We’re at 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante, and we broadcast especially for friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? All our shows are downloaded within 48 hours to our website, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith Talk from Paris – it’s a kind of souvenir that never gets old.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.

Would you like to organize Bloom Where You’re Planted this year?

Planning will begin soon for the 2017 event. If you are interested in taking lead or helping out, please contact Pastor Tim at associatepastor@acparis.org.
To hear Kim Herr tell it, running the Paris Marathon isn’t quite as bad as when Pheidippides trotted to Athens with good news 2,507 years ago.

She only feels like she’s going to die at the end.

Kim, wife of Senior Pastor Scott Herr, has finished eight marathons, including three in Paris, in 2011, 2012 and 2014. She’s even qualified for the granddaddy of them all, Boston, where she broke four hours by a minute in 2006.

When the starting gun goes off for the 41st Paris Marathon shortly after 8h00 on Sunday, 9 April, more than 50,000 runners from 160 countries will feel what Kim describes as an exhilarating opening mile down the Champs Élysées and into Place de la Concorde.

The route east this year continues down Rue de Rivoli, past the Place de la Bastille and into Bois de Vincennes. Then runners exit the park westward and return to Bastille before heading for the banks of the Seine, where they pass Île de la Cité, the Louvre, and the Tour Eiffel before hitting Bois de Boulogne and finishing on Avenue Foch, the Arc de Triomphe in their sights.

That’s exclusively a Right Bank route, stretching east-west across the entire city. As ACP is on the Left Bank, no matter what service you attend that Sunday, if you live north of the river your surface transportation will run into a roadblock, so you should plan an alternative way to church.

Kim won’t race in the Paris Marathon this year after she quit running for a while because of knee pain, but she would love to do it again. She began running in the mountains around Zurich in her mid-30s, when her husband was a pastor in Switzerland and she needed to get out of the house to think in solitude. Running or marathoning isn’t necessarily only a young person’s sport. The average age of competitors in Paris last year was 41 years old ( and 25% female).

Kim ran her first marathon in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2004, when her husband pastored First Presbyterian Church there. Following a three-month regimen outlined in a book, she built up to 60 miles a week and a 22-mile run. She would rise before dawn for three-hour training runs and be home to fix the family breakfast.

She ran another marathon in Denver trying to qualify for Boston, then qualified in Portland, Oregon, with the help of an angel pacер, a family friend who appeared at Mile 17 and encouraged her all the way to Mile 26 when she had given up. Turns out it was her best time ever: three hours, 49 minutes. For those scoring at home, that’s an average pace of 8 minutes and 45 seconds a mile, for 26.2 miles.

The “guide” gave the race a spiritual feel. “It was a reminder that in our life journeys, when we are struggling with challenges that seem too large or difficult and we are ready to give up, Christ is there running the race with us, offering words of encouragement and giving us the strength we need to persevere,” Kim explained.

Though Kim loves the scenery in the first two-thirds of the Paris race, when she hits the wall at 17-18 miles (just after passing ACP on the other side of the river), “then it’s not fun anymore.” In fact, when her kids came out to support her in 2014, she told them at the finish not to let her ever run another marathon. Yet here she is, wanting another shot, separated for the moment by the pain.

“It’s totally a mental challenge,” Kim said of persevering through “the wall.”

That 2014 race featured four ACP runners – Kim, Michelle Wahila, Megan Staley and Mark Primmer – who trained together and encouraged each other.

A marathon is spiritual in another way for Kim. With the 42 kilometers marked along the route, Kim dedicates each kilometer to one person she prays for in that stretch, starting with family and progressing to others who come to mind.

One of those loved ones, Pastor Scott, was a source of great inspiration on a hot April day in 2011. He appeared all along the route playing his trumpet to her, hurrying from place to place on his bicycle.
Preparing for new ways

By Michael Beeman

Foreign correspondent in Jordan

Last month marked six years since protests in Daraa in southern Syria turned violent and spiraled into what is now a conflict that has forced almost 12 million to flee their homes — that is about six times the population of Paris. In April the European Commission is hosting a conference in Brussels to further assess how best to address and respond to this crisis, as a follow-up to last year’s conference in London. And amid all of this (and other headlines that are all too distracting), the church finds itself in Lent. From where I am sitting, I couldn’t be more thankful for the space in times like these to prepare for Resurrection Sunday.

In this season, I am wondering what more we can do and how differently we can assist those in need. In my role, I am continually seeking out those new ways. Recently, my focus has been on job opportunities for Syrian and Jordanian youth who have missed out on experience because of the conflict or simply because of a lack of opportunities in the market.

People are often surprised to learn that a lot of our support goes to Jordanians, as well. But it is important to keep in mind that the 2008 financial crisis hurt the Jordanian job market even before the Syrian refugee crisis would bring another 1.2 million individuals into Jordan (a 10% increase in population). Assistance to vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees (among other vulnerable groups) means that harm is not being done to one community because of the needs of another. In 2017, much of the humanitarian community aims to help bring sustainable and safe job opportunities to those looking for work.

At the same time, we have been focusing on the simple fact that the infrastructure in Jordan, especially water infrastructure, was not designed for such an influx in population in a short period. Jordan is one of the most water-insecure countries in the world. And while water conservation is the norm, we are wondering what other cost-effective means there are to conserving water and reducing overall cost of living for the most vulnerable groups. This is why we are exploring ways to introduce wastewater treatment systems and solar-powered water heaters in households in Jordan. Doing so means that families have water (that would have otherwise been wasted) to water their garden, for example, and the cost of heating that water (or simply the cost of getting water) is reduced. It is not an easy approach, but the number of individuals and institutions invested in creative ideas gives me hope that families will have access to alternatives that help save money which can in turn be spent on other priorities, like food and education.

And so, while we navigate the Lenten labyrinth with sometimes-dubious signs to lead us awry, I pray that our focus remains on God who is unwavering in His love not only for you and me but also for the refugees wherever they might be and wherever they come from. “For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body — whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink,” Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:13. As you close your Lenten journey, please pray for the many humanitarians, diplomats, public servants, and entrepreneurs who are working together as “one body” to find ways to restore and maintain a dignified way of life for the refugees in Jordan and elsewhere.

Did you know you can follow the American Church in Paris on social media?

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
ACP’s ties with the French Prison Chaplaincy continue to grow as the Regional Protestant Chaplain for the Paris prisons, Félicien Mas Miangu, and his wife Sarah paid a visit to Pastor Scott and myself last month to get acquainted and talk about next steps together.

When in Paris, do as the Parisians, so what better way to get acquainted than to go to lunch together! The conversation ranged from Scott’s experiences in jails in Colorado, to the conditions in French prisons and what brought Mas to his current role as the Regional Chaplain over the 35 Protestant chaplains in the Paris area.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mas since last summer, accompanying him to the worship services at one of the men’s prisons. With his 14 years of experience, he has much to share and gladly answers all my questions.

Mas has been invited to address the congregation during a Minute for Mission at the worship services on 30 April, and will be available to answer questions during the coffee hours. If you’re interested in prison ministry, please come by and talk with us!

**Christian books**

ACP’s Paris Prison Ministry is taking Christian book donations for women and men prisoners in all languages (French, English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Polish...) If you have any good, solid Christian reading material to help the prisoners grow in Christ, please leave it at the front reception desk, along with your name and phone number in case we have any questions on the language or content. A big Thank You from the prisoners.

**Prayer group**

A monthly prayer group will be forming this spring to pray for ACP’s prison ministries both in France and in Ghana. There are many subjects that need our prayers to spread the light of the Gospel. Would you like to join us? If so, please contact Carolyn at prisonministry@acparis.org

**Brief update: Renovations for the lift**

The property committee has finalized the project and obtained the green light to proceed with the construction of the handicapped access for the church. We held a meeting on 30 March to finalize all details with the different suppliers, with a starting date of 3 April for the masonry work.

We will take advantage of the school holidays to do the main work on the project. It will take about eight weeks for the platform to be completed and we are planning to install the lift in early July when the school holidays start. - Daniel Grout, property committee
Annual ACP spring retreat for adults
16-18 June

Companions on the Inner Way

On 16 June we will be returning to the Abbaye-Fleury, a historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. The theme of the retreat will be “Companions on the Inner Way,” and will be led by Visiting Pastor Jeff Powell and Alba Powell. The retreat will explore how we as a community of Christ-followers share in the daily rhythm of life that is immersed in prayer, Bible reading and reflection, and spiritual fellowship.

The primary focus of the retreat will be restorative and contemplative, in keeping with the Monastery's stated purpose: The monastery welcomes those in search of silence to recover in the presence of God, find themselves, listen to God’s words, living in the community and at their own pace, in a climate of recollection. All will be encouraged to take part in the daily prayer “Offices” of the monks of the Abbaye.

There will also be some optional time for shared reflection, scheduled so as not to conflict with the services of the Abbaye, and to allow ample free time. The cost is 115€ per person for those making reservations by the 31 May deadline. The retreat is limited to a maximum of 36 people, with 12 single rooms and 12 rooms with two beds. If there is space available after 31 May, the cost will be 125€. This includes two nights’ lodging and six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch).

For further information, contact Sue Orsoni at susanorsoni@gmail.com, visit the sign-up table in the Theater during coffee hour after services, or see the ACP website for updated information.

Women’s monthly Saturday Fellowship

Come and fellowship in the Spirit! One Saturday a month, all sisters in Christ are welcome to join this potluck gathering. All you need to do is show up -- no fee, no registration. We hope to see you! For more information, please contact Elodie Mbette at elodieruth@aol.com.

Saturday 15 April 14h-17h, G1: The importance of compliments
Saturday 13 May 14h-17h, G2: The importance of love letters
Saturday 17 June 14h-17h, G2: Sisterhood and female friendship

Women's monthly Saturday Bible Study

Once a month Elodie Mbette will lead a Bible study with the theme “Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on love” based on 1 Corinthians 13. Come join us! For more information, please contact Elodie Mbette at elodieruth@aol.com.

Saturday 29 April 15h-17h, room G2
Saturday 27 May 15h-17h
Saturday 24 June 15h-17h
French language classes

French classes are held on (most) Saturdays at ACP, from 17h to 18h30. They are taught by two native French speakers, Francois and Yasmina.

The class is intended for beginners who are committed to learning French. In addition to class attendance, personal effort and engagement are required. Attendance is limited to 20. The sign-up fee is €30, and a book purchase is necessary. There is no age or nationality restriction.

If you are here for several years, or if you want to obtain working papers, a knowledge of French will be required. Think of shopping, visits to City Hall or the Prefecture, hospitals, schooling for your children, employment.

We cannot stress too much that learning a new language requires significant work. There is no such thing as “French made easy.” Therefore, consider carefully if you are ready to make that commitment. Weekly attendance is a requirement and ongoing progress is expected.

If you are interested, send your personal data (name, address, phone, nationality) to fkpierre@gmail.com.

Vermeer at the Louvre

By Karen Marin

This spring the Louvre plays host to "Up close with Vermeer, Masters of Genre Painting" and it is the hottest ticket in town. Even members need to reserve a time slot so if this exhibit is interesting to you, book online now!

Vermeer is nicknamed the "Sphinx of Delft," because of his reputation of being inaccessible and solitary. His paintings often depict a sole individual, perhaps performing a daily task, like "The Milkmaid," or someone who is deeply absorbed in a solitary activity such as "The Lacemaker." His works show focus, contemplation, and reflection. He is a master of light and detail: Witness the golden-handled powder brush, the ginger jar, the ermine trim, and the hair ribbon in "Young Girl with Pearl Necklace." This same girl - or at least her yellow coat - reappear in "The Letter Interrupted." Soft light falls on the young woman's face as she gazes up from the letter she is writing. Has someone come into the room, or is she lost in thought? There is more to the story than what we see in the painting, and this is true of all of the paintings in the exhibit.

Vermeer produced roughly 40 paintings in his lifetime and about a third of his works are on show here.

Arranged thematically along with many of his contemporaries, it is striking to note the predominance of the female figure in these works. Women are in the limelight; if a man shares the space, he is often in shadow or his presence is simply suggested. Consider the series of music lessons where a woman is playing the instrument and a male teacher is in the background, or perhaps he isn't there but the instrument is. Did he just leave or is he expected? Again, it leaves the viewer to ponder.

Men do play a prominent role in the series of paintings portraying scholars, but Vermeer puts a twist on this genre. While his contemporaries paint the solitary scholar in candlelight, immersed in study, Vermeer puts both his "Astronomer" and his "Geographer" in light-filled studios, surrounded by maps, globes, and books. A compass in hand, rich tapestries on the table, there is no lack of detail. The use of light could be an allegorical reference to the Age of Enlightenment.

Although Vermeer is the main draw, do make time to see Valentin de Boulogne, a contemporary of Caravaggio, also in the Hall Napoleon. Or, if you haven't had your fill of Dutch art, wander up to the Leiden Collection, which includes several masterpieces by Rembrandt.

All collections through 22 May, at the Louvre www.louvre.fr/en
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 2 Apr</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann, <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>The Carillon Choir of University Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 3 Apr</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
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<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 7 Apr</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel, fridaymissionlunch @acparis.org</td>
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<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 help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ThirtyPlus Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 7 Apr</td>
<td>From 20h</td>
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<td>Daphne, <a href="mailto:30plusfellowship@acparis.org">30plusfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writers Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 8 Apr</td>
<td>14h30-16h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu, <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concert – The Choir of Our Savior's Church</strong>, Copenhagen, Denmark, presents the “Missa St. Caeciliae” by Sven Erik Werner**</td>
<td>Saturday 8 Apr</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann, <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Festival of Cultures</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 8 Apr</td>
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<td>Sorry: REGISTRATION CLOSED – EVENT IS FULL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Palm/Passion Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 9 Apr</td>
<td>9h</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional Service with communion: 9h, Traditional Service: 11h, Contemporary Service: 13h30</td>
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<td>11h</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Atlantic Ensemble</td>
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<td>Wei Tsun CHANG – violin; Seanad Dunigan CHANG – viola; Kirsten Cassel GREER - cello</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Week Services</strong></td>
<td>10-14 Apr</td>
<td>19h</td>
<td></td>
<td>Elodie Mbette, <a href="mailto:elodieruth@aol.com">elodieruth@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Holden Evening Prayer Service</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>19h</td>
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<td>Holden Evening Prayer Service</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Holden Evening Prayer Service</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Maundy Thursday Service with communion: 20h</td>
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<td>20h</td>
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<td>Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 20h</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Saturday Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 15 Apr</td>
<td>14h-17h</td>
<td>G1</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette, <a href="mailto:elodieruth@aol.com">elodieruth@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>All women are invited to this time of fellowship and a discussion on “the importance of compliments.” There will be a potluck meal, bring a dish to share.</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 16 Apr</td>
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<td>Sunrise Service on the quai d’Orsay</td>
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<td>Easter Fellowship Breakfast in Thurber Room</td>
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<td>9h &amp; 11h</td>
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<td>Traditional Celebration of the Resurrection</td>
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<td>Contemporary Celebration of the Resurrection</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Monday, Lundi Paques</strong></td>
<td>Monday 17 Apr</td>
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<td>Church building closed for public holiday.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 17 Apr</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 20 Apr</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>This month’s movie listings: The Lost City of Z, L’autre côté de l'espoir, A United Kingdom, The Eagle Huntress/La jeune fille et son aigle. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for</td>
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<td><strong>Women’s Retreat – Praying the Labyrinth led by Jill Geoffrion</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 22 Apr</td>
<td>10h-17h</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>All women are welcome to come, share fellowship, learn about praying the labyrinth, and have some quiet time with God.</td>
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<td><strong>Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp preaches at ACP</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 23 Apr</td>
<td>9h, 11h, 13h30 Services</td>
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<td>The Rev. Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp is Interim Head of Staff at</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert Free admission, with free-will offering</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 23 Apr</td>
<td>17h Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Raj BHIMANI – piano</td>
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<td><strong>Thurber Lecture – Chip Dobbs-Allsopp</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 27 Apr</td>
<td>19h Dinner; 19h45 Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Shalom and Hebrew Poetry Dr. Dobbs-Allsopp is professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary.</td>
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<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 28 Apr</td>
<td>20h Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss multicultural @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
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<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Saturday Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 29 Apr</td>
<td>15h-17h G2</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette <a href="mailto:elodieruth@aol.com">elodieruth@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Once a month Elodie Mbette leads a Bible study with the theme “Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on love” based on 1 Corinthians 13.</td>
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<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 30 Apr</td>
<td>12h15 Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:membership@acparis.org">membership@acparis.org</a>.</td>
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<td>If you are interested in in becoming a member of the American Church, please attend this orientation class. RSVP: <a href="mailto:membership@acparis.org">membership@acparis.org</a>.</td>
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<td>Robert CASSIDY – piano</td>
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**CHURCH ACCOUNTANT POSITION AVAILABLE**

The American Church in Paris seeks a person to fill the full-time position of church accountant. The job description can be found on our website. Please submit your CV no later than Sunday 9 April 2017 to secretary@acparis.org or to Executive Secretary, The American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris.

*Please help recycle this publication. When you’re through reading it, instead of tossing it in the bin, return it to the Welcome desk.*
Celebrating Holy Week and Easter at ACP

Palm/Passion Sunday, 9 April

Three worship services, at 9h00, 11h00, and 13h30

Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 10-12 April

Holden Evening Prayer Services at 19h00. The Holden Evening Prayer is a lovely setting of vespers, following the traditional form and using contemporary and inclusive language.

Maundy Thursday, 13 April

Worship service at 20h00 with communion and optional foot-washing. In this service we reflect upon the evening of the Last Supper.

Good Friday, 14 April

Tenebrae "shadows" worship service at 20h00. During the service you will hear portions of the Passion narrative from the Gospels as we move towards darkness and silence. Special music provided by Ensemble Lumina.

Easter Sunday, 16 April

Sunrise Service at 7h00 in the park on the quai d’Orsay in front of the ACP
Easter Fellowship Breakfast at 8h00 in the Thurber Room
Traditional celebrations of the Resurrection at 9h00 and 11h00
Contemporary celebration of the Resurrection at 13h30

Nursery and toddler care provided at 9h00, 11h00, and 13h30.
Children’s worship is held at 11h00 and 13h30.

Note: Attendance at the Easter morning service at 11h00 always exceeds church capacity.
If you look forward to worshipping at the traditional service, please consider attending at 9h00.