Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Although many of you are familiar with the American Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), I would like to take this opportunity to share a bit more about this important organization. We will be hosting the AFCU board’s annual meetings over the weekend of 12-14 April as well as celebrating the completion of the Faith Into Action Campaign we accomplished in partnership with the AFCU on Sunday, April 14th.

The AFCU was formed in 1849 through the merging of three major Protestant missionary societies (The American Protestant Society, the Foreign Evangelical Society, and The Christian Alliance) and by 1860 had grown to support 73 workers in the U.S who helped to support 212 foreign workers. As most of the major Protestant denominations established their own mission boards in the late 19th century, the AFCU was reduced to focusing support solely on the American Church in Paris, which it had helped to found in 1857. The AFCU received the original charter for the ACP from the government of Napoleon III to support a small group of Americans who had been meeting in the Oratoire’s Upper Room since 1814. The AFCU funded the construction of the first church building and selected and provided for its ministry. The AFCU helped to support the purchase in 1926 of the quai d’Orsay property and supported the building of the current ACP facilities that were completed in 1931.

The AFCU also supports the ministries of the American Church in Berlin and the Vienna Community Church and the board is made up from alumni from all three communities. The current mission of the AFCU is: “...to support the International, English speaking, ecumenical churches whose ministries bear witness to Jesus Christ. In partnership with our member churches, we will strive to develop and manage a strong financial base to further their programs. We will nurture and strengthen our alumni ties and lend support to the pastors, leadership and members of these churches through our care and prayers.”

More recently, the ACP and AFCU partnered in a capital campaign fund called Faith Into Action. The campaign was initiated in 2007 and was completed in December of 2012, with over 3.7 million U.S. dollars raised to pay for needed renovations of the facilities of the ACP. The FIA Donor Board on the east wall of the Narthex highlights the names of various individuals, families and fellowship groups who made generous contributions to the campaign. Please see an article by Bill Johnston in this issue that lists the various Faith Into Action projects and shows pictures of some of the more significant accomplishments of the campaign. We will be taking the opportunity of the AFCU board’s meetings here in Paris as an occasion to say thank you to God and our partners and celebrate together the success of this campaign in worship on Sunday, 14 April. Please plan to come and celebrate with us God’s faithfulness which has resulted in significant renovations that have translated into direct growth in ministry and mission for our congregation!

As we are entering into our 156th year of ministry and mission as an officially chartered congregation here in Paris, I give thanks to God for His faithfulness “from generation to generation,” and to the many men and women who have supported our ministry for sometimes decades after they have left Paris. Truly, God's grace is revealed through their faithful prayer and financial support. I invite you to join me in welcoming our special guests from the AFCU, and celebrating and giving thanks together in worship. In the meantime, grace and peace to each of you in this Eastertide,

In Christ,

Thoughts from The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr Senior Pastor April, 2013

This information is taken from the AFCU website, referenced 21 March 2013: http://www.afcubridge.org/About%20AFCU%202.htm.
Dear Friends,

The Easter season is upon us! As we bear witness to Christ’s resurrection during this Easter season, we are blessed with the opportunity to worship, grow fellowship and engage in mission. Just as the earth is rejuvenating itself, and we begin to see green again, the resurrection invites us into “spiritual spring.”

Spring brings newness. This time of year, I love to open my windows to let the new fresh air into our home. I enjoy the refreshment of the new cool air circulating throughout our house. The budding green of the outdoors seems to restore my soul from winter’s weariness. It’s as if I can feel the Lord leading me toward the green sprouting pasture, “He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters”, “He refreshes my soul....”

The spring is also a time for gleaning and cleaning. I (generally) embark upon a major “spring cleaning” of my house, office and life in the spring! The cleaning serves to refresh my soul in a different way. It unclutters, cleanses and somehow prepares me to begin anew, allowing me to welcome spring and Easter with a renewed perspective of God’s ability to restore and sustain humanity, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me....”

I pray that this Easter season you may find, in your own ways, the green that rejuvenates your soul and a heart that is filled with the restoration of God’s grace. Happy Easter. Happy Spring. He is risen! Indeed.

Bénédictions,

Michelle
Thoughts from  
Rev. Dan Haugh  
Director of Youth  
and Young Adults  
Ministries  

The story continues.....

It is no surprise to me that immediately following Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, we need a break. Much energy is used throughout Holy Week during passionate worship and inspirational services. We conclude a 40-day Lenten journey leading towards the cross and then finally....Resurrection Sunday! Church attendance soars to record highs and everyone dresses in their best and brightest.

As with any good story there is a great narrative, including a hero, protagonists and crisis which lead towards the climax. Whilst from a theological perspective, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ is truly climatic, the real story only begins at Easter! As the old cliché phrases it....“the best is yet to come.”

Sadly, so many people attend church only for Easter and then fail to hear about the miraculous and life-changing stories that take place because of Easter. The Church calendar may use a slight misnomer in calling the Sundays following Easter “Ordinary Time,” for these events are anything but ordinary. It is in these weeks and stories that we discover:

- a walk to Emmaus when the truth of Scripture was revealed to two of Jesus’ disciples.
- a table sharing a common meal when some of Jesus’ followers witnessed the transforming presence of the resurrected Christ.
- the excitement and alarm of experiencing a miraculous catch of fish that gave hope to a disillusioned group of fisherman.
- the group of women whom Jesus first appeared to, who recognized his voice and shared the Good News, validating their voice in God’s story in the midst of a patriarchal society.
- Jesus walking through a locked door to a group of isolated, confused, frightened followers that calmed fearful hearts.
- Jesus meeting doubt head on and offering himself which turned a skeptic into a future martyr.

These stories are about doubt and faith, hope and fear, miracles in the midst of the mundane. We experience Jesus in the common meal and our eyes are opened to the truth of the prophecies now personified in real presence.

It is within these post-Easter stories that the followers of Jesus become disciples and finally understand the mission and vision. The Church is formed and the Holy Spirit released. Perhaps churches should be more full the Sundays after Easter!

May we all remain amazed at the new life offered in Christ's resurrection and bask in the afterglow of resurrection Sunday but may we also have eyes to see the transforming power and presence of Christ in the here and now. Like Christ’s first disciples, may we embrace and embody the Living Lord in such a way that others take notice and the world gets turned upside down. May we remember together that when the feasts and festivities conclude...the story continues!

In Christ,
Dan Haugh
ACP Today: Faith Talk From Paris

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Monday 1 and 15 April at 20h45. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune to 100.7 FM on the radio dial, Radio Fréquence Protestante! And please invite others to listen—friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Missed a show? Don’t worry, you can catch up online at www.acparis.org/acptoday.

If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.

Bloom Where You’re Planted

Would you like to be part of the Planning Team for the 2013 Bloom Where You’re Planted orientation program being held on Saturday, 5 October? Please join us on Sunday, 14 April from 12h30 to 13h30 in the ACP Library to learn more about the program and how you can be involved. We have a number of committees such as Speakers, Organizations, Registration, Food, Publicity, Children’s Program, Decorating, etc. where we could use your skills and talents. It is a great way to offer hospitality and a warm welcome to those who are just arriving in Paris. If you have any questions, contact Kim at bloom@acparis.org. Hope to see you on 14 April.

Women’s Ministry Monthly Gathering

This month we are meeting on Sunday, 7 April from 12h30 to 13h30 in the ACP 2nd Floor Library.

ACP’s Associate Pastor, Michelle Wahila will speak about her mission work in Haiti and the impact that experience had on her life. This is a great way to meet other women in the church and get to know a bit more about Michelle. Hope you can join us

Contact Kim Herr at women@acparis.org for more information.

Painting with the Spirit

A second art class with Monica Basset-Montoliou will be offered on 27 April to the ACP congregation as well as serving as an outreach activity. For more information, please contact Camilla Furman at communitylife@paris.org.
All great artists throughout history have felt a connection with Spirit on a very deep level. Painter Jackson Pollack said, “The painting has a life of its own, I try to let it come through”. This is essentially the definition of painting with the spirit. It’s about allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in a creative direction by being a channel.

My Lenten journey brought me to lead ten participants at the first Painting with the Spirit workshop on 2 March in the Thurber Room. Being a professional painter myself for the past 18 years, I sought to share my love of painting and creating as well as to speak about my own path which has led me to believe that creativity is a spiritual practice. With a minimum of technique, we can listen to our own inner voice and allow amazing, authentic art to flow through us.

Most of us spent hours playing and experimenting with our creative side as children but somehow we have got cut off from this activity as adults because of various reasons, like the drive to obtain an education or to earn a good living. Our society also feeds us the message that we must be a multi-tasking, productive and efficient person, which is the exact opposite of the creative process. This creative approach is rather a process of letting go and not of control, of showing up in the studio without expectations of any kind at all. If God made us in his image, we are indeed very creative beings. I trust this idea. In Bali, the same word means both “human” and “artist” and making art is part of everyday life as much as planting rice. It’s really as simple as that if we are open to the mystery and miracle of the experience.

The Saturday afternoon painting class was an amazing testimony to these beliefs. Just setting aside three hours to paint is a small act of faith! Watching ten people tap into their creative energy flow is also a powerful reminder that our creativity is our gift from God and our use of it is our gift to God. As each participant followed their own, unique urge, wonderful work was born from the workshop. Not only is it about the resulting art but it is also about using the practice as a way to nurture and love the creative soul inside us.

Focusing on enjoying the process of being a creative channel and surrendering the need to control the outcome takes the pressure off of the end result. The process and not the product is really what are important in this way of creating. As is in life, it is the voyage and not the destination that molds us into truly loving, creative and compassionate people. God’s grace was present with us during the workshop that day as is usually the case when we are willing, ready and open to receive the gifts the Holy Spirit has to offer.

Another class will be offered on 27 April to the ACP congregation as well as serving as an outreach activity. For more information, please contact Camilla Furman at communitylife@paris.org

For more information about my work and painting with the spirit, you may enjoy the YouTube video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTlA8aof44g or Google: Monica Bassett interview youtube.
From Your Council ~ What’s Going On!

Thoughts from Your
Moderator and Vice Moderator
Radford Laney and Pamela Bohl

On Sunday, 17 March the ACP held the first semi-annual congregational meeting of 2013. During this meeting the congregation received the 2013 Annual Reports from the Pastors, Council Committees and the AFCU. In addition, the congregation approved the 2012 financial results (on which our auditors had issued their unqualified opinion), the reserve transfers and the 2013 budget. This was really a celebration of what God has done this last year and our ambitions for 2013. In reviewing these reports and the amazing range of ministries we know that we are blessed. We are blessed to have such dedicated committee chairs and volunteers, pastoral leadership and staff at the ACP.

What should not go unnoticed is the tremendous congregational commitment. We had a record turnout of 75 members present and 66 validated proxies; or 141 members represented at the meeting. We think the real blessing here is you; the congregation and friends of the ACP. It is your faithful prayers, presence, gifts and service that make the ACP such a wonderful place to worship and to enjoy fellowship together.

Thank you,
Radford Laney and Pam Bohl
Children’s Worship

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to them" Luke 18:16

SAVE THE DATE:  End of Year Family Party for Children's Worship, 9 June from 12h00 to 13h30.

Please find below, the April calendar stories and scripture readings for family review:

**3-8 year old children - Godly Play program**

14 April, *Jesus and the Storm* (Mark 4:35-41)
28 April, *School Break*

**9-10 year olds - ROOTED program**

14 April, *Jesus Talks About Good Seed* (Matthew 13:1-23)
21 April, *Jesus Sends Out the Disciples* (Mark 6:7-13)
28 April, *School Break*

For more information please contact Jeanette at childrensworship@acparis.org

**Mission Outreach**

**The Living Truth Foundation: Elmina, Ghana**

Francis Cobbinah and his wife Anna, a former member of the American Church in Paris, evangelize in prisons, hospital and schools, preaching and conducting bible study classes in Elmina Ghana.

In 2012 Francis’s ministry expanded to include Ghana’s new security prison. Some of the prisoners attend classes and bible study regularly throughout the year and since 2012, Francis has organized a graduation ceremony which takes place in March. Some members of ACP were able to go and support him over the last few years. Anna, his wife, is a great support for Francis and comes with him to help the prisoners in their hard prison life and brings them some food when she can.

The Mission Outreach Committee is happy to be able to support Francis in his mission work as he introduces the Word of God into the prison with care and love.

*By Daniel Grout*
Worship and Music
Anna Zweede and Chad DuBose

The Weekly Atelier Concert Series

17h00, free admission (with free-will offering)

7 April Piano Recital
Rah Bhimani, (piano)

14 April Violin Recital
Véronique Davario (violin) and Philippe Tamborini (piano)

21 April Piano Recital
Kyden Creekpaum (piano)

28 April Piano Recital
Biruté Vainiunaite (piano)

For more information on the concert programmes, please visit our website

Special Concerts in April

6 April Jubilee Concert (20h00)
The ACP Youth Music Program welcomes Voices Coeur International and student vocal ensemble Rendezvous, directed by Bonnie Woolley
Free admission

12 April Habitat for Humanity Concert
See page 19 for more information

13 April Association Symphonique de Paris (20h00)
Featuring Dvorak’s ‘New World’ Symphony
Directed by Franck Chastrusse Colombier

20 April ACP Choir Concert (20h00)
Join us as The American Church Choir and The Choir Lux Perpetua sing “La Petite Messe Solennelle” by Rossini.
Soloists: Caroline Drury, Rebecca Tepfer, John Bernard, Philip James Glenister
Pianos: Laurana Mitchelmore, Debra Takakjian
Harmonium: Nathalia Romanenko
Free admission
Christian Education
Anne Speicher and Lori Kolodziejczak

A Call to Live—Small Group Studies
To further the aim of widespread participation in Christian education, small groups are being organized throughout the city, on different days and times at individual homes or at the church. The groups combine Bible study, community, and everyday application. To join a group, please contact the leaders directly.

**Wednesday Evening Supper Club**, led by Camilla Furman, meets at an Indian vegetarian Restaurant near UNESCO with discussion about Mark Labberton’s book *The Dangerous Act of Worship* over dinner. communitylife@acparis.org

**Couples Study**, meets twice a month in Versailles with Angela and Dominique Grelet

**Saturday Morning Brunch Circle** led by Felicia Henderson.

**Sunday Afternoon Tea Study**, twice a month, led by Pamela and Jim Leavy

**Small Prayer Group**, led by Ariel Brown, meets on Sundays from 15h30 to 17h00 in the Library and is studying *1 John* using materials provided by Community Bible Study International.

Would you consider being a Group Leader?
If you would like to be a group leader, please contact Anne at christianeducation@acparis.org or Pastor Wahila at associatepastor@acparis.org
All group leaders will be given a short training by Pastor Wahila.

**ACP Filipino Fellowship Bible** study on Sundays at 14h00 in the Thurber Room. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

**AFACP Bible Study** meets on Sundays in G7 at 12h45 (Please note, there is no Bible study on the first Sunday of the month)

**ACP Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study** will be continuing our study of Hebrews. The study runs from 10h30 to 12h30 every Tuesday morning, except during school holidays, in the catacombs of the church building. Childcare is available for a minimal fee. For more information please contact Jennifer Jourlait.
April Thurber Thursday Lectures

Thurber Thursdays is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all. We share a meal at 18h30 and the evening program begins at 19h30.

On 4 April Julie Canlis will be discussing Above all else, to thine own self be true: Christian Identity and the Authenticity Hoax. On 11 April we welcome Elizabeth Milovidov to talk about Children’s Rights and on 18 April Valerie Michaelson will be our guest speaker.

*Please note, there is no Thurber Thursday on 25 April

ACP Men’s Group

Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information, address, and door codes, or in being added to our e-mail list, should contact Ed Hyslip.

Annual Spring Retreat For Adults: 7-9 June

ACP’s annual Spring Retreat for adults will take place the weekend of 7-9 June 2013. We will be returning to the Abbaye-Fleury, an historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. The theme of the meeting will be “Centering Prayer at the Wellspring” to be led by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault. Rev. Bourgeault is a contemplative herself, an Episcopalian priest, a former student and colleague of Father Thomas Keating, and an internationally known author and retreat leader. As further preparation it is recommended to read Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening by Rev. Bourgeault.

Our program will begin with supper Friday evening, and end after lunch on Sunday. It will include discussion, meditation and prayer time, perhaps a question period with a monk, and some free time to relax. A very special opportunity we have is the option for each of us to attend any or all of the six daily offices with the monks. This is an environment conducive to a silent retreat for any who wish. The cost will be 100€ per person (exclusive of transportation), with an early registration fee of 85€ if payment is received prior to 15 April.

PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 24. If you wish to go on this retreat, please let Sue Orsoni know as soon as possible to make a formal reservation. If you have any questions, please contact Sue, as above.

Young Professionals

Are you between 25 and 39 years old? Experiencing the corporate world in Paris and surrounding areas? Then come and share your experiences with us on Wednesdays in the Catacombs from 19h30 to 21h30.

April’s topic will be “God at work”.

For more information, please go to the ACP website www.acparis.org/yp or join our Facebook group ACP Young Professionals.
Keeping up with Patti!
At Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, built in 2003, is home and school to orphans and local children. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her) contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

The Old Shall Pass Away

Writing an essay about an incident that changed your life would be a daunting prospect for any student. The twelve-year-old sixth graders at Rafiki Uganda took the assignment very seriously, going through all the steps of thinking, planning, writing their lead, thesis statement, the body and finally the conclusion. The “moments of truth” quoted below shone through the essays and warmed their teacher’s heart.

“Before, I lived lonely and had no one to help me. Then two Americans came...and asked me, ‘Would you want to come to Rafiki?’ I said, ‘What is Rafiki?’ They exclaimed, ‘Rafiki means friend.’ I knew the word friend so I said, ‘Yes!’ I learnt to read and write and learnt the good behavior of Rafiki, so I love Rafiki very much.” Bomba

“I cannot go without my goat and my cat,” I sobbed. I was lifted up into the large Prado car, which I hated. I tried to dash away but I could not. Later, though I missed my cat and my goat, I learned to love wherever I am. I am free to change places.” Derrick

“My older sister showed me God’s love for me. I grew up in her hands. I came to Rafiki in anger, but then I learnt many things. Although I left my sister, I will never forget her.” Paul

“Once when we Rafiki children moved to different cottages, I was suddenly the oldest. I had to be responsible and help my younger sisters in most things. I learned to keep time and be helpful to my sisters.” Sandra

“Before, I thought that God wasn’t there and he had disappeared away from my sight. Now, I am an expert in praying to God and reading his word, the Holy Bible.” Sylvia

“When I came to Rafiki I was too young to read the word of God because I couldn’t understand it. Now I teach the small children the word of God.” Christine

“My life became easier the more I followed God.” Phiona

“After hearing the word of God, I felt like I was a new creation and I was happy about it. It changed me and made my life different.” Scovia

“The most thrilling thing that led me to love the Bible was that my teacher taught me Bible songs and their actions. I felt that the word of God had touched me and that He was calling me from the old world to the new world.” Alice

After many revisions, the essays were handed in on the very day when we welcomed Mercy and Jeremiah, two new little five-year-olds, to Rafiki Village. We thank God for their arrival,
The Sandwich Ministry started out among friends one summer in Paris. One of my friends, Chris Nagle, who used to play in the ACP band, was inspired by a story in the book Blue like Jazz. A guy named Andrew set up a kitchenette and cooked, fed and ate with the gypsies and homeless.

My friend had always wanted to help the homeless, especially those he saw in metro stations around Paris but he didn’t just want to give them money. One day after a band rehearsal, he asked some of his friends from the ACP Young Adult Group if they wanted to help him hand out sandwiches to the homeless. His idea was simply to walk around Paris and every homeless person that he met he would give a sandwich to. He really felt that this was what God was asking him to do. I thought it was a great idea and immediately agreed to help him.

There were five of us in that first group and we walked around the streets of Paris, giving a sandwich and a drink to any homeless person that we saw and talking with them. As this was my first time doing anything like this, I just gave the sandwich out but didn’t have the courage to talk to anyone. But then I observed one of my friends sitting and chatting to them just like you would with a friend, and I found this completely amazing – I had never realized that anyone would be able to just sit and chat to a total stranger like that. This first experience of Sandwich Ministry really made me realize that I walked around the streets of Paris every day without ever really paying attention to the homeless and their situation.

I can’t say that at the end of that afternoon I really thought that I would ever do anything like it again but one day I was on the metro, with bags of shopping from the sales and I saw this old lady dragging her trolley, which looked like it contained all her possessions, and memories of the sandwich ministry came flooding back. In short, it really hit me and I knew I wanted to carry on what my friend had started one afternoon.

For a while, I led a group of my friends handing out sandwiches during the summer, but then one year, probably though laziness, I didn’t do it. God always has a way of reminding me what I have missed doing. One Sunday, I was playing at the 13h30 worship service at the ACP, and we got to the worship song "God of Justice" by Tim Hughes. Every time we play this song I always sing the Chorus:

"We must go, live to feed the hungry, Stand beside the broken, We must go. Stepping forward keep us from just singing, Move us into action, We must go"

I always feel as if I’m saying it to myself and agreeing with it. On this particular Sunday, I really felt God say, "but Jurie Ane, you are still there...waiting...you never move into action! You didn’t go! You are still singing..."

And there I was in front of God, humbled... and I knew that I must move into action. I knew that I literally had to go and feed the homeless.

So, even though it was winter, I didn’t feel like I should wait for the summer to continue with the sandwich ministry and I finally moved into action. I called on friends, made announcements at Young Adult meetings and somehow God provided the people to make the Sandwich Ministry happen.

Following this winter ministry, Pastor Dan told me that it might be possible for ACP to fund a monthly ministry. And this is exactly what we have been doing since January 2013 – a monthly Sandwich Ministry. God has never failed to provide people to help prepare sandwiches and take the food to the homeless. As well as this, the ministry is starting to grow; we have been receiving e-mails from individual volunteers as well as other churches and French groups.

The Sandwich Ministry is my response to God’s call to “Go and live to feed the hungry and stand beside the broken...” We must go!
Partnering with the AFCU in 2007, the ACP embarked on a major program to strengthen its programs and renovate its facilities thanks to a fund-raising campaign which raised $2.7 million in cash pledged over a 5 year period and $1 million in planned gifts. This campaign was completed in December 2012. You can see below the before and after shots of the facilities that have been renovated and how this initiative has contributed to the life of the Church and its buildings.

Cleaning and restoration of the 2,800 pipe Beckerath Organ

Conversion of 2 storage rooms into a 2-room apartment for visiting scholars

Installation of a 3-level dumbwaiter making Friday mission lunch possible (additional FIA project voted by Council)
Replacement of solid oak wood floors in the Gd. floor Theater, reception, chapel, first & 2nd floor landings

Renovation of the inner courtyard (additional FIA project voted by Council)

Complete restoration of the 1888 Steinway piano in the USA

Full renovation of the Church kitchen on the 2nd floor (additional FIA project voted by Council)
Answered Prayers

Following the ACP Today Radio Show which focused on prayer, the April and May Spire will feature some of the longer personal stories which weren’t included on the show.

It was the Sunday before Christmas and despite the booming music and joyful voices of the Contemporary Service filling the church, my mind began to wander. My wife and I were going to visit her Grandma (“Mamie”) following the service and I couldn’t help but worry what we would find when we arrived.

Mamie is 90 and has been living with Alzheimer’s disease for the last five years. She is now in the advanced stage of the disease and lives in a retirement center near Versailles with full time care. For the last several months she has been restricted to a wheelchair, too frail to walk. In the last month she has started to take dinner in bed, too weak to join the other residents in the canteen. The previous week she was not in good shape, barely able to open her eyes and hardly eating.

As the last note started to fade from the church’s sanctuary, I began to cry. It was a welling of water in my eyes at first, but then my emotions over took me and I began weeping. Not common for a man in his thirties! My wife took my hand and we sat in the pew, silent, sharing unspoken worries and giving ourselves a moment to let go. My tears were from sorrow as much as exasperation. I wanted to be free of the fears of the future and to surrender my anxieties. I wanted intervention from God and to find peace to accept and live the situation with strength.

As the sole tissue in my pocket was quickly reaching its limits to absorb, I recalled the announcement each Sunday that there is a Prayer Team member available after each service. I wanted to give it a try.

In a crackling voice, I communicated my desire to find a Prayer Team member to my wife. She nodded and we departed with our mission. We found Peggy and asked her to pray with us. Despite the ACP community bustling around us, we spent several minutes in what seemed like a world alone, sharing with Peggy our concerns, our fears, and our hopes for God’s intervention. Luckily, more tissues were on hand! She listened with gentleness, shared her own personal experiences with Alzheimer’s in her family, and held our hands as she led us in prayer together. It is difficult to explain the soothing sensation, the relief, the love, and the power exchanged in those few moments. God’s hand was there.

One of the parting suggestions that Peggy gave us was that we should expect our prayers to be answered. I don’t know about you, but I pray hoping that my prayers will be answered, but not expecting that they will be answered. A subtle, but important difference! If we expect our prayers to be answered, we are fully trusting in God’s power to deliver.

Maybe we won’t know how or when, but we know it will happen in some form and somehow because we trust in Him. It is with this mindset that we set out to visit Mamie on Christmas Eve.
When we arrived, was Mamie roaming about the retirement center as if she was five years younger? No. But she was marginally better than our last visit. Her eyes were open and we even had a couple of those precious moments in which we saw little glimpses of the woman I met five years ago and my wife has relied on as the source of strength in her life since she was a child. We even had a smile! That may not seem like much, but this is something as precious as a rainbow in the midst of a severe storm in an advanced stage Alzheimer’s patient! It was a good day.

Months later, as I am writing this, we have enjoyed a period of stability despite the gradual decline as the disease takes it toll. Mamie still eats her dinners in bed and is frequently very fatigued, but she is still with us and continues to give us the occasional precious moment. Whether it is a good day or a bad one, God is present.

It is difficult not knowing what the future will bring and, at the same time, knowing what is inevitable. The challenge my wife and I struggle with is surrendering to His power and relying on His wisdom even if we do not understand it. We continue to pray for Mamie, all of the people who suffer from Alzheimer’s, and the families that support them. No matter how big or small, it is important to expect your prayers to be answered. God will answer in His way!

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

Submitted by an Anonymous ACP member

**From our 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.

James 5:13-16 (NIV)

"13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

If you would like someone to pray WITH you after services, there will be a Prayer Team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.

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**From the Lay Caregiver Ministry Team...**

LCG’ers are dedicated to demonstrating the love of Christ to the ACP community by making hospital visits, rejoicing with those who are celebrating, and calling or visiting those who are going through a loss or transition or in need of a listening ear or a prayerful presence.

We are also working to set up a prayer time following each of the worship services to pray with people in the congregation.

The Lay Care Giver group has created pew cards for anyone to fill in to ask for visits or prayers from us. Look for them in the pews soon!

The Lay Care Givers are: Nathaniel Akujobi, Pam Bohl, Thelma Fuchs, Daniel Grout, Marie Grout, Judith Huart, Camilla Furman, Yoshiko Okubo and Kerry Lieury, led by Pastor Michelle. We are ready to come alongside you in times of trouble or joy, to be present with you or to pray with you. Contact us at laycaregivers@acparis.org

The Lay Care Giver group met this month with Pastor Bruce. It was a real blessing to spend time with him, to learn more about him and his ministry and to receive training to help shape our future visits. Bruce emphasized the importance of our ministry to the ACP. A big thanks to him for giving us his time.

We follow training to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.
We are always looking for more members and are happy to receive requests for visits or calls. All of our requests are confidential. If you know of anyone who could use a visit or call from us, or would like to become a member of our team, please contact Pastor Michelle or Yoshiko Okubo laycaregivers@acparis.org
Come and support the Habitat for Humanity team and help them raise funds for their trip to Portugal in May!
# Young Adult Activities in April

## Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 2</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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<td><em>Luke 10</em></td>
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<td>Prayer Room open from 18h30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9</td>
<td>18h00-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza Night*</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15</td>
<td>20h00-22h00</td>
<td>Pub Theology</td>
<td>The Frog and Princess Pub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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<td><em>Luke 11</em></td>
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<td>Prayer Room open from 18h30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23</td>
<td>18h00-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza Night*</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Faith in Film</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 28</td>
<td>15h00</td>
<td>Sunday Social</td>
<td>Theatre (after 13h30 service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Worship Evening</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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*For **Pizza Night** come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h30 for dinner and fellowship*

You can also join us on Thursdays for **Thurber Thursday** with a meal (suggested donation 5€) at 18h30 and a presentation from 19h30 in the Thurber Room. Check Christian Education for speaker list and come early to help cook or set up! Volunteers are greatly appreciated!

For more information about who we are and what we do at **ACP Young Adults**, please visit our group page on the church website:
http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/young-adult-ministry

We invite you to connect with us online for community and updates on all young adult activities and gatherings:
http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults/
You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh)
Youth Activities in April

Youth Events (13-18yrs)
Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 7</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Confirmation Class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Lycée”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Collège” “Relationships” Series — Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 14</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Confirmation Class</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Lycée”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Collège” “Relationships” Series — Dating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 21</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Confirmation Class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Lycée”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Collège” “Relationships” Series — Sexuality Education &amp; tough questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Youth Lock-In!!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 28</td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Lycée”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>Youth Group “Collège” School Vacation Activities!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For more information about who we are and what we do at ACP Youth, please visit our group page on the church website: http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/youth-ministry, or contact Rev. Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.
For students to stay connected with our online community please join our Facebook group: http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/
Opportunities to Serve the Community

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP: Children's Worship Needs You!
Volunteers are asked to commit to serving approximately two Sundays every 6-8 weeks. For more information, please contact Jeanette at childrensworship@acparis.org.

GREETING AND USHERING: We are seeking new members for this group. If you are interested in participating during the services, please contact Anna Zweede at worshipandmusic@acparis.org.

THURBER THURSDAY: Like to cook? Bake? We need people for making cakes/cookies and delicious desserts in advance of our dinners on Thursday evenings, as well as helping with dinner preparations on Thursdays. Our cooking crew starts at 16h00 and set-up crew sets the tables starting at 17h30. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you would like to become part of this fun team! Clean up crew eats for free and earns special blessings!

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 to 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. Volunteers are needed each week for cooking, serving, and cleaning up. If you are interested and available, please contact Kristie Worrel at kristieworrel@hotmail.com

WELCOME TABLE ATTENDANTS and COFFEE HOUR GREETERS: Be a MEETER GREETER! We are looking for happy, cheerful people to help at the Welcome Table after every service, as well as roaming coffee hour greeters. This is a ministry that we can ALL share in, and if you can share 20 minutes of your time, once a month to participate in welcoming guests, you are sure to find more joy than you can give. A smile and a handshake is all that is needed! Teams are being formed so that each team serves one Sunday per month at each service. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you can be counted on to spread some joy and welcome a newcomer!

SANDWICH MINISTRY will take place on 20 April at 13h30, when we distribute sandwiches to hand out to the hungry and homeless. You can also come and help make the sandwiches on 19 April at 19h30. Contact Jurie Ane or Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org if you would like to get involved.

For other volunteering opportunities, check with Mission Outreach at missionoutreach@acparis.org, Community Life at communitylife@acparis.org, or Dan Haugh with Youth and Young Adult Ministries at youthpastor@acparis.org
ACP Groups and Additional Activities

ACP WRITER’S GROUP meets on the second Saturday of the month at 14h00 – 17h00 in room G2. Contact Laura Kerber for more information.

MULTICULTURAL COUPLES GROUP meets in the Thurber Room on Friday 5 April at 20h00. Please join us in welcoming Rev. Jean-Christophe Bieselaar, Ph.D candidate at King’s College University of London, as he presents, “Who Are We? The challenges of identity within intercultural marriage.” Bring a dish to share and join us for a moment of great fellowship. For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss.

KNITTING GROUP meets on Monday at 16h00 in room G2 adjacent to Pastor Dan’s office. It’s a nice, bright space and opens to the courtyard when the weather permits. While we are primarily a knitting group, we have several new members who crochet, cross stitch and embroider. We knit for ourselves and/or church missions. We welcome all to our fun and diverse group. Please contact Nancy VerWest for more information.

QUILTING GROUP meets on Tuesday afternoon at members houses. We welcome quilters of all levels. Some of us work on our own projects while other of us learn new techniques. For more information please contact Nancy.

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: The movie group’s choices for April are *The Place Beyond the Pines* by Derek Cianfrance, *Stories We Tell* by Sarah Polley, *Side Effects* by Steven Soderbergh and *Quartet* by Dustin Hoffman. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 18 April at 19h30 in basement room G2.

AFRICAN FELLOWSHIP Fundraiser at 12h00 on Sunday, 7 April in the Thurber Room. Join us and enjoy a taste of Africa. Suggested donation: 10 Euros.

Independent Christian Prayer Groups and Bible Study Activities

MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL has come to Paris! Are you concerned about your kids? Would you like to join with other moms as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father? Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together. Contact Caroline at MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com for information and join us Tuesday mornings at 9h30 in G2. See also MomsInPrayer.org.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF INTERNATIONAL): What a great way to discover the gift of God’s Word through BSF’s interdenominational and international Bible studies! This Paris class brings together 50 or so women for in-depth Bible study every Monday evening from 19h00 to 20h50. Contact Thelma Fuchs for more information.

MINDFUL MEDITATION: This group, being offered on Saturdays from 12h00 to 13h15 in G2, is for those who already have a meditation practice, as well as for those who are interested in beginning a practice. Mindfulness meditation is a way of learning to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment. It is open to church members as well as to the larger community. Norma Jean Deak, a clinical social worker, has taught Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for 14 years. Contact Norma Jean with any questions.
Clergy and Staff of the American Church in Paris

Ministers                        The Entire Congregation
Senior Pastor                   Scott Herr                     seniorpastor@acparis.org
Associate Pastor                Michelle Wahila                associatepastor@acparis.org
Visiting Pastor                 Bruce Morgan                   visitingpastor@acparis.org
Dir. Youth and Young Adults     Dan Haugh                      youthpastor@acparis.org
Youth Intern                    Hanna Woodhead                 youthintern@acparis.org
Music Director                  Fred Gramann                   music@acparis.org
Contemporary Music Director     Natalie Raynal                 cmusic@acparis.org
Youth Music Director            Bonnie Woolley                 youthmusic@acparis.org
Business Manager                Chira Rosen                    bizadmin@acparis.org
Accountant                      Jean-Michel Bollecker        acctg@acparis.org
Administrative Assistant        Ilinca Mreana                  secretary@acparis.org
Daytime Receptionist            Emily Claudio                  reception@acparis.org
Evening Receptionist            Kithsiri Fernando             reception@acparis.org
Saturday Receptionist           Martha Gachoka                 reception@acparis.org
Sunday Receptionist             Boryana Dimitrova             reception@acparis.org
Building Maintenance            Tom Padden                    maintenance@acparis.org

Council of the American Church in Paris

Moderator                       Radford Laney                  moderator@acparis.org
Vice-Moderator                  Pam Bohl                       councilvicemoderator@acparis.org
Secretary                       Bettina Chehab                 councilsecretary@acparis.org
Assistant Secretary            Paul Grayson                   councilassistantsecretary@acparis.org
Stewardship & Finance Chair    Stanley Marcello               financeandstewardship@acparis.org
Stewardship & Finance Vice-Chair Megan Staley              financeandstewardship@acparis.org
Human Resources Chair           Pierre Lisbonis                humanresources@acparis.org
Human Resources Vice-Chair      Pascal Berger                  humanresources@acparis.org
Christian Education Chair      Anne Speicher                  christianeducation@acparis.org
Christian Education Vice-Chair  Lori Kolodziejczak            christianeducation@acparis.org
Communications Co-Chair        Alison Benney                 communications@acparis.org
Communications Co-Chair        John Newman                   communications@acparis.org
Community Life Chair            Camilla Furman                communitylife@acparis.org
Community Life Co-Chair        Nathaniel Akujuobi             communitylife@acparis.org
Development & Property Chair   William Johnston              developmentandproperty@acparis.org
Development & Property Vice-Chair Eric Sadoux                developmentandproperty@acparis.org
Mission Outreach Chair         Carolyn Bouazouni               missionoutreach@acparis.org
Mission Outreach Vice-Chair     Ann Mildred Gontard            missionoutreach@acparis.org
Worship & Music Chair           Anna Zweede                   worshipandmusic@acparis.org
Worship & Music Vice-Chair      Chad DuBose                    worshipandmusic@acparis.org

The American Church in Paris is a member congregation of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East. If you are traveling and looking for a place to worship, please consult the AICEME website for our sister congregations: http://aiceme.net/.