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On the cover: The ACP is blessed with two beautiful stained glass windows that depict the Christmas story. These are from the window in the chapel, that the Twyeffort family donated for the church’s 100th birthday in 1957. See page 25 to read about the other Christmas window.
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Warm greetings to you as we move through the preparations, anticipations and expectations of this season of Advent. One of the family traditions that we have taken with us wherever we are in the world is to set up a Christmas tree on the first Sunday of Advent, and light Advent candles each week to mark the time as we eagerly long for the coming of Christ anew into our lives and world. Advent, as you know, is the Latin word for “coming,” and in this season we remember the coming of Christ two thousand years ago in the incarnation of Jesus; we look forward to how the Christ will come again in power and glory one day to consummate and gather all things into his loving Kingdom rule; and we reflect on how he might again be born in us this day. I also think it is important for us as a community of faith to consider how Jesus calls us to embody his “Advent” to the rest of the world.

We are living in “interesting times” (as the Chinese curse goes!) and we as a congregation are exploring and experimenting in the coming year about what it means to “seek the shalom of the city” (Jeremiah 29:7). What does shalom really look like, and what are we doing in our lives and in our community to pursue the healing, wholeness, and flourishing shalom God intends for all people? As I wrote about in the Advent Devotional, one of my favorite family traditions during the season of Advent is to set up various Nativity scenes. We have brought nativities from different countries where we’ve lived and received as gifts from friends from other cultures, so it’s a visual reminder that our savior came for all the peoples of the world.

One of the characters that I’ve never seen included in a nativity set, but who always shows up in Advent, is John the Baptist! We read in Matthew 3:1-3, “In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” The prophet of old reminds us that preparing for the coming of our Lord is not just about setting up the tree, admiring the amazing lights all around the city, and getting our Christmas shopping done in good time. Advent, like Lent, is the “holiday” season that focuses us on the important work of repentance. Purple is the color of repentance.

We need to remember, paradoxically, in order for us to welcome the Prince of Peace anew into our lives and families, church, city, and world, we need to change our thinking about what God’s shalom is really like. And the first obvious thing, as hard as this is to hear, is that biblical shalom is not about an absence of conflict! John the Baptist himself is a grisly reminder that faithful living can even be dangerous to your health! As the activist Catholic priest Daniel Berrigan once wryly said, “If you’re going to follow Jesus, you better look good on wood!” John, of course, was beheaded by King Herod.

There is a spirit of this age that seems to be catching a lot of people up in the desire to “make our nation great again” and a longing for the “good old days.” I’ll never forget one of my African-American friend’s challenging response to that longing: “Good for whom?” he asked. The paradox and the prophetic word of the Kingdom of God breaking into our world in Jesus Christ, as the greatness, goodness, and true glory of God’s redemption is for all people! And so we in the church must repent, indeed turn away from the glittering temptation of power, prestige, and privilege, and turn toward our Prince of Peace who calls us to sacrificial love, to the way of self-emptying love and grace, compassion and justice.

Especially in this season of world events, Advent requires more repentance (literally “change of thinking”) about the fullness of the gospel, and how Christ comes into our world anew and to whom? Surely Jesus calls us to live with hope, joy and love toward a shalom that is for all people —even the other, the unloved and excluded ones? Indeed the coming of God’s Kingdom may cause temporary conflict and disagreement, but that is part of the Christmas story that we also need to remember... that the Christ

.../...
Thoughts from Pastor Herr,

we worship and honor in this season, was “born a child, and yet a King” whose purple robe and crown was strangely yet fully revealed on the cross. From birth, baby Jesus was seen as a threat, and provoked the “massacre of the innocents” by King Herod.

I look forward to all of the events and beautiful celebrations of this season of Advent and Christmas, but forgive me that I can’t forget John the Baptist, who seems to intrude with an especially loud cry this year and leaves me questioning, what does it mean for us to “prepare the way of the Lord,” and to “make his paths straight”?

Pondering the glad tidings again with you,

In Christ

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30 + Small Group
6 and 20 December, at 20h

If you are roughly 30 or older and want to grow spiritually, you are invited to join the new 30+ small group! We meet on Wednesdays, twice a month for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Just come as you are! More information at thirtyplus@acparis.org.

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Bible readings for December

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<th>Date</th>
<th>4th Sunday of Advent</th>
<th>Christmas Eve</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>Isaiah 11:1-10</td>
<td>Isaiah 9:2-7</td>
<td>Isaiah 52:7-10</td>
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<td>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (UMH 795)</td>
<td>Psalm 96 (UMH 815)</td>
<td>Psalm 98 (UMH 818)</td>
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<td>Romans 15:4-13</td>
<td>Titus 2:11-14</td>
<td>Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)</td>
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<td>18 December</td>
<td>Isaiah 7:10-16</td>
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<td>Psalm 80:1-7</td>
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4 ACP Spire, December 2016 / January 2016
The many emotions of marriage
By Visiting Pastor Bruce Morgan

Many people do not realize that The American Church of Paris offers Vow Renewals as part of its Wedding Ministry offerings. During my six months at ACP this year, I will officiate at seven vow renewals, and about ninety wedding blessings. I have discovered that there is a different emotional quality to the vow renewal ceremonies, which are a re-enactment of a wedding ceremony, but with different language to reflect a renewed commitment to the vows taken in the past – 10, 20, 25, 40 years ago.

The couple has an opportunity in this ceremony to share personal words of gratitude to their spouse, for the years they have shared together; and I never cease to be amazed at the deeply held feelings of love and affection that are beautifully and tenderly exchanged. Tears abound. Embraces last and last. A sense of profound gratitude for a love that has matured through their years of marriage is the common thread I hear expressed.

Wedding blessing ceremonies are virtually all joyous and full of broad smiles, sprinkled with frequent moist eyes or tearful vows. But wedding days are also often anxious, nervous, tense times as well, with the focus more on the ceremony than the new bond that is being formed by the wedding ceremony.

So they are very different from vow renewals, in which couples have survived struggle and celebrated intimacy and discovered in marriage a bond that enriches and supports each other, in amazingly rich ways. We know that marriage can often be a fragile union, and that many do not survive. So, it is heartening to see marriages that have flourished and illustrated what marriage is meant to be: a union of hearts and spirits so strong and committed, that years later, they can celebrate the joy of marriage union, and renew their commitment to one another in a vow renewal in our beautiful ACP sanctuary, in a service of great beauty and meaning.

We believe that the love of God is the force that helps marriage endure. We give God the glory in every service for providing a quality of love in marriage that makes marriage commitment thrive. We cannot do this alone. God alone, as the author of the love that is fully expressed in the person of Jesus Christ, can both teach us how to love and be the God who “first loved us, so that we can love one another.”

I wish to thank ACP for giving me the privilege of serving, once again, as Visiting Pastor. This third time with you – the congregation and the staff of ACP – has been a great privilege, and a rich part of my life in ministry. It has filled my retirement years with boundless fulfillment and great joy. With mixed feelings, we leave Paris on 2 January, to return to our life and family in Kansas City, MO. We look forward to meeting our new grandson who was born on 12 November, and to seeing the rest of our family in the US; but we shall miss all of you at ACP greatly. Thankfully, you have a permanent place in Nancy’s and my hearts, and we shall pray for you and think of you daily. God be with you!

In Christ,
Bruce W. Morgan

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Sunday Women’s Fellowship
Sunday, 11 December
12h15-13h30, ACP

All women are invited to Kim Herr’s home for Christmas festivities, 12:15-1:30. Devon Graves, who sometimes sings with ACP’s contemporary band Still Point, will lead caroling. Snack contributions are welcome, and free childcare will be available on the basement level. The Herr apartment can be reached via the stairwell or by having the receptionist key you up in the elevator. One way or another, please join us for fun, fellowship and celebrating the birth of our Lord with our wonderful sisters in Christ!
**Sunday Concert Series**

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

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**Sunday 8 January, 17h**

Oeuvres de
Bach, Mozart, Debussy,
Bartok, Andrès, Myagi, Shankar

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**Thurber Thursday**

**Thursday 8 December: Advent and Healing**

19h: Light buffet
19h45-21h15: Presentation, then Q&A

All are welcome.

If dining, please bring a donation to offset costs.

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**Prayer Chain Team**

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?

If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org.

Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential.

Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available.

Meet in the chapel next to the theater.
The Longest Night

Billy Roberts
Director, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.” – Psalm 22:1-2

The lights shine brightly on the streets of Paris during the holiday season, and in no place is it brighter than along the Champs-Elysées as people from all over walk gleefully taking in the sights, sounds, and spirit of the joyous Christmas season.

The only problem is that it’s not joyous for everyone. It’s the first year without a loved one. It’s a reminder of a failed relationship. It’s the depression you just can’t shake. It’s the pervasive feeling of loneliness.

With cruel irony, the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year” is, for many people, the most difficult and gut-wrenching season of all. While people are feeling festive and excited for the holidays, it takes an enormous amount of strength for others to endure it all.

As we reflect on a season that can be difficult for so many people, I am reminded of Paul’s words to “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” In our moments of sadness sometimes what we need is someone to sit with us and allow us to feel the lament of loss, the sadness of loneliness, and the pain of uncertainty. It is when we face the darkness that we can move through it.

In this season of Advent, we spend a lot of time focused on waiting and expectation. We believe that in the end things will be made whole. We believe that Christ will redeem creation and is in the process of doing so now, but we also know that we are not there yet. Though hope is on the horizon, sin and death create all sorts of problems.

And so, we carry each other. We allow for God’s healing to come through the recognition of our emotions, both light and dark.

Our hope is that The Longest Night service will be a time for those in our congregation and our community in Paris to find a place to wrestle with the darker side of the holidays. When everything screams “Be happy!” we listen to those marginalized voices who lament “How long, oh Lord?”

But we do so remembering what the word Emmanuel means. The gospel writers are clear that one of the names for Jesus is Emmanuel, meaning “God with us.” And while it quite literally meant, for Jesus’ day, that God was with the people, for us today it means that God is with us in our moments of joy and our seasons of grief.

We invite you, whether this is a joyous time or this is a laborious occasion, to join us on 21 December at 20h for a moment to stop during the busyness of the holiday season to reflect on what it means that God is with us.

And whether you feel a time of happiness or a time of sorrow may we join together in saying “Come thou long-expected Jesus.”
Christmas 2016
The American Church in Paris

Candlelight Christmas Concert
10 December at 17h00 and 20h00

Intergenerational Nativity Pageant
11 December at 11h00

Longest Night Service
21 December at 20h00

Christmas Eve Services | 24 December
Family Service at 16h00
Candlelight Service at 19h30 \textit{prelude music @ 19h00}
Candlelight Service at 22h00 \textit{prelude music @ 21h30}

Christmas Day Worship | 25 December
Traditional Worship: 11h00
Contemporary Worship: 13h30

26-31 December
Church Offices Holiday Closure

New Year’s Day Worship | 1 January
Traditional Worship at 11h00
Contemporary Worship at 13h30

PEACE
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris | www.acparis.org
ACP Youth go to Taizé
Annual AICEME Youth Conference
By Emily Chesley, Youth intern

Over the first weekend in November, I travelled with several youth and youth leaders from ACP to the annual AICEME Youth Conference, held this year in Taizé, France. This was an amazing opportunity for our lycéens to meet other international Christian youth. More than 50 teenagers and leaders from churches throughout Europe gathered to make friends and grow in faith.

Those who read every line of the bulletin know that ACP is privileged to be part of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East (AICEME). These sister churches are not only our family in Christ, but also our partners in ministry. Every autumn, AICEME youth pastors organize a conference for youth ages 14-18, and this year we met at Taizé, the ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy.

Taizé was founded after the end of World War II by Roger Schütz, known as Brother Roger, as a place for Christians of all denominations, and young Christians in particular, to unite in prayer and service around Jesus Christ. Thousands of pilgrims have visited Taizé over the years, coming for a week or two at a time to study Scripture, pray in silence, and sing the multilingual songs which have inspired worship around the world. Among those pilgrims was Pope John Paul II, who said during his visit in 1986, “The brothers of the community...want, in prayer and silence, to enable you to drink the living water promised by Christ, to know his joy, to discern his presence, to respond to his call, then to set out again to witness to his love and to serve your brothers and sisters [in the world].”*

To come together for spiritual refreshment and renewal, and then to be sent back into the world to live for Christ: This is why we went to Taizé. We spent the majority of our time immersing ourselves in the monks’ daily rhythm of worship and Bible study, though of course getting to know one another was an important part of that refreshment. So we played plenty of games and went on walks in the countryside, too.

It took dedication for our teens to be able to attend the conference. One youth wrote a 1,000-word essay for permission to miss school on Saturday. But he said it was more than worth it to be able to go.

Our youth said they enjoyed meeting kids from the other youth groups, as well as having the time and space to grow spiritually. They made friends with teens from Switzerland, Bonn, Berlin, Luxembourg, and Stockholm. At the end of the weekend, one of our students jokingly threatened to stow away with the other youth groups. She didn’t want to come home!

Fortunately for our youth, this is an annual conference and next year’s one is already in the works. We hope you like Stockholm!

*See The Story of Taizé, by J. L. Gonzalez Baldo

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

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
Update from our missionary in the prisons of Ghana

The Word of God is being preached and taught in six prisons in Ghana, thanks to our missionary Anna Cobbinah and her team, of The Living Truth Foundation Ministries. The six Bible study classes that were inaugurated last spring with a total of 97 inmates, are going very well, and will reach completion this spring.

Anna is reaching out for donations to be able to give a bar of soap to all the prisoners in the prisons that her ministry is serving — over 6,000 men! — as concrete evidence of the Lord's love for them, and to make their Christmas a little more joyful. A bar of soap only costs 25 cents in Ghana, so a donation of any amount will go a long way to help meet her goal!

Also, she is already starting to plan for the next graduation ceremonies this spring for the 2016/17 Bible study programs, and the inaugurations for the 2017/18 programs. These are celebrations with music by the prison bands and choirs, dancing and preaching, with communion served, and a meal distributed to all participants that Anna and her daughters prepare themselves. The Holy Spirit is there!

If you would like to donate to either of these events, please make your check out to The American Church in Paris, with a note that it is for the Ghana prison ministry. All donations in euros are tax deductible in France.

For more information on Mission Outreach Committee activities or how to support Anna Cobbinah, please contact us at missionoutreach@acparis.org.

Paris prison ministry

Introduction to French prisons

By Carolyn Bouazouni

A (very!) brief course to understand the different types of prisons here in France, so you can follow our prison ministry:

**Maison d'arrêt:** This is the first stop for men and women entering into the French prison system. These people have been stopped by the police, but have not yet gone to trial or been sentenced. They may remain at the Maison d'Arret through the trial and sentencing process, and even to serve sentences that are short-term (generally less than 2 years). There are a number of these prisons around Paris.

**Centre de Détention:** This is for inmates with short to medium-term sentences, generally from 4 months to 5 years. There is one dedicated Detention Center in the Paris Division, located at Melun.

**Maison Centrale:** This is a prison for inmates receiving long-term sentences, up to and including life sentences. There is only one dedicated Maison Centrale in the Paris area, which is at Poissy.

**Etablissement Pénitentiaire pour Mineurs:** This is a prison dedicated to those under the age of 18. In the Paris area, there is one dedicated prison for minors, located in Porcheville.

**Centre Pénitentiaire:** This is a center that has multiple functions, and may include all of the above categories of prisons as well as an Evaluation Center and a prison hospital. In the Paris area there are two of these centers, located at Fresnes and Reau. The only prison hospital around Paris solely for inmates is at the Fresnes prison.

ACP members are currently attending and assisting at worship services in three of the Paris-area prisons: the Fleury-Mérogis Maison d'Arret Femmes (for women), the Poissy Maison Centrale, and the Fresnes Centre Pénitentiaire. More opportunities will be opening up in the coming months as we continue to work with the French Protestant Chaplains to discern where we can be of service. The head Protestant Chaplain for the Paris Division will be coming to the ACP in early 2017 to address the congregation and answer questions. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we seek to bring the light of Christ into the prisons around Paris.
Remember Pearl Harbor

By Charlie Gay

For any American alive on 7 December 1941, when a swarm of 360 Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor, memories of “a date which will live in infamy” remain vivid.

The day is like a few others in history that immediately trigger an American’s thoughts about where he or she was during a stunning event, like those of 22 November 1963, 20 July 1969 or 11 September 2001.

Early on that Sunday afternoon in 1941, 5-year-old Tad Brown (now a member of the American Church in Paris) was sitting at the controls of an open-top, double-cockpit plane on the grounds of the Grumman Aircraft Company in Bethpage, Long Island, New York. He had just been hoisted into the cockpit at a company open house. His father, a tool engineer essential to the defense industry, had been hired by Grumman to help build airplanes.

“I was hardly seated when sirens began and there was a call on a loudspeaker for all to leave the premises as quickly as possible!” he said. The thousands of people roaming the grounds, including his family, learned that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor moments earlier, shortly before 8h00 Hawaii time. “All the cars headed for the gates,” he explained, “and we made our way home to Farmingdale, Long Island.”

The surprise attack killed 2,403 people and crippled the US Pacific Fleet when five of eight battleships, three destroyers and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. As fate would have it, all three of the fleet’s aircraft carriers were out to sea on training maneuvers, and six months later they would exact a measure of revenge on the Japanese at the Battle of Midway, called by military historian John Keegan “the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare.”

At the time of the attack on the U.S. Territory of Hawaii, there had been wars and rumors of wars for years. Paris had already been occupied by the Germans for 18 months. Japan had been at war with China for more than four years and was attempting to dominate Asia and the Pacific.

The US declared war on Japan the day after the surprise attack and on Germany three days later. The war in the Pacific would last for nearly four years until two atomic bombs brought Japan to its knees in August 1945. The war against Hitler’s Germany had ended that spring 11 months after the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Officials at Pearl Harbor are planning 10 days of public and private events surrounding the 75th anniversary, including a symposium; premiere of a documentary film, Remember Pearl Harbor; presentation of “Fighting Two Wars,” a tribute to Japanese-American veterans; “Beneath Pearl Harbor,” a program about the submerged USS Arizona; several concerts and separate ceremonies for the USS Utah, USS Oklahoma and USS Nevada. Nine events on December 7 will range from the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration to a Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade.

The National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., has scheduled the Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary Commemoration at 12h53 on 7 December, the exact time of the attack. That event will kick off a 4-year World War II 75th Anniversary Commemoration highlighted by more than 60 ceremonies marking such things as battle anniversaries and honoring veterans of the war. On the evening of December 6, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will host a candlelight vigil at the memorial where the names of each of the 2,403 men and women killed at Pearl Harbor will be read over the course of three hours.
The art of Advent
By Jenn Cavanaugh

One of the great gifts of the liturgical calendar is the opportunity to live more deeply into the story of God and God’s people year after year. The visual arts are one medium that can help us re-read the story with fresh eyes. In addition to the traditional and contemporary images in ACP’s Advent Devotional (available at the welcome table in the theatre between services or for download at http://acparis.org/351-miscellaneous/miscellaneous/1375-acp-advent-devotional-2016).

Here are some by other sources of artistic insight into the season:

Thursday Thursday, 8 December, Dr. Linda Stratford will lead us in a study of the Portinari Altarpiece by Hugo van der Goes, which depicts the adoration of the shepherds, and discuss themes of Advent and Healing. Light buffet dinner at 19h, talk begins at 19h45.

Loyola Press offers a weekly video commentary on a piece of art inspired by the Sunday lectionary reading, accompanied by an Ignatian prayer exercise. You can start with week one here: www.ignatianspirituality.com/18230/arts-faith-advent-first-sunday-imaginative-prayer-exercise

Daily multimedia Advent reflections combining readings and images are available at Homespun Resources. https://homespunresources.wordpress.com/category/advent/ You can follow on WordPress or subscribe to get new installments sent to your email inbox.

Or consider a local pilgrimage to a temporary exhibition to widen your imagination this season. Very local would be the Musée du Quai Branly - just down the road from the church - to see the myriad Central African depictions of Mary that are part of the recently opened exhibit "Du Jourdain au Congo." www.quaibranly.fr/fr/expositions-evenements/au-musee/expositions/details-de-levenement/e/du-jourdain-au-congo-36839/

Slightly further afield, Église Saint-Georges de la Villette is hosting a unique collection of nativity scenes from Madagascar and Portugal. 112 avenue Simon Bolivar, 19th arrondissement. Open 14h30-18h Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 10h-19h Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday; 14 December to 8 January. Admission fees of 2 euros/ adult and 1 euro/ child benefit La Luciole, an organization that helps drug addicts and their families.
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.

The Four Note Opera

The Opera de la Bastille will host four performances of The Four Note Opera composed by ACP’s very own Tom Johnson 8-10 December. Performances on 9-10 December are aimed at adults, and shows at 14h on the 8th and 9th for children.

**8-10 December, Opera de la Bastille, 75012 Paris. For further information and tickets: www.operadeparis.fr/en/season-16-17/young-audiences/lopera-de-quatre-notes.**

Ultra modernity & fundamentalism: A vicious circle?

Because it is urgent to understand the endemic phenomenon of violence of fundamentalist origin and the reasons for the State’s incapacity to stem the flow of young people drifting into its influence, “Tuesdays of the Bernardins” joins the research seminar “States, religions, secularism: the new fundamentalists.” This discussion will explore the relationship between ultra-modernity and the quest for meaning apprehended as one of the sources of the current fundamentalist fever.


Café de Noël

The Temple du Marais will become a café open to all to celebrate Christmas, from 3-25 December. For details, see temple.dumarais.fr/cafe-de-noel. Temple du Marais, 17 rue St. Antoine, 75004 Paris. The crypt and parish can be reached at 15, rue Castex.

Hopen

Hope is a praise band group composed of four brothers, who have toured France sharing their faith, including performing to great acclaim at the Catholic International Youth Day. Claiming “contemporary sounds for a modern church,” Hopen boasts influences from American worship music to African praise, as well as contemporary pop and techno.

**16 December 20h30 in concert at the church St. Ferdinand des Ternes, 27, rue d’Armaillé, 75017 Paris. For tickets: https://www.weezevent.com/hopen-paris**
**What’s up in**

December theater listings

By Karen Albrecht

**42nd Street**

This classic musical transforms Paris’s Théatre du Châtelet into a real live Broadway theater, complete with flashy marquee and authentic American cast. Set in 1930s New York, the marvelously improbable plot features a play-within-the-play in which a plucky young chorus girl saves the day when the leading lady drops out due to injury. Tap dancing, big production numbers, kitschy period costumes and deliciously hummable show tunes make for an exuberant all-around experience.

*Until 8 January. In English with French surtitles. http://chatelet-theatre.com*

**Zingaro**

Forget everything you thought you knew about equestrian acts. The horses of the magical Zingaro company don’t do tricks; they dance. Heck, these horses can even act. The latest show "They shoot angels, don't they? (Elegy)" adds a strong dose of straight-up poetry to Zingaro's legendary four-legged poetry in motion, spinning a dreamlike tale of fallen angels and lost paradise. Bewitching.

*Until 31 December, http://bartabas.fr*

**Le Lac des Cygnes**

Rudolph Nureyev’s legendary choreography of the classic Tchaikovsky ballet "Swan Lake", danced by the top-flight ballet company of the Opéra de Paris, is truly the stuff that dreams are made of. The well-loved story, drawn from a Russian folktale, revolves around a princess turned into a swan by an evil spell and the prince-hunter who falls in love with her. Tutu amazing.

*Until 31 December, www.operadeparis.fr*

**NEW**

Think you’ve seen it all? Can’t possibly be the case with this musical, since it’s different every single time. Florian Bartsch’s troupe of up-for-it improvisationists and quick-jamming musicians ask the audience for a theme, grab a few costumes from the hanging rack, and launch into an uncharted musical adventure; where it ends, nobody knows. As with most improv the results are uneven, but there are plenty of fun moments as the artists surprise the audience, and sometimes even themselves.

*Tuesdays in English, Wednesdays in French. Until 31 December; www.newcomediemusicale.com*

**Cirque Bouglione**

Paris’ classic Cirque d’Hiver will, true to its name, be featuring the legendary Bouglione circus this winter. Although it is entitled “Surprise,” the new show features mainly reassuringly traditional big-top-style thrills and chills, from tumblers on horseback to lumbering elephants, from colorful clowns to acrobats of all stripes, including some pretty fancy footwork with roller skates.

*Until 26 February, www.cirquedhiver.com*
What’s up in

'Tis the season to enjoy some amazing art
This December and January the city’s cultural venues truly have something for everyone.

By Karen Albrecht

The Age of Anxiety: American painting in the 1930s
Organized in partnership with Chicago's star-studded Art Institute, this superb show features 60 paintings exemplifying the transitional and highly charged decade just before World War II. Grant Wood's iconic, gently ironic "American Gothic" and the hyper realistic yet hauntingly emotional cityscapes by Edward Hopper speak volumes, and resonate deeply today, in an age that is so different, yet so tied up in similar and equally wrenching tensions.


Mexique 1900-1950
This colorful retrospective features 200 works by key 20th-century Mexican artists. The country's bloody 1910-1920 Revolution looms large, with a look at both the before and the after. The show also explores cross-pollination with US and European avant-garde movements. But the ambiguous, symbol-laden self-portraits by feminist icon Frida Kahlo definitely steal the show, rivaled by the exuberant creations of Diego Rivera, the celebrated muralist whom Kahlo married, divorced and remarried.


The Spectacular Second Empire, 1852-1870
The reign of Napoléon III produced some of Paris's most iconic landmarks, and its atmosphere of opulence and ostentation in some ways exemplifies France at its most French. On display at the Musée d'Orsay are grandiloquent portraits of the emperor and his entourage, vast canvases recording lavish imperial ceremonies, over-the-top furniture and a look at the dazzling public art events that marked this curious yet pivotal time in the nation's history.


MMM: Matthieu Chedid rencontre Martin Parr
After Bowie and Velvet Underground, the imposing new Philharmonie complex in La Villette is hosting another very cool show exploring the intersection between music, photography, and pop culture. This time it's an encounter between oddball British photographer Martin Parr and the flamboyant yet surprisingly soulful French rocker Matthieu Chedid. 500 colorful snaps display Parr's wickedly satirical yet oddly affectionate vision of human foibles, to the tune of original music by Chedid.

Until 29 January, philharmoniedeparis.fr

The Body in Movement
The Louvre's "Petite Galerie" targets the younger generation, but its current exhibit is a visual and intellectual treat for all ages. Dance is the starting point, with star choreographer Benjamin Millepied as one of the curators, and gorgeous sculptures of dancers from antiquity to Degas's graceful ballerinas at its center. The study of movement spans out to include depictions of wrestlers, running figures, and even hovering angels, drawn from a vast range of periods and civilizations.

Until 3 July, petitegalerie.louvre.fr

Beautiful Planet
Need to step back and get some perspective on worldly cares, holiday frenzy and, yes, even the surfeit of amazing art this city bombards us with? Enter La Géode's 180° surround-screen Imax theater and join the astronauts aboard the International Space Station in marveling at the beauty of the amazing planet God gave us all. A breathtaking, humbling, and inspiring ride.


December/January event listings

By Karen Albrecht
The Alpha Course kicks-off in the New Year with a free Launch Party on 12 January at 19h30. It then runs weekly from Thursday 19 January with a meal at 19h00 followed by a video talk and small group discussions. We’ll be watching the new Alpha film series, released in May 2016 by Alpha International, featuring the course’s creator, Rev. Nick Gumbel, and interviews with Bear Grylls, Jackie Pullinger and Father Raniero Cantalamessa, among others. The video talks will take us on a journey around the globe as we explore the meaning of life and ask challenging questions about the Christian faith.

The course is open to everyone and is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly environment. It is also perfect to invite friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to.

How can I support the course?

There are many ways that you can be involved with Alpha. One really important way is to invite people along - a personal invite is most effective and easy to do, so take the plunge and ask a friend if he/she would like to accompany you to the Launch Party. You can find invites in the bulletin on Sundays throughout December or stop by the Alpha table after the worship services.

Another way to support Alpha is through prayer. Please keep the Guests and the team in your prayers throughout the course. You could also volunteer to serve as part of the kitchen team preparing the meal. Many hands make light work and we are looking to put together a kitchen team. Even just volunteering to serve for 1 week would be an enormous help!

Is there more to life than this? Come and join us at the free Launch Party on 12 January at 19h30 and let’s find out together. Over 29 million people around the world have done Alpha – have you?

For more information, please contact alpha@acparis.org. Details about the Launch Party and the course are available via the website at acparis.org and our social media channels.
The Christmas Day movie is a tradition in many families, whether at the cinema or in the living room. Everyone has their favorites. I've never quite understood the appeal of *A Christmas Story*. (“You’ll shoot your eye out, kid.”) Give me *Die Hard* any Christmas Day. (“Now I have a machine gun. Ho ho ho.”)

New English-language releases with holiday themes are scarce in Paris cinemas this year. Most notable are two American films, both opening 21 December: *Office Christmas Party/Joyeux Bordel!*, a comedy with a self-explanatory title, a reasonably funny trailer and probably not a huge chance of being family friendly; and *Collateral Beauty/Beauté cache*, starring Will Smith as a recently bereaved ad executive whose unusual way of coping brings him unexpected, possibly supernatural visitors.

Another Christmas tradition, especially among teens, is the blockbuster, usually unrelated to the holiday except by date. This year, opening 14 December, is *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, set in the period between the two original Star Wars trilogies.

Families with smaller children may enjoy seeing an animated feature. The latest Disney, already out but likely still to be playing over the holidays, is called *Moana* – except in France, where *Vaiana* was apparently considered a more authentically French Polynesian name. Reviews indicate it will be a parent-pleaser as well. Real connoisseurs of animation will try to catch the 7 December release of the remastered and extended version of *The Iron Giant/Le Géant de fer* (1999) by former Pixar master Brad Bird (*The Incredibles, Ratatouille*).

Neither of those has a Christmas theme, but another animated feature, opening 14 December, might very well: *Ballerina*, a Franco-Canadian film with English dialog. Set in the 19th century, it's the story of a Breton orphan girl who finagles her way into the Paris Opéra ballet school. Its release date, festive-looking trailer and striving-for-your-dreams theme all auger well for holiday-related content, though it’s as yet unreviewed.

Those who prefer to rent a film online or at the local video store have, of course, a much wider choice of Christmas fare. Some of the best-known – and best – holiday offerings, while they may have a reputation now as feel-good movies, are in fact far more bittersweet, from Frank Capra's postwar classic *It's a Wonderful Life* to the mixed blessings of Richard Curtis’s *Love Actually* (2003). And holiday-themed wartime dramas such as *A Midnight Clear* (1992, set during the Battle of the Bulge, about a German surrender going horribly wrong) and *Joyeux Noël* (2005, based on the Christmas “truce” of 1914) can be downright depressing.

Unabashedly cynical modern crowd-pleasers such as *Home Alone* (1990) and *Bad Santa* (2003) stand in marked contrast to the simpler sentimentality of earlier times, which brought us *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *Christmas in Connecticut* (1945), *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947) and *White Christmas* (1954) – as well as the 1944 musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*, a series of seasonal vignettes including Judy Garland singing possibly the world’s saddest Christmas song, “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” thus driving young Margaret O’Brien to paroxysms of tears and a frenzy of snowman smashing.

And oh, all right, if I have to pick one of the many, many versions of *A Christmas Carol*, let it be the Muppet one (1992). God bless us, every one!
Join the adventure

Free Launch Party
12 January 2017 at 19h30

Alpha.org
#TryAlpha

alpha@acparis.org

www.acparis.org
Marché de Noël

This year’s Marché de Noël on Saturday, 19 November was a huge success in every way! We had 34 artisan vendors and seven Mission Outreach groups participating in this all-day pre-holiday sale offering handmade goods, jewelry, cards, ceramic pottery, books, yummy specialty food items, knit wear, Christmas wreaths and decorations, children’s toys and International goods from around the world.

The ambiance was made especially festive by the Habit for Humanity Marché Café where you could sit and enjoy a cozy and quaint hot coffee and delicious homemade baked cookie, cake or other yummy treat, and even toast to the season with tasty mug of hot mulled wine. The Filipino Fellowship hosted another ACP-renowned luncheon, which was a sellout hit. The day was made even more fun and festive thanks to the ACP Christmas Carolers who graced us with a musical selection of traditional and favorite Christmas Carols and the grand finale Tombola prize drawing.

A huge thanks to all participants, supporters and especially to the many, many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to insure the success of this very special ACP event. The proceeds made from this successful event will go to support our many ACP local and global mission ministries. A HUGE MERCI à TOUS!

Love In a Box and the FML Food Drive

I’m delighted to report that for the current Love in a Box and FML Food Drive programs at the ACP, donations and contributions are generously incoming and will be greatly used and appreciated. It’s so inspiring to see and witness the great spirit of generosity within our ACP community at the very special time of year. Thank you all for your support and participation!

ACP Thanksgiving dinner was an international success!
Uganda is a developing country, so what “developments” can be noticed here at Rafiki and in the Kampala area?

The 15-kilometer stretch of road linking us to Kampala City, then a pot-holed tarmac with chunks missing due to consistent flooding, is now a smooth, wide Chinese-built highway. There are no white lines yet, so it varies between two and five lanes, plenty to accommodate buses, huge trucks, taxi vans, motorcycle taxis, cars, wheelbarrows, pedestrians, as well as the occasional cow or goat.

 Entire hillsides that were bare five years ago are now covered with new homes. In town, dozens of luxury apartment complexes are putting up For Rent signs. In our immediate neighborhood, peasants continue to make bricks, by hand, on the property they own or squat in order to build a simple two-room, metal roofed dwelling.

 New multiplex cinemas have opened their doors in the new shopping malls. TV satellite dishes serving up world sports and loud, violent Nigerian movies have appeared on dozens of local roofs. There’s an online app to order food delivered from 130 restaurants. Our neighbors continue to dig in their gardens to produce potatoes, corn, cassava, pumpkins, and greens, in order to have food to eat. Uber is starting up; our neighbors walk or catch a ride on an ancient crowded taxi van.

 Huge, shiny 4-wheel-drive vehicles wait in traffic jams. Raggedy street children dodge traffic to frantically scoop up handfuls of dried beans from a torn sack fallen from a truck.

 Our Rafiki children are developing as well. Our youngest turned 10 this year. The older ones are looking at colleges for 2018. All grow daily, physically and spiritually, praise God! What will their world be like five or 15 years from now? We pray that they will be Godly contributors to a better Uganda.
What is the FACCP and why does it exist?

By Pamela Bohl

In recent months you may have heard the name Franco American Community Center of Paris or FACCP used in conjunction with activities in and around the ACP. The French government, desiring to maintain a separation of church and state, provides for two types of non-profit organizations or associations. The first type is the “culturelle (cultural) association” the laws of which were established in 1901. Then in 1905 the French government created another type of non-profit “cultuelle (religious) association” which was conceived specifically for churches and other religious organizations and, as such, is subject to a narrowly defined sphere of operations.

The ACP is a 1905 (religious) association that serves the needs of the strictly defined “religious” activities of our church. Over the years, our missions have broadened to include not expressly religious organizations as well as organizations that are outside the territory of France, which was not anticipated by the laws of 1905 associations.

Additionally, our funding needs to maintain the beautiful, historical ACP facilities have grown much more significantly than our sources of funds from members and friends of the church. Over time the sources of funds have evolved to include not expressly religious organizations as well as organizations that are outside the territory of France, which was not anticipated by the laws of 1905 associations.

Unfortunately, the 1905 law for religious organizations did not envisage nor does it allow religious organizations this degree of diversion from strict receipt of congregational gifts for funding the limited religious activities to the local congregation and within France.

The Franco American Community Center (FACCP), a 1901 “cultural association” was formed in 1996 to receive donations from corporate donors, but it was eventually allowed to go dormant. In recent years, however, ACP’s financial auditors and legal advisors have suggested to our leadership that we revive this 1901 association and transfer ACP’s activities that are more compatible with the laws of a 1901 association to the FACCP.

Late in 2015, the Council voted to follow through with this advice and took action to revive the FACCP. Since that time, the officers of FACCP and the ACP finance committee have been working to organize the financial and administrative aspects of this change. While it is not an easy process, it is considered necessary to ensure that the ACP fully complies with the 1905 association laws and does not jeopardize its status as a religious association in France.

What does this mean for our members, friends and the public that enter the ACP on a regular basis? Not much will change. For tenants renting space in the building there might be a change in the name of the lessor from ACP to FACCP. For some functions, tickets might be sold by the FACCP instead of the ACP. And some of the missions we fund may receive a check from the FACCP whereas they formerly received a check from the ACP.

As Pierre Lisbonis, who has spent much time on this transition has said, “The FACCP is really like a trailer that follows along directly behind the ACP and carries out certain of the functions previously handled by the ACP.” If you have any questions about the FACCP feel free to contact, Pierre, Julia Kung, or Pam Bohl. Any of us will be happy to discuss it with you.

ACP: Cultuelle or culturelle?
We hope you have enjoyed the various activities around ACP’s stewardship campaign (“Grace Made Visible”) during the month of November. We have heard personal testimonies from our brothers and sisters about why they give, and how they have experienced God’s grace in their lives. We have also made three collages during the coffee hour using Post-it notes, responding to the questions:

“How have you experienced God’s grace in your life?”

“Why do I give?”

“Why I love my church?”

Additionally, we have included a stewardship message during Children’s Worship with the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector, the lost coin, and the widow who gave all she had.

Finally, we wanted to thank Fred Gramann for composing a beautiful stewardship hymn using the text from Ephesians 2, which I hope you heard during the service.

So, what were the results? We received 36 pledges totaling approximately €110,000, and 17 pledges with no amount indicated, but a promise to give faithfully. Thank you so much for your response to the call to give!

If you would still like to pledge, but didn’t get a chance, it is not too late. Please download the pledge form from our website: http://www.acparis.org/welcome-34717/stewardship-86198 and follow the instructions.

“But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved... For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”
Ephesians 2: 4-10

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 5 and 19 December. 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.
Two Saturday women's activities

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 3 December 14h-17h - Room G2
Saturday 14 January 14h-17h - Room G1

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 17 December 15h-17h - Room G2
Saturday 28 January 15h-17h - Room G2

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

30 Plus Adult Fellowship
First Friday of each month, from 8pm on
30 Plus singles and pairs, join us for fellowship once a month in a lounge cafe setting; sharing testimonies, talking about the highs and lows of your life, with brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is an adult fellowship in which anyone over 30 (so that also means if you’re in your 50s, 60s or 70s!) is welcome to have a drink and talk, and more specifically, take the time to go into deeper and more meaningful conversations. This means taking the time that we don’t have during coffee hour or Thurber Thursdays, for example, when we miss out on forming and deepening friendships! It’s a time for everyone to really open up, to not only share our joys and blessings, but also our struggles and wounds.

Pastor Tim is the liaison pastor. Couples are welcome and are encouraged to mingle.

First Friday of each month at Au père tranquille, 1st floor
16 rue Pierre Lescot 75001 across main entrance Les Halles
Contact Daphne Elfferich 30plusfellowship@acparis.org
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.

Recently I headed over to the Musée de Luxembourg to see “Fantin-Latour, A fleur de peau”, the first retrospective dedicated to the artist since the 1980’s, and it is a treat. Known for his grand group paintings, he was also an accomplished portraitist with a penchant for still-lifes.

The exhibit is laid out in chronological order, beginning with a series of self-portraits. The accompanying text speaks to Fantin’s loneliness, his unhappiness and the fact that he was never satisfied. Indeed, he depicts himself as a troubled man, but in a style clearly influenced by Rembrandt and Delacroix.

Early in his career, Fantin found fault with his models, and lost patience with them. At the same time, he was much opposed to the Impressionists who took their canvases outdoors. In some ways both factors may help explain why he turned his hand to still life. The exhibit includes a significant presentation of this body of work. The compositions are fairly standard: flowers in a clear vase (allowing the artist to paint the reflection visible on the glass), a smattering of fruit and various pieces of crockery. He successfully depicts the passage of time through gently wilting flowers and fallen petals.

Fantin also produced numerous tributes to other artists and métiers. His group paintings honor Delacroix and Manet as well as music, poetry and other subjects. He was a great admirer of composers including Berlioz, Wagner and Schumann. The exhibit includes a series of lithographs depicting scenes from Tannhauser, Lohengrin and the Ring series. The images, which are ethereal and otherworldly, are perhaps indicative of his final focus: imaginary painting. Whether his inspiration came from mythology, allegory or reverie, it is evident he drew on his large photography collection of female nudes for poses, shape and shadows. (This is the first time these photos are displayed in this way to the public). These paintings have a dreamy; “vaporous” quality, and apparently were quite popular at the time.

Fantin was finally recognized for his long and varied career when he was awarded the Légion d’Honneur in 1900, just 4 years before his death. Fantin-Latour. A fleur de peau, until 12 February, Musée de Luxembourg

Fantin Latour
by Karen Marin
The stained-glass windows of the American Church were designed to tell a chronological tale. They circle the upper story of the Sanctuary, starting at the northeast corner with the patriarchs and then the prophets, and then go right into the Christmas story with the third window.

It contains standing figures of the angel of the Annunciation, Mary and the Child, the shepherds and the Magi. In the medallions below are depicted respectively the Annunciation, the Holy Family, the adoring shepherds, and the gift-bringing Magi. This window was created by the Lorin workshops of Chartres.

**Gabriel**
Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

Luke 1: 30-32

**Mary’s song (extract)**
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Luke 1:46-49

**The shepherds**
Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Luke 2: 10-12

**The magi**
When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2: 10-11
### Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Innocent Magambi will speak on his book <em>Refugee for Life</em></strong></td>
<td>Thursday 1 Dec</td>
<td>19h Light Buffet; 19h45 Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance, associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td>The book details his experiences spending the first 27 years of his life in refugee camps in five different countries, from Congo to Malawi. He and his wife have since founded an NGO in Malawi called “There Is Hope.”</td>
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<td><strong>Women's Monthly Saturday Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 3 Dec</td>
<td>14h - 17h G2</td>
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<td>Experience fellowship in the Spirit! One Saturday a month, all sisters in Christ are welcome to join this potluck gathering. Just show up--no fee, no registration.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 5 Dec</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>Thurber Thursday - Dr. Linda Stratford speaks on Art and Theology: Advent and Healing</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 8 Dec</td>
<td>19h Light Buffet; 19h45 Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance, associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Dr. Stratford is director of Paris Semester, Asbury Univ. She received a Ph.D. from the State Univ. of NY, Stony Brook in history, with an emphasis on Art and Society.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-6)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 9 Dec</td>
<td>10h - 12h Catacombs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Meets the second Friday of each month. Childcare available. Come &quot;flourish fiercely&quot; with us.</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 9 Dec</td>
<td>10h - 14h 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>Breakfast Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 9 Dec</td>
<td>19h 8h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:parisservethecity@gmail.com">parisservethecity@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Preparation: Friday 19h, meet in G7 Distribution: Saturday 8h, meet at ACP Reception</td>
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<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 10 Dec</td>
<td>14h30-16h30 Room G2</td>
<td>Tendaiy Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Candlelight Christmas Concerts</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 10 Dec</td>
<td>17h &amp; 20h Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Participating choirs include the ACP Choir, Ensemble Lumina, ACP Bronze Ringers, Sotto Voce Children’s Choir and other special musicians. Tickets available at reception. Proceeds support the missions of this church.</td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Pageant</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 11 Dec</td>
<td>11h Worship Service Sanctuary</td>
<td>Emmanuelle Denfert-Bariani childrensworship @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Kim Herr welcomes all women for Christmas festivities and caroling. Snack contributions are welcome; free childcare available in room G1. See the Receptionist for access details and join us for a merry time!</td>
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<td>Sunday 11 Dec</td>
<td>12h15-13h30 Herr apartment</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 15 Dec</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 16 Dec</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 16 Dec</td>
<td>19h</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:parisservethecity@gmail.com">parisservethecity@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Saturday Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 17 Dec</td>
<td>15h-17h</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 19 Dec</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Longest Night Service</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 21 Dec</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 24 Dec</td>
<td>12h - 15h30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve Services</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 24 Dec</td>
<td>16h</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Day Services</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 25 Dec</td>
<td>11h, 13h30</td>
<td>Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Holidays</strong></td>
<td>Monday 25 Dec - Sat 31 Dec</td>
<td>11h, 13h30</td>
<td>Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Year’s Day Services</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 Jan</td>
<td>11h, 13h30</td>
<td>Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Worship services at 11h and 13h30 only, no 9h service.*
The 2016 Candlelight Christmas Concerts

Presented by
The American Church Choir
The ACP Bronze Ringers
Fred Gramann, Director

Ensemble Lumina
Caroline Drury, Director

Le Choeur d’Enfants Sotto Voce
Scott Alan Prouty, Director

Saturday, December 10, 2016
At 17h and 20h

Seasonal music, carol arrangements, and all joining to sing carols in English and French

The American Church in Paris
65, Quai d’Orsay - 75007 Paris

Metro: Alma-Marceau, Invalides
Bus: 42, 63, 80, 92

Tickets: 25 euros (reserved seating for adults, students, and children)
15 euros (adults, all other seating)
10 euros (children & students, all other seating)

To order tickets from November 6 to 26: www.acparis.org
On sale at the church from November 13