The Longest Night    I’m dreaming of a green Christmas    100 nights of welcome
For unto us a child    I Was a Stranger    Paris to Chartres in slippers
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HOLIDAY SEASON 2019

ACP Candlelight Christmas Concerts: Saturday 14 December, at 17h and 20h
Children’s Lessons and Carols: Sunday 15 December, 11h service
Longest Night Service: Thursday 19 December, 20h
Christmas Eve Services: Tuesday 24 December
   16h Family Service
   19h Candlelight Service
   21h30 Candlelight Service
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

“Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord.” This verse is a classic Advent text from James 5:7. Advent begins the Christian liturgical calendar. The first Sunday of Advent is New Year’s Day for the Church. As we light candles and sing, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and as we see the city decorated with Christmas lights and greens, we are tempted to think this poignant season is only about preparing to celebrate what happened long ago with the birth of Jesus. Well, yes and no.

I love what Peter Gomes, former Harvard Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church, writes:

“The Lord is coming, not in retrospect, not in a rehearsal of things that happened once long ago. The Lord is coming in a way and in a form that we have not yet experienced. We wait for that which we have not yet seen. We work for that which has not yet been accomplished. That is the Advent agenda, and it is so often thrown off course by Christmas as simply a recollection of something that happened long ago and far away…”*

Perhaps we hear so many ominous prophetic lectionary texts that indicate change is coming as we begin the Advent season so we are not “thrown off course by Christmas!” God is doing something new, and we must confess that we have not yet seen it…

Perhaps we hear so many ominous prophetic lectionary texts that indicate change is coming as we begin the Advent season so we are not “thrown off course by Christmas!” God is doing something new, and we must confess that we have not yet seen it...

It’s not as though we are unaware of change... We will be bidding farewell to Tim, Maija, Noah, Sophia and Ezra Vance on Sunday, 15 December. This is a bittersweet change for our congregation, as we have enjoyed four years of Pastor Tim’s leadership, delighted in the singing of Maija, and enjoyed the Vance children’s participation in Children’s Worship and the children’s choir over the years. But the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica has called Tim to serve as their Pastor and he has accepted that call. Sweet for them; bitter for us. And so we pray for them all the best in this time of significant change and transition, and for ourselves as we grieve the loss of a friend, colleague, and beloved members of our church family.

So we light a candle and reflect on what it means to be patient in this time of transition. And what does “the coming of the Lord” look like for us in the coming weeks and months ahead? It’s interesting that the next verse of James 5:7 is this: “The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains…”

The promise is that a harvest will come from learning patience and trusting in God’s faithfulness. There are practical instructions that James gives: “do not grumble against one another...” We are called to show “endurance.” We are reminded of the Lord’s compassion and mercy. Interestingly, we are to “let your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no.” In other words, live with integrity, and follow through on your commitments. Indeed, these are all practical instructions for community, and transition is an opportunity for our congregational leadership to be strengthened and encouraged!

I look forward to the Christmas Eve services when we will light a lot of candles (and/or glowsticks!) as we remember the One who is the Light of the World, the One whose light continues to shine in the darkness. Please note, thanks to Fran Michalek, we are holding a special Longest Night service on 19 December for those who are less than joyful in this “holiday season.” However you are feeling through all of the changes coming up, may this season be a time of hope and trust that the Lord is coming toward us full of grace and truth, love, and peace!

In Christ,

*Peter Gomes, Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living
Farewell party for the Vance family
Sunday 15 December, 12h

The time is quickly approaching when we must say farewell to Associate Pastor Tim Vance and his family, as they will head off to California in mid-December for Tim’s new role as Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. While we are sad to see them go, we trust God’s plans for them in their new church community and pray this will be a place where they will thrive. Their last Sunday with ACP will be 15 December. We will be sending them off that day with a celebration starting at noon. Please plan to be there to say your own personal goodbyes as they set off to exciting new adventures.

Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?
If so, please forward your prayer by email 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 after each service.

What if....

Your heart is heavy during this holiday time.
There will be an empty spot at your table this year.
The joy of the season hasn't touched you for way too long.

If so, you’re not alone. There are many people for whom this time of year brings with it painful memories or heartache that’s too difficult to ignore. It might even be the shrinking amount of sunlight that’s called Seasonal Affective Disorder, but it comes to you as the “holiday blues” or something like it. Whatever the cause, it may make coming to church especially difficult since everyone else seems so happy.

This year the ACP offers a service called “The Longest Night.” While all are welcome, it’s especially designed for those who feel surrounded by darkness of any kind. Perhaps you know someone who would welcome such an invitation, especially if you offered to come with him or her.

There will be music, Scripture, prayer, silence, and an overall atmosphere of welcome, warmth, and affirmation.

Please join us on Thursday, 19 December, at 20h00.
Together we’ll affirm that wonderful passage in the Gospel of John: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.” (John 1:5)

THE LONGEST NIGHT
20h, Thursday 19 December
American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
A pastor’s reflections on trust, transitions and murder

by Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

Every ending comes with some measure of grief and some measure of relief. The amount of each will depend upon the circumstances. Well, that’s what a hospital chaplain once told me. If we’re talking about the death of a loved one, then grief, obviously, outweighs any small sense of relief that might come. In fact, any honest talk of relief might sound callous and inappropriate. What kind of a pastor are you anyway?!

Ok, so maybe a different example might be easier to handle.

When I was a student, the end of term included a huge amount of relief. No surprise there. But if I’m honest, the end of exams also meant the end of sitting in class with my friend Erik. The new term might mean that Michelle and I wouldn’t get to share again a quick hello every morning as we both ran late to our first class of the day. These may not be significant losses, but those enjoyable parts of each day are lost to a new term and a new schedule. Yet who cares about grief when everyone is celebrating the end of term?

I guess in both of these situations you can see how life more often than not allows room for only one part of our complex human experience at a time. This feels especially problematic for me at the moment as we prepare to move back to the United States. If I’m really sad to be leaving ACP (which I am), there are voices (internal and external) that ask, “does that mean you’re not excited about moving to Santa Monica?” And if I’m excited about our new church in Santa Monica (which I am), does that mean that I’m glad that we’re leaving Paris? Is there room for us to be both sad and happy at the same time?

A friend once told me that a pastor leaving a church is like a very bizarre funeral. At this funeral I (the pastor) have just died because I’m leaving the church and you (the congregation) are grieving this loss (well some of you, at least). But I’m still here as your pastor so I’m also presiding over my own funeral trying to offer comfort and encouragement during this sad time. Personally, I’m also feeling a deep sense of loss so at this funeral I’m sitting with all of you in the pews with a box of tissues looking for some comfort and encouragement. And if that isn’t complicated enough, since I’m the one who made the choice to take a new job, I’m also the one who murdered your beloved pastor. Yikes. I’m in the casket, the pulpit, the pews and presumably a jail cell awaiting trial for murder all at the same time. Oh, and to complicate things even more, this funeral is also a party because everyone is supposed to be happy for me that we’re moving to a beautiful place. I guess all funerals are sort of bizarre in this way. So how are we supposed to navigate through life holding all these complex feelings and experiences?

Well, first of all, I don’t know. Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.” My guess is that the phrase, lean not on your own understanding, is a fancy way of saying, ‘I don’t know’ is a perfectly valid answer. The phrase trust in the Lord, however tends to be a line that we use to cancel out any emotions that feel inconvenient, uncomfortable, or negative. If we are sad or anxious or mad, we might hear a voice (internal and/or external) saying “Yeah, but trust in the Lord!” This line in a text (SMS) message would likely be punctuated with a smiley face emoji to help drive home the point. There’s no room here for your sadness, depression, grief, anger or doubt.

But in the ancient world, our heart is a way of talking about our whole inner life (emotions, intellect, personality, desires and will). And if the whole of our inner world includes these complex and confusing emotions, thoughts and desires are we allowed to hear this proverb inviting us to trust God not just with our joy, but also with our grief? Can we hear God inviting us to trust her with our doubt, depression and anger as well as our faith and hope? Is there space in the presence of God for more than one piece of our complex human experience at a time?

If so, perhaps such vulnerable trust in the Lord can lead to the what Proverbs 3:8 describes as “healing to our body and refreshment to our bones.”
## Bible readings for December

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday of Advent</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>First Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 December</td>
<td>Fourth Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:3-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25</td>
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<td>29 December</td>
<td>First Sunday after Christmas Day</td>
<td>Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23</td>
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## ACP Community Book Study

Here’s a great Christmas gift to give and receive: Adam Hamilton’s book *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*.

“I can think of no one more adept at bringing out the beauty and authority of scripture while also shedding light on the Bible’s most controversial teachings than Adam Hamilton,” says Jim Wallis, president and founder of Sojourners.

As a congregation, we will be reading and discussing this inspirational book from 12 January to 29 February, via small group discussions.

Get your copy from the ACP Book Table on Sundays after worship while they last. Also, digital and paperback copies are available from online booksellers. We are excited to embark on this journey as a church, and all are welcome!
A prayer for all seasons
by Rev. Dan Michalek
Visiting Pastor

Mighty God, it’s too easy. It’s way too easy to recite the slogans, affirm the creeds, and walk away empty-handed. But on Christ the King Sunday, we affirm the most important reality in the universe, and may we live as if we truly believed what we say.

_In him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible....all things have been created through him and for him._ (Colossians 1:16)

Forgive our not being shaken by that. All things.

_He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together._ (verse 17)

Planets, stars in the sky, my heart and soul. All things.

_Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things....by making peace through the blood of his cross._ (verse 20)

Reconciliation. Healing. All things.

"And soul by soul and silently, her shining bounds increase. And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace."

May it be so.

100 Nights of Welcome, reprise
by Daniel Tostado

Our 100 Nights of Welcome (100NOW) mission is starting up again for its second season. The American Church in Paris provides an overnight shelter during winter for refugees in Paris, operating out of the gym. During the 100 coldest nights of winter, starting at the beginning of Advent, we open the church house doors to those who have fled persecution and now find themselves homeless in Paris.

Last winter (2018-2019) was the first season of 100NOW, and it went so well. We housed overnight sleeping facilities for 10 “gentlemen” (the term used for our guests, so as not to stigmatize our guests by labelling them as homeless or refugees). They were mostly young men from sub-Saharan Africa, and were all very polite. The nights rolled out smoothly with no negative incidents, just 10 gentlemen and two church volunteers sleeping in the gym.

In fact, there were many highlights: several of our guests obtained refugee status while staying with us, and were able to transition to housing or living with host families afterward. The gentlemen attended ACP cafés hosted in the ACP theatre, led spontaneous dance sessions, participated in sports ministry, and joined French integration programs.

For this new season, starting 1 December, we need many new volunteers, including men willing to sleep overnight in the gym to ensure everyone is safe and sound. Potential volunteers, please reach out to Daniel Tostado at danieltostado1@gmail.com.
All women are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Party on 8 December from 12h15 – 13h30. We will meet in Pastor Scott and Kim’s apartment located on the 3rd floor of the ACP Church House. In order to enjoy the flavours of the holidays, if you are able, please bring a sweet or savoury treat to share. We will also be making a joyful noise to the Lord, singing our favourite Christmas carols around the Christmas tree. Contact Kim at women.acparis@gmail.com for more information.

Childcare will be available on the ground floor of the Church House. I hope that you can join us. Merry Christmas!

Prison Ministry

Please contribute to prisoners’ Christmas

As you start baking up goodies for holiday feasts, think about sharing some with prisoners in Paris. As a prison chaplain, ACP’s Carolyn Bouazouni organizes an annual Christmas worship service and dinner reception, this year on Saturday 21 December. She would like to bring along as many baked goods as possible, to bring a bit of culinary cheer into the lives of incarcerated men and women.

If you would like to contribute, there are some guidelines: the food needs to be finger-food, or easy to eat, and should not be in a metal pan. If you have any questions, please email Carolyn at cbouazouni@gmail.com.

RIP Reverend Thomas Duggan, 1934–2019

Senior Pastor at the American Church in Paris from 1978 to 1992

Born in Chicago, Tom Duggan studied at Princeton and Yale Divinity school, and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1959. He met Gail when they were both teaching English in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and they were married three years later. He served in churches on both the east and west coasts of the US, before becoming a pastor in The Hague.

The Duggan family, including their two children, arrived at the ACP in 1978. They spent the next 14 years dealing with major challenges, including the changing community of expats, diplomats and business people.

He coordinated some 30 organizations that were part of the church’s outreach. The Beckerath pipe organ was installed in 1988, our two Tiffany windows needed special care, and the pulpit was completed with six new carvings. These and other projects required endless fundraising.

Although serving as senior pastor of the American Church in Paris had probably been the highlight of his career, by 1992 he felt ready for a change. He spent the next six years pastoring a church in Thailand, seeing many of his previous students, now middle-aged and middle class, making significant contributions to Thai society.

Retiring to Pilgrim Place in California, he served as interim pastor in three Southern California houses of worship, including Claremont Presbyterian Church. Dr. Duggan died from complications of lymphoma, on 21 October at his home in Claremont.

He is survived by his wife, Gail; daughter, Frieda Duggan; son, Christopher Duggan and daughter-in-law Tara; and grandsons Liam and Ari.

A memorial service will be held at 15h30 on Saturday, 18 January, in Pilgrim Place’s Decker Hall, 665 Avery Road, Claremont, California.
If you often find yourself thinking fondly of our interim youth pastors, the Fondells, then we have good news for you; Pastor Jodi’s voice, stories, and teaching are now available in book form! Sadly, neither the words to the Swedish birthday song nor Pastor Doug’s uncanny chicken imitations are included, but if like me, you’ve missed Pastor Jodi’s warmth and directness in calling the church to faithfulness in ministry, you will find that in her book *I Was a Stranger: Encouraging the Church to Welcome and Embrace the Foreigner* (Wipf and Stock, 2019).

The book kicks off with a basic study of the primary biblical texts regarding God’s heart for welcome that have guided her in her ministry, and ends with a guide to help readers explore and apply these texts themselves. In between, Jodi shares example after example of how she’s seen churches transformed when they take seriously the scriptural refrains of loving our neighbors and entertaining strangers.

Before their stint at the American Church in Paris, the Fondells spent 16 years pastoring an international fellowship in Stockholm where, along with a vast repertoire of stories, Jodi also picked up the Swedish habit of *fika*. Reading *I Was a Stranger* feels like sharing one of those cozy coffee breaks with her. This is no ivory tower treatise on the theoretical effects of Christian hospitality, but time spent in the presence of an imminently approachable veteran minister.

Jodi shares candidly not only the joys of relationships formed outside of comfort zones, but also the insecurities and misunderstanding that come along with sharing life with people who come from very different backgrounds and contexts. She offers her experiences both of uplifting connections made and heartbreaking disconnects as she urges churches to open their doors wide to the world that God so loves. In the face of such a lofty calling, Jodi insists on keeping it real, citing the potential rewards for congregations who do so as well as counseling churches to count the costs before undertaking the mission.

Jodi devotes significant time to exploring the difference between integration and assimilation, proffering models of ministry in which we create space for each other’s true selves rather than demanding that others change in order to belong. Believing that understanding breeds compassion, she shares her own and her former parishioners’ stories of relocation, examining the various motivations people have for becoming strangers in a strange land and providing insights into the particular needs of people on the move.

Welcoming them well, she counsels, constitutes a source of blessing for the established community of faith and for those new to it, as all experience the gospel in action. In true Fondell fashion, there is an entire chapter on planning events and parties that both foster and celebrate this radical togetherness. Ultimately, in *I Was a Stranger*, Rev. Jodi Mullen Fondell calls and equips readers to live their faith, whether at home or abroad, in such a way that becomes visibly good news for the whole world.

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**Serve the City - Christmas meal**

_by Peter DeWit_

In a perfect world we would all be able to sit down in our homes and eat a sumptuous meal for Christmas. This ain’t no perfect world. And so this year as a church we want to do something festive for those who cannot feast.

On Thursday 19 December at 19h30, we invite you to join Serve the City Paris along with the participants of 100 Nights of Welcome for an unforgettable night of food, music and dance. Our distinguished guests will be coming from all around the world, places like Sudan, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iran, and maybe even Rwanda. And you, too!

You are invited to join us in bringing the warmth of Christmas to our shelterless Parisian community. Besides the warmth of your presence, we ask you to come with enough delicious food to feed a few others. Together we will share, laugh, and learn what it is to love. Contact for information: info@servethecity.paris
ACP property development work, 2nd phase
by Daniel Grout

Plans for the big church building renovation project are moving forward. In October, the American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU) held a development meeting in the US, in Minnesota. The ACP Property Committee presented the property development plans as proposed and submitted by the architects from Pei Partnership – Cortes Associés.

Before leaving for the US, the Property Committee met with the architects to discuss their proposed development plan for the church building and the cover over the courtyard. The committee had asked for some revisions which they received in time for the AFCU meeting.

The vision of the architects is to develop the attic into apartments for the senior pastor and the music director in order to free up the space on the third floor for more meeting rooms.

It is envisioned to enlarge the current lift for people with disabilities, so that it conforms to the norms, and also to extend its reach to the top floors.

The staircase on the side of rue Jean Nicot would also be extended to reach the attic. The proposal includes creating a new stairwell at the back of the building with a lift to carry goods and people. It would replace the current dumbwaiter.

The AFCU team listened very carefully to the presentation by the Property Committee, and the decision was made to go ahead with further thinking, as the congregation would need to decide what to do with the space that would be freed.

The AFCU is also concerned about the funding of the project, and what the ratio would be between space for the church and its committees and rental space.

A commission has been set up to reflect on those questions. The next AFCU development meeting is scheduled to be held in May 2020 and the church hopes to provide some answers by that time. The Property Committee will organize further meetings with the congregation to present the development plan.

It is all very exciting! A suivre...

The Heritage Society

The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), our US partner in ministry, has established endowment funds to help sustain our long-term ministry. Gifts from estates are a fundamental way these endowments are funded. If you would like to participate in growing these endowment funds, please contact the AFCU at AFCUHeritage@AFCUBridge.org
I’m dreaming of a green Christmas
by Rose Burke

You’ve probably long heard about resisting commercialism and putting the “Christ back into Christmas.” In the past few years, we’re also learning more about the environmental impact of “shop until you drop.” What follows is some research on ideas for a greener and more meaningful holiday. O come all ye wasteful!

Reduce

Holiday sales at retailers surpassed $1 trillion in the US last year alone, so the impact on the environment and people is immense. It can be dire if those purchases are harmful to the environment or made by workers who are paid poverty wages or are subject to unsafe conditions.

The British actress Emma Thompson now bans gift-giving in her family. Another approach is to tone it down and choose wisely. In my family, we noticed that not everyone could afford giving gifts to each member of the extended family, so we decided to play Secret Santa, where we pull a name from a hat and gift with an agreed dollar limit. On my husband’s side, we give presents for the family. Last year it was ski helmets, which probably helped save my nephew’s life last year during a serious accident.

Reuse

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree: How lovely (and unsustainable) are thy branches! The US alone cuts down 20.8 million trees each year. Real trees can be a green choice if purchased locally at an organic farm and reused or recycled. However, the environmental impact is huge if they are grown with pesticides, shipped from overseas, and taken to the local dump where they decompose very slowly and create methane—a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Some families are now purchasing potted trees and placing them in their garden or terrace after the holidays. The latest trend is renting your Tannenbaum! There are now services like Treezmas in France offering rentals that include dropoff and pickup from French growers. Or you can decide to outsource your sapin. This year we’ve decided to enjoy the tree at our friend’s house and the one at the American Church of Paris, especially since we’ll be away for the holidays. Plastic trees can be a greener choice than real trees if kept for more than 10 years, are made of recyclable materials, and are eventually recycled properly.

Recycle

The plastics in gifts and wrapping are also contributing to our climate crisis, especially pollution of the Earth’s oceans that end up in the fish we eat. London alone generates enough wrapping paper each year to cover the circumference of the equator—25,000 miles—adding up to a waste of taxpayer monies and a disposal nightmare.

Paris has made great strides in making recycling of plastics easier—if they are recyclable in the first place. This is not the case with most wrapping paper, bows, ribbons, and tape that generally include some plastics. Choose certified recyclable paper printed with plant (instead of petrochemical) inks. Or try furoshiki, the Japanese art of wrapping in scarves. In the past, I’ve used my daughter’s childhood art as gift-wrap. Newspaper secured with twine or yarn and decorated with a sprig of fir is what’s trending on Instagram.

Refocus

I haven’t even addressed holiday travel or meals, but the same principles apply: Reduce, reuse, recycle—and refocus. Instead of “buying into” Christmas in a big way, create a saner and more spiritual holiday. Why not “spend” more time with family, friends, or in solo prayer and contemplation? Or #OptOutside and enjoy nature instead of participating in #BlackFriday. Or give more to charity, our communities, or the church? Rather than make purchases on #CyberMonday, open your wallet on #GivingTuesday. It’s the most wonderful time of the year, as the song goes, when we have an opportunity to give with joy and in stewardship, mindfully caring about and respecting God’s creation.

Rose Marie Burke is a member of ACP’s Writers’ Group. Interested in creating a Green Team at ACP? Write to Rose at rose.burke89@yahoo.fr.

For more on creating green holidays, search the Internet for “sustainable Christmas tips” and “keep Christ in Christmas.”
Donations and contributions are needed for the Friday Mission Lunch Food Drive. Items we’re requesting include: pasta, rice, long conservation milk, coffee, sugar cubes, olive oil, vinegar, mustard, napkins, sponges and liquid dish soap.

You can also still make a Love in a Box gift which will go to children who would not otherwise receive a Christmas present this year. Instructions on what and how to pack your special gift box can be found at the Love in a Box table in the Theater or at the reception desk.

Deadline Sunday, 8 December. We are very grateful for your generosity and support. – Kristie Worrel
What’s up in Paris
Events in December/January
by Karen Albrecht

Food for thought
Long before our current obsession with “eating local,” plenty of effort had to go into finding ready sources of fresh nourishment for the metropolis. Visit the Bibliothèque Forney, hidden inside a storybook castle in the Marais, for “Nourrir Paris,” a fun (and free) look at how the city has been fed, from medieval vegetable plots to the La Villette stockyards, the old central market at Les Halles, and today’s bustling Rungis complex. Gorge on fun facts while you savor the quaint, food-themed shop signs and deliciously evocative photos.
Until 1 Feb, quefaire.paris.fr

Da Vinci lode
Painter, inventor, and quintessential Renaissance man Leonardo da Vinci died 500 years ago, leaving behind some of the world’s most highly prized artworks — and Paris’s most iconic painting. No surprise then that the mandatory reservations for the Louvre’s blockbuster show are going fast. The museum’s first-ever virtual reality feature allows the impossible fantasy of a tête-à-tête with “La Joconde” herself, getting up close and personal with Leonardo’s enigmatic Mona Lisa.

Hans on
The wonderfully geometric premises of the just-renovated Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris are hosting a retrospective of Franco-German painter Hans Hartung (1904-1989), acclaimed for his strikingly geometric “gestural abstract” style. The museum’s freshly rehung permanent collections are a star-studded “who’s who” of 20th-century art. Ready to sample a newer, more out-there vibe? Check out “You,” uber-contemporary video, sculpture, installations, and more from Lafayette Anticipations, through 16 February.

Hobbit-forming
Libraries have always been a place to open one’s imagination, but the Bibliothèque Nationale de France takes it to a whole new level: the middle-earth. J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973), a brainy Oxford don who specialized in medieval languages and literature, dreamed up an elaborate fictional universe, complete with its own landscapes, peoples and languages. The show features original drawings, manuscripts and installations designed to plunge visitors deep into the mythical realm of the Lord of the Rings.
Until 16 February, bnf.fr

Opposites attract
The vintage Palais de la Découverte science museum, nestled behind the Grand Palais, has for generations been the place for hands-on science experiments that serve as a tantalizing peek, inviting a deeper delve into the secrets of the universe. The current show “Magnétique” is no exception, exploring the mysteries and marvels of magnetism, starting with the humble refrigerator magnet and ranging on up to the North Pole, right on down to nanoparticles.

Fair play
Been cooped up inside for too long? Take a welcome break from art shows, power shopping and holiday merry-making for a stroll through the outdoor funfair at La Villette. Try your hand at winning a plush prize at the carnival booths, then brace for a very brisk ride on the giant rollercoaster, or a gentler spin on the colorful merry-go-round. Just remember to take your mittens off before you sample the sticky cotton candy.
7 December-4 January, lavillette.com
ACP Christmas market

THANK YOU!

by Kristie Worrel

The ACP Marche de Noel is always a fun and festive way to welcome in this year’s holiday season. This year, it featured over 30 artisan vendors, several Mission Outreach groups, and a host of beautiful handmade items, including jewelry, ceramic pottery, artisanal wreaths and Christmas decorations, children’s toys and clothes, including alpaca wool knitwear from Peru.

There was a big focus this year on sustainable, handmade products, like hand-knitted cat toys filled with recycled crunchy plastic, pressed-flower art, and organic serums and skin creams. Santa Claus was there with a booming ho-ho-ho, the delicious luncheon provided by the Filipino Fellowship was a sell-out as always, and the coffee bar with yummy homemade cookies and cakes was a big hit.

The ambiance was made even more festive thanks to our beloved Fred Gramann, who organised special Christmas caroling by both the adult choir and Lumina.

A huge thank you to all participants, supporters and especially to the many, many volunteers who gave their time and talents to ensure that all went smoothly for this very special ACP event. The proceeds made from this successful event will go to supporting our many local and global mission ministries. A HUGE MERCI a TOUS!
Paris to Chartres in slippers
by Carol Mundinger

Last September, a group of 10 ladies from the ACP, as well as from other parts of France and the world (the US, Switzerland, Jerusalem), started out on a pilgrimage from Paris to Chartres. We walked down the Seine from the church to Notre Dame, where we threw all our troubles and worries into the water. From there we started south out of Paris and into the banlieue.

It was a rather nice day at the beginning, but by lunchtime it was pouring down rain. We ate our lunch in a woods, some using picnic tables and others sitting on the ground under dense trees to try to keep their sandwiches from getting too soggy. We ended up laughing about the situation, since what else could you do?

We spent the first night in an Abbaye in Vauhallan, after walking about 28 kilometers that first day. I had good sports shoes that I had bought a year earlier and had done quite a bit of hiking in the mountains of Colorado in the summer, so I figured my shoes were well broken in. It turns out that 28 kilometers is not at all the same as 15 to 20. A few kilometers before arriving in Vauhallan, my shoes had started digging into the back of my left heel and causing more and more pain, since they rose up higher than any of my other shoes.

When we got to the Abbaye, I took off my shoes and put on my slippers to great relief. They rode down below the point that was hurting, so as long as there was nothing touching that point, there was no pain. When we went down to dinner, I mentioned how my heel had been hurting and pulled down my sock to show someone and gasped at the severe bruise and swelling. I also realised that it was so tender that I couldn't even touch it. Great. How was I to walk the remaining 90 kilometers?

Kim suggested I should wear other shoes, but I only had dress shoes with a bit of a heel which wouldn’t do on wet and rocky ground. How about those slippers? They’re Mahabi slippers which are very firm and have a detachable rubber sole, but I didn’t think that walking 90 kilometers in slippers would be possible. Well, I ended up doing just that, since I didn’t really have a choice. Those slippers ended up being a Godsend.

My feet felt great and I had not even put a dent in the rubber soles, even after tramping through fields, forests, asphalt, and rocky terrain. God’s presence was among us, guiding us all along the way, giving us determination and protection.

With great emotion, we arrived five days later at the Chartres Cathedral, and received a personal guided tour of the stained-glass windows and labyrinth from Chartres resident and scholar Jill Geoffrion, who happened to be one of our fellow pilgrims.

As we parted ways, after five days of a tight bond between the nine walkers and three helpers, it was suggested that I contact the Mahabi company and recount the story. So I did that when I got back, letting them know what a great product they have. I immediately received a response from them, congratulating me for the undertaking and offering me a new pair free of charge. They even suggested their deluxe leather model, which was twice as expensive as my original pair!

They arrived in the mail last week, just in time to hear about them on the ACP Today radio show, where fellow pilgrims Monica, Kim, Kate and Carrie shared their experiences (and mine) about our pilgrimage, as well as Kim’s much greater experience walking the Camino St.-Jacques-de-Compostelle. Now, I wonder if that pilgrimage could be done in Mahabi slippers?
Search process for an Interim Senior Pastor
by Valentina Lana

A successful transition is a transition that is carefully planned. With the term of our Senior Pastor coming to an end in July 2020, the AFCU and the American Church in Paris Human Resources Committee have been hard at work since the fall of 2018, aiming to achieve a smooth transition for the ACP. For one year, our congregation will be served by an Interim Senior Pastor.

The first actions of the process for us at the ACP was to draft a job description, and to create a search committee whose makeup reflects the diversity of our congregation. Meanwhile, the AFCU created a search committee that received the applications and performed a thorough screening of the applicants’ credentials and experience. Now it’s up to the ACP search committee to interview the AFCU’s shortlisted candidates.

The interviews of the shortlist of candidates sent to us by the AFCU will take place between the end of 2019 and the beginning of the new year, the goal being to have a final decision made by March 2020. Members of the Search Committee would appreciate the prayers of the congregation during the process.

The seven members of the ACP Search Committee are:
- Teteh Atikpo, for the congregation at large;
- Daniel Grout, for the ACP’s HR Committee;
- Kerry Lieury, Secretary of the Council;
- Lela Losq, for the ACP’s HR Committee;
- Savannah Saunders, for the congregation at large;
- Ashleigh Searle, for the congregation at large;
- Marleigh White, Moderator of the Council.

We are very grateful to the AFCU and to the ACP’s Search Committees for their service to our congregation in this indeed crucial process, and we can’t wait to see what the future holds for our congregation.

Tuesday Women’s Bible Study

All women are welcome to attend, as we continue with our Tim Keller Gospel in Life series: City, The World That Is. Childcare is provided, with a week’s notice. For more information, contact katherine.zouein@gmail.com.

December schedule
- 3 Dec: Justice, A People for Others
- 10 Dec: Eternity, The World that is to Come
- 17 Dec: Christmas Brunch location TBD

Remember, you can order a Poinsettia plant to decorate the Sanctuary, and take it home after Christmas Eve. Get the order form in the Bulletin or ask at the Reception (20 euros).

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday, 12 December
ACP, Salle G5

This month’s movies to see beforehand:
- Ford vs Ferrari/Le Mans 66
- J’accuse
- Les Misérables

Contact: movies@acparis.org
For unto us a child
by Alison Benney

The Christmas story told in stained glass: on the east wall of the ACP Sanctuary, 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-bearing Magi. This window was created by the Lorin workshops of Chartres (the atelier still exists, but has been taken over by another family).

For unto us a child
by Alison Benney

The Christmas story told in stained glass: on the east wall of the ACP Sanctuary, 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-bearing Magi. This window was created by the Lorin workshops of Chartres (the atelier still exists, but has been taken over by another family).

Gabriel
Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor 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 Christmas moments for the children

Children's Lessons and Carols Service, 15 December: Come partake in this special service where our children lead us through the Christmas story through song and scripture.

Family Christmas Eve Service, 24 December: An afternoon service featuring carol singing, glow sticks, and interactive storytelling all wrapped into a 45-minute package for our little ones. We are looking for child readers and participants, so please let Allison Wheeler know if your child(ren) would like to help lead this special service, at childrensworship@acparis.org.
What’s going on?
Tune in to ACP Today radio

Have you ever listened to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 2 and 16 December. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune into 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante. We broadcast especially for friends who may be house-bound 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, at www.acparis.org/ACPtoday, or the ACP mobile app.

On Monday 2 December, Amit Pieter hosts, and discusses with Associate Pastor Tim Vance the bittersweet pangs of leaving the ACP and moving on to new pastures. Listen in for anecdotes, a Question of Faith, an appeal for food donations for our Prison mission Christmas dinner, and a bit of Christmas music.

On Monday 16 December, Ashleigh Searle hosts, with Senior Pastor Scott Herr, who will respond to a Question of Faith. Daniel Tostado will describe one aspect of our refugee work, the 100 Nights of Welcome that he coordinates, we’ll interview prison chaplain Carolyn Bouazouni about her holiday dinner for prisoners, and Rose Burke will discuss how to reduce your climate impact during the holidays.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? If you want to catch up, all our shows are available on the ACP website. 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.

Serve the City

Are you feeling the urge to help those less fortunate around you, but not sure how? Serve the City Paris meets five days a week at La Caféothèque (75004) at 8h30 to deliver food to the refugees and homeless throughout Paris.

For more information, visit the site www.servethecityparis.com or write to info@servethecity.paris. You will find great opportunities to become a part of the Serve the City movement of volunteers, seeking to show compassion and kindness to the most vulnerable in our city.

Sandy Hook remembrance service

Saturday, 14 December at 12h

This service marks the 7th anniversary of the tragic Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Join us in remembrance at the American Church, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris (63 bus, métro Alma-Marceau or Invalides).
Stewardship & the Friday Mission Lunch
by Ashley Hafer

The arms of community at ACP are far-reaching and have been for decades. One of our long-standing missions at the church is the Friday Mission Lunch (FML). In conjunction with other community and religious organizations, it has operated for over 26 years! The lunch was started by a canon at the American Cathedral in Paris. Soon thereafter, the ACP began to participate in this tradition of inclusion.

The FML as it is referred to, is a weekly lunch held primarily at the American Cathedral of Paris. Each Friday, one of several local teams (one being the ACP team) spearheads a fantastic gourmet menu and assembles a four-course meal that is served in a formal dining room over an hour. This long-standing fellowship has served over 1,400 meals in its duration. The meals are served 52 weeks of the year. Since its inception, only two Friday meals were redirected to box lunches due to fire or ash damage. Otherwise, it’s business as usual for the volunteers even on Christmas and other holidays!

Mission lunch guests enjoy a hot meal, consisting of a main dish and sides, frequently comprised of a traditional French main. This is followed by a salad course, then a lovely cheese and bread option. Dessert is often a homemade seasonal cake or fruit dish. The guests are then offered hot tea and coffee. Holiday meals are especially festive with traditional turkey at Thanksgiving, Halloween autumn offerings in late October and of course a sumptuous Christmas meal on the week preceding Noel. At Christmastime, the guests are given a gift from the FML community that is thoughtfully wrapped and presented.

The meal commences with a prayer (in English), well actually, two prayers! The volunteers pray for the service quietly in the kitchen, thanking God for the ability to serve our guests in community and joy. The guests and volunteers then pray together in French, offering gratitude for the hot meal and remembering those who could not join in that day.

The 64 guests at the dining tables include a wide spectrum of situations. Some have homes, but not adequate resources for nutrition. Others are new to Paris and just getting settled in a housing situation. Many do not speak English, but the community finds many ways to communicate. There are men, women and often children at the table. The group changes a little each week, although many of our guests have been attending for years. The guests form a special bond as they take their spots at their favorite table and reconnect with one another as well as the volunteers, sharing the news of the week. The discussion at lunch is always meaningful, often energized and never dull!

Stewardship at ACP is the tool that allows this fine tradition to survive. Our various mission projects require your support each year to continue. The benefit of stewardship to our ACP donors is huge! As you walk around the city that you love, you can be confident that this mission as well as countless others carry the message of God’s love and concern to our community.

There are opportunities for you to volunteer at the FML as well. Check the bulletin to read how to register (even just once) as a volunteer with the relentless team of chefs that show up each week. Additionally, we are currently holding the supply drive for the FML that helps stock the pantry of staples for the meals. Items such as olive oil, balsamic vinegar, coffee, sugar, napkins, liquid dish detergent, rice and dried pasta are always gratefully received and can be dropped in the Food Drive table in the Narthex, until 8 December.

Come along to the Adult Fellowship Group

The Adult Fellowship Group started as a 30Plus group and has grown to an all-church, all ages, children included, friends-invited monthly event.

We meet each month for an activity, to be determined by the group, and ideas are welcome. Get to know your ACP brothers and sisters (better). Talk, listen, play, be yourself!

Contact Daphne at 30plusfellowship@acparis.org
Sunday Worship at the ACP

09h00:  
Traditional Service, with weekly communion

11h00:  
Traditional Service, with choirs, children’s worship service; communion first Sunday of the month

13h30:  
Contemporary Service, with children’s worship service, and live band accompanying sung worship

Please help keep our children healthy
Because we want to keep the ACP nursery and toddler rooms safe and hygienic places to play and rest, children who are sick will not be admitted to the nursery and toddler rooms. This is to protect all of our children from communicable illnesses. We also assume that a child who is unwell will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) or caregiver(s) rather than at Sunday nursery. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation. If you have any questions, please email Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

Rainbow Connection Grief Support
A support group for those mourning the loss of a loved one. All meetings are free and facilitated by a therapist who specializes in grief therapy. The meetings take place in the Catacombs. Contact: RainbowConnectionGS@gmail.com

The Longest Night
A reflective service for the Christmas season

20h, Thursday 19 December
American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
When thinking of queen Marie-Antoinette, one conjures up visions of a woman wearing a voluminous gown and a huge powdered wig while uttering those famous words “Let them eat cake.” She was certainly the most-hated woman in France at the time of her death, but her tragic demise may actually have made her into a cult figure. This is the premise put forth in the exhibit Marie-Antoinette, Metamorphoses of an Image being held through 26 January at the Conciergerie. Over 200 objects, including portraits, engravings, documents, letters, fashion items, books and film excerpts are gathered here to tell the story of the young queen.

And what a story it is! Used as a pawn to foster good relations between her native Austria and France, she was married off at age 14 to then dauphin Louis XVI. A short five years later, they ascended to the throne, but neither was groomed to rule. Further, they were plagued by difficulties in the marriage bed and probably did not consummate their union for seven years. At the relatively advanced age of 23, Marie gave birth to their first child. Motherhood seems to have agreed with her, as she retreated to the Trianon and the Petit Hameau, her rustic hideaways on the grounds of Versailles where she could play peasant and raise her children. She was devout, but the question is raised whether she was faithful to her husband.

In the meantime, the people were suffering from poverty, wars, and famine, while the monarchs appeared indifferent. Flash forward to the Revolution. Marie and Louis were arrested in 1791. She was accused of treason, conspiracy, and collusion with domestic and foreign enemies. Her last 10 weeks were spent at the Conciergerie. She passed the time in quiet reflection and in prayer. When the final day came, she was transported in an open horse-drawn cart through the streets of Paris to the guillotine, in the Place de la Concorde. As she was driven through the streets, she was forced to endure the wrath of the people who spat on her and cursed at her. Eyewitness accounts attest that she conducted herself with dignity and grace throughout the entire ordeal, and even mounted the scaffold with fearless elegance. A swift drop of the blade brought her days to an end, her severed head held up to the screaming crowd.

The tragic circumstances that surrounded Marie’s life have romanticized her into an urban legend. Her story has been told in many books, biographies, films, manga and even comic books, many of which are on display. A TV clip of the Muppets features Miss Piggy as the queen, with a chorus of pigs singing the BeeGees’ “Staying Alive.” There are dolls – with and without heads – a costumed Barbie, and even a Pez dispenser in extremely bad taste. Her name and image have become marketing vehicles which grace everything from notebooks and postcards to cheap souvenirs, chocolates and macarons. She is positioned in the exhibit as the “celebrity of the 18th century,” and parallels are made with the life of Princess Diana.

It may be slightly morbid to house the exhibit in the very place where Marie lived out her last days, but the space is dramatically arranged and beautifully lit. The curator has culled together a vast assortment of documents from her trial paired with portraits of Marie throughout her life. Porcelain, furniture and fashion accessories attest to the lavish lifestyle enjoyed by the young queen. Artists’ renderings of the execution are more imagined than accurate but serve to illustrate the dramatic events that led up to her death. With most text in both French and English, this is a great opportunity to learn more about the ill-fated queen.

Marie-Antoinette, Metamorphoses of an Image, through 26 January, free of charge, at the Conciergerie, 2 Boulevard du Palais, 75001 Paris
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's Monthly Bible Study - Focus on forgiveness</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 Dec</td>
<td>12h15-13h15 F2 (first floor) Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:sundaywomensbible@acparis.org">sundaywomensbible@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>All women welcome to study what the Bible says about forgiving and being forgiven. Free childcare is provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kid’s Monthly Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 Dec</td>
<td>12h15-13h15 G7 (Eng); Catacombs (Fr) Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>All children ages 7-12 welcome to study the “Who’s Who” of Bible Characters. The course is taught in English &amp; French.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>100 Nights of Welcome (100 NOW) launch:</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 1 Dec thru Monday 9 Mar 2020</td>
<td>Daniel Tostado <a href="mailto:danieltostado1@gmail.com">danieltostado1@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>This ACP ministry provides warm hospitality, shelter, beds, and showers to 10 refugees each evening during the winter months in the ACP gymnasium. Many volunteers are needed.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 2 Dec</td>
<td>20h45-21h30 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews. This week’s show features a goodbye interview with Associate Pastor Tim Vance.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 6 Dec</td>
<td>From 20h email contact for location Daphne <a href="mailto:30plusfellowship@acparis.org">30plusfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>We meet once a month for an activity, to be determined each month, ideas welcome! Get to know your brothers &amp; sisters (better). Talk, listen, play, be yourself!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline for turning in Love in a Box donations</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 8 Dec</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make a Love in a Box gift for children who would not otherwise receive a Christmas present this year. Detailed packing lists &amp; instructions available at the ACP Reception.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline for turning in Friday Mission Lunch Food Drive donations</strong>—Items needed are: pasta, rice, olive oil, vinegar, long-conservation milk, coffee, sugar cubes, napkins, and dish detergent. Contributions can be left at the Food Drive table in the Narthex.</td>
<td>Sunday 8 Dec</td>
<td>Food Drive table in the Narthex.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women's Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 8 Dec</td>
<td>12h15-13h30 Herr apartment Kim Herr / Kate Snipes <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>All women are invited to join our annual Christmas Party, in Pastor Scott and Kim’s apartment on the 3rd floor of the ACP Church House. We’ll sing our favorite carols around the Christmas tree. If you are able, please bring a sweet or savory holiday treat to share. Childcare available in G1.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 12 Dec</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2 Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie selection: <em>Ford vs Ferrari/Le Mans 66, J'accuse, Les Misérables.</em> See any or all in advance; join the group for discussion.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13 Dec</td>
<td>10h-12h <a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free childcare available.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 13 Dec</td>
<td>10h-14h The American Cathedral If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org">fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remembrance Service for the 7th anniversary of Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy</strong></td>
<td>Saturday  14 Dec</td>
<td>12h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writers Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday  14 Dec</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30 email contact for location</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>The ACP writer’s group meets once a month to sharpen each other’s writing tool kits and support fellow members’ writing projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Candlelight Christmas Concerts</strong></td>
<td>Saturday  14 Dec</td>
<td>17h &amp; 20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The performing ensembles will include the American Church Choir, the ACP Bronze Ringers, Ensemble Lumina, Le Choeur d’Enfants SOTTO VOCE, and the Mirabeau String Quartet. Additional artists include Lisa Prevett (flute), Debra Takakjian (piano) and Richard Davis (piano). Tickets available at reception. Proceeds support the ACP missions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lessons and carols led by Children’s Worship</strong></td>
<td>Sunday  15 Dec</td>
<td>11h service</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a>.</td>
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<td>Our children will lead us through the story of the birth of Jesus in story and song. All children are welcome and encouraged to participate. A rehearsal will take place on Sunday, 8 December, during the 11h service.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday  16 Dec</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td><strong>Longest Night Service</strong></td>
<td>Thursday  19 Dec</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Together we will affirm that wonderful passage in the book of John: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Friday  20 Dec</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<td>Hélèn RUSQUET - piano; Lauren LIBAW - soprano</td>
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<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve Worship Services</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday  24 Dec</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Service, 16h</td>
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<td>To help us better welcome the many guests and tourists, please consider attending the 16h service or the 22h service as the 19h30 service is always very full.</td>
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<td><strong>Musical Prelude, 19h</strong></td>
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<td>Theater</td>
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<td><strong>Candlelight Service, 19h30</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Musical Prelude, 21h30</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Candlelight Service, 22h</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cookie Reception, 23h</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Christmas Holidays</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday  25 Dec — Saturday  28 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church offices closed.</td>
<td>Monday  30 Dec — Wednesday  1 Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Café</strong></td>
<td>Friday  17 Jan</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Come celebrate the New Year with music featuring the Orsay Jazz Quartet and more. Drinks and dinner for purchase, Open to all. Free entry. Invite your friends!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Sunday  26 Jan</td>
<td>12h15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:laycaregivers@acparis.org">laycaregivers@acparis.org</a> to join the class. All are welcome!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Library</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laycaregivers@acparis.org">laycaregivers@acparis.org</a></td>
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</table>
CHILDREN’S LESSONS & CAROLS WORSHIP
15 December at 11h00

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
19 December at 20h00

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP | 24 DECEMBER
Family Christmas Eve Worship at 16h00
Candlelight Christmas Eve at 19h00 (doors open at 18h45)
Candlelight Christmas Eve at 21h30

SUNDAY WORSHIP | 29 DECEMBER
Worship at 9h00, 11h00 and 13h30

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE
25-28, 30 December - 1 January

The American Church in Paris
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