Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the liturgical calendar, not only because everyone appreciates a new start (The First Sunday of Advent is the New Year’s Day of the liturgical calendar!), but also because Advent is a season full of poignant preparation, anticipation and expectation! The texts for this season are always ambiguous, including dire endings in the apocalyptic gospel readings mixed with the promises of God’s tender mercy and the hope of how people dwelling in darkness shall see a great light. It is a time when we try and wrap our minds around how even in the darkest moments of life, Mr. Light of the World breaks forth surprisingly into our reality with peace, love, joy and hope. It is a time when we get ourselves ready to celebrate the Mystery of the Incarnation, the news of a great joy that is for all people; the gospel that God has come and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth!

While in the western tradition Easter tends to be the High Holiday, for the Eastern Orthodox the feast of Christmas tends to be the climax of the liturgical year. Obviously both are important, but I tend to favor Christmas too. As a child, I loved Christmas because of the presents we received Christmas morning. And now as an adult it’s very clear that our children prefer Christmas as well. One can’t help but enjoy the Advent anticipation of decorating the house with evergreen and candles as a way of pushing back the cold darkness of the winter season in the northern hemisphere and making way for the twelve days of Christmas merriment!

But there is a deeper and more universal reason why we celebrate Christmas, and it is very simply that God continues to incarnate in and through us in the world today. Theosis is the word that comes to mind. It’s a strange word, really. If incarnation means “en-flesh-ment,” then theosis (which comes from the Greek word qeoV, “God”), means something like “en-God-ment.” While we celebrate in the mystery of Christmas how God took on human flesh, Christmas is also about the mystery of how God seeks to dwell in us as people and as a community so that we might, in the words of Paul, “be filled with the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19). St. Athanasius of Alexandria wrote, "For He [Christ] was made man that we might be made God.” (1)

Perhaps the Advent and Christmastide seasons are a good time to reflect more deeply on what we sing in the carol by Phillips Brooks: “How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.... O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.”

As we move toward the more common New Year of 1 January 2014, I would like to alert you to the fact that 2014 is the bicentennial anniversary of the beginning of English-speaking Protestant worship here in Paris. We will be partnering with other organizations to celebrate our own roots as a congregation, but also the unique and continuing opportunities that we have to embody the gospel of Jesus Christ for Paris and the world. Stay tuned!

As move toward the darkest time of the year here in this great city (Winter Solstice) and as we wrestle with the ambiguities and perplexities of personal loss and more global suffering, may we welcome the Christ-child anew in us. May we savor the gift of Emmanuel, “God with us.” With the angels may we share in word and deed the glad tidings of Noël throughout the coming year! And in the meantime, on behalf of the ACP Council and staff, I wish you and yours a very “Merry Christmas!”

(1) St. Athanasius, On the Incarnation of the Word, 54:3
(2) Joseph Cochran, Friendly Adventures: http://www.ourstory.info/library/1-roots/Cochran/amchurch1.html#ch2
I must confess that before I moved to Paris to work at the American Church, I did not know what Epiphany was, so if you find yourself wondering the same question...no worries!

In the liturgical worship of the Christian calendar, Epiphany is celebrated on 6 January to mark the arrival of the wise men or "magi" to worship the infant Christ. Of course we do not know how many of them came to visit Jesus but we do know that at least three significant and symbolic gifts were presented. We also do not know when precisely they arrived, but most scholars maintain it was probably a few months (or even up to two years) after the birth of Christ. Either way, it is important to celebrate the arrival of these first Gentiles to worship the Savior of the nations.

Epiphany also concludes the 12 Days of Christmas, which contrary to some, is the 12 days of giving gifts after Christmas, not before. Epiphany is celebrated among liturgical denominations and Orthodox Christianity. In fact, a number of students and young adults from ACP who are from places like Russia and Greece, wait until 6 January to give and receive their Christmas gifts. Epiphany also marks the end of Christmastide, when the decorations are stored and festivities conclude, thus ushering in a new season of preparation for Lent.

The actual word Epiphany can be translated as "manifestation", "striking appearance" or "vision of God." It is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. Western Christians commemorate principally (but not solely) the visitation

The Epiphany mural below was photographed by yours truly at the Saint-Etienne-du-Mont in Paris.
of the magi to the baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. Eastern Christians commemorate the baptisms in the Jordan River, seen as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. Many of the Eastern Churches follow a different calendar and so may observe this feast on 19 January.

I rather enjoyed rethinking my normal Christmas traditions and assumptions and appreciate the continuation of the season and spirit into January. I was always one who wanted to keep up decorations at least through New Year's day, but now I actually have a theological reason to do so!

Concerning the magi, we do not know much about their story (background, beliefs, or future faith journey), but we know that they were guided and lead by light. They responded in faith with what they had: a vision, a desire, a star, hope. Many of us are on a similar journey. We do not know where it will end up but we hope to encounter the Christ along the way.

As I reflect back upon the story, part of the beauty for me is the journey of the magi. People in biblical times were accustomed to rather long and tiresome journeys. Hoping on a plane and traveling from Asia Minor to Bethlehem in 2 hours was not an option. I wonder what they were thinking during the days, weeks, and months of their pilgrimage. These individuals were scholars, astrologers, and cosmologists. They were intelligent, observant, and rational people I assume. They were men of science...and faith it appears and God revealed himself to them in means they could understand and interpret. A reasonable conclusion from this story is that God worked, and works, in mysterious ways and we should not limited God to work only within traditional "religious" or even "Christian" parameters.

Many questions come to mind looking back upon this fascinating story:

What were the magi were hoping to find?

How much of God's story did they know or understand?

Did they fully grasp what kind of Savior-King this would be?

Unlike some of our Christmas gifts, which I am sure were returned on "Boxing Day," how much thought actually went into their gifts?

Did they really know that this baby would be a King unlike any other?

Did they ever come to understand or know that his baby would serve as God's High Priest eternally, and would die on behalf of the human race?

I suppose we cannot know. But we do know that God spoke to them in amazingly clear and directive ways.

Is God speaking to you? Might this new year be one of many "epiphanies"? Are we prepared to hear the voice of God is strange and unusual ways?

At the same time we must be ready to discover God in the commonplace, in arts, culture, and sciences. It has become clear to me that God desires to be discovered in all and through all things. He is a self-revealing God and we should not limit him by our own expectations and limitations. God will come to us. The question is...we will let him on his own terms?
It has been a joy to serve the American Church in Paris for the last six months as the Visiting Pastor. Each time I help serve Holy Communion I think this must be like heaven. “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9). As you come for Holy Communion there are young and old, rich and poor, people from all over God’s world from every culture, race, language, and nationality. In heaven there will be believers from every nation and I am reminded of this especially when we serve Holy Communion.

In my ministry as the Visiting Pastor it has been a joy to bless the marriage of so many people from all over the world. There have been couples from Japan, Korea, China, the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Nigeria, Colombia, Germany, Sweden, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, the United States, France, and other countries. You carry on an important evangelistic outreach to the world. Our service is a very definite Christian blessing with scripture, prayers, and a blessing in every ceremony. Each couple receives a Blessing of Marriage certificate, a DVD of the church and its ministry, the unity candle, and a copy of the ceremony. The Japanese couples also receive a Bible in Japanese, a bookmark with Christian churches in Japan, and the church DVD in Japanese.

God has blessed this church with a very talented and dedicated ministry team and staff. Pastor Scott is a devoted man of God whom God has blessed with many spiritual gifts and abilities and is an inspiration to this congregation. Pastor Michelle is used by God to minister to the people and administer much of the operation of this church. Pastor Dan is a gift to this church in his Christ centered ministry to the youth and young adults of this church and Paris. God has gifted your Music Director Fred with an abundance of musical talents and Christian spirit. Contemporary Music Director Natalie plans a praise and worship service each Sunday that reaches a great number of Parisians. The ministry team gathers each week to pray and plan the worship services. Each one works with different committees to plan the different ministries and operation of the church. Hundreds of people are in the services each Sunday. Thousands of people are touched by the outreach of the church through its ministries and the use of its facilities.

Since our daughter and son-in-law live in France, it has been a joy to be able to visit with them several times since we arrived. We have visited many of the sights and museums here in Paris and a few other places in France. Since Paris has been Betty’s favorite city since high school, she has definitely enjoyed living in Paris for these six months.

At the end of December, Betty and I will be returning to North Carolina. We will be glad to see our grandchildren, family, and friends after our wonderful time with you. We will have many stories to tell them of our time at the American Church in Paris. Au revoir.
Although it feels like we’re still recovering from the September rentrée, Christmas will be upon us sooner than we know! I, for one, feel absolutely no guilt whatsoever about putting on my James Taylor Christmas album because me and the rest of the Children’s Worship team are already elbow-deep in sheep ears and angel wings, preparing for ACP’s annual Christmas pageant.

In an effort to continue the success of the 2012 pageant, this year’s will also feature adult as well as child participants, allowing for a special intergenerational contribution to worship at this holy time of year. We will also be featuring the exceptional musical stylings of Joan Minor, Laura Tramel, Kelsea Riddick, as well as the Children’s and Youth choirs and bell choir.

So please plan to join us on the morning of 15 December at the 11h service for a chance to relive the wonder and mystery of the nativity. And if you are a parent of a child ages 3 to 10, and you would like your child(ren) to participate, please do not hesitate to contact me at childrensworship@acparis.org.

Regular Children’s Worship takes place every Sunday (except school holidays) at the 11h00 and 13h30 services. If you would like your child to be a part of Children’s Worship at the American Church in Paris, please register them on our website: www.acparis.org. And in order to keep this wonderful program up and running at full capacity, we are always in need of volunteers. If you would like to consider offering your time or talents to the Children’s Ministry at the church, please contact me at childrensworship@acparis.org.
Annual Women's Retreat—2014

This year's retreat, entitled *God SPA - Sit, Pray, Act*, will be led by Caroline Corda-Razat. We hope to set this day aside for the ACP women to develop a more personal relationship with God through prayer. A catered lunch will be served and childcare is available. Cost is 15 Euros for the day and we also have scholarships available.

Register at the ACP Sunday Welcome Table or online at ACPWomensRetreat2014.eventbrite.com beginning 15 December.

Women's Gathering Report

“The Hairdo Monologues: When Monsieur Chemo Styles Her Hair”

By Kim Herr

Why is our hair so important to us? Do you dare show your children pictures of yourself when you were younger with that bouffant hairdo, comb over, or Ringo Starr cut? Did your mother take great delight in cutting your bangs straight across your forehead right before school picture day? Did you spend all your hard earned allowance on Dippity-Do Styling Gel, or Color in a Bottle? Was it mortifying to leave the house if it was a “Bad Hair Day?”

Patricia Wynn Brown is a performer, writer, producer, and a three-time winner of the James Thurber Humor Writing Contest. She is also a two-time cancer survivor. While Pat was visiting Paris this past month, she and her husband Steve graciously joined the 24 November Sunday Women’s Gathering, to share Pat’s latest project, *The Hairdo Monologues: When Monsieur Chemo Styles Her Hair.* This video features women facing hair loss from chemotherapy telling their stories along with their doctors and hair stylists. We heard women tell their stories of finding handfuls of hair on their pillows, watching people’s shock at seeing their bald head, and not recognizing themselves in the mirror. Yet through the tears, these women found laughter, found themselves, and found the courage to dance.

Understanding that “the very best health and beauty aid available to us is a joy-filled elixir of laughter, worthwhile purpose in life, and a connection to humanity via stories and the arts,” Pat created the “Hair Theater” to encourage women who are struggling with the issue of hair loss. And so we gathered, women from so many different places, and we shared the common bond of hair, which is really a metaphor for identity, sense of self, our hopes and dreams. It was fun to laugh together, to relate to each other and even to be transformed through humor, stories, and the arts. As one cancer survivor said quoting Vivian Greene, “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about dancing in the rain!”

Join us for our next gathering on 8 December, 12h30 - 13h30 in the Library as we welcome our guest speaker, John Winings who will talk about CODEP, a ministry project to help plant trees in Haiti.
Claritas Dei in Autumn Splendor:
The ACP Fall Retreat

By Anna Zweede

During the last weekend in October a group of us had the privilege of attending the all-church retreat at La Clarté Dieu in Orsay.

Led by Rev. Dr. Teresa Stricklen, Pastor Michelle and Pastor Dan, we delved into the question of tracking God.

By reading scripture, in prayer, through song and music, discussion and worship, playing games together and sharing table fellowship, we looked for the presence of our Lord, Christ and the Spirit in our own lives.

The attendees were a beautiful reflection of our community: a range of ages, diverse backgrounds, people at various places on their faith journeys. From arrival time on Friday evening through to our Sunday communion service and lunch, we had moments of group activities as well as personal time to use as we felt led. Our impressive athletes took advantage of Saturday afternoon, for example, to do some semi-marathon training despite the very hilly environs while some of us were refreshed by an afternoon nap!

Among the many blessings of these special days, the most precious gifts for me were being in a restful environment, having a beautiful autumn forest to walk in and sharing meals. Our time together deepened existing friendships and provided new connections.

Interestingly, there is a historical connection between La Clarté Dieu, a Franciscan retreat center that draws its name from the Latin Claritas Dei, and the ACP.

The Boucher family became lords of Orsay in the second half of the 15th century. Charles III Boucher d’Orsay, born in 1692, was Provost of Merchants from 1700 to 1708 and served as a State Councilor from 1709 until his death in 1714. In 1707 he ordered the construction of a street on the left bank of the Seine in Paris using paving stones. Upon completion (not until 1805), the street was given the name Quai d’Orsay.

The last male heir of the Boucher d’Orsay family, also named Charles, died at the early age of 23 in 1741. The same year, Pierre Grimod du Fort, fermier général, acquired the title, lands and chateau. He was to be the last “d’Orsay”, however, as the property was seized in 1793 by the Revolutionary government and adjudicated in 1798.

The Franciscan order bought the property in 1949 in order to establish a convent school for future Franciscan priests. The name refers to a Cistercian abbey, Notre-Dame de la Clarté-Dieu, founded in 1240 not far from Tours.

Coin Charles Boucher, 1703

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La Clarté Dieu Architecture et spiritualité ©2013 editions franciscaines
Marché de Noël report  
By Kristie Worrel

Saturday, 16 November was the annual ACP Christmas Market, and what a fun family event and hugely successful day it was! Santa arrived right on cue bringing smiles to all, while more cheer and “joy to the world” was brought by the lively caroling of Fred’s festive singing Elves!

With over 38 vendors from France and all over the world there was a wide variety of beautiful handmade and professional merchandise for sale including jewelry, cashmere shawls, gingerbread houses, painted silk scarves, photography, ceramics, paintings, British Christmas cakes, Paris themed and handmade cards, cartonage boxes, pashminas, alpaca wool sweaters, children’s clothing, books and toys.

Each vendor donated at least one item to the raffle which made for over 40 very happy prize winners at the end of the day. The grand prize being a huge, yummy gingerbread house which was won by our very own lucky ticket buyer Tess Roque!

In addition our own Mission Outreach team had tables offering wreaths, centerpieces, Christmas decorations, homemade jam, gently used toys, and a photo op with Santa. Our African Fellowship had a table with all kinds of wonderful foods and items direct from Africa while our newest ministry, Deep Ghria from India, had incredible jewelry and textile goods. Our Habitat for Humanity team worked hard to organize the Marché Café again where hundreds of delicious baked goods and crepes were offered along with coffee, tea and hot spiced wine. The Youth Group and Pastor Dan literally opened a mini bookstore for the day where you could find a huge selection of used DVD’s and books both in French and English at incredibly low prices. Finally, the Filipino Fellowship did their “magic” once again and cooked up an amazing international east-Asian lunch which completely sold out in record time. The proceeds made from our ACP tables and the vendor rental fees will be going to support our many, many mission ministries both locally and globally. The revenues made by the Filipino lunch and special handmade cards will be going to aid the Typhoon Relief efforts in the Philippines. Huge thanks to all who participated, donated, volunteered, supported and joined in the wonderful spirit of Christmas exemplified there!!!
2013 Still Point Worship Retreat
Brittany, France
By Natalie Raynal

For the past 4 years the 13h30 worship team has devoted one long weekend a year to getting away together for rest, prayer and reflection on how we can better serve the congregation. In past years we have attended Holy Trinity Brompton’s 2010 and 2011 Worship Central Conferences in London and in 2012 received teaching from my former pastor in Milan, the Reverend Jim Kutnow while staying at La Rocca Vineyard in Piemonte, Italy. This past weekend my husband Patrick and I were privileged to lead a team of 7 musicians on a 3-day retreat to Brittany. We drove from Paris to Saint Malo on Saturday morning and spent 2 nights and 3 days in a beautiful gite in the nearby town of Pleurtuit. The dramatic black rock, vast sandy beaches, and vivid green-blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean were breathtaking and awe-inspiring. While the forecast called for non-stop rain and we were all prepared to hunker down in front of a fireplace for the better part of our time, we were blessed by extraordinary weather. We were able to breathe the salty cold air, run on the beach like little kids and take long walks on the ramparts of Saint Malo and the paths of Dinard, another coastal town.

At the house in Pleurtuit, we shared meals together as a team, and had some wonderful time around the fireplace singing and praying together. Using key points from the Worship Central course as a foundation, I asked different members of the team to lead discussions pondering questions about what it means to worship and what our focus and priorities should be as team. The main questions that we contemplated together were: How can we create a space where God can touch individuals and how can we better respond to where the congregation is in a given moment? If everyone is commanded to sing in scripture, how can we see to it that the person least skilled at singing can join in easily and at the same time the person the most skilled can delight in the music? How do we prepare better yet be more flexible and open to letting go of our planning and going where God leads?

The different stories and experiences that people shared all had a common thread: when each of us is over-prepared, but also willing to let go and worship individually, the result will be far more cohesive and meaningful than trying to replicate something we have created in rehearsal. We must be both more demanding than ever in terms of our preparation and at the same time more willing than ever to let go of it when it no longer serves the moment at hand. We must acknowledge that our best preparation, while essential, could never be sufficient to lead worship. God alone can touch our hearts and the hearts of others. We want to create a space for that to happen and trust the rest entirely to him.

To sum it up, as Jim Kutnow emphasized last year and Jurie Ane reminded us this weekend: worship is at its simplest, our response to God’s revelation of his radical, redeeming love for us. We sing and play because we have been given a song to sing. We will share the uniqueness of our very diverse testimonies through our music and look for God to use it to his purposes. It is such a privilege to lead worship alongside the pastors and other lay leaders of the 13h30 service. We have a renewed and strengthened appreciation of how blessed we are to lead worship together as a team and excited to see what God has for ACP in 2014!
MISSION RETREAT

Have you ever wondered what the Mission and Outreach Committee is all about? Curious about what it means to engage in “mission” and live out your Christian faith? The retreat is designed for young adults and adults to engage in fruitful dialogue about being the missional church. Come and join us on 7 December from 9h00 to 12h00 in the Theatre and find out more.

Our guest speakers will be Chuck Davis, who will lead a devotional time, and John V. Winings, the Executive Director of Haiti Fund, Inc.

For more information, please contact missionoutreach@acparis.org. We look forward to welcoming you to the retreat!
Keeping up with Patti at Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village.

Rafiki, built in 2003, is home and school to orphans and local children. On these pages, Patti shares stories of how God has been working to help her contribute to His transforming love in Africa.

Rafiki Schools in Africa take a two- to three-week break in between each ten-week school term. It is a time for relaxation and new experiences, as this mini photo album attempts to show.

Our first ever marshmallow roast, to make s’mores, of course!

Our “Butterfly Tree” made with just a tree branch, scrap paper, clothes pins and plenty of creativity.

Our youngest girls include three charmers named Mercy, plus Hannah, Flavia, and Gift.

Time to celebrate the birth of our twin goats, held by midwives Derrick and Alex.

Hope Miracle Modali, eleven years old, added his initial to the floor gallery. Hope was so named because he was the only one in a family of six siblings to be born HIV-free. He is now the last of that family but a thriving and happy member of the Rafiki family. Praise be to God!
It is always a blessing to arrive at the end of the year and wonder 'Wow, this year has passed fast!' Then I start to think of each month separately to recall what happened, whether it was a good or bad experience and lastly what I learnt from it. Needless to say, after a full year in Ghana, a girl has a lot to share!

Each month in Ghana brings something new and is somehow difficult. I remember the very first year I left America. I wanted everything to be like Chicago and it's not at all possible. The two cities, Chicago and Paris, are quite different and I have added Ghana...God must have master plan! My new country is not at all like America or France but I guess that will keep me on my toes!

The biggest and most fun difference is that the Ghanaians don't queue in the one and only supermarket and will stare at you while they cut in line. We all know this this is also done by the French but the fun part in Ghana is that once you confront them, they want to take you as a friend afterwards. A best friend on top of that, where they would spoil you rotten...so cutting in front of you is more like an icebreaker!

The public transportation system is still in the works so individuals have stepped up and made their own. The 'trotro', a minivan, was created by each private owner to pick up passengers and take them wherever they are going. You have to watch the hand language or hear the mate yelling the route to determine if you want that one or not. You don't know when one will come to your unprotected bus stop so you could be there for 10-20 minutes. Just pray it doesn’t rain...!

Another cool tidbit about Ghana is that everyone greets each other with the same response, no matter how they feel or who they are talking to. We are somewhat the same way in the States but if we are talking to someone close then we are moved to tell the truth instead of just replying 'I am well.' In Ghana, greetings are replied with 'Thanks to God' or 'We thank God,' which means 'I am well thanks to God.' And if you are not feeling well then you are not allowed to express it or they will feel like you don't like them.

The final cute but total difference I would like to share with you is that when you make a new friend it's very important for them to invite you to share a meal. Even if it's the same day of the first conversation! They want you to see their world and enjoy their cooking. I think it's sweet but I can't seem to integrate this one fully...I'm open to a home-cooked meal after a couple of exchanges or after a friendship bond has been created but not straight away!

With the difference in culture, I celebrate the chance to be someone new at every turn. Some of my experiences in Ghana are quite unique and others can be more like the States or France. Either way, I am very happy for the time in each country I have lived in; it makes me more well-rounded and adaptable.

During this holiday season I invite you to think about how you can learn about a new culture or bring the holiday spirit to others from a different country. It's the perfect time to experience something new!

Merry Christmas to you all,

Destiny
THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS & DEEP GRIHA SOCIETY IN INDIA GLOBAL MISSION OUTREACH PROGRAM

TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL FABRIC OF PRAYING AND HELPING PEOPLE.

2013

AUGUST: SEWING WORKSHOP

Deep Griha (meaning ‘Light House’) is an independent charitable organization that is working to improve the lives of people living in the slums and rural areas of Pune, India.

Today the organization employs over 150 staff, and serves over 100,000 of the local population. Deep Griha Society has had the privilege of receiving volunteers since 1981, and is grateful for the impact they have on the diverse programs it runs.

OCTOBER 2013

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM
BE SOMEONE HERE FOR SOMEONE THERE TO PARTNER A WOMAN IN INDIA “Love your neighbor as yourself”

OUR MISSION TRIP GOAL:

the empowerment of the marginalized Indian women through capacity building and sustainable rural and urban development programs at Deep Griha Society in Pune, India by teaching sewing skills, beading, design and color courses, for the women to earn extra money in their monthly income.

INDIAN WOMEN SEWING TRAINING IN THE CITY

7 CHRISTMAS SET made during the training for the Marche de Noel Sale
3 skirts ordered for the Indian market to be delivered in December
2 skirts ordered in Paris before the Marche de Noel!
All the skirts & 3 sets sold during the Marche de Noel!

AND IN TWO VILLAGES

Plenty of hearts & stars sold during the Marche de Noel Sale
COME AND SEE!

Hear about our life changing women mission trip in October 2013.

Discover Deep Griha needs and vision for ACP February mission trip.

Choose what you will create or do within these projects and programs.

Know about all details (airplane, visa, lodging, food...).

Brainstorm about the India Night Fundraising for February trip expenses.

and... READY TO GO BACK!

WHEN?
From FEBRUARY 14th to MARCH 1st 2014

WHAT?
INTER-GENERATION MISSION TRIP IN PUNE, INDIA

WHO?
ANYONE WHO WANT TO VOLUNTEER:
Men, Women, children with their parent, youth, young adults

OUR NEXT MISSION TRIP GOAL:
This project aims to give ACP members and community the opportunity to serve together or individually as volunteers in any of the many projects and programs that Deep Griha develops.

FEBRUARY 2014 MISSION TRIP

PSALM 63:3-4
Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless, Maintain the right of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy. Deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

INFORMATION MEETING

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH
At 10am in the LIBRARY
OR
At 3pm in room G5

Save the date!
INDIA NIGHT
At The American Church in Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
Saturday, January 11th, 2014
7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Thurber room,

FEBRUARY 2014 MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISING

india night
Welcome to Kit and Terry Schooley

The Rev. Kit Schooley (Hon. Ret.) and the Honorable Terry Schooley (retired) arrive at ACP on 28 December for Kit to take up responsibilities as our next Visiting Pastor. The Schooleys, who have two married daughters and now three grandchildren, come to us from their retirement home in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Kit, an ordained Presbyterian, was a parish pastor in his final 20 years of ministry, serving congregations in Indiana, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He also served 19 years as a pastoral counselor in North Carolina and Delaware. He was the founder of the Brandywine Pastoral Institute which is now 27 years old.

His parish pastorates included churches ranging in size from 36 to 3600. In age, congregations he served were founded between 1654 and 1950. He has seen variety in the 12 congregations he served as pastor.

Terry, who will tell you she is 101% Pennsylvania Dutch, was an elected official for 17 years in the state of Delaware. His final eight years of service were as a member of the Delaware House of Representatives. A life-long feminist, she was one of the first women to file a discrimination suit in order to continue teaching during her pregnancy. Her suit took seven years to travel through the court system, but in the end, she was able to change the limiting policies school districts had toward pregnant teachers. For over 15 years, Terry was director of Kids Count in Delaware, a child advocacy organization that collected data on children in the state and sought to make changes in public policy in support of children and the families.

The Schooleys have recently been blessed with a third grandchild (a second grandson) named Ethan Isaac, born in Atlanta on 6 November to their youngest daughter Korynn. They think of Isaac as a miracle child, as he came as a long-hoped for addition to the family. The Schooleys’ other daughter Tara, married and living in Durham, NC, has two children, Tate aged 11 and Taylor aged 8. They are both redheads, and favor their father Tom, whose family is Irish in size and outlook!

Terry and Kit are looking forward to their half year with us, having learned about us through his friend and colleague Dick Sommers who served as a visiting pastor in the 1990’s.

200 Years of English-language Worship in Paris

Next year is a big year for ACP and other English-speaking churches in Paris. It marks the 200 anniversary of the first known recorded English service, in 1814 at the Oratoire du Louvre. We’re looking for volunteers, especially those with marketing and communications skills, to help us plan the presentation of the special anniversary events and festivities. For more information contact Alison and Marta at communications@acparis.org
What’s His Name?

A good name is more desirable than great riches. - Proverbs 22:1

Years ago, when the mockup of a Sunday bulletin crossed my desk for proofreading, I noted that there was a blank space and no name for the 11:00am lay reader. Apparently, someone had canceled and we had not found a replacement. I knew then, since I was the assisting minister that day, that I would be reading all the Scriptures at that service. So, I took my red marking pencil and wrote in that blank space the name “Claire G. Mann.”

No one said a word. Other than groans from certain staff members (who have since grown used to seeing names like Jerry and Petey Atrick, Sharon Sharalike, Bob Frapples, and Jeanne Poole showing up as ushers or communion assistants), my attempt at humor went unnoticed. Or maybe it didn’t. Perhaps it just went unpunished. After a couple of years of inserting fake names into the bulletin, I stopped. Occasionally, I would insert an imaginary announcement in the back of the bulletin. My favorite has been “Toilet paper is now being provided for your convenience in most restrooms.” I am always surprised at how many folks think it’s serious.

For several months now, I have been back at it. Claire G. Mann has returned. My training is in preaching sermons, sharing faith, offering pastoral care, and teaching, so I leave the singing to Kari Oakey and the worship planning to Bea Miner and Dee Major (although Marti Graw heads the Lenten planning and Aretha Holly chairs the Christmas efforts). I delegate the visioning to Don De Rhode, the fundraising to the team of Phil N. Thropic and Stuart Shipp, and hospitality to Sam Manila (food) and Al Lowe and Cy Anara (greeters). Before preaching I consult with Herman Newtics, Farrah See, Maura Bund and Anita Knapp. This weekend, I will be introducing you to my new Sermon Review team (you’ll have to come to learn their names). Duncan Kidd will assist with the baptisms and Hugh Crist will set up for communion.

At the end of the day, let me say that there is great reward and satisfaction at being called Claire G. Mann in this place. With my colleagues, Ima Chaplin and Paul Pitts, we say thanks be to God for our ministry together at the American Church in Paris and beyond. Make it a blessed and wondrous day!

This article is shamelessly copied and adapted for your enjoyment from an article AFCU board member Ted Ziemann shared from his former pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota!

Benefit Concert for Philippines Typhoon Victims

Please join us on Sunday 15 December at 17h00 for this special concert, featuring John Florencio, Leila Florentino (“Kim” in the Broadway production of Miss Saigon) and Dennis Astorga, in support of the Victims of the Philippines Typhoon.

A Gift of Hope
A Christmas Concert Fundraiser for Haiyan/Yolanda Victims

Sunday, 15 December 2015 at 17h1
At The American Church in Paris

featuring

JOHN FLORENCIO
Music Director & Pianist

LEILA FLORENTINO
Singer and Actress

DENNIS ASTORGA
Singer, dancer, and actor

At the American Church in Paris
64 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris

ENTRANCE: 10€ (requested minimum donation)
**THE ALPHA COURSE**

**Starting January 2014**

**Life is worth exploring**

Ever wanted to explore the meaning of life or ask challenging questions about the Christian faith? Alpha welcomes all those big questions – and it’s free!

The Alpha Course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal and friendly way.

Alpha was started by Rev. Nicky Gumbel at Holy Trinity Brompton, a church in central London, in 1990. Since then, over 20 million people around the world have heard about Jesus through Alpha. Alpha is currently running in 169 countries and in 112 languages. It runs everywhere and anywhere; including in churches, bars, coffee shops, homes, schools, universities, work places and prisons.

The ACP Young Adults will be starting the 7 week course in January. Each session starts with a meal followed by a short video talk looking at different aspects of the Christian faith. Afterwards there are small group discussions, where you can talk about what you have heard and ask any questions you might have. No question is too simple or too hostile!! Alpha is also perfect to invite friends to who are seeking answers about life...so why not bring them along too?

Is there more to life than this? Come and join us at the free Launch Party on 14 January and let’s find out together.

For more information about Alpha please feel free to contact Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org. Make sure that you keep up-to-date with details about the Launch Party and the course by checking the ACP Young Adults Facebook page or by asking one of the Young Adult Leaders for more information.

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**Love thy neighbor ~ and bring one to (or from) church!**

There are elderly members of our congregation that would very much like to attend services but are finding it difficult to use the trains and buses. It would be great if we could set up a carpool system where someone who has a need for this service could be picked up and brought back home on any given Sunday. If we can get enough drivers, we are hoping that one Sunday a month/one way, could fill the need.

If you are interested and able to provide a ride to church for someone in need, please contact Camilla Furman at communitylife@acparis.org.
Atelier Concerts
January 2014
Sundays at 17h00—Free admission, free will offering

Sunday 19 January

Marc-Frédéric INDORF, orgue et piano

Romaine JURMANDE, basse-baryton et harpe

Music by Purcell, Händel, Lully, Gluck, Fauré, Ravel, Dupré, Vaughan Williams, Bannister, Damase
Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday 24 December 2013

16h00 Family Service
especially for those with young children

16h45 Fellowship Cookie Reception
in the Thurber Room

19h00 Musical Prelude
19h30 Candlelight Service
with choir, handbells and soloists

21h30 Musical Prelude
22h00 Candlelight Service
with choir, handbells and soloists

23h15 Fellowship Cookie Reception
in the Thurber Room

(The church will be closed on Monday 24 December from 12h to 15h30, and all day on Wednesday 25 December.)
Jan 10th
19h30
Theatre

STILL POINT

Live Music
Free Entry
Catered Dinner
From Your Council ~
What’s Going On!

A word from your Moderator,

It’s been a busy Fall for the ACP Council. We hope you have been able to participate in some of the many activities, study opportunities and worship services at ACP. As we move into the holiday season, the Program and Administrative Committees are busy with the 2014 planning and budgeting. Please keep the Committees in your prayers as they discern the priorities for ACP in the coming year.

On a personal note, it is with a heavy heart that I announce that my company has requested we move back to Philadelphia, USA by the end of the year. Lisa and I are reluctantly preparing our move. We depart on 18 December.

It was this time in 2008 that I first came to ACP. I was moved by the enthusiasm of the congregation, the wonderful music and, of course, the excellent preaching. I attended on and off as travel allowed then, in late 2009, I was offered an assignment in Paris. I remember telling Lisa as I considered the opportunity; if we move to Paris we can attend the ACP regularly! The prospect of being part of this community of faith was exciting and it has been an enriching four years. My whole family has been blessed and I have matured in my faith and sense of service.

I leave the moderation of the ACP Council in Pam Bohl’s capable hands. Know that the ACP will be in my prayers as you continue to “bless the city.”

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Radford Laney

Property & Development Committee

This October we launched and started some major maintenance work on the church building. This is a project funded by the “Faith into Action” Capital Funds Campaign.

We are repairing and partially replacing the roof in the sanctuary above the organ. We are waterproofing, insulating, and repairing the tower, spire and its metallic structure. We are also restoring and cleaning the tower, the sanctuary facades front and back and the entrance porch. (This implies the use of scaffolding, which will not limit the use of the church but might be unsightly).

We will of course endeavor to limit the disturbances as much as possible, particularly towards our wedding ministry.

Please note that the rain collector pipes in the gymnasium and the Tower were replaced in July and we are actively seeking to finalize the best solution for the handicap access.

Please bear with us in the knowledge that the end result will be nothing less than spectacular. The work should be finished late January or early February 2014 assuming that there are no unforeseen obstacles.

Please pray for us in the knowing that we work to preserve the Lord’s Church, the Beacon on the Seine!

William Johnston, Eric Sadoux and Daniel Grout
ACP Property & Development
Christian Education
Anne Speicher and Lori Kolodziejczak
A Call to Live—Small Group Studies

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

Small group Paris XV meets weekly on Wednesday evenings will study John. Please contact Kimberly Hunt smallgroup_xv@acparis.org for more details.

Small group Paris VII meets twice a month on Tuesdays, 17h30-18h45 at ACP and is studying Developing Intimacy with God based on St. Ignatious’ Spiritual Exercises. Contact MarieClaire King smallgroup_vii@acparis.org for more information.

Small group Paris VII meets at ACP and is studying couple marriage study of Francis Chan’s Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a restless God. Contact Pastor Michelle Wahila associatепastor@acparis.org for more information.

ACP Filipino Fellowship Bible Study continues with our Sunday afternoon Bible Studies. Contact Virginia Jacinto filipinofellowship@acparis.org for more information.

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

ACP Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study will be studying Romans. We meet from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday and Childcare is available for a minimal fee. Please contact womensbiblestudy@acparis.org for more details.

ACP Men’s Group meets on Thursday mornings at 7h30. Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information should contact Dominique Grelet mensbiblestudy@acparis.org.

Small Groups Ministry

Feeling called to join or even lead a small group at ACP?

These small groups are organized across Paris and suburbs in homes, cafés and at the church and take place on different days/times throughout the week. By joining one of these groups, our hope is that you will be blessed with fellowship, Bible study, and guidance to apply what you learned to your daily lives. Members of small groups experience close fellowship and grow as a community in Christian love. Sound like an activity you’d like to join? Feeling called to lead a small group? Or, have ideas about a study theme for a small group? We want to hear from you! Please contact the Christian Education ministry, Lori and Anne christianeducation@acparis.org or Pastor Michelle Wahila at associatепastor@acparis.org
New Sunday Morning Bible Study

10h00 G2

Join us after the 9h00 service or before the 11h00 service for a casual, fun, and in-depth Bible study led by local pastor, the Rev. Brent Anderson. Each Sunday participants will gather to read and discuss the gospel lesson for the following Sunday.

The goal is to stir the soil—to scratch below the surface and familiarize ourselves with the text—so that we can better receive its message the next week in worship. This is a great way to begin preparing for worship—it helps you to not only give more of yourself in worship, but to get more out of it.

Most recently the Rev. Brent Anderson served as the senior pastor of Steel Lake Presbyterian Church in Federal Way, Washington (near Seattle); a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since then he has followed his wife around the world: first to Sweden (where Valérie was a post-doctoral fellow in New Testament at the University of Uppsala) and then to Paris (where Valérie is the new Professor of New Testament at the Institute Protestant de Théologie, Eglise Protestante Unie de France – Communión Luterana y Reformada).

This Bible Study is open to everyone—beginner and bible scholar alike. Drop-ins and occasional visitors are always welcome! For more information, please contact Brent at sundaybiblestudy@acparis.org.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday 1 December
Scripture Matthew 3:1-12
Following the Lord: How do you prepare a place for the Lord in your life?

Sunday 8 December
Scripture Matthew 11:2-11
Following the Messiah: How are you waiting for the Messiah?

Sunday 15 December
Scripture Matthew 1:18-25
Following Emmanuel: How do you experience Emmanuel, God being with you?

Sunday 22 December
Scripture Matthew 2:13-23
Following a Nazorean: Why is it helpful to know Jesus lived in a specific town and time?

Sunday 29 December
Scripture John 1:(1-9), 10-18
Grace Upon Grace: How do you describe grace?

Young Professionals

Are you between 25 and 39 years old? Experiencing the corporate world in Paris and surrounding areas?
Then come and share your experiences with us.

This month we will be continuing with our study, “Crazy love: overwhelmed by a relentless God” by Francis Chan. Join us every Wednesday night from 19h30 to 21h30 in the ACP catacombs.

Stay connected by joining our ACP Young Professionals Facebook group. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Elodie via the website www.acparis.org/yp
Look for our new Lay Care Giver cards in the pews!

Do you need prayer or a listening ear? Fill in the new card for the Lay Care Givers, put it in the offering plate and we will contact you. We are trained to come alongside people in times of difficulty. Let us share your joys and your sorrows. You can also contact us by email at laycaregivers@acparis.org.

We follow training to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We are always looking for more members and are happy to receive requests for visits or calls. All of our requests are confidential. If you know of anyone who could use a visit or call from us, or would like to become a member of our team, please contact Pastor Michelle or Yoshiko Okubo laycaregivers@acparis.org.

From the Lay Caregiver Ministry Team...

On Pentecost Sunday, the Lay Care Giver team started a new tradition of anointing those who wish for it, along with prayer. Anointing is a very powerful addition to prayer and blessing. We are reminded of Christ's anointing before his death and reminded that we, too, are risen to new life. Therefore, a Christian anointing always points toward the newness of life found in Jesus and the “wholeness” that is given through him.

Anointing also means consecrated or a sacred act, which is why the young confirmation class members were also anointed with oil.

When we anoint in his name we are acting in his power and love to share his gifts of peace, forgiveness and wholeness. Our Lay Care Giver team members receive training from our pastors and are commissioned to represent the pastors to our congregation.

The Lay Care Giver team members will be anointing those who would like to be blessed after the worship services on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome to be anointed.

From our Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team? If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org.

Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential. Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

James 5:13-16 (NIV)

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

If you would like someone to pray WITH you after services, there will be a Prayer Team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.
Young Adult 
Activities in December 
Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

We meet every Tuesday evening for Bible Study (1st and 3rd Tuesday) or Pizza Night (2nd and 4th Tuesday).

We are from many different countries, cultures and backgrounds but are united by our passion for Jesus. Whether you are passing through Paris or here to stay for a while, we invite you to join our community. If you want to grow your faith, learn more about God or if you simply have lots of questions, then why not come and join us on a Tuesday night.

We will be continuing our popular Pub Theology evenings. Find out where to meet and how to find the pub by checking the Young Adult Facebook page.

Don’t miss our Christmas Party on 17 December!

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

We also invite you to connect with us online for community and updates on all young adult activities and gatherings.

http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults/

You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh)

ACP Youth is an active community made up of students 11-18 years old from many nationalities, traditions, and backgrounds. All youth ages 11-18 meet every Sunday in the afternoons starting at 15h00 in the ACP catacombs. Make sure you check our Facebook page to keep updated about all of our activities.

The second Sunday of every month is now Youth Sunday and we invite all youth to participate in the leading of worship during the 11h00 worship service.

Make sure you join us for the Christmas Party on Sunday 15 December!

For more information about who we are and what we do at ACP Youth, please visit our group page on the church website: http://www.acparis.org/acp-groups/youth-ministry, or contact Rev. Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org.

Join our Facebook group and stay connected with our online community:
http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/
Opportunities to Serve the Community

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

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

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 to 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. The American Church is responsible for providing the meal on the second Friday of each month but we are grateful for volunteers and helping hands every Friday. If you are interested and available, please contact Kristie Worrel at fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org.

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

HOMELESS MINISTRY makes breakfast for the hungry and homeless on the first Saturday of the month and also prepares a sandwich lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Jurie Ane or Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org for more information or if you would like to get involved.

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

ACP Today: Faith Talk From Paris

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Monday 2 and 16 December and 6 and 20 January at 20h45. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

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

If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
# ACP Spire Diary – December & January

## events, meetings and concerts

(please check www.acparis.org/diary for updates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults Sunday Social</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>14h30</td>
<td>ACP Theater</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Leader meeting</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h15-18h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20h45 -21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h30 -22h00</td>
<td>Thurer Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila associatepastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adult Worship &amp; Prayer Evening</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20h00-22h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mission Retreat 2013</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9h00-12h00</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>missionoutreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India Mission Trip (February 2013) information meetings</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10h00 Library</td>
<td>15h00 Room G5</td>
<td>Melissa Marcello &amp; Laurence Fabre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's Ministry Sunday Gathering</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h30 -13h30</td>
<td>2nd floor Library</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Group — Catacombs Christmas Decorating</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h00-18h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Andrea Chaumont youthintern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20h00 Thurer Room</td>
<td></td>
<td>multicultural</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>14h00 -17h00</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Laura Kerber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Candlelight Christmas Concerts</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>17h00 &amp; 20h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Christmas Pageant</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11h00 worship service</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Wheeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Group Christmas Party</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>15h00-17h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td>Andrea Chaumont youthintern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefit Concert for Philippines Typhoon Victims</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gigi Oyog Ma.Oyog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20h45 -21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Council Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19h30 Thurer Room</td>
<td></td>
<td>Radford Laney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Films for December**

- Captain Phillips, Les Garçons et Guillaume, à table!, Wajma, une fiancée afghane, and 20 Feet from Stardom. View any or all films in the cinema, and then discuss with the group.

**Multicultural Couples Potluck**

Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.

**Writers’ Group**

Saturday 14 Dec 14h00 -17h00 Room G2

**Candlelight Christmas Concerts**

The ACP Choir and ACP Bronze Ringers directed by Fred Gramann; Le Choeur d’Enfant Sotto Voce and Le Jeune Choeur Sotto Voce directed by Scott Alan Prouty.

**Children’s Christmas Pageant**

Sunday 15 Dec 11h00 worship service

**Youth Group Christmas Party**

Sunday 15 Dec 15h00-17h00 Catacombs

**Benefit Concert for Philippines Typhoon Victims**

Featuring John FLORENCIO music director & pianist, Leila FLORENTINO singer and actress, and Dennis ASTORGA singer, dancer, and actor.

**ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show**

Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.

**Council Meeting**

Tuesday 17 Dec 19h30 Thurer Room
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Christmas Party</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 Dec</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacances Scolaire begins</td>
<td>Saturday 21 Dec</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>All Church Christmas Party</td>
<td>Saturday 21 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Young Adult Leaders Christmas Cocktails</td>
<td>Saturday 21 Dec</td>
<td>20h00 Library</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve Holiday - Church building closed</td>
<td>Tuesday 24 Dec</td>
<td>12h00-15h30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve services at ACP</td>
<td>Tuesday 24 Dec</td>
<td>16h00, 19h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day Holiday - Church building closed all day</td>
<td>Wednesday 25 Dec</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult New Year's Eve Cocktails</td>
<td>Tuesday 31 Dec</td>
<td>Check Facebook for details</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atelier Concert - Free admission, with free-will offering Birutė VAINIUNAITE piano</td>
<td>Sunday 5 Jan</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacances Scolaire ends</td>
<td>Sunday 5 Jan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday 6 Jan</td>
<td>20h45 -21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP Café Music from the Still Point band in a café setting. Catered by KPS. Free entry, snacks and beverages.</td>
<td>Friday 10 Jan</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal <a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India Night</td>
<td>Saturday 11 Jan</td>
<td>19h00-22h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Marcello &amp; Laurence Fabre dgmissions @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atelier Concert - Free admission, with free-will offering “THE AYAKO TRIO” Sophie AYAKO GIRARD violin, Lauren VAN KEMPEN cello &amp; Charlotte PAILHES piano</td>
<td>Sunday 12 Jan</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults — Alpha Course Launch Party</td>
<td>Tuesday 14 Jan</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Dan Haugh youthpastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural Couples Thanksgiving Potluck Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
<td>Friday 17 Jan</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss multicultural @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atelier Concert - Free admission, with free-will offering Marc-Frédéric INDORF orgue et piano and Romaine JURMANDE basse-baryton et harpe</td>
<td>Sunday 19 Jan</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday 20 Jan</td>
<td>20h45 -21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday 21 Jan</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Radford Laney councilmoderator @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atelier Concert - Free admission, with free-will offering Aviva TIMONIER soprano and Hervé LE CAM guitar</td>
<td>Sunday 26 Jan</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sundays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Service</strong></td>
<td>9h00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Communion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Choir rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>9h45</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Morning Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>10h00</td>
<td>Rev. Brent Anderson&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:sundaybiblestudy@acparis.org">sundaybiblestudy@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Service &amp; Children’s Worship</strong></td>
<td>11h00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion service first Sunday of month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contemporary Service &amp; Children's Worship</strong></td>
<td>13h30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion service first Sunday of month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Fellowship Luncheon &amp; Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>13h00</td>
<td>Zainabu Taylor&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:africanfellowship@acparis.org">africanfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheon on first Sunday of month; Bible study on other Sundays.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Filipino Fellowship Luncheon &amp; Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>13h00</td>
<td>Virginia Jacinto&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:filipinofellowship@acparis.org">filipinofellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible study on first Sunday of month; Luncheon and Bible study on other Sundays.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Group (11-18) - Collège &amp; Lycée Group (11-18)</strong></td>
<td>15h00 - 17h00</td>
<td>Andrea Chaumont&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:youthintern@acparis.org">youthintern@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Bible Study International (CBSI)</strong></td>
<td>15h30</td>
<td>Josephine Kajo Poggo&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:cbsi@acparis.org">cbsi@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd floor Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moms In Prayer International</strong></td>
<td>9h30</td>
<td>Caroline Corda-Razat&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com">MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com</a>&lt;br&gt;MomsInPrayer.eu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about your kids? Join us as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father. Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>10h30</td>
<td>Jennifer Jourlait&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:womensbiblestudy@acparis.org">womensbiblestudy@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly fellowship, study and prayer. We are studying the book of Romans using John Stott's study guide. Childcare is available for a minimal fee.</td>
<td>12h30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quilting Group</strong></td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Carol Brown&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:quilting@acparis.org">quilting@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members’ homes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small Group Study VII</strong></td>
<td>17h30</td>
<td>Mary Claire King&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:smallgroup_vii@acparis.org">smallgroup_vii@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults Group (18-30) - Pizza Night &amp; Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Dan Haugh&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Study: first &amp; third Tuesdays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza Night: second &amp; fourth Tuesdays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18h00 Pizza</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Mondays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knitting Group</strong></td>
<td>16h00 - 18h30</td>
<td>Susan Owens&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:knitting@acparis.org">knitting@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are primarily knitters, beginners and experts, but welcome those who crochet, embroider, needlepoint, ...</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Celebration Ringers rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>18h45 - 20h00</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) International</strong></td>
<td>19h00 - 20h50</td>
<td>Thelma Fuchs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover God’s Word through BSF’s interdenominational and international Bible studies! This Paris class brings together 50 or so women for in-depth Bible study.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Tuesdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moms In Prayer International</strong></td>
<td>9h30</td>
<td>Caroline Corda-Razat&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com">MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com</a>&lt;br&gt;MomsInPrayer.eu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerned about your kids? Join us as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father. Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray together.</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>10h30 - 12h30</td>
<td>Jennifer Jourlait&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:womensbiblestudy@acparis.org">womensbiblestudy@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly fellowship, study and prayer. We are studying the book of Romans using John Stott's study guide. Childcare is available for a minimal fee.</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quilting Group</strong></td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Carol Brown&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:quilting@acparis.org">quilting@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members’ homes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small Group Study VII</strong></td>
<td>17h30</td>
<td>Mary Claire King&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:smallgroup_vii@acparis.org">smallgroup_vii@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Young Adults Group (18-30) - Pizza Night &amp; Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Dan Haugh&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:youthpastor@acparis.org">youthpastor@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Study: first &amp; third Tuesdays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza Night: second &amp; fourth Tuesdays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18h00 Pizza</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Days</td>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesdays</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The Children’s Choir and Children's Handbell Choir rehearsal (ages 7-12)</strong></td>
<td>14h00 - 16h00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Cherub Choir rehearsal (ages 4-6)</strong></td>
<td>15h00 - 16h00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Youth Choir and Handbells rehearsal (Teens)</strong></td>
<td>16h00 - 18h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Adult Choir rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>19h30</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Refugee Ministry</strong></td>
<td>16h00 - 19h00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Young Professionals Group (25-39)</strong></td>
<td>19h30 - 21h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Small Group Study XV</strong></td>
<td>Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursdays</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Men's Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>7h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Spire Ringers rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>15h00 - 16h00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bronze Ringers rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>19h30 - 21h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fridays</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch</strong></td>
<td>10h30 - 14h00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We welcome volunteers weekly for cooking, serving and cleaning up. To volunteer, please contact Kristie Worrel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturdays</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mindful Meditation</strong></td>
<td>12h00 - 13h15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Already practice meditation? Interested in beginning? Join us. Mindfulness meditation teaches us to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Contemporary Service band rehearsal</strong></td>
<td>12h00 - 14h00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The American Church in Paris is a member congregation of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East. If you are traveling and looking for a place to worship, please consult the AICEME website for our sister congregations: http://aiceme.net/.

Clergy and Staff of the American Church in Paris

Ministers
Senior Pastor: Scott Herr
Associate Pastor: Michelle Wahila
Dir. Youth and Young Adults: Dan Haugh
Visiting Pastor: Dan Thornton
Youth Intern: Andrea Chaumont
Dir. Children’s Ministry: Allison Wheeler
Music Director: Fred Gramann
Contemporary Music Director: Natalie Raynal
Youth Music Director: Bonnie Woolley
Business Manager: Chira Rosen
Accountant: Jean-Michel Bollecker
Executive Secretary: Heather Walter
Wedding Coordinator: Ilinca Mreana
Daytime Receptionist: Emily Claudio
Evening Receptionist: Kithsiri Fernando
Saturday Receptionist: Martha Gachoka
Sunday Receptionist: Boryana Dimitrova
Building Maintenance: Tom Padden

The Entire Congregation
seniorpastor@acparis.org
associatepastor@acparis.org
youthpastor@acparis.org
visitingpastor@acparis.org
youthintern@acparis.org
childrensworship@acparis.org
music@acparis.org
cmusic@acparis.org
youthmusic@acparis.org
bizadmin@acparis.org
acctg@acparis.org
secretary@acparis.org
weddings@acparis.org
reception@acparis.org
reception@acparis.org
reception@acparis.org
reception@acparis.org
maintenance@acparis.org

Council of the American Church in Paris

Moderator: Radford Laney
councilmoderator@acparis.org
Vice-Moderator: Pam Bohl
councilvicemoderator@acparis.org
Secretary: Bleu Bettancourt
councilsecretary@acparis.org
Assistant Secretary: Ginny Power Jestin
councilassistantsecretary@acparis.org
Stewardship & Finance Chair: Stanley Marcello
financeandstewardship@acparis.org
Stewardship & Finance Vice-Chair: Christ Pruszko
financeandstewardship@acparis.org
Human Resources Chair: Pascal Berger
humanresources@acparis.org
Human Resources Vice-Chair: Lela Losq
humanresources@acparis.org
Christian Education Chair: Anne Speicher
christianeducation@acparis.org
Christian Education Vice-Chair: Lori Kolodziejczak
christianeducation@acparis.org
Communications Chair: Alison Benney
communications@acparis.org
Communications Vice-Chair: Marta Hobbs
communications@acparis.org
Community Life Chair: Camilla Furman
communitylife@acparis.org
Community Life Co-Chair: Nathaniel Akujuobi
communitylife@acparis.org
Development & Property Chair: Eric Sadoux
developmentandproperty@acparis.org
Development & Property Vice-Chair: Daniel Grout
developmentandproperty@acparis.org
Mission Outreach Chair: Carolyn Bouazouni
missionoutreach@acparis.org
Mission Outreach Vice-Chair: Paula Taquet Woolfolk
missionoutreach@acparis.org
Worship & Music Chair: Anna Zweede
worshipandmusic@acparis.org
Worship & Music Vice-Chair: Chad DuBose
worshipandmusic@acparis.org
Nominating Committee Chair: Tom Johnson
nominating@acparis.org
Nominating Committee Co-Chair: Marie Laure Lauverjat
nominating@acparis.org