Spire
The Beacon on the Seine
February 2016
Thoughts from the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr  
Bible readings for February  
“Put on love,” by Billy Roberts  
Introducing our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Timothy Vance  
Immersion, by Visiting Pastor, Rev. Jim Lockwood-Stewart  
Three for three, by Visiting Pastor, Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart  
Excellence rewarded, by Destiny Ansah  
Blessed to be a Blessing: Women’s retreat, by Jodi Fondell  
A noisy joyful noise, by Allison Wheeler  
About our youth music ministry, by Sara Barton  
A divine mystery, by Fred Gramann  
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris, by MaryClaire King  
What’s up in Paris, by Karen Albrecht  
Leap of fate: why a 366-day year?, by Amit Pieter  
In giving you receive: India mission, by Pascale Deforge & Claire Boutet  
Sunday concert series  
Share your “Finding Christ” moment, by Mira Hobbs  
Nominations committee, by Marie Grout  
Habitat for Humanity mission trip, by Kai-Marcel Grunert  
Chinese new year in Paris, by Tendayi O. Chirawu  
January ACP calendar, by Iusti Sianturi

Photo: Fred Gramann
Thoughts from  
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr  
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on 10 February. There will be a service of worship at 19h00 to begin our 40-day observance of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. Luke writes, “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished” (Luke 4:1-2).

The season of Lent is a period not during which we try and follow Jesus into a period of 40 days of temptation; but we take 40 days (if you count it up, it’s the days from Ash Wednesday until Easter, not counting Sundays) to remember that Jesus is the one who faced and overcame the temptations that we will have to face ourselves.

It is important to recognize that we are not supposed to enter into Lent with the idea that we’re going to practice facing temptations like Jesus. The obvious fact is: We’re not Jesus. What we do in Lent is enter into a time of prayer, fasting and reflection in order to remember and savor that gift to us, that Jesus faced the Tempter and overcame temptations for us. We give thanks each Sunday (mini-Easters) for the fact that we have a Savior who rescues us from the temptations of materialism (we can make an idol out of just about anything, even bread!), power (Jesus could have “had it all!”), and security (would Jesus prefer his own safety to obedience to the call of God upon his life?).

Lent is a period not during which we try harder or become stronger like Jesus. That is a fundamental perversion of the purpose of Lent. Lent means “Spring” and is meant to be a time of new life and spiritual growth in us as we savor more deeply what Christ has done for us that we could not do for ourselves! It is a season to wrestle with the fundamental question of our faith: Is the gospel a gift, or a wage? In other words, is our salvation something that we simply receive as unmerited favor from God? Or is our salvation something that we have to work for and earn? You see, if Lent becomes a time when we Christians think we can become “better” Christians, I think we have completely missed the point and, in fact, fallen prey to another temptation of “works of righteousness.” Note that Jesus ended up “famished!” So will we if we turn Lent into another “self-improvement” project.

The gospel is the good news that salvation, our new life in Christ, is a free gift! The season of Lent, if it is to be a Holy Spring of new life and spiritual awakening for us, must be a time when we train ourselves in faith, learning to trust more in the good works that Christ has realized for us, even when he faced the Enemy and the temptations in the wilderness for us all the way to Calvary.

Do pray that if anything, Lent is a season when we more deeply can savor and embrace the gift of God’s grace in Jesus Christ, and the freedom from finding our value and worth in materialism, power, security, or anything else but Jesus Christ.

This Lent, I encourage you to join us for worship on Ash Wednesday to remember that our hope is not in ourselves. Take time in the coming weeks to reflect on and receive more deeply the good news of God’s grace and love for you. Pray for Paris and for how we as a church will celebrate God’s grace in our worship and proclamation in word and deed. Pray for the Rev. Tim Vance and Maija and their three children, Noah, Sophia and Ezra, preparing to begin their new life as part of our church family. We will hopefully welcome them soon!

Pray for us all to look to Christ alone to be our Salvation and Spring of new life, that together we may give faithful and joyful witness to the gift and promise of Resurrection.

In Him,
Adult Christian Education class

Bill Hybels’ video series
Final session Thursday, 4 February, 20h-21h30, Thurber Room

4 February: Fully Surrender

The study will be facilitated by a video presentation and followed by discussion. Pastor Jim Lockwood-Stewart will be leading the class. Coffee and tea are provided.

Start the New Year on a constructive note by addressing the core issues that drive your life, eradicating the clutter from your inner world and experiencing the immediate rewards: greater energy, clearer purpose, richer relationships, and more. All adults are welcome.

Bible readings for February

3 February Transfiguration Sunday
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

10 February Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Psalm 103 or 103:8-14

14 February First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13

21 February Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1

28 February Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org  Note: Deadline for the February Spire is Thursday 18 February.
It is inevitable that during the month of February that one writes on the topic of love. We have so many pictures of what love is. And many words have been written elsewhere to discuss love in its many forms. But I would like to discuss the role of love in our theme verse for 2016 at the ACP.

12 Therefore, as God’s choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. 14 And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. 16 The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him. – Colossians 3:12-17 (CEB)

One of the unique and beautiful characteristics of the ACP is the diversity, not only in culture but in theology. We are a body made up of 40-50 different nationalities, but we are also a community with wide-ranging theological views. And this can be a tricky sea to sail upon.

Let’s take a look at just a few (and I mean just a few) examples.

- What is the role of women in ministry?
- Is homosexuality a sin?
- Was the world created in six literal days? What about evolution?
- Can we participate in war as Christians?

The reality is that in a congregation like ours there will undoubtedly be as many answers to those questions as there are denominations represented. We are faced with the challenge then to worship together in the middle of a complex web of theologies. You will not agree with every person you meet at the ACP. In fact you may vehemently disagree with certain people on certain issues which may hold significant importance in your life.

Here in Colossians Paul lists all these attributes to possess as “God’s choice, holy and loved.” And he finishes that list by saying “over all these things put on love.” Why? Because it “is the perfect bond of unity.”

So often in the protestant tradition we have disagreed, but rather than work together, we have split apart, forming yet another denomination. Paul challenges us here to put on love over all of the other attributes, because through truly loving each other, even in our differences, we are bound together in unity.

St. Augustine of Hippo is famously quoted as saying, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” Immediately following verse 14, Paul tells us that “the peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body.”

Don’t miss that, because our essential is Christ.

We belong to the ACP through our unity in Christ. Remember that, although we have our differences, sometimes big differences, Paul tells us to put on love and St. Augustine reminds us that in non-essentials (which by the way, is what all these controversial issues are) we have liberty, and in everything we ought to show charity.

So the love I want for each of us at the ACP is one that, amidst complex theological diversity, is bonded through our most important essential, Jesus Christ. So that in our community of believers of all kinds, we work out our faith together “in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”
Sunday 7 February

Caroline DRURY - soprano
Laurana MITCHELMORE - piano
Music by Richard Strauss, Gabriel Fauré, Francis Poulenc, Robert Schumann

New member orientation, 14 February 12h15
Please save the date to attend the class if you are interested in becoming a member of the ACP. RSVP to communitylife@acparis.org.

Introducing our new Associate Pastor
Rev. Timothy Vance

For “In him we live and move and have our being;” as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” - Acts 17:28

Tim was born and raised in Hornell, NY with an older sister and two younger brothers. He attended Houghton College in Western New York, where he played college basketball and graduated with a liberal arts degree in Biblical Studies and Educational Ministries. While at Houghton he studied abroad in London, Paris and Madrid.

After graduation in 1999, Tim moved across the country to Bellevue, Washington to work with high school students at Bellevue Presbyterian Church. It was here that Tim met his future in-laws, who eventually introduced him to their daughter, Maija. After many years of pretending to not be interested in each other, Tim and Maija started dating and then got married on 30 December, 2004.

In 2006 Tim graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California with a Master of Divinity degree. A year later their first child, Noah, was born. Their daughter, Sophia, was born in 2010 and their second son, Ezra, was born in 2014.

For the last six years Tim has been serving as Associate Pastor at Gateway Presbyterian Church in The Dalles, Oregon. He is also a volunteer justice speaker for International Justice Mission, which works to address issues of slavery and injustice that disproportionately impact the world’s poor.

Tim is a New York Yankees fan and a long-suffering Buffalo Bills fan. His hobbies include basketball and cycling. His favorite Bible verses are Micah 6:8 and Acts 17:28. Tim, Maija and the kids are very excited about the possibility of moving to Paris and being a part of this beautifully diverse ACP community.
Immersion

Rev. Jim Lockwood-Stewart

When asked to offer some reflections on our arrival in Paris and at the American Church, I quickly thought of the wonderful diversity of the congregation, the warm welcome and hospitality of both staff and church members, and, of course, the winter magic of Paris itself.

However, what I feel most profoundly is gratitude for the privilege of immersion in ministry with ACP. In these early days this has included involvement in the worship services, sharing with a remarkable pastoral and lay staff in planning for worship, the invitation to sing in the choir, deep faith and serious engagement with scriptures with

the men's Thursday Morning Bible Study, the spiritual community and exploration in the Thursday Evening Adult Series “Simplify,” opportunities to share on the live radio broadcast ACP Today, and more.

Though many members of ACP have been here for years, clearly the life of the congregation is filled with transitions. I appreciate the willingness of the community to welcome and engage new comers ... even those with the title “Visiting Pastors.”

I am impressed and moved as well by the depth of concern that is evident, and the serious efforts that are being made, with eyes open to the challenges facing the global community, to keep the church a place that is hospitable, safe and faithful.

I am grateful to be in ministry with and among you.

Three for three

Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart

As the “s” in visiting pastor(s), I give God thanks and praise for the joy of being with the American Church in Paris while Jim serves as Visiting Pastor for the next six months and during my sabbatical leave from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California.

Someone asked me this morning why I attend all three services at ACP (and will continue so to do). I said that each celebration of worship in this community is distinctive and edifying. The layering of the Scripture, Word proclaimed, Prayers, and Offering illumines the Gospel. As Colossians 3:16 unfolds in your ministries this year, I give thanks for the inspiring diversity of gifts of music offered by Fred, choirs, soloists, bell choir, Natalie, Holly, Billy, Il-woong, Young Woong, Jim, and Jurie, and pray they continue to deepen our communion with God.

Over 35 years in pastoral ministry, I have seen many typographical errors in worship bulletins. (I am confident that typos never happen at ACP!) My favorite typo, one that I have spotted in four different congregations, and one I myself have made is: Jesus Christ, the Song of God.

Welcome Table Volunteers: Would you be interested in serving the ACP community by volunteering your time to welcome visitors to our church, answer questions about ACP activities, and be a smiling, friendly presence during Sunday Coffee Fellowship? We are forming a team of people to share in this ministry of hospitality. You will be committing to work the Welcome Table 1 or 2 times per month for about an hour between Sunday services. If you are interested, please contact Kim at welcome@acparis.org or stop by the Welcome Table.
Our students rock! We are proud to announce that our 9th Grade graduating class ranked First Place in the Basic Education Certificate Examination at the District Level! At this level, there are 12 additional competing schools, some located in towns and cities, while we are just in a little village. Afrangua Primary School teachers offered extra classes and study groups during non-school hours and at ECTF, we offered additional hands-on computer education every other evening.

This examination allows the students to continue to high school the following year. The subjects for the Basic Education Certificate Examination includes English Language, Ghanaian Language and Culture, Social Studies, Integrated Science, Mathematics, Basic Design and Technology, Information and Communication Technology, and Religious and Moral Education.

Some people believe that it takes a million dollars to make a difference in someone's life. We don't. We believe that it only takes individuals who are willing to help and/or donation. Thank you for supporting us with your prayers, encouragement and donations since 2012 which allows us to offer the tuition free computer literacy classes to the underprivileged students of Afrangua!

Thank you very much once again!!

Destiny and the ECTF Family

Learn more about the Excellence Computer Technology Center in Afrangua, Ghana, here http://excellenceetc.org/

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:16-17
Blessed to be a Blessing
Annual women’s retreat
Saturday, 13 February, 9h-16h, ACP

Led by Jodi Fondell

Come To Me, Sit with Me, Listen to Me:
For Then You Shall Be Blessed and You Shall Be a Blessing

Why take time to spend a precious Saturday at a day retreat at church?

Because changing our routines, taking time to be intentional about our spiritual journeys and spending time with other women is good for our souls.

Most of us express a longing to draw near to the Lord and yet, if we are honest, perhaps we also find ourselves nervous about doing so. We carve out time to work, to be with friends, to spend time with our families, to attend to the details of life, but sometimes the hardest time to find is intentional, devoted time with Jesus. Why is that? In our morning session, we will take a fresh look at the Samaritan woman’s incredible encounter with Jesus from John 4 and hopefully gain some new insight into how to have our own incredible encounter with Jesus in our day to day lives.

A second issue that most of us ponder from time to time relates to understanding what God is at up to in our lives and what He may be calling us to be about. Our afternoon session will take us back to Abraham and Sarah and the calling that God put upon their lives in Genesis 12 with the hopes that their journey will encourage us in ours. What is the ultimate goal that God wants for our lives and how can we achieve that no matter what circumstances are swirling around us at any given moment?

Our day together will help us focus on our thoughts on what it means to stay in the presence of God without fearing what He might reveal to you while more fully understanding what our ultimate aim should be as followers of Jesus.

As you consider what attending this day retreat might mean for you personally, I invite you to spend some time thinking about what is it that you hope your time away from the normal rhythms and routines of life will yield? How can a day focused on being in the presence of God encourage you in your own spiritual journey?

Jodi Fondell is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church in America. She served as co-pastor alongside of her husband Doug at Immanuel International church in Stockholm, Sweden for 16 and a half years. Prior to moving to Sweden she served as chaplain at North Park University, a liberal arts college in Chicago, Illinois. She currently resides in London, serving as interim pastor at the American International Church in London, also as co-pastor with her husband.

Jodi has a deep and abiding love for the International Church, having seen firsthand how the wonder and diversity of God's creation comes together in beautiful harmony. She has a passion for seeing walls between people be broken down and fruitful and healthy relationships emerge.

Jodi loves to travel, enjoys sports of all kinds, especially golf and tennis, and takes delight in her 10-year-old Labrador named Tanner.

Doors open at 9h00 for coffee and snacks in the Thurber Room, and the morning session begins at 9h30.
Worship with Stillpoint, the ACP Contemporary Band
Childcare available.
About our youth music ministry

The Angel and Junior Choirs are designed to allow children to learn to sing and play rhythm instruments together, building a gradual understanding of basic musical terms and notation through practical experience, games and activities.

The Junior Choir Chimes and Youth Handbells are our two instrumental ensembles, and help children to learn to read and play music together. The Chimes is our beginning level group, while children participating in the Youth Handbells have prior reading experience.

The Youth Choir (Shine) is our advanced choral group, and is audition-based. We work on more challenging repertoire and proper choral technique.

Rehearsals on Wednesdays

13h00 - 14h00  Angel Choir (ages 3 – 5),
14h00 - 14h30  Junior Choir Chimes (ages 6 - 10)
14h30 - 15h30  Junior Choir (ages 6 - 10)
15h30 - 16h30  Youth Handbells (ages 11 – 18)
16h30 - 17h30  Youth Choir: Shine (ages 11- 18)

Interested? Contact Sara Barton at ymusic@acparis.org

A noisy joyful noise
By Allison Wheeler

Of all of the “joyful noises” made to the Lord in worship, some of my favorite have been those made by our children’s vocal and bell choirs. I was particularly moved and energized by their recent performance of “I’ve Got the Joy,” which was a riotous, celebratory testimony of the contagious enthusiasm and faith of our youngest disciples. And of course, what would ACP’s annual Christmas pageant be without our “angel chorus,” the gifted boys and girls, and young men and young women, who have helped to bring to life the story of the birth of our savior year after year? These choirs are truly a blessing to our faith community.

On 24 January, youth music director Sara Barton ensured that all of the children in our church community, not only those in the children’s choir, were given ample opportunity to make joyful noises of their own to God. After the children’s choir graced us with their rendition of “Let it Shine” in worship, all of the children left the sanctuary and went to the Thurber Room. There, instead of having our regular children’s worship time, we had a special morning of music with the children. They began by hearing a biblical example of the power of praise in music, that of Paul and Silas’ singing from their prison cell in Philippi. Then Sara, with the help of the children’s choir, taught all of the children to sing the anthem that was performed that morning.

I hope that this exposure to Sara and her incredible teaching style will draw more children to ACP’s fantastic youth music program. But more than that, I appreciate that this was an opportunity for the children to learn a different way of praising God, a way that is loud, that is joyful, that is noisy, that is beautiful...just like them. I hope that, when they raised their voices in song, that day and every day after, that they know that God is listening.

Confirmation Classes: Youth confirmation classes will begin 14 February and will meet most Sundays through June. These classes are open to students ages 13 and up. To register, or for more information, please email Pastor Billy at youthpastor@acparis.org. If you would like to be an adult mentor for our confirmands please contact Billy as well.
A divine mystery
By Fred Gramann

As I dash towards the finish line of my 40-year marathon as Director of Music at the American Church, I’ve been asked to share about one of my compositions each month. I won’t attempt to explain the compositional process as, frankly, it’s still a mystery to me. An idea suddenly appears and I find myself glued to a keyboard, pencil and staff paper in hand, seeking to explore melody and harmony to give it expression. That unique spark may stem from a particular liturgical need, or the essence of an upcoming sermon (Scott Herr has been an amazing muse in that realm!).

In the case of “Change Ring Prelude on ‘Divinum Mysterium’” composed for handbells, the primary idea was a gift from the prolific composer Douglas Wagner. I had started sending him some of my efforts, as he was an editor for a major publishing company. Breaking into the music publishing world is a daunting task, especially when your name is totally unknown. Sometimes one is fortunate enough to have a mentor who forgoes the rejection form letter which provides little or no indication of the reason for refusal. Instead Doug sent me words of encouragement along with ideas to consider.

A setting of the 13th century plainsong “Divinum Mysterium” (Of the Father’s Love Begotten) was Doug’s suggestion. At the time I had become enchanted with the art of change ringing, where tower bells are rung in different sequences. I set out to frame the various verses of the chant with a series of change ringing patterns, growing in intensity at each occurrence. Doug snapped up the resulting work and the rest is history in the handbell world. Thousands of copies have been sold and it has been rung literally all over the world.

Kevin McChesney, perhaps the best-known name among handbell composers, recently asked if he could have permission to arrange the work for solo ringers and keyboard. He shared this with me: “It’s truly a classic for our instrument, and handbells haven’t been around long enough to have a lot of lasting classics. ‘Divinum’ is way at the top of the very short list.”

The dedication “For Samuel” is a story in itself. Debra Sostrin served as soprano section leader in the choir for many years, sharing her outstanding talents as a vocal coach and soloist with our choral ministry. The birth in 1990 of her first child, Samuel, coincided with the composing of “Change Ring Prelude” and it was obvious to me that this was for a reason. In my mind the piece was intended to mark this occasion and so I penned the dedication “For Samuel.”

I recently contacted Debra who lives in Portland, Oregon, in quest of several photos to accompany this article. I was moved to learn that Debra still had the letter I wrote to Samuel 26 years ago announcing the dedication.

In my mind each newborn child is a “divine mystery”, a new life created by God, imbued with particular talents and gifts which unfold over time. This particular divine mystery named Samuel is now a doctor of pediatrics. His life’s work is to bring other “divine mysteries” into this world.

I close with several of my favorite lines from this ancient hymn:

Nulla linguarum silescat,
vox et omnis consonet.
Sæculorum sæculis.

Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert sing,
Evermore and evermore!

Listen to one of the performances of “Divinum Mysterium” for handbells, here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzCAq-X3q_U
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris

By MaryClaire King

A selection of interesting events for Christians in around Paris. All events are in French.

The Value of Money?
The first two in a series of four colloquiums, in French, organized by l’Atelier protestant and the Protestant Church of Montrouge on the subject of money. All events are held from 19h-21h at the Temple Protestant de Montrouge, 64 rue Maurice Arnoux, 92120 Montrouge:

4 February: The Bible and Money
The Old Testament perspective will be presented by Rabbi Gabriel FARHI and the New Testament by Patrice Rolin, Biblical scholar.

10 February: Money and Religions
Islamic finance will be discussed by philosopher Rachid Benzine while Patrice Rolin presents Calvin and the economy.

Hospitality
Katie Badie, director of the Service of Biblical Studies at the Protestant Federation of France, leads a day long study on “Welcome and Hospitality,”
Saturday, 6 February, 10h to 16h at the Maison du Protestantism, 47 rue de Clichy, Paris 9eme. Open to all, but please reserve a space at 01.44.53.47.10 or fpf-bible@federationprotestante.org.

OOh Yes!
To launch its new platform, Moi + Toi, a new dating site for young (aged 25-45) Christian singles who want to build a solid relationship on the values of the Gospel, is hosting an evening of dinner and entertainment at a private Parisian restaurant: Sunday, 7 February, 17h-20h. Cost is 50€ per person. To sign up, go to www.moiplustoi.com.

Nations and Religions
Organized around the latest book of Pierre Manent, philosopher and professor of French political philosophy and director of studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, the Institut Catholique de Paris presents an academic session on the theme of nations and religions.

The attacks of 7-9 January and 13 November 2015 call for a renewal of ideas. Yet it is the most paralyzing forms of thought that persist. Instead of striving for an impossible neutrality with secularism, we must accept and organize the public coexistence of religions and their participation in public debate. While globalization demands the effacement of the nation and the neutralization of religion, it is political and spiritual independence, and openness to religion, that will allow France to safely cross the dangerous waters it has now entered. Such will be the themes debated among a panel of participants.

Tuesday, 16 February, 18h-20h. For more information and to sign up for this event, go to http://www.icp.fr/apropos-de-l-icp/agenda

Ash Wednesday service, 10 February, 19h
American Church in Paris

Join us for this Lenten service. Alyssa McKnight will be reflecting on Psalm 51 and the service will include the imposition of ashes.
What’s up in Paris

February event listings

By Karen Albrecht

Orchestral maneuvers
This Valentine's Day, don't just go to the movies. Book seats for a spectacular "cinéconcert" at Palais des Congrès: a screening of the rip-roaring Indiana Jones classic "Raiders of the Lost Ark", with John Williams’s epic original soundtrack performed live by a full orchestra. Film in English with French subtitles.

13-14 February, www.cineconcert.com

Close encounters
If your Valentine's Day vision runs to something a little less swashbuckling, take in "Je t'ai rencontré par hasard", a new choreographic creation by star ballerina Marie-Claude Pietragalla and her dashing partner in dance and in life, Julien Derouault. The 90-minute duet depicts a couple's chance meeting and their journey through life in a delicate counterpoint of discovery and desire.

9-21 February, www.foliesbergere.com

Bentu Box
The stunning "glass ship" created by Frank Gehry for the Fondation Louis Vuitton is the setting for the ambitious show "Bentu: Chinese artists in a time of turbulence and transformation." Drawing together works by a dozen artists aged 28-45 working in various media in mainland China, the show is not an overview but an individualized demonstration of the vibrant, fast-changing nature of China's contemporary art scene.


Remembrance of frocks past
Élisabeth, Countess Greffulhe (1860-1952) was famous for her tiny waist, hypnotic gaze and extravagant dress sense. Marcel Proust, a fervent admirer, used her as his model for the Duchesse de Guermantes. At Paris's fashion museum, marvel at the Countess's sumptuously beaded Worth gowns from the 1880s, a Tutankhamun-inspired sequined sheath from the roaring twenties and languidly liquid Lanvins from the 1930s, all punctuated by breathless quotes from Proust and the Countess's meticulous notes on which garments and jewelry should adorn her in her coffin.


Horse feathers
Ever seen a horse dance? If the answer is no, then you've missed out on the unforgettable brand of "equestrian theater" that the Zingaro troupe has been perfecting for 25 years. Their 13th creation, "They shoot angels, don't they (elegies)," features music by Tom Waits and dazzling poetry in motion by the genius leader Bartabas and his awe-inspiring equine artistes.


Full Nelson
The new French musical "Madiba" celebrates the legacy of South Africa’s national hero Nelson Mandela with rousing, original songs and Zulu-inspired choreography. A tale of star-crossed interracial lovers is told against the backdrop of Mandela's long but ultimately successful struggle to topple the repressive apartheid regime, which imprisoned him for 27 years.

Until 27 March, http://madiba-musical.com
Leap of fate: why a 366-day year?

By Amit Pieter

Yes, 2016 is a leap year. This calendrical phenomenon is an astronomical necessity to preserve our sense of the seasons and keep Easter from drifting about too much.

It started with the genius of Julius Caesar. The Romans called the first day of each month the *calends*, from which we get the word calendar. The Julian calendar featured a 12-month, 365-day year, with an intercalary day inserted every fourth year at the end of February to make an average year of 365.25 days. However, this results in about 3 extra days being added over a period of 400 years.

So in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII further refined the calendar with the rule that leap day would occur in any year divisible by 4, but only in one out of every 4 century years which is divisible by 400. So 2000 was a leap year but we won’t see another centurial leap year until 2400.

Why is 29 February leap day? It was probably chosen because February was the shortest month.

There is a tradition in Ireland, Britain and a few other countries that women are “allowed” to propose marriage on 29 February. Though the earliest verified mention of the custom dates only to the 19th century, there is an improbable legend that a 1288 law by Queen Margaret of Scotland (who that year was five years old and living in Norway) ordered that men who refused a leap day proposal should be fined a rose, £1, a pair of leather gloves and a kiss.

In Finland, a man who refuses a leap day proposal must buy the woman fabric to make a skirt. In Greece, marriage during leap year is considered unlucky. And here in France, since 1980, a satirical journal called “La Bougie du Sapeur” is published only on leap year, on 29 February.

People born on 29 February are called leaplings or leapers. During non-leap years they generally celebrate their birthday on 28 February or 1 March. For legal purposes, the birth date is chosen by regional customs. In the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *The Pirates of Penzance*, the young protagonist, Frederick, is apprenticed to a pirate band until his 21st birthday. When he tries to leave the band after his 21st year, the pirates declare that, as he is a leapling, he must stay on until he is 84!

---

Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?

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

Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential.

Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

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

Meet in the chapel next to the theater.

---

Please help recycle this publication. When you’re through reading it, instead of tossing it in the bin, return it to the Welcome desk.
In giving you receive

Deep Griha Society ACP mission in India

By Pascale Deforge and Claire Boutet

Our dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you might be aware of, a mission trip to Pune, India is coming up this mid-February. Our trip will be divided into different places but based on one Bible story: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). We chose this story to echo what Deep Griha had chosen to live upon when it was founded 40 years ago; and that is:

![Deep Griha Logo](image)

**Love your neighbor as yourself**

**During the first week,** we will be in Pune, and will visit three slum communities; we will get involved where it is the most needed within the existing programs: medical and health care, child development, youth and women empowerment. We will be welcomed by St Paul’s Church, and attend contemporary worship at Saint Mary’s Church.

Then we will do activities with the babies, children and youth in the Deep Griha interfaith communities, including games, songs, drawings and coloring, origami and storytelling of the Good Samaritan. We will also be visiting Deep Griha School and a protestant mission created by Pandita Ramaya.

**From the second weekend,** we will stay in City of Child, in Kasurdi, a rural village located 45km from Pune. City of Child is a home for 43 boys who are sponsored under Deep Griha’s foreign sponsoring program. These children are either orphaned or semi-orphaned and considered by social workers to be “at risk” in their homes in the slums in Pune.

We will still be working around the story of the Good Samaritan by inviting the young people to create their own book. This will include making the book, writing the story in English and Marathi – the official language of Maharashtra state – and coloring the drawings. The book will be the means to create a play that the kids will perform the last night of the stay, in front of the whole staff, including the founder, Mrs Neela Onawale. The children will also perform their usual and energetic dances and songs that we will learn together. Of course we will not forget to play the famous cricket!

This mission trip is not only about spending time with the children and people, but mostly to share the love and the Word of Christ.

We had planned to sponsor the children for a picnic in a waterpark but we have been told that there is a water shortage at the City of Child. To solve this problem, Deep Griha needs to spend more than 200,000 rupees (about €2,700) to make the existing well deeper and they do not have money for it.

We invite you to pray with us for the providence of God and for the security, health and well-being of the children and the staff.

**If you feel inspired to donate,** you can make a big difference for the 53 people living in City of Child. Or you can also bring your donation on the **Sunday 14 February at 13h30,** during the contemporary worship at the American Church of Paris, when we are going to be commissioned. Come join us!

Please contact Pascale Deforge, at pascaledeforge@live.com, or +336.38.33.28.23.

Deep Griha Society, Pune

“Empowerment of the marginalised through capacity building and sustainable rural and urban development programmes”

ACP Spire, February 2016 15
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of concerts, see http://acparis.org

Sunday 14 February

Gabriella TORMA - piano
Michael APPLEMAN - violin
Carol MUNDINGER - clarinet
Music by Beethoven, Heller, Liszt, Busoni, Debussy, Ravel, Bartok

Sunday 21 February

Tomohiro HATTA - piano
Music by Beethoven, Schuman, Ravel

Sunday 28 February

Güray BASOL - piano
Music by Hadyn, Beethoven, Chopin, Poulenc

Sunday 6 March

Michel GEOFFROY - piano
Music by Beethoven, three sonatas
Share your “Finding Christ” moment

By Mira Hobbs

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.”
- Proverbs 8:17

One of the most important and special moments in a Christian’s life is when they encounter the Lord. It is fascinating and beautiful when we are faced with Christ for the first time, and so is hearing stories about others’ revelations.

During the associate pastor hiring process, my family hosted dinner each week for the visiting candidate and members of the search committee. One evening, we went around the table and shared our Christian journeys. We each started with how our relationship with God had begun and explained how it has grown through our life experiences. Though there were only about 8 of us attending dinner, we were all brought to tears by the powerful stories.

I couldn’t believe how impressive and different everyone’s testimony was. I started to think about the amount of breathtaking experiences there must be in our entire congregation and how I wanted to be able to hear them. I decided I might as well share them with the world. Our congregation is extremely culturally diverse and so I decided to write a book, a compilation of ACP’s testimonies.

My goal for creating a book for our church is solely to show the world how special our congregation is. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a vast and diverse Christian family. I am interested in hearing how, although we’ve had different experiences and have multicultural backgrounds, we’ve all crossed a common path: the path of Christ. We often say our church is a melting pot of nationalities, and I think if we come together we can construct a masterpiece showing how the Lord has done beautiful acts for people around the globe.

I am inviting and encouraging everyone who feels called to send me their “Finding Christ” moment. Perhaps you can use Lent to reflect on your journey with God and take time to write about the moment your relationship became real. Remembering such a spiritual and essential moment in our lives, no matter how recent or long ago it was, will be refreshing and healing for all of us.

I will be collecting submissions from 10 February until 24 March by email at acpstory@gmail.com. No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you’ve been through, I know your story will touch someone’s heart. You will allow someone who is feeling alone or going through a rough time to be able to relate.

I recommend people include their first name, nationality, age, mother tongue, and years at ACP. If you’d prefer to stay anonymous or only include a fraction of that information you can do so as well; whatever you’re comfortable with. I will add headings and titles to everyone’s work but nothing else. I won’t edit anyone’s story unless asked to do so. I want to publish everyone’s raw stories written from their heart. The only requirement I have is for the submissions to be no more than 1,000 words. If you’re interested or have any questions, reach me at acpstory@gmail.com

Please submit your story from 10 February until 24 March by email at acpstory@gmail.com. No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you’ve been through, I know your story will touch someone’s heart.

Hope and healing in marriage

Pringle Franklin will be teaching from Hope & Healing in Marriage at two Thurber Thursdays, on 10 and 17 March. Visit her blog, Living on Jesus Street, http://livingonjesusstreet.com.
What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today

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

We’re at 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante, and we broadcast especially for friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith Talk from Paris - ACP chat at your fingertips. Want to get involved? Contact acptoday@acparis.org.

The Movie Discussion Group

**Thursday 18 February - 19h30 – G2**

Movies to see in advance for discussion: **Spotlight** by Tom McCarthy, **45 Years** by Andrew Haigh, **Steve Jobs** by Danny Boyle, and **Peur de rien** by Danielle Arbid. Room G2. Contact: movies@acparis.org

Mindfulness Meditation Group

**Saturdays - 12h00 to 13h15 - Room G7**

For those who already have a meditation practice as well as for those who are interested in beginning a practice, mindfulness meditation is a way of learning to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment. Open to church members and to the larger community. Facilitator: Norma Jean Deak, a longtime practitioner and teacher of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction. Questions? Contact Norma Jean: normajeandeak@gmail.com

Wedding Blessing Ceremony at The American Church in Paris

**Premarital counseling**

The American Church in Paris recommends all couples preparing to get married to seek counseling before the ceremony. Premarital counseling is available to anyone who would like to prepare for, and establish the strongest marriage possible to the glory of God. It helps couples

- to explore strength and growth areas
- to strengthen communication skills
- to identify and manage major stressors and/or cultural and personality differences
- to resolve conflict using the 10-Step Model
- to discuss financial planning and budgeting

Premarital Counseling is not restricted to our local members or those preparing to get married at the ACP.

*Please contact our Wedding Coordinator, Keiko Matsushima, for more information: weddings@acparis.org*
Everything you wanted to know about the Nominating Committee . . .

*but had no idea who or what to ask*

By Marie Grout

The American Church in Paris is governed by our Council members. Every month the Council meets to share information, and make decisions on the direction and activities of the church. Each Committee is represented at Council by a Chair and Vice Chair.

Apart from the Pastors, there are 18 elected members of Council who represent seven Council Committees and the Executive Committee. Each Council position is for a one-year term, with a maximum of three consecutive years on Council. The good news is that most Council members stay on Council for three years. This gives continuity and stability to the governance of ACP. Ideally, not all positions fall vacant at the same time.

**What is the Nominating Committee, and what does it do?**

It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to nominate names to keep the Council positions filled for the smooth functioning of ACP. The committee is made up of members from all three worship services in an effort to know as many members of ACP as possible. As ACP is a highly transient community, it is not always easy to know everyone. The Nominating Committee invites the congregation to submit names of persons they believe to be willing to serve. The Committee also invites members with leadership skills to step forward. The Nominating Committee will discern which position would be best filled by the members’ names brought forward.

**Who can serve on Council?**

All members of ACP are eligible to serve on Council. A candidate must have a desire to serve, the time to devote to the responsibilities of the position, and the skills and maturity for the position in question.

**Which Council positions will be vacant?**

In May, ACP will have the Congregational Meeting. At this time, the congregation will vote for the Council Slate. This year the following Council positions will become vacant and need to be filled:

- Communications - Chair
- Communications - Vice-Chair
- Community Life - Vice Chair
- Assistant Secretary
- Human Resources - Vice Chair
- Property and Development - Vice Chair

For information on these positions, or wishing to offer your leadership skills, please contact Tom Wils cam at tom@hommage.com, or Marie Grout at lafamillegrou t@yahoo.com, or another member of the Nominating Committee.

**Who is on the Nominating Committee?**

Tom Wils cam [Chair], Marie Grout [Vice Chair], Mark Primmer, Peggy Smithhart, Christopher Wobo, and Pastor Scott Herr.

---

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.*  - 1 Peter 4:1
Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated more than 800,000 homes around the world, providing more than 4 million people with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Anyone who can hold a hammer or a paint brush is welcome to the work of Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers provide man power that allows the building of homes or the making of renovations at considerably lower costs.

More importantly, the volunteering experience transforms lives: both for the volunteers who work alongside Habitat homeowners and for partner families who see people who care enough to help them break the cycle of poverty.

The American Church in Paris is organizing a Habitat for Humanity trip for August 2016. Join us for an informational session on Sunday 21 February, 12h30, at the ACP, in the 2nd floor Library. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older.

Questions? Contact Kai-Marcel Grunert by email at awaiting_further_informations@yahoo.com

Call for Sunday Nursery volunteers

We have a growing need to serve our smallest disciples, and our nursery requires extra helping hands during the 11h and 13h30 services. Please contact childrensworship@acparis.org if you have experience with caring for children under 23 months and you would like to assist this vital ministry.

Serve the City Mission Project

The Serve the City Mission Project is distributing food donated by Prêt à Manger to the needy. There are now nearly 20 American Church volunteers serving up to 150 meals five days a week to the less fortunate in and around Paris. Additional volunteers are needed to help pick up sandwiches from the Prêt à Manger’s Neuilly-sur-Seine shop at 8h and distribute them to homeless people. Come join the team and help us Serve the City!

Contact parisservethecity@gmail.com.

Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner

Friday 12 February - 20h00 - Thurber Room

Calling all multicultural couples. You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion. For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss at multicultural@acparis.org
After the western New Year, many Paris homes and streets bring out a special kind of decoration in preparation for the Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year. The Year of the Goat ushers in the Year of the Red (fire) Monkey! It is the most important traditional festival in China, and given the ubiquitous Asian community in Paris, it has become a big part of the Parisian cultural calendar. Paris will be fixed on Asia as the Chinese New Year celebrations kick-off on 8 February with celebrations lasting for 16 days.

The French-Chinese community in Paris is huge, and the New Year’s celebrations have become very popular, attracting tourists and locals alike. Chinese New Year parades in Paris are famed for their elaborate decorations (red lanterns, grinning dragons, lions, and tigers, bright orange fish) and for their somewhat boisterous cheer, which usually involves small firecrackers that leave a faint scent of smoke in the air.

What will the year of the monkey be like? In the Chinese zodiac, the Red Monkey is said to bear the virtues of innovativeness, gregariousness, and quickness of spirit, with shortcomings like volatile behavior and agitation. The year is rung in with cultural events such as art exhibitions, performances, amazing costumes and, of course, the highly anticipated parades.

Several parades are scheduled over the 16 days of festivities, with the biggest and most popular of the annual parades held in Paris’s 13th arrondissement. It will kick off on Sunday 14 February, at 13h near Metro Gobelins, wind through Avenue de Choisy, Place d’Italie, Avenue d’Italie, Rue de Tolbiac, and boulevard Massena, and end at around 17h on avenue d’Ivry. This is the oldest and most popular of the New Year parades, with over 200,000 spectators each year.

The one in the Marais takes place on Saturday, 13 February, starting at 14h at Place de la République. As of this writing, the date for the Belleville parade had not yet been published, but itineraries for the planned routes of all the parades and other activities can be found at http://en.parisinfo.com/what-to-do-in-paris/info/guides/chinese-new-year-in-paris. Smaller but still spectacular events take place before and after the parade dates, such as calligraphy exhibitions and a conference on 9 February on “Le Bouddhisme et le Bouddhisme Zen.”

People from all walks of life pour out onto the streets to witness the jubilant procession of colourful fish, splendiderously hued flags and skilful dancers, theatre, and musical performances. The Chinese restaurants take on a clamorous quality as they are filled to spilling with locals and tourists, enjoying the festivities and celebrating New Year all over again.

Why a red monkey and what has fire got to do with it? Many people are familiar with the 12-year cycle of the animal zodiac, of which the monkey is the 9th animal.

But there is also a 10-year cycle of “heavenly stems,” and each stem is associated with one of five elements: metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. Each element is rotated every two years. So 2015 was the year of the wood goat, and 2014 was the year of the wood horse. This year and next, the element is fire, illustrated in red. This combined cycle repeats only every 60 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Chinese Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>Benevolence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Propriety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>Righteousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Wisdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>Fidelity/Honesty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ACP Spire Diary – February 2016

## events, meetings and concerts

(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 1 Feb</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Christian Education class - Simplify</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 4 Feb</td>
<td>20h00 - 21h30</td>
<td>Jim Lockwood-Stewart visitingpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final session of video course by Bill Hybels, entitled “Simplify: 10 Practices to Unclutter Your Soul as an Adult”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 5 Feb</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo homelesssandwich @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td>8h00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution: Saturday 08h00, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Caroline DRURY, soprano &amp; Laurana MITCHELMORE, piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 7 Feb</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday Service</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 10 Feb</td>
<td>19h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special service marking the beginning of a 40-day time of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Christian Education class - Finding Your Spiritual Gift</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 11 Feb</td>
<td>20h00 - 21h30</td>
<td>Jim Lockwood-Stewart visitingpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two part course taught by Alicia Berberich. Coffee and tea provided.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-6)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Feb</td>
<td>10h00 - 12h00</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare available. Come “flourish fiercely” with us.</td>
<td></td>
<td>12h00</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Feb</td>
<td>10h00 - 14h00</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaysmissionlunch</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</td>
<td></td>
<td>14h00</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 12 Feb</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss multicultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's Retreat - Blessed to be a Blessing</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 Feb</td>
<td>9h00 - 6h00</td>
<td>women @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guest speaker Jodi Fondell, co-pastor at Immanuel International church in Stockholm, Sweden. Register at the women's welcome table or online at</td>
<td></td>
<td>6h00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 13 Feb</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30</td>
<td>Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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


---

22 ACP Spire, February 2016
### Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Email/Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Member Orientation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a> to join the class. All are welcome!</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Feb</td>
<td>12h15</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communitylife@acparis.org">communitylife@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth@Noon</strong>&lt;br&gt;For youth (ages 11-18) unable to attend other youth group events or looking for another chance to hang out and grow in faith. A time of fellowship once a month to discuss everything from the week’s scripture lessons to current events, and how they relate to you! French and English speakers welcome. Lunch provided.</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Feb</td>
<td>12h15 - 13h15</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>Billy Roberts youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buddy Lunch - for children and youth</strong>&lt;br&gt;This first meeting of ACP's Buddy Program includes a potluck lunch, games, and a chance to get acquainted.</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Feb</td>
<td>12h30 - 14h00</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Allison Wheeler childrensworship @acparis.org &amp; Billy Roberts youthpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Gabriella TORMA, piano; Michael APPLEMAN, violin; Carol MUNDINGER, clarinet</strong>&lt;br&gt;Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Feb</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>Monday 15 Feb</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;This month’s movie listings. <em>Spotlight, 45 Years, Steve Jobs, Peur de rien</em>. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Thursday 18 Feb</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Christian Education class - Finding Your Spiritual Gift</strong>&lt;br&gt;Two part course taught by Alicia Berberich. Coffee and tea provided.</td>
<td>Thursday 18 Feb</td>
<td>20h00 - 21h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Jim Lockwood-Stewart visitingpastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong>&lt;br&gt;Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception&lt;br&gt;Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>Friday 19 Feb / Saturday 20 Feb</td>
<td>19h30 / 13h30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo homelesssandwich @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Holidays / Vacances Scolaire - Winter / Hiver</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sat 20 Feb - Sun 6 Mar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat for Humanity trip informational meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;We are organizing a Habitat for Humanity trip for August 2016. If you are at least 16 years old, and interested in participating, please plan to attend this meeting.</td>
<td>Sunday 21 Feb</td>
<td>12h30</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Kai-Marcel Grunert awaiting_further_informations @yahoo.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Tomohiro HATTA, piano</strong>&lt;br&gt;Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Sunday 21 Feb</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Güray BASOL, piano</strong>&lt;br&gt;Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Sunday 28 Feb</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)
Dimanche 7 Février 2016 à 17h

Oeuvres de
Richard Strauss, Gabriel Fauré, Francis Poulenc, Robert Schumann

à l’église américaine de Paris
65 quai d’Orsay
75007 Paris

Métros : Alma-Marceau, Invalides

Entrée libre (paf)
Free admission (free-will offering)