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

This photo of “The new American Church and church house” is featured in Friendly Adventurers, the history of the ACP written by Pastor Joseph Wilson Cochran in 1931.
Thoughts from The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

It’s been said that the only constant in life is change, and there has been quite a bit of change in recent weeks. In the midst of disorienting shifts in the political landscape in various countries, and closer to home changes in staff here in our congregation, Lamentations 3:19-26 has been on my mind:

“The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

I remember as a young boy in a worship service at Calvary Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania standing in worship with my grandmother and singing the famous hymn based on this verse, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” My grandmother took my little hand into her own, looked down at me and said, “Scott, this is my favourite hymn.” It has been one of my favourites since then and has always been a source of inspiration and hope in transition times that are troubling or full of uncertainty.

Two other helpful quotes have emerged in recent weeks: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said at one of his SCLC conferences, “Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future!” And from a pastoral colleague: “Do not miss the opportunity in every crisis!”

In fact, even in these turbulent times, there are signs of God’s continuing faithfulness and love. For example, there are almost 60 people attending the current ALPHA course, and we had a tremendous start to the Thurber lectures with Rev. Cleve Tinsley IV and Dr. Matthew Russell (if you didn’t see it, you can watch the video posted on our website), and the first Women’s Gathering of the year with Alexia Rabé was a great success. Serve the City is up and running with new leadership in place, and we are looking forward to welcoming two new colleagues to serve as interim pastoral leadership for the Youth and Young Adults ministries.

At a recent reception I was able to meet one of the leaders of one of the Alcoholics Anonymous groups that meet at the ACP, and he shared the story that 30 years ago he was drinking a bottle of vodka a day. He walked into the Thurber Room for an AA meeting, and he said it was “a miracle.” He has been sober and helping other to gain sobriety ever since. Two weeks ago I met with two Muslim sheikhs and a rabbi to learn more about their experiences in France. I hope that we will be able to welcome them to share more about how God calls us to live together in peace.

At the end of this month, we will celebrate The Transfiguration, and then on 1 March we will enter into the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday evening service. Please take time to remember that there are opportunities for you to grow in your awareness of God’s faithfulness, and explore what it means as we “Seek the shalom of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its shalom you will find your shalom...” (Jeremiah 29:7). Whether it is a small group, or provocative Thurber Lecture, or one of our regular Sunday worship services or Atelier concerts, or simply a personal time of renewed faith and repentance, there are many opportunities for you and your family and friends to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus.

Even in this time, I pray that we will call to mind God’s great faithfulness and steadfast love and continue to grow as a community which not only receives but also shares God’s mercies. Remembering God’s presence and work in our midst, I pray we will live with audacious hope in the future!

In Christ,
Sunday Women’s Fellowship
Sunday, 26 February
12h15-13h30, Library

Teri Lee Valluy, ACP member and author of *Put Your Footsteps Where Your Faith Is*, will be speaking on faith at the February women's fellowship meeting, 12h15-13h30 in the Library. Come and enjoy praising our gracious, loving God together. Remember, free childcare is available on the basement level.

Bible readings for February

5 February  5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

12 February  6th Sunday after the Epiphany
Psalm 119:1-8
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

19 February  7th Sunday after the Epiphany
Psalm 119:33-40
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

26 February  Transfiguration Sunday
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
Exodus 24:12-18
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9
Imagine this common movie script: There is a peaceful rural village somewhere around the world. One day a stranger (likely played by Matt Damon or Tom Cruise) arrives in a remote village wounded or lost or on the run for some unknown reason. This outsider eventually is welcomed into the village and taught the meaningful ways of a simpler life.

Then one day a violent gang or an invading army comes to threaten this simple way of life. With this turn of events we discover that the outsider is actually a former warrior or soldier with extensive military experience and training. So, of course, he begins to train these peaceful villagers how to fight.

One of the things he may do to train the villagers is to stuff straw into old clothes so that the villagers have a dummy or “a straw man” to practice fighting against. They learn how to use their weapons by hitting or attacking these fake “straw man” opponents.

This is great, but as you can imagine, fighting a straw man is quite different than fighting a real person who can defend himself or herself. This type of “training” is sort of like a lecture on Islam (or any other world religion) that is taught by and attended only by Christians. The straw-stuffed religion can be easily challenged and defeated with little to no resistance.

The straw-man approach is certainly left wanting, but perhaps we also need to reject the whole battle metaphor. You see, the heart of the gospel message from beginning to end is God’s loving pursuit and care for all people and all things. Even when a particular group is chosen to uniquely follow God, the purpose for being chosen is to bless all people (Gen. 12). And in Jesus we clearly see that God is an enemy-loving God (Matt. 5:44) who calls us to love our neighbor (Luke 10:25ff).

If we are to love people who are different and have different perspectives and beliefs, it certainly seems that we can start by allowing them to have their own voice and speak for themselves. And if they are speaking, then perhaps without preparing our rebuttal, we can listen.

This might just be an important step in seeking to follow God’s call in Jeremiah 29 to seek the shalom or peace of the city and world that we live in. It is for this reason that we have invited Dr. Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Contemporary Islamic studies at Oxford University, to speak on the topic of Salam or Peace in Islam for our next Thurber lecture on Thursday, 9 February starting at 19h00 (with a meal).

We may not agree with everything that Dr. Ramadan will have to say and that is fine. But perhaps, if we listen, we will discover not just differences, but common ground that can help Christians and Muslims (in this case) to seek the peace of our city together.

**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
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 for more information at: weddings@acparis.org
Valentine's Day and wedding blessings

By Rev. Jeff Powell, Visiting Pastor

Valentine’s Day will be on Tuesday 14 February. It is a day to express your love to your loved ones. But Valentine’s Day isn’t all about roses, sweets and expensive dinners. Did you know that it has a historical background too? It wasn’t created by greeting card companies just to sell cards and sweets. It’s actually a church-sanctioned holiday deemed by Pope Gelasius in 498 AD.

St. Valentine’s Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more Christian saints named Valentinus. The most popular story of martyrdom associated with St. Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry, and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. During Valentine’s imprisonment he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer Asterius. Legend states that before his execution he signed a letter to her “from your Valentine” as a farewell, urging her to stay close to God.

Paris is a romantic destination for couples and I will officiate at a wedding blessing at ACP this Valentine’s Day. When I celebrate a private wedding blessing I share with the couple the different types of love, which includes romantic love. What follows is an example of what I might share:

"The Bible talks about three kinds of love that you share.

The first word for love in the Greek in the New Testament is the word philia, which means friendship. You began your relationship as friends. You appreciate each other’s company, share similar values, and enjoy doing many things together. Friendship is a wonderful foundation for a good marriage, but friendship alone doesn’t bring you to the altar today.

You share special feelings toward one another that we call romantic love. The word for this love in the Greek is eros. There is a beautiful love poem in the Bible in the Song of Solomon. The Bible says this love is a gift from God to be enjoyed in a relationship of commitment that you share. May you experience the heights of romantic love throughout your life together.

Friends and lovers — but there is a third kind of love that the Bible speaks of. The Greek word for this love is agape, which is unconditional love, God’s love, a love that seeks the good of the other no matter the cost.

The writer C. S. Lewis says that friendship and romantic love don’t have within themselves the resources on their own to be all they are meant to be. They need more. They need God’s love. We see this love in action in the life of Jesus who gave his life for his friends and even those who rejected him. This unconditional love enables you to forgive one another, to start again, and to fulfill the vows that you will make to one another today.

You promise to love for better or for worse, even when romantic feelings pass and you don’t feel like friends any more. The Bible uses the metaphor of Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as the bride. Whoever we are as Christians, we are called to love one another with that kind of love.

It’s a disinterested love that doesn’t look after one’s own interests, but those of the loved one. That is serious stuff. The traditional wedding ceremony ends with each person saying, “This is my solemn promise and vow.” You need God’s grace to honor those vows and truly take them seriously.

But being solemn or serious doesn’t mean that you put on a sad face on this day. Weddings are joyful occasions. Jesus’ first miracle was at a wedding in Cana where he turned water into wine. Jesus enjoyed parties, dinners, and special celebrations with all kinds of people. My advice to you is also not to take yourselves too seriously, but let the joy of Christ and his forgiveness, grace, and enabling power go with you throughout your life together."

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy Valentine’s Day!
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 29 January 17h
Frédéric CHOPIN
Douze Etudes, Opus 10
Douze Etudes, Opus 25

Sunday 5 February 17h
Bach/Zadora, Leopold Godowsky,
Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Frédéric Chopin,
Ernesto Lecuona, Wagner/Liszt,
Saint-Saëns/Liszt

Sunday 12 February 17h
Josef Suk : Trio op.2 en do majeur
Dimitri Shostakovich : Trio Nº1 en do majeur
Robert Schumann : Trio Nº1 op.63 en ré majeur

Sunday 19 February 17h
Brahms : Quintette pour piano en fa mineur op. 34
Laurana MITCHELMORE, pianiste
Schumann : Quintette pour piano en mi bémol majeur op.44
Debra TAKAKJIAN, pianiste
« Le Quatuor Orsay »
Carnival in France

By Rebecca Brite

The season of movable feasts begins later this month. The Christian calendar’s year-end holidays are mostly fixed – Halloween and All Saints’ are always 30 October and 1 November, Christmas is always 25 December – but soon we start the cycle of feast days pegged to Easter, whose date varies from year to year.

Easter can be as early as 22 March or as late as 25 April. This year it is on the late side, 16 April. As the Lenten period preceding it is traditionally a time of self-denial and repentance, many Christian societies through the centuries have found it only natural to party extra hard in the days before Lent begins.

This period, usually called Carnival, culminates in the celebration known as Mardi Gras (“fat Tuesday”) or Shrove Tuesday (aka Pancake Day in the UK). Christians are meant to dedicate the day to reflection on their sins – a sort of stock-taking so that when Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday, they know exactly what they need to do penance for.

Human nature being what it is, however, many historically saw Carnival as a time to stock up on the eating and behavior that would soon be denied them. To make all this gluttony and merrymaking seem less shameful, masks and costumes became a standard feature of the season in many places. The famous Venice Carnival (this year 11–28 February), for instance, includes a contest for best mask.

Since meat was among the “fat” foods forbidden for Lent, butchers were often involved in pre-Lenten festivities. The highlight of the weeks-long Carnaval de Paris was the Promenade du Boeuf Gras (“fat steer parade”), which originally – from 1739 and probably earlier – took place on “fat Thursday” or another day in the week before Lent.

The parade was later moved to Mi-Carême, the Thursday midway through Lent (Carême), when people in France would take a break from fasting and penitence. But by the early 1950s, all these festivities had been abandoned, despite periodic efforts to revive them.

Their rebirth came in 1998, when Basile Pachkoff, an artist, managed after five years of effort to launch a Shrovetide parade in eastern Paris that combines many of the features of the Carnaval de Paris and the Promenade du Boeuf Gras – including, sometimes, the bovine special guest.

It’s not yet known whether that guest (a cow, not a steer, and not especially fat, judging by recent photos) will make an appearance at this year’s Promenade du Boeuf Gras on Fat Sunday, 26 February. But all the other key ingredients are definitely to be expected: costumes, clowns, bands, choirs, etc. This year’s theme is La Ronde des fruits et légumes autour du monde – roughly, “the dance of fruit and veggies around the world.”

The parade starts from Place Gambetta in the 20th arrondissement, with people gathering from 1pm and leaving at 2pm, ending up around 5pm at the Place de la République, where participants expect to party into the night.

A mid-Lent parade takes place one month later, on 26 March: the Women’s Carnival, also known as the Fête des Reines des Blanchisseuses (queens of the laundresses, the trade honored by the historical event).

However, the best known Shrovetide events in France take place far from Paris. The Carnaval de Nice, possibly the world’s oldest (mentioned as early as the 13th century), runs 11-25 February this year and features multiple parades, including the celebrated Batailles de fleurs, in which flower-decked floats “battle” for the title. After last summer’s terrorist attack, the parade route has been changed this year to strengthen security.

And don’t forget the Carnaval de Dunkerque, attested from the early 17th century. It starts in January but the round of balls and other events really picks up steam in February, culminating in the main parade in central Dunkirk on Fat Sunday (26 February this year) and not completely winding down till after Easter. Watch for the giant figures of Reuze Papa and his family and guards.

Dunkirk’s Carnival has its roots in the departure of the fleet for the Icelandic fishing grounds, so don’t be surprised to have a smoked herring or ten flung at you by city officials when the parade stops at City Hall!
The Serve the City Mission Project is a direct aid mission, providing food, necessities, and resources to anyone in need, regardless of gender, color, or nationality. There are nearly 20 ACP volunteers serving up to 150 meals five days a week to the less fortunate in and around Paris. We strongly believe in basic human rights for all.

We at Serve the City Paris are overwhelmed with gratitude and thankfulness for the 100+ volunteers from ACP, local schools and community groups, universities from both Europe and America, and corporations and business leaders from around the globe who participated in our homeless ministry program over the past year.

Our daily Prêt à Manger food distribution program with the store in Neuilly-sur-Seine was a highlight of 2016, with teams of volunteers providing their time and energy every weekday. Our Saturday sandwich and breakfast ministries expanded, going from two to four times per month. Teaming up with the American and International schools of Paris, we gathered shoes, clothing, blankets, and additional winter wear to provide necessary warmth to those who are broken and with little help.

Through our corporate programs with WorkDay and Salesforce, we distributed fruit along with a toiletries kit, to offer a higher level of comfort, good health and hygiene. We organized missions at the Adriatic University, AUP, and St John’s campuses, so that students could participate and learn how great the needs are right here in this beautiful city.

Serve the City Paris can’t thank our supporters enough for all of your generosity in 2016, and we trust that in 2017 we can serve even more of the less fortunate on the streets of Paris.

We make a call to you!
Everyone can serve our city. It isn’t hard to do. We can all do it even without Serve the City. We are the one who serve our city. Each of us is surely saddened by the heartrending needs of the homeless, and ache to relieve the suffering somehow. Our desire to help those in need, and do something for our community can be met quite easily, actually. We can simply walk out of our home and reach out to the homeless in our neighborhoods. Handing out a sandwich on our way to work or pouring an extra cup of coffee to give to the guy by the bakery is something we can all do in a few minutes. We can also give them one of our extra blankets, or buy them a sleeping bag - or give them a smile, a “Bonjour!” or “Ça va?” Even that can brighten a day!

We are ALL Serve the City. Wherever we are, we can make a difference. Serve the City encourages you to make a difference now. Come and cross the line.

Prêt à Manger relaunch: 30 January, Monday to Friday
Volunteers meet weekdays at 8h at the Prêt à Manger store at 118 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine. We then split up in teams and distribute food to the homeless and needy, until 10h at the latest.

Please come join us! Email us at ParisServeTheCity@gmail.com

Help spread warmth to refugees and homeless by donating unused or new blankets and sleeping bags. Give blankets directly to a homeless person or bring them to the ACP reception and the Serve the City volunteers will distribute them for you.
From prayer to action
Letters to prisoners
By TL Valluy

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. - Romans 12:10-11

Yes! That's it! I want to serve the Lord with fervor and be devoted in brotherly love. But how do I do that? The short answer is pray. When I get close to God, I'll be able to discern His guidance. Get close to God, and He will guide you; He'll guide us all.

That's how I started writing letters to prisoners. Carolyn Bouazouni, who runs the ACP prison ministries, told me about our prison work in Ghana through our missionary there and about our new prison program here in Paris. Wow, that's amazing, I thought. I'm going to pray about that ministry. So, onto my prayer list it went. Some time after, the Lord expanded my involvement with the prison mission — He led me to write. I now write monthly letters to the prisoners served by ACP's missionary in Ghana, Anna Cobbinah of The Living Truth Foundation.

God has blessed me by allowing me to serve Him. He has given me words, developed my writing and allowed me to use it for His glory. Much of what I do is done at home, another blessing! I need electricity, a working computer, the Internet and the Lord. There are so many things I cannot do — I do not know how to successfully navigate Twitter; I do not know how to hold a tune (although a joyful noise I can make); I do not know how to draw, use Excel, and so many other things. But I do know how to type; I do know how to use the English language, and I do know that God will work through me if I let Him.

So, I prayed. He guided, and I followed.

It is my understanding that the men to whom I write have all accepted Jesus; I refer to them as “brothers” in my letters. However, I am told that the letters get read aloud by guards, too; not everyone who hears the letters knows Jesus, and the letters go out to four different prisons. So by using the gifts God's given me, by making myself available, His inspiration through my words is going around the world and touching I don't know how many people. That is such a humbling notion, and I’m pretty sure it’s meant to be. God uses this clay jar to do that?! Wow.

You, too, have something special to give God. Maybe it's not with the prison ministry; maybe you can cook, read, sing, draw or do something else. When we make ourselves available to God, He makes us able. Isn't God the coolest?!

TL Valluy is an ACP member and the author of several books, her most recent being Put Your Footsteps Where Your Faith Is.

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org. Note: Deadline for the March Spire is Friday 17 February.

Have you heard of the ACP Refugee Task Force?

We are all well aware that there is refugee crisis and as Christians we are called upon to live out the gospel of Jesus Christ to love our neighbor. ACP’s Refugee Task Force is part of the Mission Outreach Committee. Its goal is to propose to the Mission Vision Team and ACP Council realistic and meaningful ways to mobilize the ACP community to interact and help refugees and asylum seekers locally and internationally.

If you have useful information, ideas, or would like to join in this work, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com. In the meantime, stay tuned for concrete opportunities to get involved.
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris

By MaryClaire King

A selection of interesting events for Christians in and around Paris. All events are in French unless otherwise stated.

In the beginning: Creation and temporality in the Bible and its cultural context

A symposium exploring how the stories of the Bible and those of surrounding civilizations tell the origins of the universe, the beginning of history, the end of historical periods, and, ultimately, the fulfillment of time. In particular, the symposium will seek to underline the relations that exist between the periodization of history and the revelation of the God of Israel.

Monday and Tuesday, 27 & 28 February, 9h-19h, Institute Catholique de Paris, 21 rue de Assas, 75006 Paris. For tickets and further information: www.icp.fr

Jews and Christians Open the Scriptures

We will try to better understand what Jewish reading of Old Testament Scriptures brings to the Christian reading of them, but also the ways in which these two approaches differ due to their solidarity with distinct visions of faith.


Lost Time: A program for children aged 8 and up and their parents

Paris, 1582. Help the king of France choose which ten days will be taken out of the year in order to adopt Pope Gregory’s new calendar.

The program begins at the Museum of Jewish Art and History, continues on to the Institute of the Arab World and ends at the Collège des Bernardins.

Due to the limited number of places bookings are closed on the Friday before the tour. For this tour, tickets are sent directly to the Museum of Art and History of Judaism. It is not necessary to pick them up at the Collège des Bernardins

Sunday, 19 February, 11h. Cost is 14€ for parents and 9€ for kids. Reservations close February 17. For reservations and information: www.collegedesbernardins.fr

Rethinking the Human Being

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the industrial revolution sometimes reduced man to a machine, while WWI turned him into cannot fodder. Churches responded to this evolution by reexamining the valuation of life and the personalization of faith.

The second of four meetings led by Jean-Marie de Bourqueney exploring Christian history and how it can enrich faith.

Saturday, 25 February, 10h30-noon. Eglise protestante unie des Batignolles, 44 bd des Batignolles, 17ème.
Paint it black
The Bernard Buffet retrospective at the city’s modern art museum spins an eminently Parisian tale. Buffet’s bold, black-and-gray scenes propelled him to virtual pop-star status in the 1950s, only to tumble just as sharply from grace when abstract art became the rage. Buffet churned out some 8,000 canvases, his emphatic black brushstrokes fashioning circus clowns, prostitutes, animals, and allegorical figures, circling around to a macabre yet whimsical dance of death just before he took his own life in 1999. Darkly compelling and disarmingly witty. Until 26 February, www.mam.paris.fr
In counterpoint, the Musée de Montmartre’s "Bernard Buffet, An Intimate Portrait" features a glimpse into the painter’s Parisian roots. Until 5 March, www.museedemontmartre.fr

Epic scribbles
Kentucky native Cy Twombly (1928-2011) nimbly trod the line between abstraction and figurative art. His creations mix lead pencil, pastels, paints and collage in a sort of highly erudite graffiti, and range from unrelieved black and white to ebullient reds. Twombly plumbed classical mythology for much of his inspiration, with a series on the Roman emperor Commodus and scribbled musings invoking Venus, Apollo, Pan and Bacchus – the latter embodied in a delightfully drunken squiggle of bright reds that spins endlessly back in upon itself. Until 24 April, www.centrepompidou.fr

An American in Paris

Man in black
Olivier Giraud’s humorous crash-course "How to become Parisian in one hour" covers all the key skill sets: dining out, taking a taxi, and of course fashion and shopping ("What should I wear on top? Black. What should I wear on the bottom? Black.") It’s hard not to cringe at the chapter on bedroom behavior, which tries just a little too hard (this is a one-man show, after all), but Giraud’s madcap manual is otherwise a really good laugh. And oh yes: wear black. Until 30 April, www.oliviergiraud.com

Misery loves company
If you go overboard with Giraud’s tips on becoming Parisian, you may end up an expert in France’s national sport: being gloomy. If so, head straight for the fifth annual “Nuit de la déprime.” On a chilly February night (a Monday of course), the relentlessly deadpan satirist Raphaël Mezrahi emcees a gleefully tongue-in-cheek mope-fest, featuring a line-up of weepy French pop songs and every possible pretext for tears in your kir. So silly, it will surely turn your frown upside-down. Monday 20 February, www.foliesbergere.com

Nights in white satin...bellbottoms
If those February blues are still getting you down, who better to look to for inspiration than... the Bee Gees? You should be dancing... yeah! A live stage musical version of "Saturday Night Fever" is marking the 40th anniversary of disco’s finest hour. Fauve Hautot, darling of French TV’s “Danses avec les stars,” and Nicolas Archambault, heart-throb of Canadian TV’s “So you think you can dance?” will be turning up the heat to that 70s disco beat. What a lovely way to burn. 9 February-30 April, www.ledomedeparis.com
Come check out the library!

The library is in room G4, basement level, directly across from the elevator. Faithful volunteers open the library on Sundays before and after the 11h and 13h30 services. The library is free and available to all; however, donations are welcome.

Most items may be checked out for three weeks; DVDs are only for a week at a time. Returns can be made directly to the library or at the ACP reception desk, where there is a library drop-off box.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at lendinglibrary@acparis.org.

We hope to see you. Happy reading, and be blessed!

30 + Small Group: 3 and 17 January at 20h

If you are roughly 30 or older and want to grow spiritually, you are invited to join the new 30+ small group! We meet on Wednesdays, twice a month for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Just come as you are! More information at thirtyplus@acparis.org.

The 30Plus Adult Fellowship: Friday 3 February, from 20h

Join us for fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ, the first Friday of each month. Everyone is welcome. This is a social get-together with the time to get to know each other (better), and have an opportunity to enter into more meaningful conversations than those during Sunday coffee hour.

New location:
Rive Droit café, 2 rue Berger, 75001 Paris, near Les Halles/blvd Sébastopol
For more information:
30plusfellowship@acparis.org
Note next month’s date: 3 March
On many levels the friendship between Cleve Tinsley IV and Matt Russell would seem perfectly natural, even inevitable. Both men are highly educated educators with similar theological leanings, twinned passions for social justice, and deep ministerial commitments to their local communities and their United Methodist congregations located only a mile and a half apart in Houston, Texas. And yet they consider their friendship improbable: an overcoming of odds, societal structures, and deep-seated apprehensions. You see, Cleve is black and Matt is white.

At ACP on 17 January, they talked about the disorienting and prophetic nature of forming such unlikely and intentional bonds. Disorienting, because they had to begin with sincere acknowledgement of the psychological discomfort and social constructs they would encounter along the way. Before building bridges, we must understand just how deep the divides run and how high the hurdles are to be surmounted.

Cleve and Matt typified many well-meaning attempts at racial reconciliation in the United States as being too quick to jump to idealistic talk of love and unity without recognizing the real complexities of our existences, and the fact that white and black racial identities are not parallel structures in America. Cleve spoke of the material effects of racism as a visceral experience for people in black bodies, and how, in the US, race is a strict, homogenizing, and inescapable dichotomy. Matt stated that “to be white in America is to be in a state of profound moral crisis.”

While any American with African heritage has had to spend his or her life thinking in terms of racial identity and may come to embrace it, white Americans can’t identify positively with the racial aspect of their identities without falling afoul of an unembraceable history. In this reality, the term “reconciliation” itself becomes a loaded word that implies some conciliatory community once existed and we have only to return to it. Admitting that justice on that scale has never yet existed in the United States makes us open to and dependent on the Holy Spirit to do a new work in us on an individual and corporate level.

The daunting and disorienting process of surveying a broken land demands the sacrifice of personal comfort. Hence Cleve’s preference for referring to the process of living into this heretofore unknown, and therefore risky, future not as reconciliation but as “the way of the cross.” To forge prophetic relationships that speak truth to power entails a faith that discomfits us and the ways of the world. It requires a theology that sees injustice as an ecclesial problem and takes the side of the oppressed. It necessitates a Christianity that compels us to address the dehumanization of both oppressed and oppressor in response to a gospel that calls us to dismantle barriers.

Matt and Cleve agree that the church is the place in which to do this work and that friendship is the context in which it must be done, as so many of the things that need to be said can only be shared among friends. Matt pointed out how pivotal the spiritual disciplines of mindfulness and meditation have been for him in this process of interior deconstruction and reconstruction.

Matt also referred specifically to the spiritual discipline of deep, non-defensive listening as crucial to the work of forging true understanding. Cleve highlighted the importance of identifying “whose voice isn’t here” when we come together. As the church continues our yearlong conversation around shalom, seeking a peace that pervades our interactions, our own Pastor Tim stressed that this is a process that involves listening to our neighbors. In that spirit, we look forward to welcoming our next Thurber lecturer on Thursday, February 9: Tariq Ramadan, Oxford professor of Islamic Studies. (Dinner at 19h; Lecture at 19h45.)
ACP Café
Friday 10 February
19h30-21h30 in the Theater

Still Point hosts a live concert of new songs, jazz standards, and covers. Free entry. Invite your friends and neighbors!

What we are looking for is what is looking. ~St. Francis of Assisi

But when you are looking for information about activities at the American Church in Paris, head to our website: acparis.org

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 6 and 20 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.

Friends and visitors, what better way to keep in touch with the ACP family and learn about the latest ACP news? All our shows are downloaded within 48 hours to our website, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith Talk from Paris – it’s a kind of souvenir that never gets old.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
Alpha ambassador

Daphne seemed like the perfect ambassador for the Alpha program. She was speaking to the participants at the launch party on 12 January, for the 10-week series at the American Church in Paris. The 43-year-old Dutch woman, known at ACP as someone heavily involved in ministries and programs, offered a deeply personal message for those in the audience skeptical about Christianity: “I’ve been there.”

For it was less than seven years ago that the Holy Spirit started a process she says has transformed her life “from the inside out” since the unchurched Daphne attended an ACP contemporary service and then an Alpha course.

Daphne shares that she was not raised a Christian, wasn’t baptized as a baby, never opened a Bible as a child and wasn’t interested in religion. As a young adult, she believed surely there was a God, an Energy, a force of nature, and she dabbled in Buddhism and New Age, but she looked askance at Christianity, which she associated with the Catholic Church, the Vatican, robes, restrictions and rules.

She then began a professional life that was too much fun. Completely caught up in the world of the music and fashion industry, she moved to New York City and then Paris. “I’ve met and worked with many talented people,” she said, “even several internationally famous people.”

She loved her work. But she began to use cocaine with DJs and producers, at clubs and during late-night studio sessions, and it quickly became a habit. She had a busy social life with several boyfriends at a time, and this lifestyle would last for more than 10 years. “What led me to go to a service at this church one day in June 2010 was a feeling of emptiness, void, the so-often-heard ‘There is something missing in my life,’ and being exhausted because of a cocaine addiction,” Daphne explained.

A Christian friend, who had been unsuccessfully talking to her about Jesus for a long time, suggested the ACP’s contemporary service. She accepted his invitation. “That first time was exactly what I needed,” Daphne said. She found a band playing pop music and Pastor Scott Herr, dressed in jeans and a shirt instead of a robe, standing on the floor instead of high in a pulpit. “So I was like, ‘Wow, that’s different than the image I always had about church.’”

In plain English, Pastor Scott spoke the message of the Bible to today’s modern world, Daphne said. “The words touched me,” she said. “I felt good and I cried, a lot.” She came back regularly to the contemporary service, and then Associate Pastor Laurie Wheeler told her about an Alpha course starting, a sort of Christianity 101 class on the basics. She didn’t feel the Holy Spirit during the Alpha segment on the Holy Spirit. “But then, during one of the services a month later, I felt something come over me that can only be described as a powerful peace, a serenity never felt before,” she said. The joy she felt in her heart remained with her.

Now in her transformed life, Daphne loves to welcome people at the 13h30 contemporary service so special to her, serving as an usher and then hustling into the theater afterward to staff the welcome table. This is her third time as a small-group discussion leader for Alpha. She had the privilege of serving on the search committee that found Associate Pastor Tim Vance, and she raves about the two ACP Bible study classes she attends, Community Bible Study International and Bible Study Fellowship.

Speaking directly to those in the launch party audience with doubts about Christianity, Daphne concluded, “I encourage you to come each week with an open mind, and if you are an atheist or from a different faith, you are welcome to voice your opinions. No one will hit you on the head with a Bible or try to convince you to become a Christian.” And then with a smile and a nod to her personal story, she added, “Only God can do that.”

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

@AmChurchParis  /AmericanChurchParis
Are you called to serve on the ACP Council?

By Mark Primmer and Marie Grout

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 for the position in question. Are you being called?

Which Council positions will be vacant?
In May, ACP will have a Congregational Meeting in order to elect members to serve as the ACP Council for the 2017-2018 Council year. While the Nominating Committee is working to prepare the slate of candidates for this election, it is known that the following Council positions will become vacant this year and need to be filled:

- Vice Moderator
- Council Secretary
- Human Resources - Vice Chair
- Worship and Music - Chair and Vice Chair

In view of our congregation’s dynamic and continually evolving nature, other vacancies may emerge and need replacing.

For information on council positions, or wishing to offer your leadership skills, please contact Mark Primmer, mark.primmer@gmail.com, or Marie Grout, lafamillegrout@yahoo.com, or another member of the Nominating Committee.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday 16 February, room G2

This month’s movie listings to see beforehand: Un Sac de billes, La La Land, Moonlight, and Jackie. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org

Interim Youth and Young Adult Pastor

With the resignation of Billy Roberts effective as of 12 January, Emily Chesley, the current intern for youth and young adults, will take care of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry until the arrival of an interim Pastor expected to join the pastoral team by the beginning of March.

In the meantime, the Council has asked the Nominating Committee to propose a search team for a new Youth and Young Adult Pastor at the February Council meeting.

Let us pray for Billy, Emily, and all the congregation!"
Women’s fellowship

By TL Valluy

Let us not give up meeting together... - Hebrews 10:25

Even at church, people are often so busy that we fail to actually be together. Sure, we sit in the sanctuary, sing, pray and listen together, but too often that’s all it is. We don’t have - or don’t make - the time to actually talk to one another on an individual level. Women’s Sunday fellowship is a time set aside for women to do just that, fellowship. Women come together in the Lord to chat, eat, pray and learn.

ACP has several women-only activities, not so much because we’re trying to keep men out but because we recognize that it’s sometimes helpful just to be with other women. Aside from the monthly Sunday fellowship, ACP also has a Monday-evening women’s Bible study, a Tuesday-morning women’s Bible study, a once-a-month Saturday women’s Bible study, a once-a-month Saturday women’s fellowship, and a mothers’ group.

The once-a-month Sunday fellowship is between the 11h and 13h30 services, hopefully making scheduling easy for attendees. Most often, women meet in the Thurber Room, always from 12h15-13h30, and free childcare is provided on the basement level. Pamela Gonder, who runs the childcare program, often has the children involved in arts and crafts, so we women know that our kids are not just taken care of but also having fun, allowing us to relax and have fun as well.

Kim Herr, who coordinates the women’s fellowship along with me, sets up a speaker for each month. About the fellowship Kim says, "Our prayer is that this ministry will provide opportunities for the women of ACP to gather together in community, allowing us to share our faith stories, learn from one another, and grow in friendships across all borders, so that we can support, love, and pray for each other."

In September, Kristina Keenan spoke on the joys of service. Kristina encouraged us to take what we’re good at and use it for the Lord. In October, Mary Hovind-Gay talked about her life and how God has brought her peace even in the midst of trials. At our November meeting, Kim Ball discussed mindful energy, tips on how to take the Lord with us throughout our day.

Kim Herr always hosts the women in her home for Christmas; this year we snacked and sang, led by Devon Graves. Music again was the focus in January when Alexia Rabé shared her story of how she uses music to glorify God. I am blessed to be able to speak on 26 February; I will be talking about faith, lessons God’s taught me that I can hopefully pass along on how to put our footsteps where our faith is. Exceptionally, the February meeting will be held in the second-floor library. Nicole Primmer will be speaking on 19 March, in the Thurber Room.

Women’s fellowship is open to all women, not just believers, not just ACP members. Sunday attendance requires nothing but showing up. The fellowship itself begins at 12h15, and speakers usually start around 12h40. Women who find they are running late are encouraged to still come; there will always be a place for them.

Once a year, women’s fellowship hosts an all-day women’s retreat; this year it will be held at the ACP on Saturday 22 April, led by Rev. Jill Geoffrion. The retreat will include quiet time -- something we women don't get much of in our busy lives, plus prayer, breakfast, lunch, and hearing from Jill, who will be talking to us about praying the labyrinth.

The Saturday retreat will also provide all-day childcare, with their own retreat, complete with gym time, game time, Bible stories, arts and crafts, and Bible shows. Knowing that our little ones are not just taken care of but are being taught in the Lord frees us up to enjoy and learn too!

To attend the retreat, women will need to register, and for those able, pay a small fee that goes toward financing the retreat itself. All women are welcome; scholarships are available for anyone unable to financially contribute.

Our last two fellowships of the year will be 14 May, when ACP intern Emily Chesley will speak, and 11 June, during which we’ll have an end-of-the-year party.

Kim and I hope to see you on a Sunday, at the April retreat, any time and every time - come and fellowship with us in the Lord! For more information, check out the women's ministry page on the ACP website or email us at women@acparis.org.
Women meet on Saturdays

**Women's monthly Saturday Fellowship**

Come and fellowship in the Spirit! One Saturday a month, all sisters in Christ are welcome to join this potluck gathering. All you need to do is show up -- no fee, no registration. We hope to see you! For more information, please contact Elodie Mbette at elodieruth@aol.com.

*Saturday 14 January 14h-17h - ACP, Room G1*

**Women's monthly Saturday Bible Study**

Once a month Elodie Mbette will lead a Bible study with the theme “Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on love” based on 1 Corinthians 13. Come join us! For more information, please contact Elodie Mbette at elodieruth@aol.com.

*Saturday 28 January 15h-17h - ACP, Room G2*

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**Prayer Chain Team**

_Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team? If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org. Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential._

_Prayer is powerful. We are here for you._

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available. Meet in the chapel next to the theater.

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**Sunday Concert Series**

**Sunday 19 February 17h**

**Brahms**

Quintette pour piano en fa mineur op. 34
Laureen MITCHELMORE, pianiste

**Schumann**

Quintette pour piano en mi bémol majeur op.44
Debra TAKAKIJAN, pianiste

« Le Quatuor Orsay »

**Sunday 26 February 17h**

FREDERIC CHOPIN: Nocturne opus 48 n°1 en do mineur
GABRIEL FAURE: Nocturne n°5 en mi bemol majeur
FRANZ LISZT: Liebestraum (Rêve d’amour) Rhapsodie hongroise n°13
THEODORE GOUVY: Sonate n°1 opus 17 en sol majeur
CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS: Étude en forme de valse en mi bemol majeur
GOUNOD/ LISZT: La valse de Faust
Frédéric Bazille: The youth of Impressionism

by Karen Marin

Too often, gifted artists leave us just as their talent is beginning to blossom. Witness "Club of 27" in music, whose Amy Winehouse, Jim Morrison and Jimi Hendrix, among others, died at 27 years old. In the art world I have recently come across the "Club of 28" where the same phenomenon touched developing painters Egon Schiele and Frédéric Bazille, the latter being featured in the Musée d’Orsay’s "Frédéric Bazille: The Youth of Impressionism."

Bazille was born in 1841 to a middle-class family in Montpellier. Clearly a devoted son, he wanted to please his parents by studying medicine although his true love was painting. He eventually made his way to Paris and soon fell in with a group of young artists including Renoir and Monet. It was the 1860’s, a time when the style of painting was radically changing. Bazille and his friends were challenging the established rules, as can be seen in the way they produced portraits and still life. They also took their canvases outdoors to paint "en plein air."

Bazille’s contribution to the Impressionist movement becomes clear as you make your way through the exhibit. Not only is it arranged chronologically and by theme, but also includes works by his peers. It allows us to compare Bazille with his contemporaries on the same subject matter. Who has the better brushstroke, the more original composition, the work that conveys more émotion? This is an interesting way to approach the exhibit.

Bazille would leave Paris every summer to spend time with his family and to work on his submissions to the annual Salon. His "Girl in a Pink Dress" is a lovely rendition of a summer day where the sitter gazes out over a village landscape. The play of light on the buildings draws the eye to the center of the canvas, even though the sitter, captured from behind, is positioned to the left. In "Family Reunion" Bazille unites his extended family on the terrace of their villa. It is unique in that this is a group painting en plein air where everyone is looking towards the painter except Bazille’s father. What could the hidden meaning be?

Bazille went on to experiment with the male nude, with still life and more. Curiously, at the dawn of the Franco-Prussian war, he decided to enlisted as a Zoave, and was killed in battle almost immediately. He had only been painting for seven years.

His death prompts so many questions: Why did he enlisted? Why as a Zoave who would be sent to the front, to a near-certain death? How would his talent have evolved had he lived? What else would he have contributed? And the big question I leave you with: Would he have been equally or more famous than his contemporaries?

At the Musée d’Orsay, through 5 March

French language classes

French classes are held on (most) Saturdays at ACP, from 17h to 18h30. They are taught by two native French speakers, Francois and Yasmina.

The class is intended for beginners who are committed to learning French. In addition to class attendance, personal effort and engagement are required. Attendance is limited to 20. The sign-up fee is €30, and a book purchase is necessary. There is no age or nationality restriction.

If you are here for several years, or if you want to obtain working papers, a knowledge of French will be required. Think of shopping, visits to City Hall or the Prefecture, hospitals, schooling for your children, employment.

We cannot stress too much that learning a new language requires significant work. There is no such thing as “French made easy.” Therefore, consider carefully if you are ready to make that commitment. Weekly attendance is a requirement and ongoing progress is expected.

If you are interested, send your personal data (name, address, phone, nationality) to fpierre@gmail.com.
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Friday 3 Feb</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:multicultural@acparis.org">multicultural@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/ bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
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<td><strong>ThirtyPlus Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 3 Feb</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lounge cafe</td>
<td>Daphne&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:30plusfellowship@acparis.org">30plusfellowship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge cafe setting, sharing testimonies, talking about the highs and lows of your life with brothers and sisters in Christ.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 5 Feb</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Julia HELENA - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 6 Feb</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
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<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td><strong>Thurber Lecture – Dr. Tariq Ramadan speaks on Salam: Islam and Peace</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 9 Feb</td>
<td>19h Dinner; 19h45 Lecture</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org">associatepastor@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ramadan is Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at the Oxford University (Oriental Institute, St Antony’s College) and also teaches at the Oxford Faculty of Theology.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 10 Feb</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org">fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Café</strong></td>
<td>Friday 10 Feb</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Still Point hosts a live concert of new songs, jazz standards, and covers. Free entry. Invite your friends and neighbors!</td>
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<td><strong>Sisters in Christ Monthly Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 11 Feb</td>
<td>14h-17h</td>
<td>G1</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:elodieruth@aol.com">elodieruth@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACP Council member Elodie Mbette leads a women’s fellowship time one Saturday each month. All women are invited to this time of fellowship with one another and God. There will be a potluck meal, bring a dish to share.</td>
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<td><strong>Writers Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 11 Feb</td>
<td>14h30-16h30</td>
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<td>Tendayi Chirawu&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 12 Feb</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Trio Clara: Fabienne TACCOLA - violin; Leslie GREEN - cello; Yves-Laurent TACCOLA - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 16 Feb</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>This month’s movie listings. <em>Un Sac de billes, La La Land, Moonlight, and Jackie.</em> See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 19 Feb</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Laurana MITCHELMORE - piano and Debra TAKAKJIAN - piano</td>
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<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>Feb</td>
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<td><strong>Significant Marriage Seminar 2017 – Led by Dave and Mary Gothi</strong></td>
<td>Friday,</td>
<td>Friday: 19h30</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor</td>
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<td>This weekend seminar will teach the couples to be</td>
<td>Saturday,</td>
<td>- 22h30</td>
<td>@acparis.org</td>
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<td>intentional in creating a plan together to become all God</td>
<td>&amp; Sunday</td>
<td>Saturday: 9h</td>
<td>Register at acparis.org</td>
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<td>has created them to be as a couple.</td>
<td>24, 25, &amp;</td>
<td>17h</td>
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<td>26 Feb</td>
<td>12h30-18h30</td>
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<td><strong>Women's Monthly Saturday Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>15h-17h</td>
<td>Elodie Mbette <a href="mailto:elodieruth@aol.com">elodieruth@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Once a month Elodie Mbette leads a Bible study with the theme</td>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>G2</td>
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<td>&quot;Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on</td>
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<td>love&quot; based on 1 Corinthians 13.</td>
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<td><strong>Women's Monthly Sunday Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 26</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>ACP member and author Teri Lee Valluy will be talking about faith</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<td>– what it is, how to increase it and how to put our feet to it!</td>
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<tr>
<td>All women are welcome at our monthly fellowship. Free childcare is</td>
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<td>provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 26</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric ASTOUL - piano</td>
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Le 7e en chiffres

By Alison Benney

Parts of the 7th are undergoing a census in February. Here are the numbers from when it was last taken, in 1999.

The 7th arrondissement is made up of 408.8 hectares, with 4 neighborhoods: Saint-Thomas d'Aquin, Invalides, Ecole Militaire, and Gros Caillou. In 1999 there were 56,988 residents of the 7th, which made up 2.7% of the Paris population. This gives it a density of 13,933 inhabitants per square kilometer, vs the Parisian density of 20,164 people per square kilometer.

The jobless make up 8% of the working population in the 7th, vs 12% for the city as a whole. Almost 41% of those working are professionals, or "cadres", vs 30.3% in Paris as a whole.

In 1999, there were 37,859 living spaces, which makes up only 2.9% of total Parisian living space. Most of these are primary residences, although 10% are pieds-a-terres, and 9.8% are simply vacant lodgings.

How does everyone get around? There are 0.62 households with a car, vs 0.50 for all of Paris. But the 7th can boast 4 metro lines, 17 bus lines, one RER line, plus a direct RER to Orly airport.

There’s plenty of green space, with the Champ de Mars providing 243,000 square meters of park area, along with 18 gardens, which provides 7 square meters of green space for each inhabitant in the 7th. Oh yes, and besides landmark monuments like the Eiffel Tower and Les Invalides, our neighborhood boasts 9 museums, 9 cultural centers from places such as Romania, Latin America, China and Inuit Canada. There are 16 educational institutions, 7 libraries, including the American Library, one cinema, and an astrology school.

Last and best, we are blessed with 8 Catholic places of worship and 5 Protestant, including the American Church in Paris. And those are the facts!
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weekend seminar

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Led by Dave & Mary Gothi
www.thesignificantmarriage.com

€185 per couple
Includes Sat. & Sun. childcare, food, drinks and workbooks.

* Partial Scholarships available upon request.

Paris, France

FEB 24-26

Friday 24: 19h30-22h30 (registration at 19h00)
Saturday 25: 9h00-17h00
Sunday 26: 12h30-18h30
Location: The American Church in Paris (ACP)
65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France
Register online at www.acparis.org
Questions: Email secretary@acparis.org