The Spire
The Beacon on the Seine
February 2012
Thoughts From
Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

Lent for me stirs ambiguous feelings. I am inclined toward a guilty conscience, so loading on more religious “duties” is generally not inspiring or uplifting to me. On the other hand, I love the original meaning of Lent which is simply “Spring.” Lent is the church’s Holy Spring, a time when we prepare for a season of spiritual renewal and growth. It is our preparation time for the promised new life paradoxically embedded in the mystery of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. My understanding of the gospel is that the Church’s season of renewal and growth is better measured not as much in how we are doing as a congregation, but how our congregation is doing in impacting Paris and the world. In other words, we are called to be “internally strong and externally focused!”

I attended the memorial service for John Stott (“Uncle John”) at Saint Paul’s Cathedral in London. One eulogizer shared the story of when Stott invited the inimitable journalist Malcolm Muggeridge to reflect on advertising agencies. Muggeridge concluded that “No good can come of them.” But Stott replied sharply, “You don’t blame the meat for rotting. You blame the salt for not doing its job!” What Uncle John meant, of course, was that Christians are supposed to impact the world wherever we are, whether it be in media, academia, arts and sciences, politics, business, law and labor, health and social services. The true metrics for a healthy church is a more healthy society in which the church is serving!

Lent is not a spiritual retreat from the world. Did you know the original intention of “fasting” during Lent was so that you would have more food to share with the poor? At least your own hunger would help keep you in solidarity with the hungry ones of this world. This was one of the ways Uncle John deeply impressed me. He ate and lived simply, so that others might simply live. One of Stott’s research assistants was Mark Labberton, who spoke at the ACP last year. As the Director of the Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute for Preaching at Fuller Seminary, he is starting what he calls “Micah Groups” to encourage preachers to think about how and what we are communicating. Mark invited pastors from South Africa, Egypt, Turkey, the Netherlands and England and made it clear that Micah Groups are about embodying the ethic of Micah 6:8: “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” The question is not about how to get a “Wow!” response to Sunday worship, but rather where does worship help the people of God to “land” during the rest of the week in their homes, schools, neighborhoods and places of livelihood? Is what we do in worship helping the people of God to be salt and light in the world, to be part of God’s transforming kingdom work in the world?

Please plan to join us for the Ash Wednesday service on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare ourselves and our church for the change process that will help us be more open to what God would have us be and do for Paris and the world! Join a small group to reflect more deeply on how we are called to live the gospel. Pray for the new ways in which we may embody and communicate the grace and truth of Jesus Christ: ACP Today Radio broadcasts beginning this month; Friday Mission Lunch; Test of Faith classes; the Visiting Artist program we’re planning for summer, and of course, the ways in which you are thinking, speaking and acting in your life that bring the flavor and color of God’s love to the world,

In Christ,
Scott
Jeannie and I have been warmly welcomed by you and by Paris. You have made us feel right at home. It is difficult realizing we have been here less than one month. Paris has warmly welcomed us as well with delightfully and surprising mild winter so far. We are told this is an unusually warm winter.

One thing we have noticed is how short the days are. It has given us a greater appreciation of why the anticipation of longer days of more daylight is so important. Jeannie remembers, from school days, a poem by the American poet: Robert Louis Stevenson entitled:

“Bed in Summer”

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people’s feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

Having grown up in Latin America where the sun rises and sets, all year at about the same time, give or take one hour, my mother began to prepare dinner when the sun set. One year, while my parents were on furlough in Minnesota, USA, my mother continued the same pattern. In winter we were eating at 16:00 hrs. and in summer as late as 21:00 hrs.

I told her she didn’t need to live by the sun. I remember, anxiously waiting for longer days and signs of spring. Living again in the Northern hemisphere has resurrected those memories. I enjoy winter, but, imagine if there never was a spring or summer.

Lent means “lengthening.” The word was chosen by Christians to describe the 40 days, not counting Sundays, between Ash Wednesday, this year, February 22 and Easter, this year, April 8. Those days allowed Christians to reflect on Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness facing temptation before he began his official ministry. Lent is a time of preparation, fasting, prayer, study and action in anticipation of the Good News: “Christ is Risen!”

This Lent, you will have a variety of resources to guide you through the 40 days. There will be a Lenten Devotional Guide written by members of this church. Another option will be a study of “The Hole in the Gospel.” Study materials will be available on the Internet. It is our hope that we will meet in small groups to do the Bible study and discuss the implications for our lives. If you would be willing to lead a group, after some training, let us know at associatepastor@acparis.org. Read the Sunday bulletins for specifics. Imagine if they were only the darkness of winter and no hope of long bright sunny days. That is where some people live who have not responded the One who came transforming the darkness into light through his death and resurrection. May this Lent be one of reflection and anticipation, not at the return of longer days, but One who suffered, giving his life on the cross so that we might have life in abundance.

In Anticipation of the Glory,

Glen Thorp
Thoughts From Rev. Dan Haugh
Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Social Network at ACP
Did you know that if Facebook were a country, it would rank #3 among the world’s population? Facebook added over 200 million users in less than a year, and that over 500,000 people join Twitter every day, with a 140 million Tweets being sent per day?

For those who may be unfamiliar with social media, which includes Google, Facebook, Youtube, Wikipedia, Yelp, and Twitter, it is the fastest growing platform for connectivity and information in human history. When you have time and access, I encourage you to click on the website link below to watch a video on the importance, growth, and influence of social media.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SuNx0UrEo

Beginning this winter, the ACP communications committee will be launching our new social media ministry, believing in the importance, influence, and potential of the social network. Social media is about people and information. It is about effectively connecting people, building community, and communicating with all members of ACP, past and present, with clear and current information. We hope to accomplish this not only on Sundays, but throughout each day as people log on to the internet.

Who uses social media? One may think that it is primarily used with the young generation. Statistics prove otherwise. Did you know that the fastest growing segment of population signing up for Facebook in the last year is over the age of 50?

At ACP, we believe in a ministry of presence and proclamation. We want to be present in the lives of people and our community. People’s digital or “online” worlds are real and significant and many spend the majority of their time there. Therefore, it is important for us as a church community to be present in that world.

Additionally, we believe we are called to proclaim the gospel wherever we are. Social media will provide a daily platform to share with the world the good news of Christ and what God is doing in and through the community here at ACP. We have three specific aims in utilizing social media here at ACP:

• To announce. We will update the church community on events such as visiting pastor lectures, Thurber Thursday topics, Christmas and Easter Sunday schedules, concerts, fundraisers, bible studies, etc. We will be able to inform and provide links when sermons go online and when tickets can be purchased for various events.

• To discuss. Social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook will allow people to comment and respond to event announcements and topical discussion questions that are posted.

• To share. Through the use of social media, the pastoral staff and ministry leaders will share weekly Scripture passages, inspirational thoughts, prayer needs, church community updates and relevant city and world news.

To be connected with our Facebook page, please “like” us at the following address:
http://www.facebook.com/AmericanChurchParis

You can now follow ACP on Twitter by visiting this address:
https://twitter.com/#!/amchurchparis

Here at The American Church in Paris, our voice is a variety of faiths, a variety of countries, and a variety of languages. Social Media will assist us in better communicating and connecting locally and globally as one unified church community, called into service for the sake of Christ.

*Dan Haugh continues to serve as a social media “coach” for Social Phonics, an organization training pastors, ministry leaders, and non-profit leaders in the use of social media http://socialphonics.com
Thoughts From your Council Moderator
Mark Primmer

Members and Friends of ACP,
It is my pleasure to introduce this new section of The Spire newsletter: From your Council ~ What’s Going On! as a new means to share with you some of the exciting things that are going on at Council. We are truly blessed to have a gifted and committed team serving on Council this year; leading and supporting a vast array of programs and ministry initiatives. In this section, Council Members will each month highlight some of the important issues and activities in their respective areas. One of our major themes as a Council is “Strengthening Teams for Ministry”, and in this regard we have been striving to reinforce our internal working practices as well as to engage more people in our committees. We are working to follow-up on the pledges of service received in our Stewardship campaign last fall and we are grateful for the tremendous support from the Congregation.

Additionally, over the next month, we will be preparing for the March 11 Congregational Meeting where we will present the 2011 Financial Reports and the 2012 Budget. We look forward to this important opportunity to celebrate our past and set our priorities for the future. At any time, we would very much welcome feedback from you on what we are doing. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you again for the privilege to serve as your leaders.

In Christ,
Mark Primmer
ACP Council Moderator
If you completed a Gift of Financial Resources form and made a financial pledge to the ACP for 2012, we are blessed by your generosity! We are so thankful for your prayerful response to renew your commitment of your life and resources to God’s work through the ministry and mission of the ACP. For those of you who would like to participate in this spiritual discipline for 2012, it’s not too late! Please check on-line for stewardship information packets (www.acparis.org), or stop by the coffee hour for “hard copies.”

You can also pick up a package of pledge envelopes. What are “pledge envelopes”, you ask? Pledge envelopes are numbered envelopes where each giver is assigned a specific number, in order to track his/her pledges throughout the year and so that the church may provide the necessary document for tax purposes.

If you give via check or wire transfer, there is no need to sign up for pledge envelopes, as our ACP accountant will track your giving directly via your check or wire transfer. However, if you give in cash into the open plate, and you would like your pledge to be tracked, please do sign up to get a numbered envelope. If you requested pledge envelopes and did not pick them up during coffee hour in January, you may stop by the reception desk.

Giving your gift of financial resources through wire transfer, check, or as cash/coins in pledge envelopes enables our accountant to track your pledges and give you an appropriate tax receipt for your total giving during the year. If you have pledge envelopes remaining from previous years, you may continue to use them as your number does not change – however, you should check the list at Reception, or email Jean-Michel to confirm your pledge envelope number.

ACP Finance & Stewardship Team: stewardship@acparis.org
Jean-Michel Bollecker: acctg@acparis.org
As the season of Lent approaches, I always find it a good time to reflect on the New Year’s Resolutions I did (or did not) make. I see it as a “second chance” to reassess my priorities and to make changes in my life. Personally, I like to keep things simple, so I focus on the phrase “Heart, Mind, Body & Soul”. (If 4 things are too many for you, you could try “Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise”. ) What is one thing I could do to be kinder toward others (Heart), to challenge my brain and learn something new (Mind), to be respectful of the body that God has given me (Body), and to deepen my relationship with Christ and broaden my spiritual journey (Soul)?

I see the act of Stewardship and pledging as a serious part of my faith journey (remember in the Stewardship campaign two years ago, it was said that stewardship is a function of discipleship, and discipleship is a function of God’s grace and blessing).

For me, the best part of pledging is the act of bringing my pledge forward to the altar on Consecration Sunday and dedicating it to God. I feel such a connection with God at that moment. Where I fall short in my spiritual growth and acts of responsible stewardship is on the decision of how much I should pledge. (Confession: I am finance & risk professional. I love Excel. I have multiple calculators. I think in terms of charts and graphs and percentages. Budgets and forecasts excite me.) It is very easy for me to “run the numbers” and then determine how much I can afford to give to the ACP, my home church, and to other charities.

And that’s the problem.

I calculate all my other expenses first. And then I look at what’s left for God.

How about you? As you made the transition from 2011 to 2012, and as you move from the season of Epiphany into the season of Lent, are you looking to deepen your relationship with Christ and broaden your spiritual journey? Are there things in your life you want to change? New resolutions or adjustments to ones already made? I challenge you to reflect on how you came to your decision on how much to pledge financially to the ACP in 2012. In your budget, is God the first line, or the last?

Faithfully,

Megan
Music and Worship
Anna Zweede and Tara Tranguch

REMEMBERING YOUR BAPTISM
Article and pictures by Fred Gramman

The baptismal font of the American Church dates back to our “new” building on the Quai d'Orsay. According to the book *Friendly Adventurers*:

“This font is of native hard stone of France, the gift of Mrs. Marshall Field, of Washington, D.C. During a visit to Brittany, Dr. Cochran copied a holy water font in the Cathedral of Quimper and sent it to Dr. Cram who adapted the design in conformity with the needs of the Church.”

Unfortunately the font became damaged as the two parts ground against each other whenever it was moved for a baptism. Last November the church council approved Scott Herr’s proposal to give it a permanent home in the narthex where it would be a constant reminder of our baptism in Christ. So it was gently moved to its new home for the 1st Sunday in Advent.

We were blessed to have a professional stone mason in our congregation, Alex Wenham, who painstakingly restored the damage so it looks like new again. Baptisms will still be celebrated in the front of the sanctuary, with the silver chalice with the holy water brought forward from the font as part of the liturgy.

*FRIENDLY ADVENTURERS: A CHRONICLE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF PARIS (1857-1931)
BY JOSEPH WILSON COCHRAN,
Pastor of the American Church of Paris http://www.ourstory.info/library/1-roots/Cochran/amchurchTC.html#TC
ACP ~ On The Air

“The American Church in Paris presents…
ACP Today
8:45 pm to 9:30 pm, the first and third
Mondays of every month.

Join us for scripture, sermons, songs,
debate, questions and - we hope - some answers.

ACP Today: Faith talk from Paris.”

Yes, the American Church is not only a beacon on the Seine, but will soon be a voice on the Paris airways. Thanks to Pastor Scott’s vision, a lot of dedicated teamwork and generous assistance by Radio Fréquence Protestante, the ACP Today radio show will start broadcasting at 100.7 FM, two Mondays a month. Tune in to our inaugural broadcast on 6th February, which will feature music by ACP talent, highlights from a recent sermon, on “A New Teaching”, and an interview with Scott on the topic of teenagers and faith. The initial idea for ACP Today was to start easy and build it up, with the first show simply broadcasting recorded sermons, concerts or Thurber Thursday talks. But the plans took on a higher frequency with the assistance of ACP member Genie Godula, who is a broadcast journalist currently working as a news anchor at France 24. She has given the production a professional polish, aided by Tom Macfarlane, who is contributing his audio editing skills, and his voice, of course.

Sound is king in radio, so the show’s voices will include those of Scott, Tom, Genie, Peter Bannister and Charles Mitchelmore. Each broadcast will include music selections from ACP talent and discussions of hot topics. It will include segments such as “Question of Faith”, to address questions and concerns by listeners or ACP members, interviews with the prestigious guest lecturers who come to the American Church, and eventually a “Spiritual Challenge”, to follow up on issues raised from the latest sermon. These will be punctuated with segments of “Meditation in Music”, “Parishioner Profiles, and “What’s Happening When”, a brief roundup of the ACP calendar.

It’s an exciting mission. ACP members generate a rich pool of talent, information and history that can be tapped and broadcast to inspire those who are housebound, those who are searching for English-language Christian programming, and of course those of us who would simply like more than the weekly devotions. We are hoping to reach listeners from around the country - and beyond, as we will be linking the recording of the show on our website, acparis.org.

So on Monday 6th February, turn to 100.7 on your FM dial and listen in as ACP Today mixes the testimony of our faith and the science of broadcast to speak to you via the magic of radio waves.

“You’ve been listening to ACP Today, brought to you by the American Church in Paris.
ACP Today: Faith talk from Paris!”
Property Committee  
Bill Johnson and Daniel Grout  
Property projects forecasted for 2012

- Completion G7-G8
- Painting and repairs: Pastoral assistant, Senior Pastor, guest apartments.
- Gymnasium: waterproof the men’s shower room & repair the water damage
- Repair water damage in Fred’s staircase (top) and in the sanctuary
- Build a dustbin storage in the garage (fire brigade requirement)
- Sanctuary sound system: adapt the sound system to the growing needs of the 3rd service
  - Level -1 – renovate the floor at the base of the main staircase
  - Classrooms doors – Install a porthole window on each door.
- Kitchen ventilation – Install a new conduit for the exhaust fumes.
- General maintenance.

Nominating Committee  
Thelma Fuchs and Christopher Wobo

This committee is presently in the process of identifying and discovering potential Council member nominees as the following Council positions are due for replacement this spring.

Moderator and Vice Moderator  
Property/Development Chair  
Finance/Stewardship Vice-Chair  
Human Resources Vice-Chair  
Mission Outreach Chair  
Nominating Chair and Vice-Chair

The Search for This Falls’ Retreat Coordinator  
Owing to the need for a fall retreat coordinator for 2012 that will focus on developing the family aspect and children’s program, we are presently assisting the Christian Education committee with this special need.

Update on the Associate Pastor Search  
85 complete applications have been received.  
64 have been read: each has been discussed and prayed about. 21 have yet to be tackled.  
It was noted again that God already knows who is the next ACP Associate Pastor; our job is to rely on Him and be in sync with Him.
**Christian Education**
Sharon Hermanson and Lori Kolo

*Thurber Thursdays is an adult community gathering and growth time that is open to all.*
*We share a meal at 18h30 and the evening program begins at 19h30 to 21h00.*
*(A 5€ donation is requested to cover the cost of the meal)*

![Our Thurber Thursday Series: Test of Faith through February 16th](image)

Join us as we watch and discuss the *Test of Faith* documentary over the course of five Thursdays. The main message of the documentary is that there are many practicing scientists who have a sincere Christian faith, even at the highest levels of academia. All of us can share their experience of awe when they find out more about God's creation through science. These scientists also help us to explore a number of issues that affect our own lives. On the ACP website there is a link to the trailer, “Test of Faith”.

On a very sad note, Sharon Hermanson will be leaving us and Paris to return to Norway. We will be having a Christian Education report next month, but meanwhile, if you get a chance lets all thank Sharon for her tireless and wonderful work as leader of this most important committee. In such a small amount of time, she has contributed so greatly and we will miss her dearly.

**Community Life**
Camilla Macfarlane and Nathaniel Akujuobi

We are working on several different projects that include ways for new small groups to form, and ways to recognize our vital and fabulous volunteers.

Also, we just held a new Membership Orientation and will have 20 or so new members to be confirmed at the Feb 12th services!

On another note, we would like to thank the members of the Filipino Fellowship who helped in taking down the Christmas decorations on January 4, 2012.

The ACP Filipino Fellowship is continuing with its weekly luncheons and bible studies. The topic is on the letter of Paul to TITUS, on the theme "THE PATHS TO GODLINESS". It is an interactive bible study series written by Phillip D. Jensen & Tony Payne. The study begins at 2pm and all are welcome!

The ACP African Fellowship will is organizing a special event for Black History Month with Ellen Kountz, on Sunday, March 4th at 1:30pm.

Also, Women’s Ministries had their 3rd brainstorming session and many things are being planned, so keep your ears and eyes open for more news on this front!
**Being of Service**

The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith; the fruit of faith is love; the fruit of love is service; the fruit of service is peace. – Mother Teresa

In Judaism, it’s called *tikkun olam* (literally “repairing the world”): one is commanded by God to serve Him by practicing specific *mitzvot* (“good deeds”). In 12-step recovery programs, it’s the Twelfth Step: to take the program to others and practice it in all our daily affairs. In short, *being of service*.

When I show up to help my wife do one of the seemingly endless things she’s doing, whether around ACP or elsewhere in her life, I ask, “OK. What do you need me to do?” If she doesn’t need my help, she immediately says so. When I ask that question, I mean my words literally. It’s not about what I want to do for her; it’s not about what’s *convenient or easy* for me to do for her; it’s about what *she* needs me to do for her, including absolutely nothing, if she wants.

Great service organizations, the Red Cross as one example, become what they become largely on the backs of volunteer labor. Volunteers are special people: they give of themselves in a way that makes them the most useful resource. A capable human being, offering his or her time, energy, and cooperation, is a powerful tool. But service needs two things for it to be truly impactful: structure, and spirituality.

Service without structure is like someone who shows up to give to a food drive bringing warm blankets. The will to give is good; but one has to give what is needed. The Red Cross can have thousands of people worldwide volunteering things or time, but it only works if they give what’s needed, where it’s needed. What’s needed in Rwanda is certainly not what’s needed in Romania, yet both are important. The Red Cross must direct the volunteers to do what they see needs doing, and the volunteers must present themselves willing to do what’s required when and where necessary.

Service without spirituality begs the question of *why* someone is volunteering something. I’m sure we can all recall times in our past when we offered something with the unspoken hope of getting something back. I’m as guilty of this as anyone else. But if my faith is in the right place, and I offer what I can from humility and not ego, then I am really doing God’s work by offering myself in His service to do whatever He sees fit to have me do. In the beautiful Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, a poor crippled boy and his mother are visited by the Magi who are on their way to find the Christ Child. The boy is stirred to give something in tribute to him, but he and his mother are absolutely penniless, so he offers as his gift to Jesus the one thing he possesses in all the world: his plain wooden crutch. And in this act of giving, his affliction is healed.

So when we work together as a church community, let’s remember to bring our open hearts as well as our strong backs (literally or figuratively) when we come to serve. To keep something, you have to give it away; it’s not to us to decide when or how to steer God’s grace given to us. Let’s give spiritually, and allow ourselves to be guided in our giving, and in so doing experience its joy and transformative power.

-- Tom Macfarlane
Women’s Ministry
of The American Church in Paris

“... by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.”
2 Timothy 1:8-9

Discerning where God is Leading Us ...

“Oh, I know the plans I have for you says the Lord...” We have spent a number of months discerning those plans, discussing how to encourage, support, and care for one another in our faith journeys. The three areas of focus that have repeatedly been mentioned are listed on the side panel. We look forward to implementing many of these activities over the coming months. If you’d like to help, contact woac_president@yahoo.com.

Look for news in the next Spire for our first Annual Retreat to be held in May. Enuma Okoro, author of A Reluctant Pilgrim, will be leading us in an encouraging workshop that you don’t want to miss!

Areas of Focus

- Spiritual Formation and Education
  - Bible Studies
  - Weekend Retreat
  - Lecture Series
- Fellowship and Hospitality
  - Coffees
  - Ladies Night Out
  - Hobby/Craft Group
- Community Service
  - Women’s Shelter
  - Orphanage

“By all this we are encouraged.”
2 Corinthians 7:13
For several years now, the Mission Outreach Committee of the ACP has been supporting a ministry with the FOYER DE GRENELLE. Carried out in daily action by bettering peoples lives, the rich story of the Foyer and its beliefs is a story that deserves to be shared and deeply appreciated with our community and the entire ACP Congregation.

History
Following the fall of the Paris Commune (1871), a Scottish clergyman, Robert McAll, came to Paris to spread the message of the Gospel. Representative of and sensitive to an emerging new social reality, he spoke to groups including many industry workers who were seeking "a religion of freedom and reality." McAll shared the marked and defining movements of Protestantism, individual direct relationships with God through reading the Bible, the sense of community life and allowing God into your entire life.

McAll and his wife settled where tens of thousands of workers lived and they began to entrench and expand their efforts on sharing the Christian message, starting with one meeting room, holding a first meeting on 1 January 1872. Within the next twenty years, this "Mission aux ouvriers de Paris " (name changed overtime to "Mission populaire évangélique"; évangélique translates here to Gospel) had over a hundred such rooms. The Foyer de Grenelle is one of them. Built in 1887 using the plans of McAll, the Foyer was built from an existing two room space that had been built 10 years prior. The original two rooms are still in use today at the Foyer. The Foyer de Grenelle is located in the 15th arrondissement, near the metro, LaMotte-Piquet.

The Foyer's “raison d'être”….The Foyer's Vocation and Mission
The Foyer's vocation is to “vivre et manifester l'Evangile dans le milieu populaire”, to live your life centered in the Gospel. Their mission involves helping and acting on behalf of those who are weak, vulnerable and in need. It promotes social fellowship and solidarity, including secular debates where everyone’s words are respected and one opinion does not dominate. The mission of witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is always present with the message that with God’s unconditional love, His Peace is possible, here and now.

Foyer Action / Activities
The Foyer's missions mentioned above are realized through its more than 30 activities. One of the main themes felt throughout the Foyer is its sense of welcoming. Its buildings and cozy courtyard lined with trees are an open house to all who wish to enter. Once inside, there is no foreign land (influence and philosophy of the CIMADE) and no one must justify their existence.

The welcoming activities include a welcome lodge where meeting and greeting takes place 6 hours a day with 500 passersby and 250 phone calls received per week. A Café opens each afternoon for gathering and the “Croix-Bleu” receives those struggling with alcohol and their family members. “Dom’Asile” is an activity which assists people who are seeking asylum (approx. 400 current dossiers) and “Dom’Grenelle” provides mailing addresses for over 600 homeless. Over 80 different groups and organisations use the Foyer’s meeting rooms each year. At the Foyer, there is a permanent presence and availability of the Foyer Pastor to meet, discuss openly and confidentially.

Children and Youth activities offered by the Foyer include a “centre de loisirs” on Wednesdays and during school vacations and after school tutoring for students in primary through secondary level. In the tutoring program, there are approximately 50 volunteers working with about 150 students.

Training and education for adults include reading and writing in French, learning French as a foreign language (30 nationalities are represented in these courses), basic office skills and creating websites. There is a French language school just for women, “Ecole des femmes”, meeting 3 afternoons a week. To encourage and facilitate attendance, childcare is provided.
The Foyer proposes activities to include all, “lutter contre l’exclusion”. A group of seniors gather weekly to socialize. The evening of Christmas, a special dinner and entertainment takes place around a camp fire in the courtyard of the Foyer, "le Grand Souper”. Every Wednesday evening, 40-45 persons in need join with 15-20 volunteers to cook, serve and eat a meal together. It is an evening of sharing. The food is provided from the local markets and the food banks.

The activities centered on hearing about the Gospel, are not unlike the other activities. They are open to all, those with varied beliefs, those who walk between certainty, questions and doubts, those who are searching. There is a Church service every Sunday morning, “tradition protestante”, and several Bible studies during the week.

**Resources of the Foyer – People, Legal Structure, Buildings and Budget, Partnerships.**
One of the most valuable resources of the Foyer is its more than 300 volunteers, and a few salaried positions. The Foyer is a part of the “Mission populaire évangélique de France” who are the owners of the Foyer's buildings. Belonging to a special association in France, the Foyer has the right to carry out its social and humanitarian missions. The budget of the Foyer is financed 50% by the state, 25% by voluntary contributions and is 25% self-financed. The Foyer extends its missions by networking with many partners such as Arc75, Cimade, Secours catholique, CAF, Femmes Egalité, etc.

**ACP's Involvement.**
ACP's mission ministry with the Foyer is off to a good start and has much potential to grow. Currently, there are ACP members volunteering with the childcare during the hours of the Women's School classes. There are volunteers helping with the Wednesday evening dinners. ACP also supports the Foyer with a financial donation from the Mission Outreach Committee budget. Recently, the ACP’s Refugee Ministry has started an exciting collaboration with the Foyer's Dom'Asile and Dom'Grenelle programs which has already helped several of ACP’s own members.

The ACP community is so blessed and their support is so needed and vital for Mission Outreach ministries such as the Foyer de Grenelle.

God’s Blessings and Peace be with you all.

*Mission: “to bear witness by word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ”*

www.foyerdegrenelle.org
Keeping up with Patti!
At Rafiki Village in Uganda

Late last September, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, was built in 2003 and is now home to 102 resident orphans plus 72 local children who attend the pre-primary, primary, junior and senior secondary schools. Patti, who sang in Fred Gramann's Choir, says that the Lord has truly been at work here moving friends, family, churches and even some people she did not know personally to support her for this mission. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her) to contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

WORSHIPPING
Sunday worship at four very different churches here near the Rafiki Village, Kampala, Uganda has provided four unique experiences.

A Small International Church
Down an inconspicuous driveway off one of the main avenues in the upscale suburban golf course area of Kampala is a small white brick auditorium serving as the sanctuary of this church. Students and faculty from a noted seminary here as well as workers from various international NGOs and companies make up the congregation. So the mix is 50% Ugandan, 50% international and quite cosmopolitan. It has been the church home of our Rafiki Uganda directors for many years, so many of our older Rafiki children have been baptized here. The sanctuary is intimate with about 150 of those ubiquitous and comfortable plastic armchairs that are taking over the world. A Dutch drummer with a full set of steel drums warms up noisily in the back. Worship starts with a few praise songs led by a person at the keyboard and four others seated in the front row. The sound system probably doesn’t do justice to their talents, nor do the acoustics. This church misses its Pastor who is expected to return soon after two years of study in the US. The pulpit was occupied during the fall by visiting student pastors giving a sermon series on Titus, which seemed mostly doctrinally sound. Seeing these aspiring young pastors was, well, awe inspiring. This church stresses the five “Solas” and each week one of the reformed Christian creeds is used, followed by more praise songs. Communion is served every Sunday by one of the elders whose particular love is just that: serving communion. The surprise came when he indicated who was eligible to take communion as there is quite a list of “you must be’s…” I didn’t meet the requirements, but took communion anyway.

The Big Famous Yuppie Church
I tried another church accompanied by Peter, our Rafiki Village music teacher, who also runs the church’s children’s music program. The big central church building, which housed the British Opera House during colonial times, is right in downtown Kampala. There are five satellites elsewhere, so it might resemble the “mega-churches” in the US. It is known for its excellent music, so I was of course tempted. It holds easily 3000 people and fills up for three services each Sunday. Be sure to come early, wait in line, pass the airport style security check, and expect the ushers to pack your row full as latecomers arrive!

The choir is way up there on stage, in shadow for the moment but you can make out about 100 singers: women in colorful long dresses, men in harmonizing shirts. When the music started, I knew it was a good choice. The choir is excellent, joyful and professional. Sophisticated sound and light systems are perfect and the MC are able to pull everyone into the spirit of the service. After over half an hour of joyful noise, the wide choice of activities for all ages and tastes are publicized with videos, rather like the coming attractions at your favorite movie theater. The prayer that day was for families, the essential building block of all our communities, and we were invited to inquire about the family of the person next to us, then hold hands and pray for his or her family. On my right was a man with four children; I was happy to pray for them. Though slightly surprised, he in turn prayed for our 102 Rafiki children. This service was 50% pep-rally, 50% aerobics, 50% Porte Maillot mega-musical production and 150% worship. I loved it. It’s a young church which attracts the upper middleclass young urbans. My friend Peter saw
several of his friends, but obviously with so many worshippers, it is impossible to have real fellowship before or after the service. It’s clear, however, that the small group activities are meant to accomplish that goal.

**A Truly African Worship Experience.** Fellow teacher Syson, a young woman who has helped orient me to Ugandan ways, gently insisted over several months that I come to her church, Good Samaritan, right here in Wakiso, the village closest to Rafiki Village. She had me park right inside the fence, taking up most of the space between the Pastor’s small brick home and the church itself. Those same universal plastic chairs comprise the first 5 or 6 rows of seats with rustic backless benches behind for the later-comers. The floor slopes naturally, since it is compressed dirt with roots from the trees appearing here and there. Pastor Casimir, a dignified 60-ish in a tan European-cut suit, and the Worship team leader, young and sharp looking in a blue sequined vest, took turns leading the singing, praising and dancing, accompanied by enthusiastic African drummers. Many of the tunes were familiar from ACP’s Contemporary Service repertory. English was translated to Luganda, and vice versa, by Sister Ruth and Brother Philip, both pros at the exercise. After about 45 minutes of music and dance, Pastor Casimir took the mike and spoke solemnly in Luganda. I heard a few familiar words but especially “Muzungu” (White) so wasn’t too surprised when I was asked to stand to be honored as a visitor. The surprise came when the translator explained that Pastor Sister Syson, my friend and fellow teacher, would preach her first sermon that day. She is a newly recognized Evangelist. I had no idea! She delivered an extremely energetic sermon in English, translated simultaneously into Luganda. She used the entire church space, often running and jumping in the aisles. The sermon was about the Redeemer Jesus, with the “J” sound usually coming out as “ch”, as it often does in Ugandan English. It was wonderful! After the sermon, but long before the end of the service, I was invited, along with several other of Syson’s guests, to “share a yam” at the pastor’s home. We could hear the singing and music and shouting continue in the church. I promised to go back there some Sunday.

**My Church Home-Away-from-Home** Well, it’s almost certain; Kampala Baptist Church is the one that I will join. Large but not too large, modern but not too modern, totally friendly and family oriented, and warmly welcoming to our Rafiki children. “KBC’s” membership is middle class urban families, 90% Ugandan, 10% white international people. I go to the English-speaking service at 11:00; it is the largest. The choir of about 10 singers does mostly praise music as at ACP’s contemporary service, and they do it almost as well as Natalie’s bunch. There is of course a band, but it isn’t too loud! A Time for the Children brings about 50 or more well-dressed, well-coiffed youngsters, plus 30 or so of ours, to the front before Sunday School. One Sunday the entire congregation of probably 500, filed outside to the Jacuzzi-like pool to witness the baptism by immersion of four adult men. Another time, a dozen young couples stood up to publish their bans, announcing their desire to marry in the church after, in many cases, years of communal life and lots of children. The Word of God is faithfully preached in a way that is both comprehensible and thought provoking. Of course, small group activities are the best way to get involved. I’m very thankful to have found this church and must find the time to choose a small group and start, soon!
YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES
By Lisa Prevett

YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS FOR February (18-30years)
Come and join us every Tuesday for either Bible Study or Pizza Night, as we share fellowship and conversation.
For Pizza Night come at 18:00 to help cook and from 19:00 for dinner!

Tuesday 7, 21, 28 19:30-21:00 Bible Study (Catacombs)
Thursday 9, 16 19:30-20:30 Men's Bible Study (Catacombs)
Wednesday 22 20:00 Movie Night in the Thurber Room
Tuesday 14 18:00/19:00 Valentine’s Day Pizza Night!

YOUTH EVENTS (13-18yrs)
Youth Group meets on Sundays from 15:00 – 17:00 pm for fun, fellowship and Bible study in the Catacombs.
Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

Friday 3 19:30 Youth Missions Book Sale prep in G7-8
Saturday 4 9:00-17:00 Youth Missions Book Sale in G7-8
Sunday 5, 12, 19, 26 15:00-17:30 Youth Group in the Catacombs
Fri and Sat 10-11 20:00-8:00 Lock-In!!! Meet at ACP
Saturday 11 18:00-22:00 Worship Central concert
Friday 24 19:00-22:00 Movie Night

YOUTH WORSHIP (11-13yrs)
We meet each Sunday during the 11:00 worship service in the Youth Catacombs.
Follow the cross during the service to gather in the theater.

February 5: Jesus Tells About a Son Who Returned Home

February 12: Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead
Bible Story: John 11:1-45. Discovery: Jesus’ love is even stronger than death

*Please note that there will be no Youth Worship on February 19 or 26 due to the school holidays. We will resume on March 4.

Contact Rev. Dan Haugh (youthpastor@acparis.org)
For more information about Youth and Young Adult events.
You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh)
Or connect on Facebook (www.facebook.com/haugh.dan)
Sustainability: A New Millennium Expression of Christianity

If you are having trouble bringing together the messages of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, and life in the new millennium, you are not alone. My generation—the baby boomers—and my children's generation—the Millennials—have found it difficult to take the lessons of a pastoral/agrarian landscape with a few walled cities and apply them to urban-suburban, high tech, fast-paced and relatively wealthy life in 2011. It's analogous to going from a shepherd's crook to a Blackberry. Nevertheless, Christians know that the Bible contains universal understandings that apply to all generations and across cultures. The sustainability framework has helped me and dozens of others, who I have met at church and through my work, to understand how to live our faith in the first decades of the new millennium.

Although the word sustainability is becoming more common in the media, its meaning is not transparent. Sustainability is a paradigm for thinking about the world in which environmental, social, and economic concerns are balanced. This is a large switch from the economic growth paradigm, in which for economic development there were casualties in the environmental and social realms and these losses were acceptable and inevitable. From childhood, I remember people saying that for prosperity we would have to accept pollution along the way. Well, that was a misconception of the time, which is being proven wrong over and over again. For example, the paper mill in town smelled awful and released effluent, called black liquor, into the Willamette River, which killed most of the aquatic life. Those of us who lived near the mill knew that you did not go swimming in the river and if you went fishing and caught something you definitely did not eat it. Today, the black liquor is considered a source of wood fiber and the caustic chemicals to break down the cellulose are recoverable and valuable. It is no longer dumped into the river, which is now much cleaner.

Sustainability also carries with it the idea that the current generations should save resources for future generations rather than being greedy and using them all for ourselves.

These essays on sustainability and Christianity are not radical in any way; they are Biblical in nature. Sustainability has roots in the Old Testament—to be good stewards of Earth—and the New Testament—to feed the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to care for the poor, and to treat the marginalized with respect. I call sustainability a new millennium expression of Christianity.

Using a sustainability framework to unite faith and daily life in the world takes courage. Such a perspective will bring to the forefront of your consciousness the huge problems in the world, such as severely degraded ecosystems, vast social injustice, and immense economic inequality both in the United States and around the world. For example, half of the world’s population lives on less than two dollars per day, and with the global financial crises many people are worse off. The women especially are worried about providing food for their families. I think that the problems are so enormous that they can only be solved by divine intervention. That is God working through our hands and hearts.

If you are content with your current framework for understanding Christian faith in today’s world then this series of essays is not for you. However, if you are concerned about the future of our planet and creating a better future within your religious traditions then these essays are for you. They are especially for you if you are feeling ineffective or powerless or you are drifting away from the church because it seems irrelevant to the immense global problems expressed in your community or abroad.

So here is the basis of the sustainability framework for Christianity. I described sustainability above. Here is the Biblical part. Genesis reveals there are three important human relationships:

- Humans with creation,
- Humans with one another, and
- Humans with God.
When Adam and Eve fell and left the garden, these three relationships deteriorated. They went on deteriorating until we have the seriously messed-up world of today. But the good news is that Christ came into our world and our lives to heal those three relationships and redeem the world. Christ came into the world to do more than buy back our sins and give us eternal life. He repairs our relationship with God, with one another, and with creation.

You may be questioning my interpretation that Christ’s life, death, and resurrection had anything to do with repairing our relationship with creation. While he was on Earth, Christ taught us how to interact with other people through love. This became the basis for repairing human relationships with one another. Christ’s death repaired our relationship with God because it redeemed our sins, which stood in the way of our relationship with God. So how is our relationship with creation part of this understanding of Biblical relationships?

Let’s examine creation. You can consider creation a one-time event described in Genesis or an ongoing process that we witness everyday in which every seed that germinates or every baby born is a miracle. In either case, creation is the work of God. Our constant over use of the environment is an abuse of creation—an abuse of God’s work—and therefore sinful. Renowned theologian Mirasloav Volf in his book Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace states, “God’s wrath burns on account of the human sin that brings ruin upon creation.” (p.166) He makes it clear that abuse of the environment is sin. His statement is convicting and weighs heavily. The good news is that Christ came to redeem our sins, including those against creation, and repair our relationships, including those with Earth.

Sitting in our heated and air-conditioned homes, reading the Bible about life in the Old Testament, it is easy to miss the close connection that the Israelites had to the land. Many of them lived in tents, tended sheep and goats, and cultivated vineyards and orchards. Israelites were aware of changes in the weather, the fertility of the soil, and the seasonal variation of daylight, temperature, and precipitation, far more than we are or have to be. Our indoor life with 24/7 utilities has desensitized us to passages in the Bible that describe human connection to the land and God’s control over it. “He will love you, bless you . . . and he will bless . . . the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and issue of your flock.” (Deuteronomy7:13) If I were a shepherd or a farmer, I’d be delighted by this verse, but given that my food comes to me from the supermarket, somehow it is easy to overlook the importance of that verse tying human well being to the land, creation, and God. Obviously, the food in my supermarket still comes from the land and is part of ongoing creation for which I should be grateful, but somehow it is easy miss that connection in my daily life. The sustainability framework for my Christian faith helps reconnect me to the relationship of humans with creation.

The sustainability framework helps me as a Christian in the 21st century to tend those three important relationships—humans with creation, humans with one another, and humans with God.

Grace, blessings, peace, and joy,

Roz Ice
© 2011 Roz Ice

This essay was written with support from the ACP Writer's Group, which meets the second Saturday of the month from 2:00 – 5:00 PM in room G2.
Our **NEW** Open Door Ministry

The American Church in Paris now welcomes visitors on weekdays for eight to ten hours per week!

My name is Anjlo Ajmal, and I welcome visitors both for spiritual needs, and as a docent tour guide. The first half of January, myself and another docent, welcomed nearly 50 visitors that wanted to visit the church and find out about its history, as well as spending time in silence, prayer, listening, and sharing. The opening hours vary and are posted on the door of the church house, and on the ACP website, [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org). The heritage of the American Church is rich and spread over more than 150 years.

ACP has so much to share in contemplation and prayer, so do visit the sanctuary during its quiet time and experience its serenity for yourself.

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**The Nominating Committee**

*invites members of the ACP who are willing to serve on the church’s council to send emails to Thelma Fuchs or Chris Wobo*

*You may also recommend members you feel are potential leaders, willing to give their time and services to the church.*

*Thank you*

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**PRAYER TEAM MEETING**

*If you would like to become part of this vital ministry or already ARE, Please come to Pastor Glen’s office (below reception)*

10:00 am on Sunday, Feb 12th
An INVITATION

COMITÉ PROTESTANT DES AMITIÉS FRANÇAISES À L'ÉTRANGER

Deux fois couronné par l'Académie Française
WORLD HUGUENOT CENTRE
WELT HUGENOTTEN ZENTRUM

The World Huguenot Centre, le Comité Protestant des Amitiés Françaises à l'étranger, invites you to participate in the XVIth International Reunion of Huguenot Descendants to take place from September 3. to September 9. 2012 in Valence. For details and outline of tours and seminars please contact Ilinca at secretary@acparis.org.

Annie Vallotton Christian
Lending Library

NEW HOURS
Open 10am to 4pm every Sunday!

Black History Month Presentation
By Ellen Kountz
Friday, February 17
Contact Ellen Kountz

18h30 to 20h00 in Room G2
Light Refreshments will be offered
Opportunities for Personal Growth and Outreach

ACP BIBLE STUDIES and DISCUSSION GROUPS

ACP SUNDAY SERMON BIBLE STUDY Sunday morning between the 9am and 11am services, in G2. Contact Kristie Worrel for further information.

ACP TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets from 10h30 to 12h30 here at the church. All are welcome. We will be studying Be Mature: Growing up in Christ, a study of the Book of James by Warren Wiersbe. If you have small children, the church nursery is available for a nominal fee. Please let us know if you'd be interested so we can ensure that we have the proper number of childcare givers. Questions or more information, contact our coordinators: Jennifer Jourlait and Diedre Grizzle.

ACP SIMPLY CHRISTIAN - Why Christianity Makes Sense by N. T. Wright. Have you ever wondered why humans in all places and times have yearned for beauty, truth, spirituality, and justice? Bishop Wright contends that it is because we hear the echoes of God's voice -- the same God who created the world, is known through the children of Israel and Jesus Christ, and who is at work in the world through the Holy Spirit. Connecting to this God through worship, prayer, scripture and the church leads to life that is full and abundant. Contact MaryClaire King.

ACP THURBER THURSDAYS: Faith in Science discussions every Thursday through Feb 16th. A meal is served (suggested 5€ donation) before the discussion at 6:30, with the program at 7:30 to 9pm.

PRAYER GROUPS and STUDY ACTIVITIES

ACP MEN – come for coffee, conversation, prayer and fellowship. Any men interested in further information or in being added to our e-mail list should contact Ed Hyslip.

ACP WORK AND FAITH GROUP - Christian professionals who seek to integrate their personal profession of faith with their public vocation. For more information contact Pascal Berger.

MOMS IN TOUCH PRAYER GROUP: Would you like to join with other moms as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father? Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray scripture together. Moms in Touch groups are in 120 countries and now English language groups are forming in Paris. Contact Caroline at MomsInTouchParis@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: Monday evenings in the Sanctuary. For more information contact Denise Dampierre. Website: http://bsfinternational.org/
ACP and OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

ACP MULTICULTURAL COUPLES. Bring a dish to share and join the fun on Feb 10th at 8pm in the Thurber Room. For more info, contact Marie Grout.

THE KNITTING GROUP welcomes newcomers and experts, and others in between – all are welcome. Some of us are knitting now for Mission Outreach, and some for ourselves and our families. This month, some of us will be making an afghan together – anyone can join in! We can guide you toward Paris knit shops, patterns, online resources, local knitting events and more. Drop in; bring a friend and check it out! Monday afternoons at 17h00. For more info, contact Antoinette Wolfe or Elizabeth Rand.

WOMEN’S RUNNING TEAM: If you are interested in being part of the ACP running team (men and women are welcome) please contact Kim at woac_president@yahoo.com. We will be looking for other races to run. Several have already signed up for various races in the coming months!

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: The movie group’s February choices are David Fincher’s The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Millennium: Les hommes qui n’aimaient pas les femmes), Alexander Payne’s The Descendants, Tony Kaye’s Detachment and Tomas Alfredson’s Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (La Taupe). See any or all at your convenience, and then join the group for discussion on Thursday, February 16, at 7:30pm in basement room G2.

ACP WRITERS GROUP meets the second Saturday of the month from 2:00 – 5:00 PM in room G2. Contact Rosalyn McKeown.

ACP VOLUNTEERING and OUTREACH

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP We could use your time (one hour) twice a month at the 1:30 service with the ACP children’s worship. Please contact Jeanette Laugier.

AN INVITATION! Are you a greeter or an usher at the 9h00 and/or 11h00 services? Are you interested in becoming one? This invitation is to you! For any questions, please contact Anna Zweede.

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH. Every Friday, the Mission Lunch Program provides a free, cooked lunch at the host church (American Cathedral, 23 Avenue George V, Paris 8e) to those in need. ACP organizes the lunch on the second Friday of each month, but volunteers are needed every week for cooking, serving and cleaning-up. Contact: Kristie.

FOYER DE GRENELLE has an urgent need for babysitter Mondays or Thursdays, 2-4PM. Please Contact Anne Mildred.
ACP Introduces Eco-Stewardship!

We are called to be stewards of the land and of all of God’s creation. What a great privilege God has given to us! We have an opportunity to ensure that we are protecting God’s creation during our daily activities at ACP. As such, an Eco-Stewardship program has been started. In 2012 we are focusing on activities that fall in the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

First Focus: Recycle

Recycling allows materials to be reprocessed and remade into another object, which extends the life of the natural resources that were originally used to make that material, saves new natural resources from being used to create a product, and reduces the amount of trash in our landfills. Did you know that it takes a plastic soda bottle 450 years to decompose? (Source: Penn State). Wow! That means a plastic soda bottle you throw into the trash today will exist for the next 15 generations of your children! That is quite a legacy that neither we nor the soda bottle want to leave behind. Better to recycle the soda bottle so the plastic can be reused in another product that our generation can enjoy. And recycling is so easy to do here in Paris!

Starting in January, you have probably noticed new recycling bins around the Church! You can now separate your trash into 3 categories: paper/plastic, glass and all other trash. Each bin is marked to let you know which type of trash it is used for.

For example, if you are not going to take the bulletin home with you, be sure to recycle it in the paper/plastic container. There is a bin located in the Narthex as you exit the Church through the front, and there is also a bin in the theatre as you exit after coffee hour. And what about the plastic cups you enjoy your coffee in after Church? These cups can also be recycled in the paper/plastic container. So next time you throw something away at ACP, be sure to first think which recycling bin the item should go in. The bins are marked so you know where the item should go.

Next Focus: Reduce and Reuse

Whereas recycling is the best way to throw an item away, reduce and reuse aim to create less waste material, so there is nothing (or very little) to throw away or to recycle. Some examples of how to reduce waste is to buy products with less packaging, to not use disposable containers/papers/cups, to use cloth items instead of paper, and to receive less junk mail/faxes.

Reuse refers to continuing to use an object even after its original purpose has changed. For example, you can reuse a coffee container to hold another object after the coffee has finished, or a plastic bottle can be cleaned and reused as a watering bottle for your plants. Be creative! And think of the money you can save from not having to buy a new product.

We are currently looking at areas at ACP where we can reduce and reuse. Being eco-friendly requires participation from everyone. Do you have an idea of where ACP could be more eco-friendly? Let’s work together to get it going!

- Do you have an idea where ACP can become better stewards of the Earth?
- Do you have a project you would like to see happen in the areas of Recycle, Reduce, Reuse?
  If you answered yes to either of the above questions, contact Tara Tranguch, and become part of the ACP Eco-Stewardship adventure!

The glory of God—let it last forever! Let God enjoy his creation! Psalm 104:31
Getting to Know YOU!

Another new section to our Spire!

This month we are featuring......
Natalia Romenanko and our Security Staff

Natalia Romanenko at the Festival of Lights in Lyon

Natalia Romanenko performed in Lyon for 3,000 people at the Festival of Lights, along with Jacques Rouveyrollis, for the world premiere of Music in Color, combining classical music with special lighting effects, which was the dream of Voltaire and many others. Natalia says she is very happy and grateful to God for having been able to be a part of this beautiful concert and part of this ongoing project. Perhaps you may remember seeing a flyer about this concert in the December issue of the Spire.

In 2001, Natalia was the 1st place winner in Piano at the Paris Conservatory, and several other international competitions. In 2010, she inaugurated the Croisée France-Russe Salle Tchaikovski du Conservatoire de Moscow as piano soloist, performing the Piano Concerto No. 5 by Saint-Saens, under the direction of Jean-Francois Heisser. She is also president of the association “Extraordinaria Classica” which promotes unknown or forgotten works as well as up and coming music ensembles.

Additionally, she also did a stunning performance January 29th at the Dedication Concert for Josephine, where she performed “Grand Valse and “Nocturne” by Chopin, and “Le Rossignol” by Alliabief-Liszt/Tagliapietra.

Thank you Natalia!
Our Security Staff
Ready, Willing, and Welcoming
By Pamela Griner Leavy

They shake our hands, help with strollers, and greet us with a friendly hello, all the while protecting our children, adults and the premises of the American Church in Paris. “Our job is to keep the church secure and open for the people, not cold but safe and welcoming for everybody,” said Amath Dieng, owner of Security Group, the firm that has serviced ACP for eleven years.

In a huge Paris security ramp-up following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, ACP installed a camera surveillance system and hired extra security guards. Dieng, who lives in Normandy, commutes by automobile an hour and a half every morning and again at night, six days a week, to oversee church security. “The church is my family here, and if I had to drive five hours I could do that with no problem,” Amath said.

Amath’s brother, Karim Dieng, is also a familiar and friendly face at the church, and Ameth Sy rounds out the security staff. Karim was on a well deserved vacation in the south of France at the time of this interview.

At home in Normandy, Amath, who holds dual citizenship in Senegal and France, is father to three children, Karim 11, Adja 8 and Alassane 3. Amath did all his studies in France and was studying law in Paris until his first son was born.

During the week he works for the schools that occupy the American church, and makes it his business to know who has what he calls serious church business, keeping his eyes wide open for anything out of the ordinary. He recalls that not long after September 11, 2001, the time of the Anthrax scare, the church received a suspect envelope by post, and opened it without knowing!

“When we called the scientific police department, we were isolated (in quarantine) in a room in the basement of the church,” said Amath. “It was scary and amusing at the same time; scary as we did not know how long we would be in isolation, away from our families, and amusing, because we were isolated even without a con-firmation that this was Anthrax. In this international climate with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we cannot be too cautious,” according to Dieng. The substance turned out to be plain powder.

Professionally dressed in black coats with orange armbands, Amath, Karim and Ameth start their morning shifts in traditional French workplace style. The men greet the church staff and shake hands with the pastors. Amath offered special thanks to the school staff members, former pastor Tina Blair and the ACP staff. “I want to say a big thank you to Pastor Scott and Pastor Bedford, and all the members of the church, a big thank you for their confidence,” said Amath.
January in Review

From our ACP Family
Moments to Share

A Performance of
The first reading of
Genesis
from the 1:30 Service Jan 8th, 2012
By Welela Kindred

Peggy Smithart (The Word):
When Genesis begins it is very musical,
but not in the sense of singing.

It is silent. And that is the highest
form of silence.

Peggy began her direction with silence;
full and void of light.

(Void represented by Welela)

Dawn (The Holy Spirit):
Dawn’s voice was the Holy Spirit, the witness.
Her voice was the celebration of the Father’s work.
Once the word was spoken, I (the void) became the earth.

Weléla (The earth)
The earth, being formed was such a beautiful process.
And God was pleased with it.

The process of this piece:
We all began to collaborate during a rehearsal process. We did not have any preconceived
notions of this piece. We began improvising. The piece was full of void and silence, and like
Genesis 1, it was formed through a slow but diligent process.

Future Work
We were so grateful to have had this opportunity! It was such a blessing for all the artists
involved. We just prayed that our audience would be inspired from this work! We hope in the
near future to have a collective of artists, to perform the rest of Genesis and days of creation. I
myself want to have performances in the city as part of The Rainbow Noir Danse Projekt (my
dance collective’s) repertoire.
Remembering Josephine’s Dedication Concert And Reception
Sunday 29 January, 2012

The Program

Sonata No. 9 in E, op. 14 #1 Ludwig van BEETHOVEN
THOMAS MACFARLANE, piano

Nocturne in B major, Op. 32, No. 1 Frédéric CHOPIN
Etude in A-flat major, Op. 25, No. 1
Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2
LAURANA MITCHELMORE, piano

Première Rapsodie pour clarinette en si bémol Claude DEBUSSY
CAROL MUNDINGER, clarinet DEBRA TAKAKJIAN, piano

Alborado del gracioso (Morning Song of the Jester) Maurice RAVEL
DEBRA TAKAKJIAN, piano

1888 (first performance / création) Peter BANNISTER
PETER BANNISTER, piano

Grande Valse Brillante As-dur Frédéric CHOPIN
"Le Rossignol" ALLIABIEF-LISZT / TAGLIAPIETRA
Nocturne (posthume) Frédéric CHOPIN
NATHALIA ROMANENKO, piano

Concerto Pathétique for Piano & Organ Franz LISZT
(Transcribed for piano and organ by Véra Nitikine)
KATHERINE NITIKINE, piano VÉRA NITIKINE, organ / orgue

Rhapsody in Blue George GERSHWIN, arr. Thomas MACFARLANE
THOMAS MACFARLANE, piano
WE WISH TO THANK

Our generous donors, Laura and David Moore and the Filipino Fellowship of ACP.
Mr. Raj Bhimani who educated us on the value of our piano and how best to restore it.
Tali Manahor who achieved such incredible results with this restoration.
Mrs. Sigrid Reynolds who is attending this concert in honor of her great grandmother.
Mr. Henry Strong for sharing information on Hattie from the archives.
Daniel Grout who worked tirelessly on the business details.
The eight talented musicians who are putting “Joséphine” through her paces for you.
Camilla Macfarlane and Alison Benney who organized the reception.
Those who helped translate the program into French:
Franck Chastrusse, Nathalie Dumas, and Marie-Laure Lauverjat

~ How to make a 3m x 1.5m cake ~
The size of a Concert Grand Piano

22 kg Butter
22 kg Sugar
17 kg Flour
465 eggs
10 boxes Cocoa
3 boxes Wafer Cookies
A HUGE Thank You to our Cake and Reception Volunteers
Claudia Miranda, Christy deLooper, Waghi Megalli, Chris Garwood, Kai-Marcel Grunert, Camilla Macfarlane, Jinling Cinosi, Noemi Plaza, Teteh Atikpo, Destiny Ryales, Marie-Laure Lauverjet, Daniel Grout, Marie Grout, Laura Potratz, Rebecca Brite, Alison Benney, Cathy Callahan, Lauretta Haugh
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