Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Blessings to you as we move into the season of Epiphany! The prophet Isaiah foretold, “For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (Isaiah 60:2-3). This prophecy, used in the poignant recitative and air of Handel’s Messiah, was sung powerfully during our Advent worship and on Christmas Eve by Philip James Glenister. It’s one of my favorite pieces in the Messiah, because it is the part where the likes of you and me, “the gentiles” (in the Greek, the ethnos) are included explicitly in the unfolding gospel story. This Isaiah text is picked up in Matthew’s telling of the story as the magi, commonly known as the “Three Kings,” bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus (Matt. 2:11). Apparently these were standard gifts for royalty.

More significant for us, perhaps, is the fact that these magi were the first gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as “King.” This manifestation to the gentiles is what is celebrated on the feast of Epiphany (January 6). For those of us without Jewish lineage, this is really “our” feast day! Here in France, it’s called le Jour des Rois (the Day of Kings), or the Fête des Rois, and I hope you’ll enjoy the traditional galette des rois in your celebrations. The point of the whole celebration is the surprising good news that the outsiders are made insiders to the family of God. The people who were aliens to the covenant community are now made members of the covenant community. I wonder how we as a church are realizing this good news today?

I’ve been reading Harvey Cox’s book, The Future of Faith, and am struck by his division of Christian history into The Age of Faith, The Age of Belief and The Age of the Spirit. The Age of Faith for the Christian meant to live in [Christ’s] Spirit, embrace his hope, and to follow him in the work that he had begun.” The second period, “The Age of Belief,” beginning toward the end of the third century, stressed an emphasis on creedal formulations of belief, “replacing faith in Jesus with tenets about him.” The third “Age of the Spirit” is more recent, and Cox highlights John 3:8, “The Spirit blows where it will” as an indicator that this expression of religion is often in conflict with the institutional church and “still vexes the prelates.”

Throughout history, and uniquely in our time, the work of the Holy Spirit continually moves God’s good news outside of the box in which the church too often wants to contain it. Cox notes how many people today would describe themselves as “not religious, but spiritual,” and how mega-churches like Willow Creek are so attractive to people because in fact they offer an experience of faith community through small group ministry. In such churches, contrary to what you might expect, there isn’t an emphasis on creedal clarity but rather on communal charity. In other words, find your place and get involved!

I’m sure there are a variety of thoughtful responses to Cox’s work, ranging from a staunch “defense of orthodoxy” to more of a “generous orthodoxy” that perhaps allows us to realize the truth that the “good news of a great joy” really is “for all the people” (Lk 2:10)!
How will we as a community be an embodiment of the good news of God’s forgiveness, love and grace so that our neighbors will know the good news of a great joy is for them? How will we pursue intentional Christian community in our small groups and be a congregation (of smaller communities) that perfects the “grace of God’s welcome,” living in the Spirit of Jesus, embracing his hope and doing the work he began? How are we called to wrestle more deeply with the tension of living a life of faith in Jesus and learning the tenets about Jesus?

Because of the quality of our relationships and our response to God’s call to be a blessing to this city, may it be said of us that the Lord has arisen upon us and his glory is seen upon us. Whatever our vocational area of expertise may be - education, sports, science, engineering, business and accounting, energy, police or fire, technology, entertainment, music and fine arts, fashion, banking and finance, law, theology, food, manufacturing, administration, politics, military and defense, medicine and health, environment, service, etc. - we are called to reflect the light of Christ in any way we can.

As Epiphany People, may it be our prayer and passion that because of the quality of God’s love, beauty, goodness and truth manifest in us, the other “gentiles” of this city will “come to thy light”!

In Christ,

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4 This phrase was first coined by Yale theologian Hans Frei.
Thoughts from
The Rev. Michelle Wahila
Associate Pastor

Dear Friends,

“When Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, the Protestant churches in Germany largely welcomed him. There were exceptions: people like Martin Niemöller, Paul Schneider (who in 1939 became the first pastor to be put to death for his obedience to God in defiance of Nazi orders), and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.”

Bonhoeffer criticized the Nazi movement more loudly than most, which led him down a precarious path that lead to martyrdom. Along the way, he found the Psalms to be particularly relevant to his life of faith stating, “There is not a single detail of the piety and impiety of the Christian church not found there.” He also spoke of the study of the book of Psalms as “a strange journey of ups and downs, falling and rising, despair and exaltation,” which of course mirrors human experience as well as the peaks and valleys of the life of faith.

Over the course of the next 365 days, we will all experience both despair and exaltation. The good news is that we have been given the gift of the community of faith in which we can share our fallings and risings. Matthew’s Gospel reminds us that when two or more are gathered in the name of the Lord, Christ is present. I cannot think of anyone with whom I would rather share my despair and exaltation than Christ and His body.

May God bless the journey of ups and downs we take together in 2013.

Bénédictions,

Michelle

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

~ Matthew 18:20

Thoughts from
Rev. Dan Haugh
Director of Youth
and Young Adults
Ministries

A New Year and New Life

On Friday, 14 December 2012 at 14h21 and 14h22, my life changed forever. Blake Charles Haugh and Jack Adams Haugh came into this world. I will never forget the moment when they arrived and when they took their first breath. The sentence from Genesis, “and God breathed life into him” took on entirely new significance when I witnessed Jack and then Blake breathe on their own for the very first time. What a precious gift God gave to Lauretta and me right before Christmas. We have enjoyed every waking moment (and so far most of our moments are “awake”). As I wrote last month, Advent and the season of waiting become renewed to us in December. The joy of Christmas and the miracle and mystery of the Incarnation were different as well.

The idea that a divine God would take on the frailty, weakness and utter dependence of a newborn infant marvels me. There is nothing more fragile and helpless than a newborn and that is the profound truth of what occurs on Christmas. Wrapped up in swaddling clothes, babies are 100% dependent on the care and provision of their parents. I have never felt such responsibility in my life but also the deepest sense of love. I never knew how much love I was capable of having. Perhaps with twins, God has increased my heart even more in order to share the love with both of my sons.

The other night I was watching them sleep and reflecting on how much I love them. What amazes me is that I loved these children before they were even born, and when they entered this world, that love increased exponentially. But....this love is not based on anything they have done for me now or what they may do in the future. No, this love is unconditionally and solely based on who they are and not what they have done. They are my children, on loan to Lauretta and me from their Heavenly Parent.

I am beginning to understand more the depth of love that God has for all of God’s children. This love is not based on what we have done or may do. In fact, it is not based on anything about us at all, but rather on who God is. Scriptures remind us that we were known by God before birth and we are loved unconditionally by God as sons and daughters. Just as I am trying my best, with God’s help, to care for my boys well, God watches over and cares for each of us!

As we approach a new year may we reflect on the deep love of God for us. May we celebrate the joy of new life in all forms, but especially that which occurs within us! As Jack and Blake will be experiencing new things every day, may we experience God in new and spectacular ways this year. As my boys begin to see, hear, and touch the world around them for the first time, may we have new eyes to see, new ears to hear, new hands to touch, and new hearts to experience God’s love for us in this new and wonderful year ahead.

-from a proud new daddy!

Dan Haugh
Welcome to our new Visiting Pastor!

The Rev. Bruce W. Morgan, retired American Baptist pastor, of Kansas City, Missouri, has served four American Baptist congregations over his 40 years of active ministry. In retirement, he has also served as Interim Pastor of five ABC Congregations in Kansas and Missouri. Bruce was born in Salem, New Jersey and graduated from Topeka High School, Topeka, Kansas, where he met and began dating his future wife, Nancy. He graduated from William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri in 1963, and the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, California in 1967. He was ordained at the Calvary Baptist Church of Denver, Colorado in the same year and began his ministry in that church. During his ministry he has served churches in Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, and New Jersey. He retired in 2004 from full-time pastoral ministry.

Bruce and Nancy married on 29 December 1962, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on their second day in Paris! Bruce’s wife, Nancy retired from her position as biostatistician with Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Corp. in 2004. In retirement, Nancy devotes her time to recorder playing and reading. Bruce is a tennis player and both he and Nancy play bridge regularly. Both enjoy theater, choral music, and travel. Bruce has volunteered for United Way, treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse, the Board of Trustees of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Ministers Council of his denomination. The Morgans were dear personal friends of Dr. Edwin Tuller, a former pastor of ACP and a highly respected American Baptist leader.

The Morgans have two adult children, David Morgan, Dayton, Ohio, and Elizabeth O'Rourke, Kansas City; and two grandchildren, Garrett Morgan, 13, and Morgan O'Rourke, 9.

Let’s be sure to give them a warm ACP welcome!
As many of you experienced during this past Advent season, the American Church in Paris is truly blessed. There were so many wonderful activities, concerts, services and celebrations; really too many to list. We hope you sensed the Christmas blessing.

Looking ahead we anticipate a full 2013 with worship and service opportunities for all. If you are not already involved, please consider where your time and talents may be needed so you can join with us as we bless the city.

On behalf of the ACP Council we wish each of you a Happy New Year!

The days and weeks to come are gifts from God. We pray that you will know God’s blessings every day of 2013.
Nominating Committee
Ursula Perrier and Jonathan Wheeler

Are you interested in serving at ACP in some capacity, but aren’t sure who to contact, or how to find the right fit? Do you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share?

Throughout the year the Nominating Committee connects people to serve on one of the ACP Committees, or participate in the various ACP projects and activities.

Get Connected! Let us help!
Contact us at nominating@acparis.org

Financial and Stewardship
Stan Marcello and Megan Staley

Thank you to those of you who took the time and made the commitment to support the ministry and mission of the ACP through your time, talent and treasure in 2012. We appreciate you filling out a pledge form for 2013. This past year has been an extraordinary year of growth and blessing and we are so thankful for how God is providing for our congregational life.

God is at work in our midst and we continue to be a growing, dynamic congregation, thanks to your participation and support! We look forward to another year of creative and faithful ways to be a blessing to Paris and the world! Thank you again for sharing your many gifts!

Communications
John Newman and Alison Benney

The Communications Team helps ACP committees and groups get the word out about their activities and events.

If we as a congregation are called to bear witness to Christ’s love, let’s shine that light as clearly as possible. Good communications tools make this easier!

The communications committee produces and updates the ACP website, the Spire newsletter, the weekly Bulletin, the radio show Faith Talk in Paris, social media, a calendar of What’s On, the congregation database, and ministry brochures and materials for publicizing events.

So we need writers, editors, proof readers, photographers, tweeters, graphic artists and designers, audio-visual pros, and communications specialists in general. If you’d like to help us get the message out, please contact John Newman and Alison Benney at communications@acparis.org.
Worship and Music
Anna Zweede and Chad DuBose

The Weekly Atelier Concert Series

17h00, free admission (with free-will offering)

January 6, Classical Guitar Recital
Jelena Ratkovic (guitar) with Tatiana Sutherland (violin)

January 13 “Le Livri” Baroque Ensemble

January 20 “Le Duo Chanterelle”
Aviva Timonier (soprano) and Hervé Le Cam (guitar) with
Guest artist Didier Matry (organ)

January 27 Piano Recital
William DeVan, the New York Steinway Artist

For information about the concert programmes, please visit the ACP website

Crescendo France — Music Road Rwanda

Marie-Elisabeth Hecker (cello), Martin Helmchen (piano), Olivier Zwicky, and Rev. George Hobson

January 11 at 20h00 in ACP Sanctuary

An evening of music and poetry organized by the association of Christian musicians CRESCENDO France (www.crescendofrance.org) will be held in the ACP sanctuary on January 11 at 8 p.m., featuring Marie-Elisabeth Hecker (cello) and Martin Helmchen (piano). The program will include music by J.S. Bach, Beethoven, Schumann and Bloch, together with poems read by Olivier Zwicky and Rev. George Hobson, Canon to the Bishop for Theological Education for the Anglican Diocese of Europe.

Based in Berlin, Marie-Elisabeth Hecker and Martin Helmchen are both internationally-renowned musicians; since winning the International Rostropovich ‘Cello Competition in Paris in 2005, Marie-Elisabeth has appeared as a soloist with the Munich Philharmonic, Deutsches-Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, while Martin has played concertos with the Berlin, Vienna and London Philharmonic Orchestras, Boston Symphony, Orchestre de Paris. Both have recorded numerous CDs.

Proceeds from the evening will go towards their 'Music Road Rwanda' project, developed in collaboration with Crescendo International, Agapé, the Goethe Institute and a music school in Kigali, Rwanda. The objectives of this initiative include teacher training, scholarships for orphans and other needy children, music therapy for trauma victims and partnership with churches in promoting traditional Rwandan instruments in present-day musical culture.

Free entrance, free-will offering.
A Call to Live—Small Group Studies

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

Some groups are studying *King’s Cross* by Timothy Keller, which focuses on the Gospel of Mark, and connects to the sermon series; others are studying *Silence* by Enuma Okoro.

How about joining one of the following already formed groups!

- **Wednesday Evening Supper Club** meets at an Indian Vegetarian Restaurant near UNESCO with book discussion over dinner. We are continuing with *King’s Cross*. Led by Camilla Macfarlane ([communitylife@acparis.org](mailto:communitylife@acparis.org))
- **Wednesday Evening Home Study** (in the 15th) led by Kimberley Hunt
- **Couples Study**, twice a month, in Versailles with Angela and Dominique Grelet
- **Saturday Morning Brunch Circle** led by Felicia Henderson
- **Sunday Afternoon Tea Study**, twice a month, led by Pamela and Jim Leavy

Would you consider being a Group Leader?

If you would like to be a group leader, please contact Anne at [christianeducation@acparis.org](mailto:christianeducation@acparis.org) or Pastor Wahila at [associatepastor@acparis.org](mailto:associatepastor@acparis.org)

All group leaders will be given a short training by Pastor Wahila.
January Thurber Thursday Lectures

Re-starting after the Christmas break on 17 January
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.
We will begin exploring issues of human rights from a Christian perspective in a new series
beginning this month. Come join us for fellowship and learning!

ACP Writers Group Project

~ Journeys of Faith ~

Have you ever wondered how other members of the congregation came to be persons of
faith or how they have maintained their faith over the years through ordinary times
as well as extraordinary times?
The ACP Writers’ Group is collecting essays related to personal faith. A collection of essays will
be printed and given to the congregation as part of the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, 19 May.
The theme for a faith essay can take many forms. Some people may choose to tell the story of
how they came to faith. Others may tell of a time that their faith was deepened or tested. Some
may tell of how their faith supported them in a time of illness or injury to their body or spirit.
The goal is to share insights into our spiritual journeys and our lives of faith.

Essays are to be one to two pages in length, single spaced, using Arial 11-point font. The ACP
Writers’ Group will work with the authors to edit the essays in a mutually agreeable form within
the spirit and tone of the publication. Don’t worry if your English isn’t perfect—we’re here to
help! If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the proof-reading/editing team
please email Laura Kerber at ApollinarisPatera@gmail.com

Please send your essays as an attachment to christianeducation@acparis.org.

Essays are due 15 January 2013. Happy writing!

Spring Retreat

Sue Orsoni will again organize the spring retreat at St. Benoît sur Loire
the first weekend in June 2013. Cynthia Bourgeault will be leading the retreat.
Some of Cynthia Bourgeault’s books are available for purchase at the book table.
If you are interested to sign up, contact Sue.
Keeping up with Patti!
At Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, built in 2003, is home and school to orphans and local children. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her) contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

“Best of” 2012

2012, my first full year as a missionary and school teacher at Rafiki Village in Uganda, has been a thrilling one. A few of the highlights:

The absolute delight of three eight-year olds as they each try the new bicycle (equipped with training wheels for now) for the first time. A young mini-missionary is there to push and run alongside, thank the Lord! Several of our youngest boys have a particular need to develop their motor skills. We are sure this will help.

Ten seventh graders bent low over five laptop keyboards (newly donated, thanks!), painfully typing their stories and poems for the Literary Magazine. These children were selected for their writing skills, overall academic results, and willingness to rewrite numerous times to achieve excellence.

Incredulous expressions of joy from the sixth grade girls learning that they will get to wear make-up and costume jewelry for their upcoming drama. The boys want war paint and African spears. It just might work! They have memorized their lines and are now working with a drama coach from the local university. More news and pictures for the next edition.

Four of our littlest boys, Peter, Timo and twins Joshua and Gideon, five years old, learning hymns with Maamas and big brothers as they prepare to lead Sunday School.
Cottage Ten boys explaining how fun and scary it was to ride on the camel at the zoo. Each winter vacation, the children are treated to a “field trip” thanks to special donations from some of our sponsors. This year it was to the zoo at Entebbe, about a 2-hour drive from our Village.

Sixth grade French Club members using bread to sponge up the garlic butter from their snails.

If Rafiki Children sound and look like normal kids anywhere, it’s because they are. It is a joy and a privilege to try to bring them opportunities for learning and have fun. We try not to think about where they would be without Rafiki and God’s loving care.

Rafiki staff members also enjoy life. Note my satisfaction, below, at actually managing to cook (and even eat!) the prized yearly Ugandan delicacy called nsenene. Crispy and delicious, like the French friture. Google the word nsenene, if you can’t tell what they are by the picture.
It was a great delight to see everyone last month while I was in Paris for one week. The church is as beautiful as ever, Fred’s Christmas Concert was a delight, your smiles were big and welcoming, and the love I felt once I stepped into the sanctuary was amazing. Yes, my relocation to Ghana was only last August, but each and every time I leave Paris and ACP (this is the third time) I feel like I am leaving a big part of my life behind. Needless to say, in December that little piece of Destiny jumped right back in place and the week in Paris was very sweet.

Before my departure from Afrangua, Ghana we hosted a Christmas party for my students. I feel a Christmas party would be a great tradition to start at ECTC and the kids would be able to experience our fun side. So Abraham organized the music, games and the DJ. Grace and I organized the treats and Christmas gift bags. Every now and then the local teachers would gather the kids for a luncheon or party which was provided by the parents but that was pretty much it for my little village. I wanted something bigger!

At first, I was going to provide a full meal for the students but once I researched the potential cost and reviewed the budget, plan B was selected. We decided to give them numerous packs of cookies, a Christmas present and drinks. I thank God for Grace, my assistant teacher, because she placed me on the right track towards the little gifts I was going to stuff into the gift bags. I personally wanted to give them the items I loved from Ghana but she felt they would not appreciate them at all. So the final decision was to purchase adorable Christmas ornaments that the children could hang on their trees or wall. They loved them!!

On 6 December, we gathered the 80 students for the Christmas party at the community center in an open area across from the computer classroom. Abraham opened with a prayer and details about the cause for the celebration. The kids were invited to dance per class group to see which level had the best dancers. The main teachers from Afrangua Primary D/A School were the judges! The students were amazing dancers but quite shy. A handful of the parents joined us but I made sure the environment was restricted to only our students. It was a great time together. One of the local teachers decided he would teach them some new moves, and I jumped on the dance floor to show how we dance in the ‘West.’

The Christmas Party lasted for 3 hours and once the dance-off was finalized, we passed out the gift bags and drinks. The students were very happy and I thank God for the time we had together celebrating Christmas. It was an excellent time together and many of the students wanted to dance right next to me or just watch my moves. Personally, I am looking forward to our next party!! I think we will have one in January to welcome the students back to Excellence Computer Technology Center on 16 January.
For 2013, we have many, many, many desires of progression, teaching and expansion. I will arrive in Ghana ready to purchase additional computers, student desks and chairs thanks to you all! ECTC has officially become a missionary organization supported by the ACP. Fundraising campaigns are currently in effect with the main goal to purchase a school bus to transport an additional 320 kids from the neighboring villages to the center in Afrangua. God’s work shall be done!

Destiny Ryales

www.excellencectc.org
Foyer de Grenelle is a Christian-inspired social center in Paris which provides legal help and a mailing address for immigrants, assistance to the unemployed, tutoring for children, a weekly Wednesday night meal for the needy, as well as French lessons, an annual Christmas Dinner celebration and lots more. It is located in Paris 15th near metro La Motte-Picquet.

Volunteer need:

Starting in January 2013: Volunteer one time per month 2-3 hours (from around 11h30 - 14h00)

A volunteer is desperately needed to pick up a food order from a food bank (banque alimentaire) one time per month, either on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Required to speak some French and have a decent size car able to hold two good size coolers. It involves picking up the coolers from the Foyer (near Metro La Motte-Picquet in the 15th), driving to the food bank in Arcueil 94117 (near the area "Vache Noire"), picking up the order for the Foyer and delivering it back to the Foyer. Usually a volunteer from the Foyer who has experience with the food bank can accompany the driver to facilitate the pick up.

If you are able to help, please contact missionoutreach@acparis.org

Our Youth Choir Robes need some love and attention! We need several volunteers to do some mending, cleaning and organizing. If you can help out, please contact Bonnie Woolley at youthmusic@acparis.org or Fred Gramann at music@acparis.org. Our wonderful young musical disciples will thank you.

Can you tickle the 88s? The Youth Choir needs an occasional volunteer pianist to accompany them. Must be an experienced keyboard player available to rehearse on Wednesday afternoons as needed. If interested please speak with Fred at music@acparis.org or Bonnie at youthmusic@acparis.org. We’d be tickled to hear from you.

New Members’ Orientation starts on 27 January from 12h30 to 13h30, with new members’ Confirmation on 10 February. Please contact Camilla at communitylife@acparis.org for more information.
Children’s Ministry Update

The highlight of the month for us was certainly the Christmas Pageant. There were many, many details in the planning and behind the scenes preparations made largely by Christina Aamodt and Pastor Michelle. Our Children’s Worship leaders went beyond the call of service by participating themselves as Shepherds with their classes.

Unless you are an actual Children’s Worship leader or you engage an ACP child in a discussion, you might believe that the children follow the cross to "play." That we do, but first we gather just as the adults in the sanctuary.

For the 3-8 year olds, the "storyteller" leader, retells the planned scripture [by memory] using wooden figurines, relative story cards, sand [the desert, of course!], a boat or village and any other applicable materials. The children adore this very effective way of knowing the Bible stories. Following the story, the storyteller leads what we call "wondering" questions, which allows the child’s mind and spirit to reflect on their way of knowing God.

The older children (9-10's) follow the "Rooted" curriculum which encourages Bible usage, engaging discussion and life application.

Just as the children are led, try these “wondering” questions yourself:
- "Christ the Savior is born" I wonder what that means for you?
- I wonder what you think about how we lead the children in God's love.
- What must it be like to "see" and "hear" the story as the children do?
- I wonder what it is like to experience God as a child?
- I wonder if your Spirit is moved to join the CW team?

Sharing my faith with you in service to the children,
Jeanette Laugier
(Director, Coordinator, Friend ...whatever it takes - Children's Worship)

January Children’s Worship

3-8 year olds
Jan 6: vacation
Jan 13: The Ark and the Tent
Jan 20: The Ark and the Temple
Jan 27: The Exile and Return

9-10 year olds
Jan 6: vacation
Jan 13: Jesus Talks with the Samaritan Woman (John 4:5-42)
Jan 20: John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus (Mark 1:1-11), (Matthew 3:13-17)
Jan 27: Jesus saves a Woman From Being Killed (John 8:1-11)
From our Prayer Chain Team

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

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

James 5:13-16 (NIV)

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

If you would like someone to pray WITH you after services, there will be a prayer team member available. Meet under the chandelier in the sanctuary.

Prayer Workshop

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”
Psalm 37:4

Enjoy the gift of time and step away from the noise and stress of the world.
Join us Sunday 20 January from 15h00 to 17h00 in the library as Caroline Corda-Razat shares ideas about regular personal prayer.

Sponsored by the Lay Care Giver Ministry Team.

If you have any questions contact: laycaregivers@acparis.org

The ACP Lay Caregiver Ministry Team

LCG’ers are dedicated to demonstrating the love of Christ to the ACP community by making hospital visits, rejoicing with those who are celebrating, and calling or visiting those who are going through a loss or transition or needing a listening ear or a prayerful presence.
We are also working to set up a prayer time following each of the worship services to pray with people in the congregation.

We follow training to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.
We are always looking for more members and are happy to receive requests for visits or calls.
All of our requests are confidential. If you know of anyone who could use a visit or call from us, or would like to become a member of our team, please contact Pastor Michelle or Yoshiko Okubo (laycaregivers@acparis.org)
Have you tuned into ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? The shows are broadcast the first and third Mondays of each month at 20h45. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

Tune to 100.7 FM on the radio dial, Radio Fréquence Protestante, ACP Today, Faith Talk from Paris! And please invite others to listen—friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Past shows are available on the ACP website, too!

If you have any questions or comments, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.

**Young Professionals**

Are you between 25 and 39 years old? Experiencing the corporate world in Paris and surrounding areas? Then come share your experiences with us on Wednesdays in the Catacombs from 19h30 to 21h30.

The New Year often means “good resolutions”; so we will start 2013 by discussing our good resolutions at the workplace and in our lives in general. We will use the book Just Walk Across the Room by Bill Hybels to support our discussions through January (no need to buy the book). Our first meeting will be on **Wednesday, 9 January**.

For more information, please go to the ACP website [www.acparis.org/yp](http://www.acparis.org/yp) or join our Facebook group ACP Young Professionals.

If you have any questions, please contact Elodie.

**A new Spire editor for the New Year!**

We are sorry to announce that Camilla Macfarlane has had to step down from her role as editor of the Spire so that she can concentrate on helping her husband’s recovery. We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to Camilla for all her hard work on the Spire over the last year and we continue to offer her and Tom our love, prayers and support at this time. Your new editor, Lisa Prevett ([spire@acparis.org](mailto:spire@acparis.org)), looks forward to receiving your articles!!
Young Adult Activities in January

Young Adult Events (18-30yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8</td>
<td>18h00-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza Night*</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18</td>
<td>20h00-22h00</td>
<td>Faith in Film: movie screening &amp; discussion</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Pub Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22</td>
<td>18h00-21h00</td>
<td>Pizza night</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Catacombs</td>
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*For Pizza Night come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h30 for dinner and fellowship.

You can also join us on Thursdays for Thurber Thursday with a meal (suggested donation 5€) at 18h30 and a presentation from 19h30 in the Thurber Room.

Check Christian Education for speaker list and come early to help cook or set up!

Volunteers are greatly appreciated!

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

We invite you to connect with us online for community and updates on all young adult activities and gatherings:
http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACPyoungadults/
You can also follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh)
Youth Events (13-18yrs)

Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

Sunday 6
13h30-17h30 Youth leaders team meeting and lunch Youth Pastor Office
‘Youth Sunday’ planning after the
11h00 and 13h30 services

Sunday 13 11h00 Youth Sunday at the 11h00 worship service.
Parent meet & greet after the 11h00 service in the Youth Pastor’s Office and after the 13h30 service in the Chapel in the Sanctuary
12h30-13h30 Confirmation Class Catacombs
15h00-17h30 Youth Group “Lycée” Catacombs
15h00-17h00 Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2

Friday 18 18h-22h “Collège” Pizza Night Thurber Room

Sunday 20 12h30-13h30 Confirmation Class Catacombs
15h00-17h30 Youth Group “Lycée” Catacombs
15h00-17h00 Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2
17h30-18h30 Youth Missions team meeting Catacombs

Sunday 27 12h30-13h30 Confirmation Class Catacombs
15h00-17h30 Youth Group “Lycée” Catacombs
15h00-17h00 Youth Group “Collège” Gym & G2

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

For students to stay connected with our online community please join our Facebook group: http://www.facebook.com/groups/acpyouthgroup/
Volunteering Opportunities

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

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

THURBER THURSDAY: Like to cook? Bake? We need people for making cakes/cookies and delicious desserts in advance of our dinners on Thursday evenings, as well as helping with dinner preparations on Thursdays. Our cooking crew starts at 16h00 and set up crew sets the tables starting at 17h30. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org if you would like to become part of this fun team! Clean up crew eats for free and earns special blessings!

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH at the American Church in Paris. Each Friday from 10h00 – 14h00, a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. Volunteers are needed each week for cooking, serving, and cleaning up. If you are interested and available, please contact Kristie Worrel.

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

SANDWICH MINISTRY will take place once a month throughout 2013. Come make sandwiches to hand out to the hungry and homeless. Contact Jurie Ane or Dan Haugh at youthpastor@acparis.org if you would like to get involved.

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

ACP FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY: All are welcome to attend. Study begins Sundays at 14h00 in the Thurber Room. Contact Virginia Jacinto for more details.

ACP TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY is studying Ephesians. All are welcome! We will be using Warren Wiersbe's book: Be Rich: Gaining the Things That Money Can't Buy. Participants will be responsible for purchasing their own copy (available via internet or through WH Smith bookstore). Come along even if you don't yet have a copy of the book. We're good at sharing! We will be starting a new video series based on Rick Warren's book: The Purpose Driven Life at the end of January. The study runs from 10h30-12h30 every Tuesday morning except during school holidays in the catacombs of the church building. Childcare is available for a minimal fee. For more information please contact Jennifer Jourlait.

ACP MEN'S GROUP: Come for coffee, conversation, prayer, and fellowship. Any men interested in further information, address, and door codes, or in being added to our e-mail list, should contact Ed Hyslip.

ACP WEDNESDAY EVENING SUPPER CLUB: Discussing Timothy Keller's book, King's Cross, over dinner at a café, every Wednesday evening at 19h30. Anybody and everybody is welcome to join us for good discussion, good fellowship, and good food! For more information and café location, please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org. Note: It is nice if you are up to date in the reading, but conversation is more conceptual regarding the chapter being discussed, so don’t be hesitant to come just because you haven’t read it!

(Please see page 10 for other small group study venues!)

ACP Groups and Additional Fun Activities

ACP WRITER'S GROUP meets the second Saturday of the month at 14h00 – 17h00 in room G2. Contact Laura Kerber.

MULTICULTURAL COUPLES POTLUCK meets in the Thurber Room on Friday,
11 January at 20h00 for a potluck of food and fun. You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion. For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss.

**THE KNITTING GROUP** meets on Monday from 16h00-18h30 in room G2 adjacent to Pastor Dan’s office. It’s a nice, bright space and opens to the courtyard when the weather permits. We will resume meeting on Monday, 7 January. We welcome all hand crafters or those who just want to sit and talk. We are a very diverse and fun group. Some come to learn how to knit and purl; others generously share their expert skills; everyone comes for the fellowship. This month in addition to working on our own projects I thought we could make some baby hats for charity. I will provide the yarn and patterns for those interested in this project. Please contact Nancy VerWest for more information.

**THE QUILTING GROUP** meets on Tuesday afternoon at members’ houses and welcomes quilters of all levels. We will resume meeting on 8 January. This month we will learn how to make a stained glass quilt using one of the windows in church. For more information please contact Nancy VerWest.

**MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP**: At its next meeting the movie group will discuss *Love is All You Need* by Susanne Bier, *Searching for Sugar Man* by Malik Benjelloul, *The Master* by Paul Thomas Anderson and *Django Unchained* by Quentin Tarantino. See any or all movies in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on 17 January, at 19h30 in basement room G2.

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**Independent Christian Prayer Groups and Bible Study Activities**

**MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL** has come to Paris! Are you concerned about your kids? 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 together. Contact Caroline at MomsInPrayerParis@gmail.com for information and join us Tuesday mornings at 9h30 in G2. See also MomsInPrayer.org.

**BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF INTERNATIONAL)**: What a great way to discover the gift of God’s Word through BSF’s interdenominational and international Bible studies! This Paris class brings together 50 or so women for in-depth Bible study every Monday evening from 19h00 to 20h50. Contact Thelma Fuchs.

**MINDFUL MEDITATION**: This group, being offered on Saturdays from 12h00 to 13h15 in G2, is 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. It is open to church members as well as to the larger community. Norma Jean Deak, a clinical social worker, has taught Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for 14 years. Contact Norma Jean with any questions.
**Salt, Light, and the Cranes**

In Japan, there are many folklore religions that are established mainly for the purpose of presenting “a wish” to divine power. Human desire is endless; wherever you are, you yearn for the betterment of condition of life for yourself and yours. Many wishes thus have taken the form of prayers which were then shaped into diverse rituals carried down over generations.

As wishes seem more pessimistic, labor becomes a crucial part of the praying process. Hundred Times Worship, for example, is a typical form of hopeful prayer. It is a visit to a shrine or temple, walking back and forth between the entrance and the main building of the temple one hundred times, offering a prayer each time. Done discreetly and in bare feet may multiply the effect. Human endeavors thus take part in the prayer action and often the goal is set to a huge number, such as 100 or 1000.

Our 1000-Crane Project could also be considered as one of these wish-making actions. It takes a form expressed by folding cranes of origami and binds them together. An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds one thousand origami cranes (Senbazuru) will be granted a wish by a crane, such as long life or recovery from illness or injury. The crane in Japan is one of the mystical or holy creatures and is said to live for thousand years! They are hence seen as powerful symbols.

It is difficult to be indifferent to a friend who is suffering with cancer. But it is also challenging to walk alongside your friend in pain.

In January 2012, when Carol Transou came to Paris with Pastor Bedford, she and a group of volunteers decided to launch a project of folding 1000 cranes. Adapting the Japanese tradition to our Christian culture, we, the ACP Crane Crew, folded 1000 origamis into cranes. It demanded time and effort of learning. The time of folding 1000 cranes offered moments of reflection and meditation of each participant’s wish and determined the degree of importance that wish takes in one’s life, in that particular moment. Our wish was that each crane would embody hope, love, compassion, concern, fellowship, care, service, support, prayers ... for our friend.

Some 30 people of all ages and gender, living in Paris, California and Montreal were brought into this Project. What did not follow the Japanese tradition was that, not only were the cranes folded by manifold number of non-Japanese hands, but also, by THE VERY PERSON who would be receiving the cranes. She helped fold them without knowing that the cranes were for her! We met in private homes and pastors’ homes, six times for three months – we had truly delicious workshops!! The resulting colorful object represented a prayerful fellowship with our joy of togetherness...

When we attained 1000, we were entering into the Lenten Season. We wished to share our collective action with the Congregation at Easter by making a Crane Cross, as cranes continue to be a symbol of prayerful love and peace, which, in a biblical sense, is the active hope of new life.

As I sat in the pew on the Easter Sunday, I found the Crane Cross memorably beautiful. Every crane seemed to be enjoying where he/she was in that fellowship of compassion. The Cross was sparkling!

*And now...*

At the time of writing, we are advancing toward Advent, entering into the last month of the year. Heavy coats do not yet seem necessary, but cold is settling in. Seasons have changed, but the cranes still appear radiant. It made the ACP Crane Crew wonder if there may still be blessings to be shared with a person or a community in pain, somewhere in this vast world.
Our cranes will shortly leave for Niigata Prefecture in mid-northern Japan. A group of volunteers, who were the victims of the earthquake in that area nearly a decade ago, are calling for Senbazuru. The objective of the call is to bring 1000 cranes to the cities devastated by the earthquake and the tsunami on 11 March 2011.

Some of us may still remember watching in awe and horror on TV the enormous power of nature and the terrible destruction suffered by the Japanese people. Japan sustained heavy casualties of 24,731 victims. The cranes are primarily to console the souls that perished in that catastrophe.

Senbazuru also brings another tacit but vital message to the survivors. The world who watched TV in terror that day, easily moved on to other incidents after awhile, forgetting that there are still many people who continue to suffer daily the aftermath of the calamity. To remember the catastrophe and the personal suffering, however, is essential for the survivors to continue to live.

The volunteers from Niigata told me the importance of repeating the message - You are not forgotten - through the efforts of delivering cranes. This may seem insignificant for us, but the volunteers know the impact of this act, because they lived through the disaster and its aftermath themselves. It is therefore one of the most powerful messages of encouragement and consolation. This is why the volunteers continue to call for Senbazuru even almost two years after the tsunami disaster.

To send our cranes means to adhere to their message compassion. We also want to deliver the message of support to the victims who live with the after-effects of the tsunami today: “There are people who remember that day even as far away as in Paris!”

We trust that the Holy Spirit will bring our prayers of hope and love embodied in the cranes to each one of the victims who is, ultimately, seeking the Peace of Christ.

Small act it may be, may we be salt to the world and shine light through the cranes!

Prayerfully,

Yoshiko Okubo and the ACP Crane Crew 2012
Evening of poetry & music
In support of ‘Music Road’ Rwanda

with Martin Helmchen, piano
Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, cello
Olivier Zwicky, reader

Friday 11 January 2013 at 8pm
American church of Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
Metro Invalides, Alma Marceau

Bach : Sonata for viola da gamba and harpsichord No 2
Beethoven : Variations on a Theme from
Handel’s Oratorio ‘Judas Maccabeus’
Schumann: Fantasiestücke op. 73
Bloch: From Jewish Life

Free entry with free-will offering
Drinks will be served at the end of the evening

www.acparis.org I www.crescendofrance.org
December was a busy month at ACP as we celebrated Advent and prepared for the birth of our Saviour. Here is just a small selection of some of the things that we got up to...!!

Congratulations to Pastor Dan and his wife Lauretta on the birth of their twin boys Blake Charles and Jack Adams Haugh!

African Fellowship Christmas party

Sandwich Ministry preparation
All Church Christmas Party — thank you to everyone who helped with the party and especially to Camilla and her team of volunteers for the amazing meal and a great evening of carols, a White Elephant Gift Exchange and fellowship!

The Children's Ministry
Christmas Pageant

We celebrated Christmas with three services on Christmas Eve, including a special family service. (Photo by Ginny Power)
Our radio station *ACP Today* welcomed a new hostess to the airwaves! Tune in to 100.7 FM on the first and third Mondays of each month at 20h45 or catch up online at www.acparis.org

Two sell-out Christmas Concerts featuring, amongst others, ACP Choirs, the Celebration and Bronze Ringers, Voices Choeur International and Sotto Voce. (Photo by Ginny Power)
Un grand merci from Karen Halac to the ACP

Very dear friends at the American Church in Paris,

Today is the first day of 2013, and we are enjoying a very quiet time away in Cordon. We left for France on Christmas day, and the weather has been mostly sunny by day and snowy at night since our arrival here in the mountains. At last night’s *reveillon*, we did the rounds of what we are the most grateful for in 2012. Without question, I am most grateful for 30 September when friends, family, fellow students, and colleagues gathered for my ordination/installation service in Ridgefield. That day was the culmination of twelve years of study, multiple one-year church assignments, hospital chaplaincy, my 2004 call to the American Church in Paris, a formal call to return to the church in Ridgefield where I served four years ago, and the steadfast support of friends at every step along the way.

I was moved (*to tears!*) between the Sunday morning services on 30 September when the deacons brought me your beautiful flowers. Your bouquet adorned the church entrance that crisp fall afternoon as guests arrived for the ordination/installation service, and I felt your prayerful presence with us at every moment. The very next weekend, I was in Denver for a meeting of the American & Foreign Christian Union (AFCU) where Scott prayed for me and presented your exquisite stole ~ so evocative of urban ministry and a treasured reminder of my first call to ministry at ACP. *Thank you SO much!* The ACP will always feel like our church home. I was baptized there, we were married there, and you invited me to ACP to serve at the conclusion of my MDiv in 2004. So many of the experiences during that extraordinary year with you continue to inform, nourish, and sustain my ministry. Your ongoing friendship and support mean so much to both of us, and the ACP will always have its permanent and cherished home in our hearts.

As I recently shared with Scott, I never could have guessed what a formal call to ministry would look like at this particular point in time. The past three months have been full to overflowing with unanticipated demands around Hurricane Sandy and the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Pastoral care needs of traumatized children, shaken teachers, those who lost loved ones, and first responders continue. We are sending a Hurricane Sandy clean-up/construction/electrician crew to New York this coming Saturday. As much as it would be great to leave the events of 2012 behind, they all spill over into this new year. Doing chaplaincy at Ground Zero and preaching at ACP the Sunday following tsunami have both turned out to be pivotal experiences in helping me to minister in times of tragedy. I have spent a lot of time today reflecting on the ways that lessons learned along the way are cumulative and can always help us to offer God’s healing and hope.

If possible, Jean-Luc and I would love to be in Paris at the end of February in order to attend the ACP Atelier concert of our friend, Wendy Gerbier. She sang *The Lord’s Prayer* at my ordination service and people are still talking about it! We hope that you will be able to attend her concert and welcome her on the 24th.

Thank you for the glorious ordination flowers, for the stole I will forever hold dear, and for your prayers on ordination day and around the events that have followed.

With profound gratitude,

Karen Halac

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” Albert Schweitz
The American Church in Paris is a member congregation of the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East. If you are traveling and looking for a place to worship, please consult the AICEME website for our sister congregations: http://aiceme.net/.

Clergy and Staff of the American Church in Paris

Senior Pastor
Scott Herr
seniorpastor@acparis.org

Associate Pastor
Michelle Wahila
associatepastor@acparis.org

Visiting Pastor
Bruce Morgan
visitingpastor@acparis.org

Dir. Youth and Young Adults
Dan Haugh
youthpastor@acparis.org

Youth Intern
Hanna Woodhead
youthintern@acparis.org

Music Director
Fred Gramann
music@acparis.org

Contemporary Music Director
Natalie Raynal
cmusic@acparis.org

Youth Music Director
Bonnie Woolley
youthmusic@acparis.org

Business Manager
Chira Rosen
bizadmin@acparis.org

Accountant
Jean-Michel Bollecker
acctg@acparis.org

Administrative Assistant
Ilinca Mreana
secretary@acparis.org

Daytime Receptionist
Emily Claudio
reception@acparis.org

Evening Receptionist
Kithsiri Fernando
reception@acparis.org

Saturday Receptionist
Martha Gachoka
reception@acparis.org

Sunday Receptionist
Boryana Dimitrova
reception@acparis.org

Building Maintenance
Tom Padden
maintenance@acparis.org

Council of the American Church in Paris

Moderator
Radford Laney
moderator@acparis.org

Vice-Moderator
Pam Bohl
councilvicemoderator@acparis.org

Secretary
Bettina Chehab
councilsecretary@acparis.org

Assistant Secretary
Paul Grayson
councilassistantsecretary@acparis.org

Treasurer Chair
Stanley Marcello
financeandstewardship@acparis.org

Treasurer Vice Chair
Megan Staley
financeandstewardship@acparis.org

Human Resources Chair
Pierre Lisbonis
humanresources@acparis.org

Human Resources Vice-Chair
Pascal Berger
humanresources@acparis.org

Christian Education Chair
Anne Speicher
christianeducation@acparis.org

Christian Education Vice-Chair
Lori Kolodziejczak
christianeducation@acparis.org

Communications Co-Chair
Alison Benney
communications@acparis.org

Communications Co-Chair
John Newman
communications@acparis.org

Community Life Chair
Camilla Macfarlane
communitylife@acparis.org

Community Life Co-Chair
Nathaniel Akujuobi
communitylife@acparis.org

Dvlpmnt and Property Chair
William Johnston
developementandproperty@acparis.org

Dvlpmnt and Property Vice-Chair
Eric Sadoux
developementandproperty@acparis.org

Mission Outreach Chair
Carolyn Bouazouni
missionoutreach@acparis.org

Mission Outreach Vice-Chair
Ann Mildred Gontard
missionoutreach@acparis.org

Worship and Music Chair
Anna Zweede
worshipandmusic@acparis.org

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