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

Another view on the Spire, by Alison Benney
“Summertime and the livin’ is easy.” It’s time for vacation, travel, recreation and rest. The slower pace frees us to spend more time with family and friends. I hope that you will make some special time this summer to be with God. Jesus’ life was characterized by daily experiences of prayer and fellowship with God. This should also be a natural part of our days.

Perhaps we need to become more intentional in our prayer lives. I’d like to share with you a helpful book by Bill Hybels, titled Too Busy Not to Pray: Slowing Down to Be with God. Hybels, the pastor of a 20,000-member church, echoes the words of Martin Luther: “I have so many things to do today, I need to spend at least two hours in prayer.” Hybels stresses the need to practice a life of prayer and offers an easy, practical pattern. Just remember ACTS, an acronym whose four letters stand for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

**ACTS: Adoration - Confession - Thanksgiving - Supplication**

**Adoration** or worship is the beginning point. It sets the tone for the entire prayer, reminds us that God is great and worthy of praise and purifies the person praying. This can be done by focusing on the attributes of God or meditating on a psalm of praise.

**Confession** is probably the most neglected area of personal prayer. It isn’t easy to acknowledge our sins and call them by their true names, but it feels good getting honest with God. Only then can we experience the forgiveness and peace of God. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make a commitment to give up sin and live for Christ.

**Thanksgiving** is our response to what God has done for us. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “… give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” Like nine of the ten lepers who were healed by Jesus, we frequently don’t move beyond our feelings of gratefulness to expression of thanks to God. Try thanking God each day for blessings that fall into the areas of answered prayer, spiritual blessings, relational blessings and material blessings.

**Supplications** are requests we ask of God. Philippians 4:6 says, “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests before God.” God can help us sort out what we should be asking for if we only pray for wisdom to discern God’s will in all things. Nothing is too big for God to handle or too small to have the Lord’s interest. Be specific in your requests and keep a list of what you’ve prayed about. When you later re-read your list, give thanks for what God has already done.

I hope that you will experiment with the ACTS pattern. Try writing out a prayer including each category. You will be blessed by this balance in prayer and amazed by what God does in your life.

In Christ,

Jeff
Prayer Chain Team

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

Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

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

Bible readings for July

2 July 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 22:1–14;
Psalm 13 (UMH 746);
Romans 6:12–23;
Matthew 10:40–42

9 July 5th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49,58–67;
Psalm 145;
Romans 5: 1-5;
Matthew 11: 25-30

16 July 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 25:19–34;
Psalm 119:105–112 or Psalm 25
Romans 8:1–11;
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

23 July 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 28:10–19a;
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
Romans 8:12–25;
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

30 July 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 29:15–28;
Psalm 37
2 Timothy 1: 8-14
Luke 17:5-10

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- Jeremiah 29:7
Where are you? This is not a philosophical question, but a literal question. What is your location? Where are you standing or sitting? Notice the ground beneath you that is supporting you. Now notice what is happening around you. What do you see, what do you hear? And now for the philosophical or theological question, “what part of this experience is spiritual?”

In the beginning God created the heavens AND the earth (Genesis 1:1). At the end of the Bible is a vision for a new heaven AND new earth (Revelation 21:1). You may or may not be surprised to realize that the Biblical story is a story where the spiritual and physical overlap. You can’t actually have one without the other, which means that our physical location is spiritual.

Consider then the American Church in Paris. We are located in a particular place in the world, and from the beginning there has been a vision of heaven and earth overlapping in this place. This is captured best in the phrase “a beacon on the Seine.” Notice that this vision brings our physical location on the river Seine in Paris together with Jesus’ proclamation that we are the light of the world.

This is all to say that our physical location and our physical building are not insignificant. We are physical people living in a physical world, which means that connecting with God and with one another requires physical space. This is true whether we are in a café, or at home, or work or school, but this overlap has also been happening for almost 90 years at 65 Quai d’Orsay.

Consider the many ways that we are building community together in this place. We gather as a church each week to worship and pay attention to God, as a diverse group of people from around the world. We open our doors to welcome everyone. This is a fun and safe place for our children to encounter the love of God. We are challenged and encouraged to grow as faithful, intelligent, caring, and creative followers of Jesus. In this physical space we experience the soul-moving beauty of music and the prophetic invitation of the artist. We eat, pray, laugh, cry, and play together, all of which draws us into communion with Jesus and with one another.

But, of course, God did not give us this physical space for us alone. We are called to seek the peace and prosperity of this city in which we live (Jeremiah 29:7). So the American Church in Paris is a community center for our wider world. Children, teachers, and parents from two bilingual schools occupy our building each day as they learn and grow. Artists and musicians are encouraged to develop and put on display their creative talents. This is where many people (including our local pompiers) come to exercise and stay healthy. This is a place of recovery for all of us whose healing path requires community.

Consider the ripple effect of what God is doing in this physical location.

Building Community Together fundraiser

If you would like to celebrate and support some of the physical projects that help create and sustain ACP as a welcoming and safe space, we invite you to a special concert, food, and auction event on Friday, 22 September. We will have Alan Gogoll with us (see page 7), who is internationally recognized as one of the finest solo acoustic guitarists in the world. You can learn more about Alan and hear his music at www.alangogoll.com. The evening will also include food, and both a live and silent auction. If you would like to attend, stay tuned to www.acparis.org as you will be able to purchase tickets there soon. We are also looking for donations of items and experiences for the auction, and volunteers to help with set-up, food service and cleanup. If you have any questions or would like to participate in any way, please contact us at buildingcommunity@acparis.org.

Thank you for the many ways that each of you contributes to building community together here at the American Church in Paris.
Coming up in the fall

Atelier concerts, Sundays at 17h, free, with goodwill offering, starts back up 10 September

Did you miss any of ACP’s Thurber Lectures this year? The series is over until September, but you can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions. The archived video is available on the ACP website at acparis.org, under “Prayer & Learning.”
Bloom Where You’re Planted

Putting down roots can be a challenge when you’re living in a foreign culture, speaking a different language and struggling to get used to a strange city. Every expat has been through it, and that is why the congregation at the American Church of Paris has been holding out a watering can of assistance to newcomers for over 40 years.

Want to know how to shop like a Parisian? Understand the school system in France? Figure out how to cut through the red tape of banking, insurance, visas? Bloom Where You’re Planted can help with that and more, all in one day of seminars and workshops on 7 October.

Would you like to help organize Bloom Where You’re Planted this year?

Planning will begin soon for the 2017 event. If you are interested in taking the lead or helping out, please contact Pastor Tim at associatepastor@acparis.org.

Alan Gogoll performs for ACP fundraiser

Alan Gogoll is a solo acoustic guitarist from the picturesque seaside town of Hobart, Tasmania. Recognised internationally as one of the finest solo acoustic guitarists, Alan has built his award-winning reputation on intricate and uplifting musical performances and compositions using his original Bell Harmonics technique and signature guitar tunings. He has been featured in both the national and international press, including ABC Classic FM and Guitar World.

Alan’s guitar journey began at an early age on a guitar hidden away in the attic. More than 20 years on, that journey is as exciting as ever; he has released over half a dozen studio albums to date, with his new album Avorjorn in the works, set for a 2018 release.

Alan holds a number of endorsements, including G7th Capos, John Pearse Strings, Schertler Amplifiers and Snark Tuners. The year 2016 saw a rise in popularity for Alan’s career, of which some highlights included 85k+ Facebook likes, 25k+ Instagram likes, 5+million video views, and over a million Spotify listeners, making him one of the most listened-to solo acoustic guitarists in the world.

With a deep passion and love for the guitar, Alan combines melody, rhythm, bass and harmonics into his compositions that he is delighted to share with his audiences around the globe and to bring people joy and connectedness through his music.
Annual ACP spring retreat for adults

During the annual spring retreat from 16-18 June, 19 members of the ACP community from 11 different countries spent a weekend at ACP’s Spring Adult Retreat at Benedictine Abbaye de Fleury, founded in the Loire Valley in the 7th century.

ACP has again booked the Abbaye for next year’s Retreat, 15-17 June 2018. Save the dates now!

The 30Plus Adult Fellowship

Friday 7 July and Friday 4 August, from 19h

Join us for fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ, the first Friday of each month. Everyone is welcome. This is a social get-together with the time to get to know each other (better), and have an opportunity to form and deepen friendships with sisters and brothers.

No age limit! Couples are welcome!

Location will be decided depending on the weather forecast; cafe indoors or terrace, picnic …

For more information: 30plusfellowship@acparis.org

Vacation Bible School: 21-25 August, 9h-12h

Children (ages 3-10) are invited to join us in exploring Rome, as if you were really there! We will “explore” the caves of the underground church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-times projects, experience thrilling dramas, play high-energy games, hear unforgettable music, and make new friends! Register at acparis.org/vbs.

There is no participation fee, but please register now as spots are limited. Lots of adult and youth volunteers are needed, so please contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org to volunteer, or for more information.
ACP recipe: 
Cinnamon rolls

By Mary Hovind-Gay

My mother, Mary Jane, never took shortcuts in her 94 years of life. Whether she was baking a pie, writing a letter, or disciplining one of her 12 children (yes, 12!). Perhaps this was the result of her living through the Great Depression, when time was more plentiful than money. But I think she was just born that way — willing to put in the extra effort — because she believed her loved ones were worth it.

She certainly saw a lot of changes in her life. But the changing of Presidents, borders, and technology never changed her. She insisted on baking all of her dishes from scratch and preferred to hand-wash her dishes over using her perfectly good dishwasher.

This recipe reflects that side of her and is one of the main reasons I chose to make her cinnamon rolls for several ACP New Member classes and congregational meetings. I have been asked for this recipe on numerous occasions and always forewarn people that it requires a fair deal of time and preparation. But I think it is worth it — and thought the ACP congregation was worth it each time I baked them.

I’m thankful my mother fostered a heart for hospitality in her children. It has been my joy to serve as the Community Life Chair these past 18 months and put that gift to good use.

MARY JANE’S OLD-FASHIONED CINNAMON ROLLS

1/4 cup (60 ml) warm water
2 teaspoons (8.5 grams) yeast
1/2 teaspoon (2 grams) sugar.
Mix ingredients above in small bowl and let proof while you continue.

1 cup (235 ml) milk
1/4 cup (57 grams) butter
1 teaspoon (4 grams) salt
1/4 cup (57 grams) sugar
Mix these ingredients in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave just until butter is melted. Let cool to lukewarm.

Add 1 cup (120 grams) flour to milk mixture. Mix with whisk until smooth. Then add yeast mixture and 1 beaten egg. Mix well.

Using a wooden spoon, add 1 cup (120 grams) flour. Slowly add 1 more cup (120 grams) flour to make soft dough. Turn out on floured board and knead about 5-10 min. until smooth and elastic.

Form into a ball and put into greased bowl (use butter or vegetable oil). Turn dough over to grease top. Cover with plastic wrap and place in warm place to rise for about an hour and a half.

Punch down. On floured surface roll into rectangle about 12 x 16 inches (30 x 40 cm). Spread with 1/4 cup (57 grams) melted butter. Mix 1/2 cup (114 grams) sugar with 2.5 teaspoons (10 grams) cinnamon*. Sprinkle evenly over dough.

Roll dough starting with long side of rectangle. Seal edge. Slice into 14-16 rolls, depending on thickness of each roll. Place on greased sheet pan. Cover with dish towel. Let rise for about an hour.

Bake in 375 degree (190 Celsius) oven about 20 min. Let cool on rack while you make the icing:

Icing: 2 cups (250 grams) powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon (5 ml) vanilla, and approximately 3 tablespoons (45 ml) milk, depending on desired consistency. Spread over rolls.

*Use a good quality cinnamon. I prefer Indonesian cinnamon. It is darker in color and has much more flavor. If you use Chinese cinnamon you will need to increase the amount used, and will still not achieve the full flavor.
Caribbean crossroads

The exuberant "Jamaica Jamaica!" exhibition at La Philharmonie explores the nation's unique musical heritage, from origin-mixing traditions brought by African slaves with colonial culture, through the highly idiosyncratic genesis of reggae and the island's other distinctive musical genres, absorbing influences from Cuba and other neighboring countries. Perhaps the most iconic moment: footage of Bob Marley bringing two bitter political rivals on stage and literally joining their hands in a plea for unity. And the most infectious: video of a fierce "dancehall" competition taking pelvic gyrations to near-Olympic levels of acrobatics — and theatrics.


Dalida’s dresses

As an American child of the 60s, I had never heard of Dalida, European singer, actress, and cult figure from that era. The Palais Galliera is currently hosting an exhibition featuring over 100 pieces from her iconic wardrobe, so I took the opportunity to learn more about her.

Born in Egypt to Italian parents, she won the title of Miss Egypt and was spotted by a French film director who whisked her off to Paris with promises of a movie career.

She made a few films but it was her voice that brought her fame. Dalida ranks among the top seven singers of all time with over 170 million albums sold worldwide. Her life was tragic: at least four men whom she was close to committed suicide, and she ultimately ended her own life in 1987.

The Palais Galliera pays tribute to the 30th anniversary of her death with a beautifully presented retrospective of iconic outfits, accessories and personal items. The collection has been lovingly preserved, and shows how much she treasured these pieces.

The exhibition is displayed chronologically showing a variety of styles, from simple day dresses to flashy stage ensembles. What is evident throughout is that she knew her silhouette, what looked good on her and what was comfortable to wear when performing. She favored the designs of Pierre Balmain, Jean Desses, Loris Azzaro, and Yves Saint Laurent. Many of her gowns from the 70s could still be worn today.

When I finally listened to a collection of Dalida’s greatest hits, I realized I had heard many of the songs without knowing she was the performer. Her duet with Alain Delon on “Parole, Parole” continues to haunt me...as timeless as Dalida’s wardrobe.

Dalida, une garde-robe de la ville à la scène, until 13 August, Palais Galliera, 10 avenue Pierre 1er de Serbie, 75116 Paris

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday 20 July, Room G2 or, weather permitting, the courtyard

This month’s movies to see beforehand: It Comes at Night by Trey Edward Shults, Visages Villages by Agnès Varda and JR, Hounds of Love (playing here as Love Hunter, opening 12 July) by Ben Young, Una mujer fantástica/Une femme fantastique by Sebastian Lelio. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org
Sans sand
For its first 15 summers, "Paris Plage" made a big splash by schlepping in countless tons of sand to conjure up an actual beach in the city center. This year the event is going sand-free, but will be brimming with grit-free fun, as the popular new Rives de Seine recreational area gets into the act. And the La Villette branch will feature what the Seine-side beach never could: actual swimming. Some 1,600 square meters have been roped off in the canal, complete with lifeguards and water-quality monitoring. Kayaking, dancing, yoga, and more are available for those not quite ready to take the plunge.
8 July-3 September
https://quefaire.paris.fr/parisplages

Hot wheels
Wondering how to coax the men in your life off the couch and into an art exhibition? The lively show at the Fondation Cartier might be just the thing to get them in gear: it’s devoted entirely to cars. "Autophoto" brings together 500 gleefully diverse depictions of man’s four-wheeled friend, from evocative black-and-white stills by iconic photographers Jacques-Henri Lartigue and Robert Doisneau to a whimsical take on automotive design by contemporary French artist Alain Bublex. An ironic yet invigorating tribute to cars, drivers and the call of the open highway. Rev it up!
Until 24 September, www.fondationcartier.com

Costume drama
If you’re more in the mood for something girly, head to the fashion temple Palais Galliera, and plunge into the star-spangled closet of 20th-century glam diva Dalida. Thirty years after her death, the former Miss Egypt, who became an overnight pop music icon in France, is being celebrated for her perfect hourglass figure, her uncanny sense of style and her role as muse to Paris’s top couturiers. More than 100 dreamy outfits by the likes of Pierre Balmain and Yves Saint Laurent share the stage with dozens of dramatic accessories illustrating Dalida’s unique way with sequins, sparkles, feathers, and leathers. (See page 10.)

Collectors’ items
Bridgestone tire company founder Shōjiro Ishibashi (1889-1976) amassed an amazing collection of European art, much of it French. During renovation work at the Tokyo museum which houses his treasures, some of the top artworks are being treated to an extended holiday in their country of origin. The roster of the resulting show at Musée de l’Orangerie reads like a who’s who of top names in European art of the 19th and 20th centuries. Along with Impressionists Monet, Renoir and Caillebotte, there are canvases by Cézanne, Signac and Matisse, plus modern masters Dufy, Picasso and Jackson Pollock.

Island hopping
A visit from the acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is a great reason to pop out to La Seine Musicale, the new performing arts center which opened in April on l’Île Seguin, an island in the Seine which used to house a massive, long-derelict automobile factory. Ailey shot to stardom in New York in the late 1950s, and the company he created is admired worldwide for its colorful, modern and highly energetic choreographic style.
4-22 July, www.lesetesdeladanse.com

Three-part harmony
The impressive three-part show "Art/Afrique, le Nouvel Atelier" at the Fondation Louis Vuitton aims to deliver a fresh perspective on the creative currents running through the contemporary African arts scene. Businessman Jean Pigozzi’s unique collection of modern African art is on view for the first time in Paris, alongside a group exhibition featuring 17 South African artists whose works convey powerful social commentary on the post-apartheid era. Choice works of African art from the Foundation’s own collections are also on display.
Update from the prisons of Ghana  
With our missionary Anna Cobbinah

**Spring is the time for graduations**

And the prisons in Ghana, West Africa, where Anna and her team hold Bible study classes, are no exception. Over the past 12 months, The Living Truth Foundation Ministries (TLTFM) has been holding Disciple Bible Study classes in six prisons across southern Ghana, and the 97 graduating inmates this spring are proud of the strong foundation in Bible knowledge they have acquired during this time.

The success of the program speaks for itself. Having begun in 2008 with one class of 12 inmates, news of the Disciple classes spread among prison officers as they were transferred to new prisons, and also through inmates themselves as they were released and moved to other parts of Ghana. It is truly humbling to see how the Lord is moving in the prisons of Ghana.

The team then held worship services over several months and got to know the men. By early May, 12 inmates were ready to start the Disciple class plus one of the prison officers, for a class of 13.

**The inauguration ceremony**

A special inauguration ceremony was held for the new class, where each person received a Bible, a study manual, a notebook, and a pen to equip them for their studies. There was singing, dancing, preaching, praying, and the sharing of communion together. The ceremony attracted many other inmates who came to watch and join in the celebration. God works in wondrous ways. At the end of the ceremony, Anna distributed home-cooked meals to everyone who attended.

What better way for these men to spend their time in prison than to study the Bible? The class requires a minimum of one hour of Bible study every day, but generally the men study many more hours than required. They are thirsty for the Word of God.

**A new prison joins us**

The most recent prison to request a Bible Study class run by Anna and her team was the James Camp prison in Accra. The second in command at this prison had seen the very first Disciple class when he was stationed at the Ankaful Prison in 2008, and he was eager to welcome the program to the James Camp prison, where he is now assigned.

The TLTFM team arrived with gifts for the men: fresh pastries and a bar of soap for each of the 300 inmates at the prison, and also for all of the guards and officers. Anna and her team felt strongly that they were there to serve everyone at the prison, from the inmates right up to the Commander in Charge.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

*For questions on this ministry, please contact Carolyn Bouazouni at tltf-ghana@acparis.org*
With four ACP members now visiting prisons around Paris, we thought you might like to hear some of our stories about what it’s like as we attend worship services with the inmates.

**Background**
To start, each of us spends one or two Saturday mornings a month accompanying the French protestant chaplains to worship services with men, women, or juvenile inmates. Attendance varies widely, from two to 45 participants, with an average group of eight to 12 prisoners. Sometimes we simply attend the services with no other role than to be a Christian presence so the prisoners will know they are not forgotten – that someone cares for them. You cannot overestimate the importance of this. It is huge.

At other times, if there are English-speaking inmates whose French is not strong enough for them to follow the service, we may serve as translators, either standing up beside the chaplain and addressing the group in English, or sitting beside the prisoners needing assistance and quietly repeating the service to them in English. Prior to this, I had never done simultaneous translating (I am far from being a professional translator!), but quickly found that the three chaplains I accompany adapt their messages to use simple words that I will know, and also keep their sentences short so I don’t fall behind – or forget things they’ve said! - as I translate. Both the inmates and the chaplains are very forgiving as I occasionally stumble through my sentences or need to ask a question. No one complains; they’re just happy I’m there.

**Being blessed in prison**
OK. That's the background information. Now here's my story for this month. Yesterday, at the end of the worship service where I had been translating for two men, I told them I probably would not be returning, as I am going on vacation, then am scheduled to be transferred to a different prison. The men fell silent, with concerned looks on their faces. Then one said, "Will you be replaced? I’m new here and don't know any French; I won't understand anything if you aren't here." "I don't know," I replied. He added, "Be sure to tell whoever needs to know that it's important that someone is here to help us." "OK, I will."

Then the other man, who I have known for almost a year now, took my hand and said, "God bless you in your travels; God bless you in your life." To which I answered, "I'll be praying for you." He started to leave because the guards were calling, but he turned around and added "I've got nothing to give you to thank you; no money, since we're prisoners here. All I can give is my blessing and my prayers." Wow. I wanted to give him a hug before he left, but knew I shouldn't do that. So I thanked him and told him that's the best gift he could possibly give me. I gave him a big smile as I wiped away a tear from my eye.

Can you understand why I love this ministry so much? There is no place in the world I would rather be on a Saturday morning than in prison. Really.
Life at Deep Griha, India
By Pascale Deforge

Goodbye, Jennifer, and thank you for being such a great link between the Women’s Bible Study group and the Deep Griha Society. The women of Deep Griha staff and the trainees made a beautiful quilling card and have written a thank-you letter for those who gave so generously, and invited all of them to come to India. Jennifer will deliver it personally.

In Pune City wholesale market, we bought the items needed for the second training session, on stitching school uniform pants. And, most important, we found exactly the right fabrics for the pants and the shirts. Thanks to Kishor, from Deep Griha School.

With your donations, we have created the first Excel chart on donations and expenses, and Maya is proudly showing it to her team. IGP - Deep Griha Income Generation Program - means “in God’s providence.” You are God’s providence for IGP and the women struggling to learn a trade that will help lift them out of poverty.

We saw something extraordinary as we left the church on Pentecost: a complete circular rainbow in the sky, around St. Mary’s Church tower. God is present!

The Deep Griha Society (DGS) is an independent charitable organization that focuses on nutrition and education programs, including: Child, Youth & Women Empowerment; Medical & Health Care; Disha (HIV/AIDS awareness); and Rural Empowerment. It works to better the lives of people living in the slums of Pune, India’s seventh largest city, situated about 160km from Mumbai. For more information, see the ACP website: acparis.org/deep-griha-society or www.deepgriha.org.
RED ALERT! This is the traffic news everyone faces in summer. The dates are predictable; the first day of school vacation, the long Bastille Day weekend (14th July), the 1st and 15th August and, of course, the end of August for the grand return. How many French travelers will you find on the roads? In a nation of 60 million you will find a sizeable portion in their cars, bound for a holiday destination.

This mass exodus, principally to the beaches and warm temperatures, dates back to 1936 when the political party, the Front Populaire, passed a bill to allow all French workers to take two weeks’ paid vacation (congés payés) in the summer. Over the years this vacation has been augmented to five weeks of paid vacation. What an opportunity for a long visit to the beach! Vive les vacances!

I once read a survey (Sondage IFOP, 2001) about French vacations. What are the preferred destinations of the French? Overwhelmingly it is the beach, not only the Mediterranean, but also the more challenging Atlantic coast of southwestern France. A full 53% head for the beaches. The next 27% go to the countryside, often in the center or north of France, and 20% of tourists go to the mountains. Finally, about 16% of vacationers stay in a town.

Where do expats travel? Many follow the French, but of course many of us continue to keep in touch with our family and friends back in our native country. I have gone to the US every summer since the birth of my daughter, so that she can visit her grandmother.

With all this vacationing, a city like Paris seems almost empty in the summer. This isn’t true of course, as there are many foreign tourists in the capital city and workers in the service industries are on hand. But many retailers and factory-types are gone from the scene. And at the end of August, at the rentrée, the highways unfailingly turn into massive traffic jams.

In fact, Bison Futé grades traffic difficulty as green, orange, red or black. While they warn that every Saturday between mid-July and 15 August will be red, the worst day of the summer to travel will be Saturday 1st August, when road conditions will be solid black. The best plan, they advise, is to leave home on a Sunday.

Happy holidays to all, and bonne route!

What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 3 and 17 July. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

We’re at 100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante, and we broadcast especially for friends who may be housebound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website.

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

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

Alpha is a great opportunity to invite people to explore fundamental aspects of the Christian faith. Spread over 10 weeks, the course is open to everyone, and welcomes questions about life and faith in a relaxed, informal, and friendly environment. More than 29 million people across 169 countries in 112 languages have tried Alpha since it was launched in 1990 at Holy Trinity Brompton in central London.

Our next Alpha course will kick off in September. Stay tuned to social media, the ACP website and weekly Sunday bulletins, or email the team at alpha@acparis.org for more information about the course and how you can invite people to #TryAlpha.

Sunday Women’s Fellowship

Here’s a short recap of what we did during the Sunday Women’s Fellowships this past year. Thanks to the women who joined us, and keep a watch online for information on restarting in the fall. Blessings in Christ!

September: Kristina Keenan spoke on the joys of service. She encouraged us to find our passion and then pursue it in the service of the Lord.

October: Mary Hovind-Gay talked about how she found God’s peace in the midst of trials and how we can do the same.

November: Kim Ball spoke on mindful energy, reminding us that fear is debilitating and that sometimes, we must consciously reach out to God to conquer our fear.

December: Kim Herr hosted us in her home where Devon Graves led us in joyful singing to celebrate Christ’s birth.

January: Alexia Rabé spoke about using her musical talents for the Lord and how doing so helps fill her with peace.

February: Teri Lee Valluy talked about faith and how to put our feet to it.

March: Nicole Primmer shared part of her faith journey, witnessing to God's glory in her life.

April: Jill Geoffrion led the women’s retreat, focusing on Christ's love and teaching us how to pray a labyrinth.

May: Emily Chesley talked about themes and insights from Christian ascetics known as the Desert Fathers.
Another school year has come to a close and the summer vacation has started. Our students at Excellence Computer Technology Foundation are just like other students around the world when it comes to summer break, which is the most fun you can have in the limited time before heading off to the farm with mom and dad. Children are amazing when it’s about taking time to play. They can always find it!

This has been my second school year not in Ghana. I thank God for my princess, baby Paris, but I do miss my students. Baby Paris has grown a lot since we were in Paris in November 2016. She is now 14 months old - going on 21 years old! On her birthday, she celebrated at the daycare and also at home.

Back in Ghana, the Nursery class was quite successful this school year as, with new supplies from the US, all the students are sporting a new uniform. At the end of the school year, the teachers organized an “Our Day.” Our Day is the day where everyone comes to school dressed up to party and have fun. There might be snacks or a meal for the students, however, there will always be music and dance. Chicken with rice was on the menu for this year. The students were very, very happy!

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) classes are slowing down due to aging computers. Currently, we are providing computer classes with the same PCs that I purchased in 2012. Time for a new set all the way round. Students are still learning away, but they now have to share computers (one computer to three students). Technology is so important to our world in this century and I am not giving up on providing Afrangua students the keys to success.

The GoFundMe fundraiser is still open if you are called to donate. The link is www.gofundme.com/ECTFRevival. Our mission is to raise $25,000 and we are almost at the $1,000 mark. With God everything is possible, so I am looking up to Him to make it happen for us.

Prayerfully, baby Paris and I will return to Ghana by the end of the summer. Raising a child is expensive and I didn’t have a clue until she arrived. I am blessed to have found a small computer installation job while in the US. This will allow me to make money that will go towards purchasing plane tickets, and towards caring for her once in Ghana.

I love being a missionary! Now I have to balance that love with the love for baby Paris.

I pray that you all have a wonderful summer until we meet again.

Please note that Pastor Scott will be away on sabbatical and holidays through the end of August. He looks forward to ministering to our congregation again when he returns for the rentrée. Any pastoral needs in his absence should be directed to Pastor Jeff Powell at visitingpastor@acparis.org, and administrative needs should be directed to Executive Secretary Heather Walter at secretary@acparis.org.

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org.

Note: Deadline for the September edition of the Spire is Saturday, 19 August.
**ACP Spire Diary – July, August & beyond 2017**

**events, meetings and concerts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Youth: Serve Our City</strong>&lt;br&gt;ACP youth (ages 11-18) participate in an intensive 4 day/3 night mission at the ACP, focussing on unique ways to serve people in the city of Paris and within our church</td>
<td>Week 10-13 July</td>
<td>Emily Chesley youthintern @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Young Adults Courtyard Connections</strong></td>
<td>Tuesdays, through 15 Aug</td>
<td>youngadults @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Bastille Day / Fête Nationale</strong>&lt;br&gt;Church building closed for public holiday.</td>
<td>Friday 14 July</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>Monday 17 July 20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;This month’s movie listings: It Comes at Night, Visages Villages, Hounds of Love (playing here as Love Hunter), and Una mujer fantástica/Une femme fantastique. See</td>
<td>Thursday 20 July 19h30 Courtyard or Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>ThirtyPlus Adult Fellowship</strong>&lt;br&gt;Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday</td>
<td>Friday 4 Aug From 20h</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
<td>Friday 11 Aug 10h - 14h The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaymissionlunch @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Assumption of Mary Day / Fête de l’Assomption</strong>&lt;br&gt;Church building closed for public holiday.</td>
<td>Tuesday 15 Aug</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Vacation Bible School - Rome: Paul and the Underground Church</strong>&lt;br&gt;For Children ages 3-10. More information and registration at <a href="http://acparis.org/vbs">http://acparis.org/vbs</a></td>
<td>Week 21-25 Aug 9h - 12h</td>
<td>childrensworship @acparis.org;</td>
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<td><strong>ThirtyPlus Adult Fellowship</strong>&lt;br&gt;Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge cafe setting.</td>
<td>Friday 1 Sept From 20h</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Serve the City Mission Project relaunch</strong>&lt;br&gt;Serve the City (STC) Paris distributes food from Prêt-À-Manger to the less fortunate and needy on the streets of Paris. The program needs volunteers for food pick-up and</td>
<td>Tuesday 5 Sept</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@servethecityparis.com">info@servethecityparis.com</a></td>
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### Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

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<td><strong>Women’s Ministry launch party</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<td><strong>Children’s Worship launch party</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td><strong>Harumi KINOSHITA – harpsichord</strong></td>
<td>10 Sept</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Thurber Lecture - Jesuit Refugee Service</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h; 19h45 Dinner;Lecture</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Welcoming the Stranger</td>
<td>14 Sept</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guest preacher - Dr. Keith Ward</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9h, 11h, 13h30 services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Installation of ACP Council</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11h service</td>
<td>Mary Fenu councilmoderator @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry Fair - ACP Council committees and other groups will showcase their projects and activities to welcome new members and participants to join in the fun of being a part of the greater ACP community.</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Following 11h &amp; 13h30 services</td>
<td>communitylife @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Fred Gramann</td>
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<td><strong>Elena DELLA SIEGA &amp; Davide MUNARON – piano with 4 hands</strong></td>
<td>10 Sept</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Modern Cosmology and Jesus</td>
<td>21 Sept</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Building Community Together - Fundraising concert</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>19h; 19h45 Dinner;Lecture</td>
<td>Heather Walter secretary @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Alan Gogoll, auction, and reception</td>
<td>22 Sept</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrate and support ACP’s community building, and its impact in Paris and around the world.</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Double Treble: Karl VAN RICHARDS &amp; Roderick C. DEMMINGS Jr. – piano with 4 hands &amp; organ/piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>24 Sept</td>
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</tbody>
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(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates and weekly schedules)
22 september

building community together

concert | auction | food | fun
with guitarist Alan Gogoll

The American Church in Paris

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