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On the cover
Photo by Alison Benney

Generating smiles & community, the Spire is also available online at www.acparis.org/Spire
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

We are now in what the church calendar euphemistically calls “Ordinary Time.” It’s the long stretch that spans the weeks from Trinity Sunday through the summer to the end of November without any “high holidays” or other special seasons. Ordinary time goes about six months all the way to “Christ the King Sunday” in November, which is the end of the liturgical calendar and celebrates the ultimate sovereignty of God’s reign of love in Jesus Christ. I’ve always found it interesting that some traditions go with “Ordinary Time,” and others go with a rather long season of Sundays “after Pentecost.”

I rather like the ambiguity of “Ordinary Time” and “Pentecost Time” as I believe the Holy Spirit does some of her best work in us when we relax and take a break from our normal routines. Josef Pieper was a German Catholic philosopher, and in his book, Leisure: The Basis of Culture, we are reminded that the English word “leisure” comes from the Greek word meaning school. Pieper, taking the line of classic philosophers in being a “lover of wisdom,” argues that reality is not meaningless, but rather a gift to be discovered - not always through being useful and productive, but through quiet reflection and contemplation. It’s interesting that Pieper begins his book with two famous quotes:

But the gods, taking pity on mankind, born to work, laid down the succession of recurring Feasts to restore them from their fatigue, and gave them the Muses, and Apollo their leader, and Dionysus, as companions in their Feasts, so that nourishing themselves in festive companionship with the gods, they should again stand upright and erect. - Laws (653 C-d), Plato

Be still and know that I am God. - Psalm 46:10

Plato understood what the Psalmist summarizes, that some of our greatest moments of awesome and wonder-filled insights in life come when we are still and taking delight in just being. Ordinary time, over half of which is during summer, is a season to go on vacation, to get out of (vacate!) the normal routines of work and busyness of the year. Even if you’re not leaving Paris, anyone can find a chair in the Jardin des Tuileries or one of the other many lovely city parks and simply sit and relax.

The times when we are out of “productivity and efficiency mode” can be the best classroom for the Holy Spirit. Psalm 46:10 begins in the Greek translation (Septuagint) with the word σχολάσατε. It simply means, “be at leisure” (The Greek word for leisure is σκολε). The Latin translation, scola, is the basis for the English word “school.” In other words, leisure is a great time to learn! I believe the Holy Spirit teaches us some of the most profound lessons when we escape from all of the “noise and distraction” of life, by taking a walk, day-dreaming, and spending time simply enjoying a beautiful summer day.

All this is to say I hope that each of you will make time this summer for stillness and the spiritual discipline of leisure in whatever way you are able. One way to practice leisure at church is to allow for time to meet some of the many visitors and tourists who join us for worship during the summer months. Leisure can also be a way of opening ourselves to others and allowing for the time required to have a meaningful conversation over a cup of coffee. Who knows where God may lead?

In a time of controversial (and what I personally believe to be callous) US policies separating immigrant children.../... continued, next page
from their parents, or the proposed cutting of Medicare and Social Security programs for the poor, perhaps leisure may lead you to meet and get to know some of the immigrants and refugees of our own community, or those we are reaching out to with the refugee ministry task force.

Unstructured time can open us up to new people and experiences and truth that perhaps we were just too busy to engage with previously. Especially when we are going through hardship and pain, or empathizing with those who are, we need to slow down and give time for grief and mourning. I think of the old hymn by Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, “Be Still and Know”:

\[
\text{Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; } \\
\text{bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; } \\
\text{leave to thy God to order and provide; } \\
\text{in ev'ry change He faithful will remain. } \\
\text{Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend } \\
\text{thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end. }
\]

Perhaps even in the leisure of these summer months, the Holy Spirit will do in “Ordinary Time” the extraordinary work that only God can do in us: healing, refreshing and making all things new, assuring us of God’s great love and desire to bless us... I hope you’ll take the time to find out!

Grace and peace to you. In Christ,
Two-year checkup

Interview with the Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

In June, the ACP congregation voted to extend the contract of Associate Pastor Tim Vance for another three years. Curious about whether this would be a challenge or a blessing, the Spire sent him a few questions. Here's what he had to say.

So, Tim, when you answered the call to the American Church two years ago, did your expectations meet the reality?

Well I certainly expected that I would have moved beyond “Boulangerie French” by now! In this case the reality of my language acquisition has not lived up to my expectations. In so many other ways, however, our expectations have been exceeded. From the moment we first heard about this position, Maija and I have been drawn to this vision and now this reality of a diverse community that is united in Christ.

But I have to confess that as a recovering people-pleaser I was a bit worried about all the unique opportunities that I might have here to offend people. What I have discovered, however, about the counter-intuitive nature of a community like ours is that our diversity actually seems to increase our ability to welcome one another and be gracious.

A few really important sentences in the Bible have only recently begun to stand out for me because of what I am experiencing here. In the letter to the church in Corinth, Paul writes, “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). In all of our dividing and prioritizing of who is right and who is wrong, how had I somehow missed this seemingly central piece of Jesus’ message?

But here the very nature of us gathering together as a genuinely diverse group creates an opportunity for Christ’s welcome and grace to become embodied as we welcome one another and determine to not keep count of each other’s failures.

So not trying to keep count, but any anecdotes about a stumble in the last two years that you can now laugh about?

Oh my goodness, there are too many to count. Very early in my time here I had a cold, which combined with the cold medicine seemed to slow down my cognitive abilities. So during worship while the choir was singing there was this horrible noise coming through the speakers. My first thought was, what is that noise? But then when I went to blow my nose again, I discovered that my microphone was still on.

Then there was the time on the Fall retreat when I was serving communion (or the Lord’s Supper). I was trying to repeat Jesus’ words, “This is my body broken for you...” while at the same time breaking the loaf of bread in half. Unfortunately, the bread was about two days old so ripping it apart was quite a bit more difficult than I expected. So when I got to the word “body” it came out more like a forced grunt because I was simultaneously using all of my might to break the bread.

There are many more, but thankfully there tends to be enough laughter and grace here to cover a multitude of sins.

How about a success story that you are most pleased about?

This last year our pastoral staff asked this same question to a pastor who was here as a guest speaker. I was trying to repeat Jesus’ words, “This is my body broken for you...” while at the same time breaking the loaf of bread in half. Unfortunately, the bread was about two days old so ripping it apart was quite a bit more difficult than I expected. So when I got to the word “body” it came out more like a forced grunt because I was simultaneously using all of my might to break the bread.

There are many more, but thankfully there tends to be enough laughter and grace here to cover a multitude of sins.

This really caught my attention because instantly success was redefined. It was no longer about making a name for.../... continued, next page
ourselves with great demonstrations of religious one-upmanship, but it was about relationships and character. There was also something raw and honest that acknowledged just how difficult this journey actually is. Faithfulness in all its various forms takes a lot of hard, honest, and courageous work that in the end still isn’t enough without God’s grace and mercy to carry us through.

So with that in mind, I’m just glad that I’m still happily married. And the waves of frustration and futility that naturally come in life and in any vocation have not been able to wash away the seeds of faith, hope, and love that Jesus planted in me early on. So looking ahead to the next three years, I’m excited to see what God will continue to do in us and through us as we hold on tight to Jesus and his gospel of reconciliation.

Success in Pune, India
by Pascale Deforge

Last month, Pascale reported on the generosity of donors after the major fire in Pune, India, that destroyed 80 houses. Here’s her update.

I am so happy and blessed to let you know that we have distributed your donations to the families of the slum that burned. We raised so much money that we were able to distribute twice as many goods as expected. The families had first asked for steel bowls and kitchen utensils. The staff of Deep Griha took care of each "house" visits of organizing and buying for this first distribution, as I was in France.

When I came back from France, I went along with Deep Griha staff to the devastated area to meet with the families and ask them what they further needed. We began by a collective prayer where we thanked God for the 20 people from France who had donated all this money. This area is mostly Muslim but also Hindu. Nevertheless, I finished my prayer by "in the name of Jesus we pray"...

We had been told that everybody was very happy with the first donation, that the quality of goods was very high and that the distribution was very well organized. After discussion, they all agreed that they needed a mixer to cook their daily masala gravy. So again, Latha efficiently took care of researching and comparing models from suppliers, then ordered and took delivery of 74 mixers. Thanks to her and to Shahine, Bibvewadi DGS supervisor, for their active help.

Last Friday was the second distribution: the 74 beautiful mixers have been delivered to a Deep Griha center near Bibvewadi. All the families were waiting outside. We spent a lovely and laughter-filled afternoon discussing trilingually, with my 20 words of Marathi and their 10 words of English! I was invited to one woman’s house to eat a chicken masala prepared with the mixer. I am amazed by their beauty, dignity, and joy.

One woman from the slum community spoke with great energy and power, saying that today Deep Griha is helping them but that in the future, she hopes that they may be able to help Deep Griha in return.

I would like to thank you all personally for your donations. It has made a big difference in the lives of 74 poor Indian families. They said a lot of thank you’s when we distributed the mixers. All were very happy and joyful to receive goods from donors in France and by Deep Griha’s laborious and efficient organization. I felt that we have all been blessed by this beautiful four-part story: ACP congregation prayers, donors from France, Deep Griha Society, and all the Indian families. Praise the Lord!
Why do we only hear about Christians who...

by Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Visiting Pastor

I am blessed to be with the Christian community of ACP this year as visiting pastor. Being away from the United States at this moment in history has challenges and blessings. Conversations with students here and there, like the one below, continue to challenge and bless.

Today (and not for the first time) a young man shared his frustration that he does not hear about the church being the church in the world. “Why aren’t Christians speaking out for – immigrant children and their families, for poor people who are being blamed, bullied and burdened, for sustainable care for God’s creation, for full inclusion of LGBTQ people in church and society, for telling the truth and confronting lies in the U.S. right now?”

Why do we only hear about Christians who exclude, who judge, and who give uncritical praise to the current administration in the U.S.?

The Christian Church is accused of silence, hypocrisy, exclusivism, and serving powers and principalities. Many young people are drawn to follow Jesus but are often repelled by the authoritarian theologies and judgmental practices they too often see in Jesus’ followers.

But Christians are speaking out and acting up.

Followers of Jesus are living lives of resistance and resilience that are inspiring. We do not hear about church being church because it does not serve interests of power and profit.

You have to listen carefully and see clearly.

We need to listen because testimonies of Christ-like compassion, resilience, resistance and hope are not repeated in tweets from the executive branch of the U.S. government or by conflict-driven soundbite-dominant news cycles.

We need to see because what we do as Christians speaks more loudly than what we say. Before there was a church established and sustained by empire, there were movements of Jesus followers known by the radically inclusive table fellowship that Jesus taught by example.

And... we have to speak. We are the church. We are not alone.

Rather than being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and by the well-funded weapons of mass distraction, I am encouraged when I connect, engage, learn about networks, organizations and movements that are growing locally, nationally and internationally.

Here are just a few that bring good news to my email inbox each week:

- www.reclaimingjesus.org
- www.redletterchristians.org
- www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/demands/
- http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us
- www.wscglobal.org

Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?

If so, please forward your prayer by email 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 after each service.
Opening to God
Spring retreat at Abbaye-Fleury
by Odette Lockwood-Stewart
Visiting Pastor

Opening to God, an ACP adult spiritual life retreat, was a beautiful gathering of 28 diverse people who shared life and faith journeys and joined Benedictine life at Abbaye Fleury for a few days.

Together we practiced prayer and contemplation; resting in God’s presence; holy reading of Scripture; exploration of metaphor and story; chanting psalms with the Benedictine brothers; sharing silence; worship; sharing our faith journeys and questions.

We examined Christian faith as a way of life that impacts all our daily practices – inward, outward, and communal.

Six times a day we chanted psalms in French and we sang our prayers and praise. There was time for long walks and talks along the Loire River.

Participants report that this experience of Sabbath is staying with them through the days that follow the retreat, and that they are looking forward to more opportunities for spiritual growth.

Thanks to Francois Pierre and Jenn Cavanaugh for the photos.
Rwanda fundraiser
by Colombe Akiwacu

My name is Colombe Akiwacu, I was born in October 1994 in Rwanda a few months after the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi ended. Like other Rwandans of my generation, I lost many members of my family and suffered the consequences of conflict, trauma, and poverty after the genocide. Because of this, I have always wanted to help survivors who were even more devastated by the genocide--survivors who lost everything.

In 2014, I had the honor of being elected Miss Rwanda, it was a good start towards the realization of my dearest dream. At the end of 2016, I launched a fundraiser for the construction of two houses for widowed survivors of the genocide. This project was a success, and the construction of these two houses began. The project has continued on its course, but currently, we are in need of funds of about 10,000 euros to complete it.

At present, the houses are built but lack the required finishing touches to make them inhabitable. The funds from this collection will be spent on materials and labor costs. We need you and your generosity to complete the construction. Proceeds from the gala will go towards completing the houses as soon as possible.

A timely construction is imperative because shelters, where families live, could collapse overnight. The beneficiaries were chosen by The Association of Widows of the Genocide Agahozo (AVEGA), an association recognized by the state of Rwanda that aids women who found themselves alone and deprived after the genocide.

In partnership with the association Rwandan Community in France (CFR), we’re hosting this Gala on 7 July, at the American Church in Paris.

With your help, we can achieve this project together and bring happiness to those people who need it so much.

Starting in September:
Women's Bible Study on the Lord's Prayer

A women's Bible study on the Lord’s prayer will begin on 2 September and continue one Sunday a month at ACP, from 12h15-13h15, in room F2 (first floor). All women are welcome and free childcare is provided. The new kids’ class for children ages 7-14 will also be held at this time. For more information contact Teri Lee Valluy at women@acparis.org.

September 2: Discussion of why and how we pray
October 7: Our Father who art in Heaven
November 4: Hallowed be Thy name
December 2: Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven
January 6: Give us this day our daily bread
February 3: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
March 10: Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
April 7: For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever
May 5: Amen
June 2: Recap, discussion, praise
Assumptions about French holidays
By Rebecca Brite

Protestant expats in France are often bemused at first to see so many public holidays based on religious celebrations, which account for just over half of the 11 legal holidays in the French calendar.

After a typical May filled with days off, the newly arrived expat may be forgiven for wondering about Assumption Day in mid-August. It’s been a month since Bastille Day; do the French just “assume” it’s time for another break?

Those with something of an art history background may vaguely recall paintings of a robed figure rising to the heavens. But wait, wasn’t that Ascension Day?

Why yes, it was. It’s easy for those unfamiliar with Catholic doctrine to confuse Ascension and Assumption: the former, a movable feast (i.e. linked to the date of Easter), is very ancient. Biblically based, it celebrates the account of Jesus rising bodily into heaven on the 40th day after his resurrection.

The history of the Assumption of Mary is more complicated. The belief that Jesus’ mother, at the end of her life, was bodily “taken up” into heaven (the Latin assumptio, “taking,” gives the feast day its common name) is based on apocryphal writings dating probably no earlier than the third century.

Over the centuries, the legend evolved into multiple versions. Mary was still living when she was lifted heavenward. No, she died, and all the apostles were miraculously transported to her deathbed, and her grave was later found to be empty. It happened in Ephesus, and her house may still be seen there. No, it happened in Jerusalem, and Eastern Christians built a church marking her tomb. The Apostle Thomas was there. No, he arrived late and that is why her grave was opened.

In the sixth century, the French theologist and historian Gregory of Tours was among prominent church fathers promoting some version or other of this idea. By the eighth century, its celebration was a church feast day. The reformation brought renewed theological debate about the validity of the feast, which was not really settled until 1950, when Pope Pius XII declared Mary’s assumption into heaven to be Catholic dogma.

The choice of 15 August for the feast day comes from an Eastern Christian tradition dating back to the sixth century. In Italy, the Assumption holiday is known as Ferragosto, which simply means “August holiday” but echoes the pre-Christian Feriae Augusti or “holidays of Emperor Augustus,” who in 18 BC declared some extra summer time off to let people recover from the harvest, a tradition the Italians have followed religiously ever since.

In France, 15 August was the national holiday until 1880, thanks to a vow in 1638 by Louis XIII, made in gratitude for the birth of a son after 23 years of childless marriage. The king had asked the parishes of France to pray to Mary on his behalf, and dedicated the country to her protection in thanks.

French people who aren’t already out of town for the annual long vacation make such a point of taking off 15 August that big cities such as Paris tend to be all but empty that day.

This year, the holiday falls on a Wednesday – a difficult day to incorporate into a long weekend, though some will certainly “faire le pont” anyway, using the days before or after Assumption Day as a “bridge” to/from the following/previous weekend.

The American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU), our US partner in ministry, has established endowment funds to help sustain our long-term ministry. Gifts from estates are a fundamental way these endowments are funded. If you would like to participate in growing these endowment funds, please contact the AFCU at AFCUHeritage@AFCUBridge.org.

The Heritage Society
No limits


Enter the gigantic black box erected within the Grande Halle de La Villette and lose yourself in a 360° visual symphony of spiraling celestial streamers, morphing mythical creatures, busily burgeoning blossoms and peaceful purple rain, all shifting and changing in reaction to visitors’ movements.

Until 9 September, lavillette.com

Take the plunge

For an immersion of an entirely different sort, head to the swimming area set up once again this year, by popular demand, in the bracing Seine waters of the Bassin de La Villette. Complete with lifeguards and regular water-quality testing, “La Baignade” is open to the public free of charge as part of the annual Paris Plages festival, which also brings scores of free summer activities to the quais around Bassin de La Villette and to the Rive de Seine waterfront.

Until 2 September. quefaire.paris.fr/parisplages

Myths and realities


On 21 July: storytelling and a “bal tsigane.”


Summer event listings by Karen Albrecht

Chill out

Summer heat getting you down? Head to Cité des Sciences for the chilled-out exhibit simply entitled “Froid,” studying the impact of cold on animals, plants and of course humans... including via our fridges. When you’re ready to warm things up again, check out the companion exhibit “Feu,” studying humans’ mastery of fire — and lack thereof. The crescendo comes on 14 and 15 July with a rollicking fireman’s ball, and fiery demonstrations of Parisian firefighters’ derring-do.


Tune in

In between the blockbuster temporary exhibitions with their crushing crowds, the Fondation Louis Vuitton is hosting a mellower summer show featuring works drawn from the foundation’s own rich collection of modern and contemporary art, on the lofty theme “In tune with the world” — a look at man’s place in the universe, no less. Works by Yves Klein, Takashi Murakami, Pierre Huyghe and other luminaries of the 20th and 21st centuries grace the singular structure designed by star architect Frank Gehry.

Until 27 August. fondationlouisvuitton.fr

Groovin’ on the grass

Enjoy top-notch live jazz for the modest £2.50 price of admission to the Parc Floral de Vincennes, thanks to the annual open-air Paris Jazz Festival. The 25th edition highlights include a big-band extravaganza on Bastille Day weekend and a tribute to the new generation of French jazz talents, around genial saxophonist Emile Parisien. Dotted around the park, vintage jazz posters celebrate the centenary of the arrival the very first African American jazz musicians in Paris at end of World War I.

Until 22 July. en.parisjazzfestival.fr
Ahoy, mateys! The theme of ACP's 2018 Vacation Bible School is “Shipwrecked.” Participants will discover how Jesus is their rescuer, while participating in Bible-learning, singing songs, playing games, and making crafts. It takes place from 9h to noon each day. Vacation Bible School is for all children ages 3-10 years old, regardless of spoken language or level of ability.

Many volunteers are needed for a variety of roles, so please pray about whether God is calling you to serve in this fun, dynamic ministry. Register at acparis.org/vbs. For more information, please contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.
A MiniMissionary in Africa: Why not you?

by Patti Lafage, ACP Missionary in Uganda

Do you have energy, love to share? Would you spend some of your vacation time to serve God by serving others? Would you like to impact the lives of children, teachers and missionaries at one of the Rafiki Villages in Africa?

ACP supports Rafiki Foundation Inc., a US-based Christian organization that operates ten “Training Villages” in ten different English-speaking African countries. Each village is home to up to 100 children and includes schools from nursery to secondary levels as well as teacher training colleges. Each person at Rafiki studies the Bible daily to know God. Thanks to donors from all over the world, three to five full time missionaries and about 50 African national employees, called by God to each village, make it all work.

Is He calling you?

I asked Carolyn Bouazouni, of ACP’s Mission Outreach Committee, to tell you about her visits to two Rafiki villages.

If you’ve been following Patti’s 2018 series of articles on MiniMissionaries, you have already read the stories of women and men, single or husband/wife teams of all ages, who have taken a little time out of their busy schedules to serve in the mission fields in Africa with the Rafiki Foundation.

My first visit to a Rafiki Village was in 2010 when I was in Ghana to visit our missionaries there working in the prisons, hospitals and schools. Rafiki’s Ghana Village was not far away, so I stopped by for an afternoon to see what Rafiki was all about – and I was tremendously impressed. Fine facilities, wonderful staff, children obviously loved and well taken care of.

Then a few years later, when I was back visiting the prisons in Ghana again, Patti invited me to come visit her at the Rafiki Village in Uganda. So I did. I discovered that the Rafiki Villages are all built and run in the same manner: top notch! I cannot speak highly enough of what the Rafiki organization is doing in Africa.

I stayed at Uganda’s Rafiki Village for four days, and convinced Patti to go on a 3-day safari with me (you can’t go to Africa without going on a safari, right?). What an awesome week. First, I was able to see what life is really like at the village: I participated in several of the classes Patti was teaching, saw many of the children’s activities, visited the cottages where they live, and lots more. I wanted to move right in and stay. Obviously, I had not scheduled a long enough trip! Patti told me about the MiniMissionary program, and that would be an ideal solution for me.

MiniMissionaries and guests at the Rafiki Villages are lodged in the same type of housing as the permanent staff members – which means a nice two-bedroom house, with living room and dining area, full bathroom, kitchen and utility room. The houses are fully furnished and equipped with all the western amenities, right down to microwave ovens and a washer and dryer.

As for the safari, my only comment to Patti was that I really didn’t want to sleep on the ground or in a tent. Fortunately, she agreed. That’s when I learned that safari lodges can be quite comfortable! We chose one that was in the middle of a national park, had great views and fantastic food. The perfect lodge for us. The safari was everything I had expected, and more. Ahh – Africa. Amazing Africa.

I full-heartedly encourage you to consider combining serving the Lord as a MiniMissionary at one of Rafiki’s Villages in Africa, and also taking some time off for yourself to enjoy Africa. Whatever your skills and passions are, they can be put to good use in helping the full-time missionaries, for two weeks, two months… or more.

On 6 April 2019, Rafiki will offer an all-day MiniMissionary information/training session at the American Church in Paris to enable you to understand how you can serve with them, and whether this is a good opportunity for you. Why don’t you join us?

For more information on Rafiki and their work in Africa: www.rafikifoundation.org. Contact Patti Lafage at plafage@gmail.com
Volunteer opportunities

One of the core values of ACP is to be a beacon of light and life on the Seine, calling out to our community to come in and be a part of the mission of Christ. There are multiple points of entry for members of ACP and our Parisian neighbors to serve those in need and our community through volunteer opportunities. If you are looking for a way to contribute, here is a list of opportunities.

Nursery /children’s fellowship
Looking for volunteers who love children, enjoy playing with them and are comfortable holding and caring for infants. A letter of reference can be provided for qualifying volunteers. Volunteers are needed for the following time slots:

- 11h and 13h30 Sunday services,
- Sundays for women’s fellowship, 12h-14h
- Tuesdays 10h-13h30
- Second Fridays 9h30-12h30

Contact Pamela Gonder: gonder.pamela@gmail.com

Graphic designer needed
Please contact Victor Greene: youthpastor@acparis.org

Contemporary Worship

- Slide Projection Coordinator: Coordinate the projection of the slide presentations during the 13h30 service. Help recruit and train people to set up the projector and run the slides in the weekly contemporary worship service. We would like to build a team of 10 people so that each person can serve once every 2 months running slides during the service.
- Tech Support: Install and break down sound equipment during the 13h30 service. Training will be provided, no experience necessary. Volunteers will need to arrive at 12h15 the weeks they are scheduled for set-up and/or stay until 15h for breakdown.

Contact Natalie Raynal: cmusic@acparis.org

Friday Mission Lunch
Cook, clean, and serve hot meals to the hungry and homeless in Paris every Friday from 9h30-14h as part of the Friday Mission lunch, at The American Cathedral, 23 Avenue George V, 75008 Paris.

Contact Kristie Worrell: fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com

Breakfast and Sandwich Ministry

- Prepare sack meals for the homeless, as part of a team every Friday evening (19h-20h) at ACP (room G2).
- Distribute sack meals for the homeless, as part of a team Saturday mornings, 8h30, on the first two Saturdays of the month, and 13h on the last two Saturdays of the month.

Contact: sandwichministryacp@gmail.com

Serve the City Paris is always looking for volunteers:

- Homeless: Immediate relief, food services and clothes drives
- Youth and Children: Concrete solutions with local partners to ensure long-term growth and a successful future
- Migrant and Refugees: legal aid and language-based opportunities
- Victims of Abuse: Solutions and resolutions to dignify all individuals
- Elderly: special care projects for the elderly in need
- Green Initiatives: varying in size and scope to ensure a better planet earth

For more information, see: servethecityparis.com

Bloom Where You are Planted 2018

- Need help and lead with website updates and design; event decoration; set-up and clean-up; registration; administration; and food coordination.

Contact Sherry: bloom@acparis.org

Worship Liturgists

Read Holy Scripture passages aloud to the congregation during our 9h, 11h and 13h30 services. If interested, please contact: secretary@acparis.org

Community Life

The Community Life ministry is responsible for the organization of community events such as Thurber Lecture dinners, the Thanksgiving dinner, Easter breakfast, and more. We welcome new, extra hands who enjoy being a part of creating a welcoming and hospitable environment.

- Help decorate and set up and/or tear down our events.
- Help with food preparation (washing, peeling, cutting, and chopping) as well as baking or preparing desserts, cookies, preparing cheese platters, and other small buffet-style snacks. If you’re a cook (non-professional is ok) who doesn’t shy away from helping prepare a basic meal to fill over 50 plates, be sure to contact us!

Contact Daphne: communitylife@acparis.org
God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called.

Most of us are able to say pretty quickly the things that we are not good at - the things that we would never-in-a-million-years do. At age nine, I could have told you I was NOT cut out for anything to do with sports, specifically team sports that involved balls and hand-eye coordination.

That Amy didn’t have a relationship with Jesus. But as I grow closer to Him, I’m learning to laugh at His sense of humor. Why? Right now, the biggest call on my life happens to revolve around sports. Specifically, this has taken the form of creating sports opportunities for refugees, and making these opportunities sustainable using social business models.

I did not feel equipped when a prophetic word last year told me “get your passport ready; you’re going to be entering the mission field (no, thanks! I love my job, apartment, and spiritual family in New York!). I did not feel equipped when God put a Masters program in Paris on my heart (I have no way to pay for this!). But God equipped me with scholarships and loans, and the encouragement of spiritual family.

I did not feel equipped when He put the global refugee situation on my heart (what could I possibly do to help?). I did not feel equipped when He showed me football was the way for me to start integrating young refugees with the French community. But God connected my background in sports-based youth development, an incredible team called Kabubu, and a social business program to coincide with my master’s thesis.

I did not feel equipped with space to pilot a 6-week winter soccer program with refugees, expats and the French. But God brought me to ACP and Pastor Scott, who offered the church gym - and, with the Mission Outreach Committee’s support, we got to continue using it for 12 weeks, when our guys didn’t want it to end!

Now, one month after graduating and continuing to build sports opportunities with Kabubu, I’m filled with joyful amusement at God’s sense of humor: the areas where I was once weak, He has made me strong, and at the intersection of ministry, entrepreneurship, welcoming the stranger, and, yes, SPORTS, I would find my calling, that which gives me greater purpose and motivation than anything I’ve experienced before.

Sure, our team does not have an entrepreneurship background. It makes more financial sense to go back to the States and work. I have loan repayments, a job-search process riddled with question-marks, and still-developing French fluency. The world could point to so many things and say “you’re not equipped!” But I can boldly respond in truth: I am equipped by an all-mighty, all-loving father and friend, who tells me “my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.”

So, as I seek His voice and walk with mentors in growing stronger in Him and His plan for me, I keep saying “yes” to the things He puts on my heart that I feel ill-equipped for. For anyone reading this, my hope is that you feel stirred to say “yes” to His calls, even when you feel ill-equipped. I will keep declaring that He equips those He calls - our stories He creates with us get to be for His glory.
What’s going on?
Tune in to ACP Today radio

Have you ever listened to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 2 and 16 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 house-bound or who would simply like more devotional time on a Monday evening. Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com or tune in at your leisure via the ACP website, at www.acparis.org/ACPtoday, or the ACP mobile app.

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 available on 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.

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

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis

Please help recycle this publication. When you’re through reading it, instead of tossing it in the bin, return it to the Welcome desk.
Frantisek Kupka was a Czech painter and graphic artist at the turn of the 20th century. Early in his career he worked for the press as an illustrator for magazines and books. He considered this work to be his “bread and butter” which allowed him to paint and experiment with diverse styles. Kupka, who found inspiration in the mundane and was influenced by the world around him, was constantly changing his style of painting. His early works focused on historic, patriotic and allegorical themes with a bit of satire thrown in. He then experimented with Symbolism, and moved into Fauvism before testing Orphism, the melding of painting and music. His *Les Touches de Piano. Le Lac* is an example of this genre: a blurry landscape of a lake is a memory of a moment, enhanced by music, represented by piano keys and the pianists’ hand at the bottom of the painting. When he decided it was pointless to represent nature in art, his style morphed again, becoming non-figurative as it veered towards Cubism before becoming purely Abstract.

Born in 1871, Kupka saw huge advances in science and technology throughout his lifetime. Many discoveries and advancements inspired him. Photographs of the universe and the planets influenced *The First Step*. The developments of X-ray technology triggered his *Les Disques de Newton*, featured on the exhibit poster, surely was an influence on the Delaunays as it predates their signature style.

Kupka’s body of work is overwhelming, and it is amazing to realize it was all produced by one man. The black-and-white photo at the end of the exhibit captures Kupka with a few of his most-recognized tableaux, and it illustrates the ever-changing nature of this protean and prolific artist. The audio-guide is highly recommended (or download the App) to appreciate the exhibit to the fullest.

*At the Grand Palais, through 30 July*
# ACP Spire Diary – July/August 2018

## July

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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 2 July 20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Adult Fellowship</strong>&lt;br&gt;Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge café setting, sharing testimonies, talking about the highs and lows of your life with brothers and sisters in Christ.</td>
<td>Friday 6 July From 20h email contact for location</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Fundraising Gala for Survivors of the Rwandan Genocide:</strong>&lt;br&gt;A cultural voyage to Rwanda, with songs, dance, and rhythms of traditional drums.</td>
<td>Saturday 7 July 17h Tickets: <a href="http://lepotcommun.fr/billet/vxpm3hjo">Le Pot Commun online</a></td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;Movie selection: <em>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (Le Cercle littéraire de Guernesey)</em>; <em>Béassine!; Love, Simon; The Breadwinner/Parvana</em>&lt;br&gt;See any or all at your leisure, join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Thursday 12 July 19h30 Room G2 or Courtyard</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></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 13 July 10h-14h The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com">fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Bastille Day / Fête Nationale</strong>&lt;br&gt;Church building closed for public holiday.</td>
<td>Saturday 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 16 July 20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Writers Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tendayi Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
<td>Saturday 21 July 14h30-16h30 Room G2</td>
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## August

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<td>Friday 3 August From 20h email contact for location</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship @acparis.org</td>
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<td>Friday 10 August 10h-14h The American Cathedral</td>
<td>Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com">fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com</a></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>Wednesday 15 August</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 20 August 20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Vacation Bible School - Shipwrecked</strong>&lt;br&gt;Children ages 3-10 will discover how Jesus is their rescuer, while participating in Bible-learning and other hands-on activities, singing songs, playing games, and making crafts. See <a href="http://acparis.org/vbs">http://acparis.org/vbs</a></td>
<td>Week Monday 27- Thursday 30 August 9h-12h</td>
<td>childrensworship @acparis.org</td>
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New Youth and Young Adult Intern

Julia Metcalf

Julia Metcalf will serve as the Youth and Young Adult intern for the coming year. She first came to know Jesus through her Church youth group and is grateful for the chance to walk alongside the youth and young adults at ACP this coming year. She is coming to ACP from Princeton Theological Seminary (USA) where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity and just completed her second of the three-year degree program. She is on the ordination track within the Presbyterian Church of the USA and is under the care of Session of First Presbyterian Church, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Julia was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma and that is where her parents and siblings live now. She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Church Music with an emphasis in Vocal Performance from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She loves to sing and play piano. One of her biggest passions has always been music, especially music in a worship context. She feels closest to God when she is worshipping through music. She also has a passion for ecumenical worship and bringing people from all walks of life together to praise and draw near to the same God. She is thankful to spend this coming year witnessing and participating in a community that does this well. She is also thankful to learn from a staff and congregation that cares deeply about social justice and racial reconciliation.

Julia is so excited about the opportunity to join the ACP congregation for a year in Paris. She knows this will be a year of tremendous growth and learning and hopes to enter this space with open hands and compassion for everything the community has to teach and offer. She loves meeting new people and welcomes anyone to please come up and introduce themselves. She loves coffee, ice cream (or gelato), cooking, reading, traveling, and trying new things. She hopes to get a real taste of the city and its people while she is here with us, which includes all of you!

Women’s Ministry

The Women’s Ministry activities are taking a break for the summer. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall. Have a blessed summer.

First meetings following the rentrée:

**Monthly Sunday Women’s Fellowship** - 9 September, 12h15 - 13h30, Thurber Room
Odette Lockwood Stewart will speak about Women and Transformational Leadership.

**Monthly Sunday Women’s Bible Study** - 2 September, 12h15 - 13h15, F2
A study of The Lord’s Prayer led by Teri Lee Valluy.

**Weekly Tuesday Morning Bible Study** - 11 September, 10h30 - 12h30, Catacombs

**MOPs (Mothers of Paris)** - September 14, 10h00 - 12h00, Catacombs
Free childcare available

The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday, 12 July
Room G2 or, weather permitting, the courtyard

This month’s movies to see beforehand:
*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*
*Bécassine !*
*Love, Simon*
*The Breadwinner*

Contact: movies@acparis.org
Colombe AKIWACU
Miss Rwanda 2014
organise un

Gala de charité
Au profit des familles rescapés du génocide
parrainé par
Cécile KAYIREBWA

Samedi 7 Juillet
à 17h00
Église américaine de Paris
65 Quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris

Informations & réservation: 07 84 22 23 52 ou 06 42 61 56 92
billeterie en ligne : https://www.lepotcommun.fr/billet/vxpm3hjo

DONS EN LIGNE
https://fr.gofundme.com/genocide-survivors-shelter