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A view from the Berges de Seine, just out the front door of the American Church in Paris.
Photo by Alison Benney
Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

“At the recent congregational meeting which voted to extend my call to 2020, it was suggested that I share my “vision” for the church. I would love to talk with any of you who are interested and who have thoughts to share with me about the vision for the church.

In the call process which inspired me to come and serve here in 2008, there was a defining moment. I was sitting at my desk at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. I was on a conference call with the Search Committee, including members of the AFCU and the ACP. Tom Johnson, the senior ACP member of the committee, asked me, “Scott, what’s your five-year plan should you come to serve as the pastor of the ACP?” There was a long pause, as I knew my answer to this question was critical. I said, “Tom, that’s a great question. But honestly, I don’t have a five-year plan.” There was another long pause... I continued, “I believe God has a plan for the church, and part of my job is to work with you and the rest of the congregation to figure out what that plan is, and then pursue it with energy, intelligence, imagination and love!”

Over the years in this dynamic congregation, I’ve come to believe that God’s vision for the ACP is *kaleidoscopic* in quality. It is beautiful with common motifs, but constantly shifting with new people and ever changing realities internally and externally. A central focus of our vision is our mission statement, “to bear witness by word and deed to the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.” I am committed to this mission as the Apostle Paul reminds us, “*The only thing that counts is faith working through love*” (Gal. 5:6b). I believe we can bear witness to God’s love effectively as we are centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. “Cheer up! Your situation is far worse than you could have imagined! But cheer up! God’s love for you is far greater than you could have hoped.” I love that summary of the gospel.

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

As an historic church located in the center of one of the great culture capitals of the world, I believe our vision is to be focused by Jeremiah 29:7, “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.” While the context may be different, the point is clear. We are called to bless the city where we live, and so I will continue to encourage our congregation to serve Paris and to seek its welfare.

Part of that means welcoming all who come through our doors. In Romans 15:7, the Apostle Paul says, “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Isn’t that amazing? We can glorify God by welcoming newcomers and strangers into our midst! This is part of living out the gospel. Perhaps a good way of pursuing this is to examine the “one another” commands of Jesus in the gospel according to John?

I also believe that we are in a critical time of learning about the larger dimensions of the gospel. There is an *intra-personal* dimension, an *inter-personal* dimension, and a *social* dimension. This year we are focusing on Micah 6:8 as a key metric of “how we are doing” in our obedience to Christ. How do we land in society Monday through Saturday? Are we doing justice, loving kindness, and walking more humbly with our God because of our worship and fellowship as a community on Sundays?

These are some of the key themes I believe God has put before us that we will continue to pursue in the future. More practically, I would like to see us grow and expand our small-group ministry. I have benefitted personally through being a part of a weekly men’s Bible study. My marriage has been enhanced by

.../...

“Cheer up! Your situation is far worse than you could have imagined! But cheer up! God’s love for you is far greater than you could have hoped.”
a couples’ fellowship, and I want for each and every person in our congregation to experience spiritual growth and health through a thriving and intentional small-group ministry. This is how we can fulfill the great commission to “make disciples of all nations.” Honestly, that’s not my job. That’s our job, and I believe we can grow significantly in this commission.

I believe it is critical for us to be an “equipping church.” A guiding metaphor I believe appropriate is that we are a missionary training camp. People come and go here, sometimes rather quickly. Our unique calling is to teach and equip people for ministry, allow them to exercise their gifts for ministry here as they are called, and then to lovingly send them to continue Kingdom-building work around the world wherever God leads them. It’s all about the Kingdom, in the end!

Finally, Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” We need to have vision, and to understand God’s plan for our lives and life together as a congregation. May I be so bold as to suggest to you that our vision is best kept “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of faith...”

As we focus on Jesus, I believe the Holy Spirit will continue to guide, protect, teach, strengthen and grow us into the faithfully praying, dynamically worshipping, joyfully serving, and authentically loving and sharing community that God created and calls us to be. I look forward to living into this vision together with you and remain sincerely yours...

In Christ,
Scott

Sunday Morning Women's Gathering
5 July 12h30-13h30 in the Library

Ladies, please join us for the last Women's Gathering for this year.
Rosalyn McKeown will be speaking to us about Sustainability ... not just an issue for our ecology.
You don't want to miss this. Childcare is available in G1.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8
These words exemplify how we are called to live into Christian community. This one small phrase says so much about how are to love one another – not just sharing worship experiences or even the work of ministry (as inspiring as that might be), but sharing life together. This letter, written in the Pauline tradition, has the purpose of reminding believers how to live, to encourage, and to give assurance. Over the years, it has become one of my key verses for pastoral ministry.

It points to a few important aspects of sharing Christian community. The first is genuinely sharing life together. This must include the good, the bad, and even the ugly. I think of the hashtag: #livinglifetransparently that has been trending among many of my fellow colleagues in ministry. Often the hashtag is paired with funny real life experiences or failures like spilling the communion cup down the front of oneself. I love it because it brings humor into ministry, but also because it shows the very human nature of our pastoral leaders. We mess up, and that’s ok. It can be and is redeemable… Thank you, Jesus!

The second aspect is an abundance of love. We learn that the author loved the community very much. This is a crucial part of community and ministry. Love is emphasized again at the end of the verse – the gospel was shared and lives were shared because of (and in connection to) this love – the community had become so dear. Such deep and genuine love takes time and effort. The flourishing of any real relationship requires a certain quality and quantity of time.

This is where we are called to go beyond simply welcoming one another, to being with one another. The possibilities for developing such relationships are quite endless. By getting involved in the work and mission of the church, attending small groups, or fellowships we can foster the development of authentic relationships within the Body of Christ. Whatever venue for relational development we choose, we must choose to invest in the relational growth itself. More than a handshake and a “good morning” is required for relational development. Involvement is the first step!

As leaders, it is our job to encourage and foster relational development in the Body. As we enter the summer months, many of us will “disconnect” because of vacation, home leave, transitions, and other summer Sabbath activities. We all need this! As you disconnect from the busyness of life and work, I encourage you to think about what it means to live into Christ-centered connectedness. Start by thinking about the people with whom you are genuinely connected inside of ACP. Then think about other places like work or leisure and the people with whom you share life – especially transparent life. Put these folks on a list. There might only be a few people on your list (that’s ok – transparent, loving life together is hard!).

Once you have in mind a few people, set some reminders in your calendar. Set one for July and one for August. When your reminder pops up, check in on your people! Maybe it’s a phone call or maybe it’s even a handwritten letter/card that goes out to these folks. But whatever your point of contact it is, let it reflect the love you have for that person. Share a piece of your life too, and remember to send Biblical encouragement. Words of love and encouragement can be life-giving beyond what we can imagine. The Holy Spirit has a way of fostering connectedness in amazing ways! Be an instrument by seeking to make authentic points of contact with a few of the people who mean the most to you this summer.

#livinglifetransparently in Christ,
Benedictions,
Michelle
Guest preacher, Rev. Leo Curry — Sunday 19 July

We are privileged to have the Reverend Leo W. Curry preaching for us on Sunday 19 July. Pastor of the Fordham United Methodist Church, Bronx, New York, Rev. Curry is an elder in the New York Annual Conference. He is the son, grandson and nephew of Methodist preachers. His paternal grandfather, The Rev. Elijah J. Curry, Sr. was ordained in 1892 in the South Carolina Conference. He had seven sons and five of them became Methodist pastors, including Rev. Curry’s father, The Rev. Francis D. Curry, Sr. And Rev. Curry’s grandfather also had three daughters, two of whom married Methodist pastors.

Reverend Curry’s philosophy is that the church is first and foremost a teaching institution which teaches the content of the Christian faith aimed at transformation of human character and the world. He firmly believes in an inclusive church where all of God’s children are welcome.

Communities in Christ - Small groups set to launch in the Fall

ACP’s church-wide small groups will focus on the growth of spiritual community in ACP, designed to connect ACP members all over Paris. We seek volunteers to host small groups in their homes, and volunteers to guide the groups, beginning in September. If you are interested in hosting, or would like information about the program, please contact interimassociatepastor@acparis.org.

Spiritual Gifts Workshop
American Church in Paris
26 September
9h00-16h30
25 euros, includes lunch

More details coming soon
For information, please contact:
AliciaBerberich@gmail.com

You are standing at the cross roads of your life
Trying to decide which path to take...
You have a burning desire to move forward...
But are unsure of which path to take...

You are standing at the cross roads
And time is going by...
The Rev. Dr. Jeff Powell
Associate Pastor (half-time interim)

Disciple-making duties

I began my duties as Half-Time Interim Associate Pastor on 1st April while continuing to serve as Visiting Pastor in charge of Wedding Blessings/Vow Renewals. Now that Rev. Jay McKell, the new Visiting Pastor, has arrived I can focus on my interim pastoral ministry.

What are our priorities as apprentices (disciples) of Jesus Christ? Jesus’ last words to his disciples before he ascended into heaven are called the “Great Commission.” Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded of you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:16-20. These are the “marching orders” of Jesus for his followers, the Church.

"Disciple-making” is the priority, and Christian education is an important component of disciple-making. During this interim time, I will be working in the area of Christian education for adults, Pastor Michelle will continue to work with Christian education for children, and incoming Pastor Billy will work with Christian education for youth and young adults. I am reassured by Jesus’ promise that the Holy Spirit always goes before us to prepare the way and to empower us for the tasks to which he commissions us.

I am delighted that we had 27 participants at our Spring Retreat on the topic "Finding the prayer of your heart," under the leadership of Professor Deborah Hunsinger. We met in historic Abbaye Fleury, a Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire, where we found refreshment for our souls and enjoyed participating in the rich worship life of the monastic community. There were also opportunities for garden walks, personal reflection, discussion and visiting with a monk.

Two workshops are coming to ACP to help you with your spiritual growth and equip you for ministry. Put them on your calendar now.

1. **Spiritual Gifts Workshop** on Saturday 26 September, 9h-16h. Alicia Berberich and Pastor Jeff will assist you in discerning your spiritual gifts and using them in ministry.

2. **Listening Skills Workshop** on Saturday 10 October, 9h-16h. Pastor Jeff will lead this workshop to help you develop skills that enhance your communication at home, work and church.

Being a member of a small group of Christians who explore the Scripture, share, support and pray for one another is an important way to grow as a disciple of Jesus. This fall we re-launch church-wide Communities in Christ small groups. They will be designed to connect ACP members all over Paris. We are currently seeking volunteers to host small groups in their homes, beginning in September. Once the group locations are set, interested members will be connected to a group in their neighborhood. If you are interested in hosting, or would like information about the program, please contact interimassociatepastor@acparis.org.

I also work with the Lay Care Givers, the ministry of contacting and caring for the ACP community through personal visits, telephone calls and social media. Part of that caring is to provide prayer support one-to-one, as well as through the prayer chain. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to meet with a pastor or Lay Care Giver.

I help coordinate and resource Thurber Thursdays, including opportunities to participate in series such as the Alpha Course and to hear world-class speakers. We’re following up the popularity of the Alpha Course with a series on “A Life Worth Living,” starting 17 September. It’s a study of Philippians via DVDs with Rev. Nicky Gumbel. Participation in the discussion groups following the presentations is also a good way to experience Christian fellowship (koinonia in Greek) and growth.

Summer is the season of vacations, travel and relaxation. Alba and I will be around ACP for most of the summer, and look forward to hosting our daughter Trina, and our 13-year-old granddaughter Maya, for the first half of August.

We also look forward to the…/…
opportunity to get to know the members and friends of ACP better. One of our frustrations on Sunday mornings after worship is that contacts with people are sometimes limited to a quick greeting at the door or a few words exchanged during the coffee hour. Let’s take advantage of the summer’s more intimate Sunday services and coffee hours to grow deeper in our personal relationships at ACP.

We also hope that you will make some special time this summer to be with God. The life of Jesus was characterized by daily experiences of prayer and fellowship with God. This should also be a natural part of our days. Take time to enjoy God. May you have a summer of refreshment and spiritual renewal.

Resting in Christ,

Jeff

…/… **Disciple-making duties, continued**

Got by the Water

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city." -Rev 22:1

YOUNG ARTIST WEEK

August 24-28, 2015 at The American Church in Paris

65 Quai d’Orsay
Paris, France 75007

www.acparis.org

Register by August 1 to youthintern@acparis.org

12h30 to 16h30

25 euros per student

More information upon registration
In the past month, on several occasions, with several
different people, it has been recommended that I read
Ernest Hemmingway’s memoir about life in Paris
called A Moveable Feast. I plan to read it, just as soon
as I complete my ever-growing “move across the world”
to do list. I’ll probably read it on the plane ride to
Paris, who am I kidding?

I keep thinking about that title, though. A moveable
feast. It has got me thinking about feasts. Feasts are
everywhere in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the
Israelites’ feasts were communal and commemorative.
In other words, these feasts were something done
together to remember what God had done and what
God had promised.

And what is a feast really? It’s a time to eat. In fact, we
find Jesus doing a lot of eating and drinking in the
gospels. New Testament scholar Robert Karris goes as
far as to say, “In Luke’s gospel Jesus is either going to a
meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal.” There must be
something more going on here.

There’s something sacred in breaking bread together, isn’t
there? Meals welcome people into life together. A shared table
extends an invitation to others into a community. It’s about grace,
compassion, and an open heart. Jesus is found eating with sinners,
people that many religious people of his day didn’t think highly of.

And yet, Jesus ate and drank with them. Welcoming them. Engaging them. Loving them.

It should come as no surprise to us, then, that something
so central to our faith is centered on a table. We break
bread and drink from the cup together to remember
what Jesus has done for us. All throughout scripture
salvation is compared to a feast, from the Israelites in
exile to the promise of a feast in the presence of God
forever.

People from cultures all over the world gather around a
table daily. People share in joy and heartache, happiness
and suffering, love and loss. All around a meal.

When I reflect on a moveable feast I am reminded that
no matter where I go, no matter who I am with, I have a
chance to welcome people into the grace of God who sits
at the table with the broken, lost, and marginalized. I am
reminded that any time I share a meal with my brothers
and sisters in Christ I am gathering with them together
to remember God’s gift, promises, and future hope.

I cannot wait to share a table with you soon. I bid
farewell to loved ones in America
over a feast in anticipation of the
new table I will share with you. In
that sense, it is a moveable feast.

Movie discussion group
Thursday, July 23, 7:30pm
Room G2 or (weather permitting) the courtyard
Movies to see: Inside Out (Vice Versa), Une Second Mère, Love & Mercy, and La Isla mínima
movies@acparis.org
Bible readings for July & August

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<tr>
<th>July 5</th>
<th>6th Sunday after Pentecost Proper (Communion)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 or Ezekiel 2:1-5</td>
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<td>Psalm 48 or Psalm 123</td>
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<td>2 Corinthians 12:2-10</td>
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<td>Mark 6:1-13</td>
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<th>7th Sunday after Pentecost Proper (Youth)</th>
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<td>2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 or Amos 7:7-15</td>
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<td>Psalm 24 or Psalm 85:8-13</td>
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<td>Ephesians 1:3-14</td>
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<th>July 19</th>
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<td>2 Samuel 7:1-14a or Jeremiah 23:1-6</td>
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<td>Psalm 89:20-37 or Psalm 23</td>
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<td>Ephesians 2:11-22</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 Samuel 11:1-15 or 2 Kings 4:42-44</td>
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<td>Psalm 14 or Psalm 145:10-18</td>
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<td>John 6:24-35</td>
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<td>2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 or 1 Kings 19:4-8</td>
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<td>Psalm 130 or Psalm 34:1-8</td>
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<td>John 6:35, 41-51</td>
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<td>Ephesians 5:15-20</td>
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<td>John 6:51-58</td>
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<td>John 6:56-69</td>
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<th>14th Sunday after Pentecost Proper</th>
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<td>Song of Solomon 2:8-13 or Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9</td>
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<td>Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 15</td>
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<td>James 1:17-27</td>
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<td>Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</td>
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Our church family

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. - John 13: 34-35

Dear Scott and everyone at ACP,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for Monica’s funeral. I was so touched when I saw the card. I felt so loved by my church family. It was a bittersweet and blessed time. And I am so grateful to God that I was able to spend time with my mom before she passed away. I know she is singing songs in Heaven! Much love, Kerry Dyer
Pinch us.

No, don’t! While this all feels a bit like a dream we actually are coming to Paris to worship and work with the good people of The American Church and to enjoy the sights, sounds, food and friendship that is Paris. Needless to say, we are very excited and so are our two cats, No Way and Not Now, who are traveling with us.

We first visited Paris 24 years ago. It was one of those whirlwind tours that lasted 3 or 4 days and is now all a blur. This trip will be different and so very much better, for being the Visiting Pastor will enable us to experience French life on a daily basis. We will wander the streets rather than rush from the Eiffel Tower to Notre Dame. We will discover beautiful parks and sidewalk cafes where we can join the locals for a cup of coffee.

But we are coming to be more than tourists. We are joining a faith community where the love of Jesus Christ is practiced on a daily basis. Both of us are life-long Presbyterians who have always been active in the church.

Elizabeth has been a choir member, church-school teacher, handbell ringer, Deacon, hostess of innumerable congregational gatherings in our home, and the primary meal preparer for Up-Lift, a ministry that serves the hungry in the Kansas City community. Currently she is serving as an Elder as well as a member of the Board of Presbyterian Manners of Mid-America, an agency overseeing 17 retirement communities in Kansas and Missouri. Her hobbies include cooking, reading, and photography (including editing beautiful Shutterfly books). I have served as an Associate and Solo Pastor, plus a New Church Development Pastor where I officiated at nearly 700 baptisms, and just completed work as an Interim focusing on Pastoral Care where I officiated at nearly 200 funerals. I served on the Board and as Chair of United Way, and have worked extensively with the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a group that has sought full inclusion of GLBT persons in the church and marriage equality. I enjoy gardening and aspire to become a water-color painter. On my days off you may find me down by the Seine with brush in hand.

We are the parents of three grown sons, Josh, Shannon and Matt. As of 26 June, we have welcomed Matt’s wife, Lisa, into our family. We have five grandchildren, Tyler, Amanda, Emma, Zach, and Maddie, each of whom brings particular gladness to our hearts.

Now a new form of service awaits us and we are grateful for it. In an age when the news is frequently filled with stories of hostility and distrust, we will participate in a church where good news thrives, a church where hope and peace, grace and generosity, are both proclaimed and practiced. In particular we will welcome strangers from around the world who come to the church to profess love and commitment and who vow to be faithful to one another for the rest of their lives. We can think of nothing more significant to do in the next six months. Thank you for extending this opportunity to us.
Michelle Wahila
Sharing our lives – including comparing parents-in-ministry notes, counting sleepless nights, crazy dinners together with all four of our small people, using the 4th floor hall as a runway between our houses, and lots of laughs!

Jeff Powell
Alba and I enjoyed being your 4th floor neighbor over the years. We already miss the patter of Jack and Blake’s little feet. I admire your joyful commitment and “servant’s heart,” especially for youth and young adults. Thanks for sharing your tech and social media expertise with us.

Pam Bohl
Au revoir to Dan, the amazing confirmation mentor who encouraged a reluctant-reader sports enthusiast to get through loads of great confirmation reading and preparation materials with a smile. What a gift!

Alison Benney
From the very start of his ministry, Dan was enthusiastic about good communication. He jumped in with social media, and not only did he increase our social media accounts and run with them, he was almost always the first of the pastoral staff to get his Spire article in each month – much appreciated!

Go Go, Danny B. Haugh
His mother told him Someday you will be a man, And you will lead the youth in a distant land. Many people coming from miles around To hear you sing at table in this old town They’re still waiting for that day. But glad to hear you preach and pray. Oh my, that city boy could preach and pray So sorry to see you go, Danny B. Haugh

With apologies to Chuck Berry, John Newman

Bloom Where You’re Planted
Connecting people and helping newcomers settle in and feel at home in Paris!

Saturday
3 October, 2015
9h to 18h30

For more info visit: bloom.ceparis.org
Registration now open!

Don’t just survive... Thrive!!

American Church in Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
bloom.ceparis@gmail.com
+33 1 40 62 05 00

A big thank you to the anonymous church member who created these elegant table coverings for our coffee hour activities!
Dan-ecdotes

Each of us have a unique relationship with the people around us, especially with our pastoral staff. Here are a few anecdotes coming from the heart of a sampling of ACP congregation members, as Dan & Lauretta Haugh and the twins head off to a new life in the US.

Scott Herr
I appreciated Dan’s heart for leading Mission trips. He led 10 trips during his four years here, and many youth and young adult lives were transformed through these powerful international and intercultural learning and service experiences. I am thankful that two of our sons were able to go on these trips with Dan, and that all of our children were blessed with his leadership and teaching.

Heather Walter
Although our schedules did not cross enough for many conversations, we did always find the time during the American football season to discuss the current happenings of the college football world. As I grew up in the southern United States, college football is just kind of a “way of life” in the fall, and it was fun to find another avid football fan and argue, I mean, talk about the best teams in the country. Thanks for the sports chats Dan, and for all that you have done for our church community, you will be missed for so many reasons, GO NOLES!

Ilinca Mreana
Working with Dan has been a pleasure. I remember the days when I was looking for a wedding pastor. Dan was always grateful to serve with the wedding ministry. He connected really well with one of the younger couples and they stayed friends. Being open even to a last-minute ceremony showed his desire to help. He was my friend down in the basement office, where I could go and ask for advice or give him great news. I love his insight on things.

Marc Jourlait
Dan is an incredibly talented, gifted and God-infused Pastor, an outstanding Youth Pastor, a fun, generous, kind and caring person. But he also recently became a father of two wonderful little boys. My favorite Dan-ecdote image that portrayed pure paternal love, was the ear-to-ear smile on Dan’s face when he was able to spend his first Father’s Day back in the US with his two boys and Lauretta. Pure joy. Sheer happiness of being a Dad. And holding his two boys in his arms on that special day. That smile epitomizes Dan’s personality and character. Contagiously joyful and happy.

Lisa Prevett
Dan and I met during the planning phase of the Young Adult Alpha Course, discussing the set-up for the Launch Party. For decorating the room I suggested using the “fairy lights” that we already had in the Catacombs. I will never forget the next 30 seconds and the look on Dan’s face as he tried to figure out what I was talking about, while I was wondering what I had just said to make Dan look like that! It turned out that “fairy lights”= Christmas tree lights but that “fairy lights” is a specifically UK English word! We both learned a word that day and gained a very funny memory!!

Valentina Lana
Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Bulgaria, August 2014, Sofia. I am walking by myself, heading to the hotel, and I hear my name: “That's impossible, I think. Nobody knows you here!”
I keep walking and I hear my name, again. I turn my head and see Dan, walking behind me, in the same direction. We are both far from our familiar spaces, families, languages, schedules, and we are eager to discover this country we are visiting and serving. We walk together and share a moment of true connection. That's Dan: the friend that walks by you and makes you feel welcomed and comfortable anywhere. With him, any place is home; he has the rare talent of instilling a profound sense of belonging to One family.
The Caveman Cometh

The fabled caves of Lascaux in southern France have been closed to the public since 1963, to preserve the fragile artworks put there by Cro-Magnon man some 20,000 years ago. This show in Paris features precise replicas of Lascaux’s famous stag, black cow and bison panels, displayed in conditions that replicate those of the original caves. Relive the story of how the caves were discovered by four French boys back in 1940, and catch a glimpse into the Paleolithic era that these artifacts record.

Until 30 August, www.lascauxaparis.com

Lego-maniac

Over a million little plastic pieces went into building "The Art of the Brick" by Nathan Sawaya, who gave up a legal career to become a full-time Lego artist. One hundred sculptures ranging from a dinosaur skeleton to the Venus de Milo and all made of Lego are on display at the Parc des Expositions de la Porte de Versailles. It’s great fun, and nobody has to pick up afterwards.


Paris Plages 2015

Paris’s annual downtown beach festival turns the express lane along the Right Bank of the Seine into a vast expanse of sand, with kid-sized Vélib’ bikes and activity centers especially for children. The sister beach at Bassin de La Villette offers pedal boats you can take for a spin in the canal plus dance, badminton and other sporting pursuits. This year two new beaches are coming to the 14th and 20th arrondissements.

20 July – 16 August, until 23 August at La Villette.
www.paris.fr

Floating fun

The hour-long boat trip up and down the Seine is a treat for all ages, with amazing views of the Louvre, Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower, plus peerless people watching as you cruise past Les Berges, Paris Plages and dozens of crowded bridges. The Vedettes du Pont-Neuf boats cover the same route as the massive Bateaux Mouches, but start from the center of town and boast a friendlier vibe plus live (if not always comprehensible) commentary.

www.vedettesdupontneuf.com

What’s up in Paris

The sky’s the limit

The sprawling, multi-level Cité des Sciences at La Villette offers loads of interesting stuff for kids, including the “Cité des Enfants” with two special zones to entice 2-7 and 5-12 year-olds into having some scientifically oriented fun. Best of all is the high-tech planetarium with a 360° wrap-around show entitled “Dark Universe”, as well as scientist-led presentations (in French) on topics like the moon and satellites. A sure hit, rain or shine.

www.cite-sciences.fr
Summer event listings
By Karen Albrecht

All around the world
The outdoor jazz fest in the Parc Floral de Paris has set an ambitious, round-the-world flight plan for this year. After stops in London, Rome, Tokyo and Tel Aviv, the weekend of July 4th features a Paris-New York theme, the following weekend it’s Paris-Bamako. Then on to Stockholm, and a grand finale entitled “Paris Universel” featuring Arielle Besson and Rhoda Scott.

4th features a Paris-New York theme, the following weekend it’s Paris-Bamako. Then on to Stockholm, and a grand finale entitled “Paris Universel” featuring Arielle Besson and Rhoda Scott.


Got you under my skin
"Tatoueurs, tatoués“ at the Musée du Quai Branly looks at the art of the tattoo across various continents, centuries and cultures. Disembodied silicone limbs and torsos specially decorated by some of the greatest tattoo artists of our time bring the show firmly, if somewhat eerily, into the here and now. And just like a tattoo, no matter whether you dig the style or not, it’s almost impossible not to have a look.


Lèse Majesté
For the past few summers the Château de Versailles has hosted big-name contemporary artists, in a bid to shake up the venue’s stodgy classicism: this year’s guest Anish Kapoor has achieved that in spades. The piece entitled “Dirty Corner” has been all over the news ever since the artist likened it to the Queen’s lady parts. Less controversial but equally thought-provoking are the circling-drain fountain and the awe-inspiring “Sky Mirror.”


Eclectic company
The “Paris quartier d’été” festival brings quirky theater, music and dance acts from all over the world to 40 venues in and around Paris. Check out “Inbox”, in which two dancer-acrobats and a large cast of cardboard give a whole new meaning to doing the box step. This intriguing show, like many others in the festival, is free.

14 July-9 August, www.quartierdete.com

Glass menagerie
The American Church in Paris is justly proud of its vintage Tiffany windows, but for a change of pace check out “Le Vitrail contemporain” at the Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine. There’s gorgeous stained glass created by top artists since 1945, plus an exuberant collection of animals sketched by Jean-Michel Aberola for a cathedral window depicting God’s creation of the world.


Electrifying
The Fondation EDF is displaying 82 works by the avant-garde Belgian artist Pol Bury, who lived and worked in Paris for much of his life. Striking sculptures in metal and wood, zany geometric jewelry and ingenious kinetic installations powered by – you guessed it – electricity.

Until 23 August, http://ffondation.edf.com

©Anish Kapoor 2015
We need YOU in the lab for VBS 2015!

By Allison Wheeler

We've been down on the farm and shipwrecked on a tropical island. This year, each morning from 24-28 August, ACP’s Vacation Bible School team is putting on its lab coats and goggles and entering SonSparks Labs where we and the children can explore questions like, “Who made the world and who made me?”, “What is God like?”, and “What is God’s plan for me?” Through games, stories, music, skits, and science experiments, each participant will learn more about God’s plan of salvation for each of us.

VBS is one of our best outreach opportunities to families who are new to Paris, as well as families who do not normally attend our church. It is also a wonderful gift to offer to the families with young children who are members of ACP. I am very proud of the programs we have offered the past two summers. In the span of a few short years, the number of children in attendance has nearly doubled! More important than attendance numbers, though, is that we were able to offer each of those children a fun, safe space to build friendships and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our amazing team of volunteers. Whether running around in the gym leading a game of tag, bringing to life stories from the Bible, performing experiments, or working in groups with the children. Please pray over whether this is a way that God is calling you to serve our church. I hope that you join us; we've already got a lab coat with your name on it.

Parents who wish to sign their children up for VBS may do so through our website. If you would like to volunteer, or get more information, please contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

This Sunday Atelier concert takes place at the American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of 2015-2016 concerts, see http://acparis.org
Welcoming the world – with fireworks

By Tendayi O. Chirawu

Get ready to ‘oooh’ and ‘aahh’ this 14th July for the Bastille Day fireworks or feux d’artifices. Every year a breath-taking fireworks display is set off to celebrate France’s independence. This year’s theme is Paris accueille le monde: Paris welcomes the world. The city aims to renew the experience of The City of Paris concert, by collaborating with the National Orchestra of France and the Choir of Radio France under the direction of Daniele Gatti, with some major international opera singers. The fireworks will be set off from one of the tallest and most iconic symbols of Paris, the Eiffel Tower.

There are many places from which to view the spectacular display, with the Champ de Mars being the favourite. If, however, you’re not interested in in wading through swaths of people, whose numbers can reach up to half a million, or pitching up at some ridiculously early o’clock to secure a spot on the grass which you’ll then have to guard for plus or minus 17 hours, then you might want to consider either watching from Trocadero or, if you’re lucky, an apartment with a good view of the tower.

The view recommended by savvy Parisians is to via Montmartre. Why? Because it is perfectly positioned on a “mont,” so you'll have a great view of the display without the misery of fighting your way through the legions of onlookers. This doesn’t mean that it’ll be completely unpeopled, but it will certainly seem lighter in comparison to all the regular firework watching hotspots.

The fireworks will be coordinated by Groupe F company, who have handled such high-visibility events as the 2008 World Cup celebrations, under the artistic direction of Christophe Berthonneau. The spectacle will include 250 firing points, 4,500 bombs that are 72 to 200m in diameter, and 14 tableaux on the theme of welcoming the world.

Prior to the fireworks, warm up with the lyrical concert from 21h30 to 23h00, when the fireworks begin and light up the skies until 23h40. All the festivities are free, so the only thing you will need to pay for are the bottles of wine to accompany your experience of one of the city’s most anticipated events of the year.

For more information, visit: http://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris/major-events/bastille-day-in-paris

What’s going on?
Tune in: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 - this month on 6 and 20 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.

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 - plug us in during your morning commutes.

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
As the summer-hot season takes hold, it's time to make the most of Paris's long tradition of screening films outdoors. This year's open-air cinema festivals feature offerings from around the world, many in English, some dubbed in French, and all providing the ideal occasion to picnic as the stars come out before the films start at dusk.

Note that, if it rains, the films are liable to cancellation (with one exception, noted below). And be sure to bring a blanket or other wrap: unless there's a real heat wave, it can be cool out by the time the show gets under way.

**Cinéma en Plein Air**

The granddaddy of them all, celebrating its 25th birthday. This year's theme is "Home Cinéma," with dwelling-places figuring large in the selection. Highlights include Alfred Hitchcock's *Rebecca*, set in the vast estate of Manderley; Michael Haneke's *Caché*, where home isn't safe from mysterious invasion; Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice* and Joseph L. Mankiewicz's *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*, about a pair of most peculiar hauntings; and Baz Luhrmann's musical treatment of *Moulin Rouge*.


**ACP Café**

19h30, Friday 17 July

American Church in Paris

Come enjoy live music and a catered dinner. Still Point will play new music and covers by U2, Coldplay and more. Free entry, snacks, drinks. Dinner catered by Kent's Party Solutions.

By Rebecca Brite
or at the movies?
Why not both?

**Festival au Clair de Lune**
The Forum des Images in Les Halles, for the 15th year running, takes films set in Paris and screens them in various iconic sites around the city. Examples this year include Stanley Donen’s *Funny Face* in Montmartre, Benoît Jacquot’s *Les Adieux de la Reine* in the Parc Montsouris, Roman Polanski’s *Frantic* at the Place de la République and Olivier Dahan’s Edith Piaf biopic, *La Môme*, on the Esplanade des Invalides.

July 24 to August 9, free; for details on films and locations, see [www.forumdesimages.fr/les-films/les-programmes/cinema-au-clair-de-lune-2015](http://www.forumdesimages.fr/les-films/les-programmes/cinema-au-clair-de-lune-2015)

**CINÉTOILES**
Some of Paris’s western suburbs are banding together this year for their first open-air film festival, screening five free family films over two months. The first three dates will be past by the time we go to print, but people living in or near Chatou can still see the French comedy *Stars 80* on July 11, while Chris Miller’s animated feature *Puss in Boots* will be showing in Houilles on August 29. Exceptionally, the organizers promise that if it rains, the film will be not just canceled but postponed to another date – and there will be food trucks on the scene for those not inclined to pack a picnic.

[www.boucledelaseine.fr/projets-et-realisations/cinetoiles](http://www.boucledelaseine.fr/projets-et-realisations/cinetoiles)

**La Chaise et l’Ecran**
On three Friday evenings in July and August, the town hall of the 11th arrondissement shows French films in various places around the district. The festival is called The Chair and the Screen: you bring the former, they provide the latter. The first event, in the courtyard of the *mairie* itself, is Edmond Bensimon’s 2004 comedy *Emmenez-moi*, and the director and two of the stars will be there to discuss the film afterward.


**Ciné Quartier 13**
Another arrondissement-sponsored event, this time by the town hall of the 13th. Four films – two of them American (but possibly dubbed) – will be shown. The highlight is David Lynch’s *The Straight Story* – an unusually normal piece of Middle Americana from a director whose work otherwise tends to the distinctly bizarre.


And don’t forget that the **ACP movie discussion group** meets in July and August. If weather permits, we meet in the open air of the church’s courtyard. July’s choices are the new Pixar, *Inside Out* (playing here as *Vice Versa*); the Brazilian drama *Que Horas Ela Volta?* (Une seconde mère) by Anna Muylaert; Bill Pohlad’s Brian Wilson/Beachboys biopic *Love & Mercy*; and a prize-winning Spanish mystery, *La Isla Mínima*.

See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, July 23, at 7:30pm (in room G2 if it’s cold and/or rainy). After that, to learn about the August dates and films, contact movies@acparis.org.
Light reads for lazy days
By Tendayi O. Chirawu

This summer, when you need something to read that suits the weather, you can turn to any of these cool summer reads.

Wicked Charms by award winning author Janet Evanovich is the newest instalment to the Lizzy and Diesel series and follows the pair on yet another quasi-supernatural adventure. The two are unlikely treasure hunters; Lizzy prefers to live as normal a life as possible while Diesel (a supernatural) lives for the hunt. This time around they are commissioned to find the Stone of Avarice said to be among the precious gems hidden with a lost pirate’s treasure that people have spent their entire lives trying to get their hands on and wouldn’t think twice about killing for it. Add Wulf, Diesel’s evil supernatural cousin who desires both the treasure and Lizzy, and you have one of the best adventure books of the summer.

Kanyakumari by Hazel Manuel is the story of three women travelling through India and their internal journeys. Gina and Rachel, close friends and seasoned travellers, have their friendship tested by a Gina’s dark secret and Rachel’s new male friend Pravi. Sandrine, a French woman travelling through India in the 60’s chronicles her experiences in the letters she writes to her brother who for some mysterious reason doesn’t write back. Moving between two periods, Hazel’s creates a vivid India in this tense and sensual book.

Siren’s Fury by Mary Weber is the second book in the Storm Siren Trilogy. With a chance to change the future, the heroine, Nym, finds herself in a very difficult situation. Her Elemental storm summoning abilities have been destroyed by Draewulf; the price she paid to save her homeland, Faelen.

However, Draewulf must still be stopped and it seems the only way to do so is to sacrifice her soul and take the eerie Lord Myles up on his offer to give her new powers. Can she make the compromise in the name of good?

Modern Romance is a different kind of memoir by Aziz Ansari where we meet him in his late 20s and walk with the celebrity through his dating peregrinations. The book looks at how technology and social networks have transformed the quest so many are on to find a soul mate and true love. The author teams up with a sociologist Eric Klinenberg to provide statistics and analysed data adding social scientific support to his humour. It’s the perfect read for anyone who might be considering a ‘Grease’ inspired summer romance.

Summerlong by Dean Bakopulos is set in Grenelle, Iowa in the middle of a heatwave. A couple in their late 30s with both careers in the rear-view mirror of their prime, start going through the beginnings of a mid-life crisis. The husband stumbles across a woman passed out under a tree on a late night walk. He soon discovers that she is high and begins to spend time laying and smoking pot with her on a hammock. The wife goes for her routine late-night run but ends up at a convenience store bumping cigarettes and alcohol from a man who has returned home to look after his ill father and also happens to know the woman her husband is spending inappropriate amounts of time with. The book is a must-read, full of summer drama, forbidden attraction and big secret reveals.

Tendayi O. Chirawu is an avid reader, writer and organiser of the ACP Writers Group. If you’d like to join, or for more information, contact her at tendayiolga@gmail.com.

Our church community
At the retirement home Jeanne d’Arc in the 7th on 13 June, Peter Bannister and Laurana Mitchelmore offer lieder by Wolf.
Reflective reading by our Thurber Thursday speakers

Reading Barth with Charity: A Hermeneutical Proposal, by George Hunsinger, 2015

George Hunsinger, a world-renowned expert on Barth’s theology, makes an authoritative contribution to the debate concerning Barth’s trinitarian theology and doctrine of election. Hunsinger challenges a popular form of Barth interpretation pertaining to the Trinity, demonstrating that there is no major break in Barth’s thought between the earlier and the later Barth of the Church Dogmatics. Hunsinger also discusses important issues in Trinitarian theology and Christology that extend beyond the contemporary Barth debates.


Paul Ohana is an international management consultant, with a broad background in leadership. Entrepreneur, author and lecturer, he strives to make everyone a better leader. Based on current thinking and research from the fields of management and psychology, Leadership in the Bible provides guidance about the most effective ways of responding to forty challenging situations you encounter every day. This guidance is grounded in the wisdom of three key figures in Hebrew Scripture—Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. It explores how they coped with similar challenges, and it provides recommendations about how to respond to these situations at work or at home. Each chapter ends with an essential lesson, a lesson that was true thousands of years ago and remains so today.

A. Lincoln: A Biography, by Ronald C. White, 2010

In this important new biography, Ronald C. White, Jr. offers a fresh and fascinating definition of Lincoln as a man of integrity - what today’s commentators are calling “authenticity” - whose internal moral compass is the key to understanding his life. Through meticulous research, utilizing recently discovered Lincoln letters, legal papers, and photographs, White depicts Lincoln as a person of intellectual curiosity, comfortable with ambiguity, and capable of changing his mind. The reader is treated to an exploration of Lincoln’s compelling words, his changing ideas on slavery, the shaping of the modern role of Commander-in-Chief, and his surprising religious odyssey.

Jesus the Forgiving Victim: Listening for the Unheard Voice by James Alison, 2013

By reading these four books of essays, you will undertake a journey of discovery that will open your heart and mind to discovering new things about yourself and your faith. It is a journey from fake goodness, from a false and insecure self, to relaxing into a goodness and security not your own, but in which you discover yourself held by God. And it is a journey from a unity that needs to create victims toward a unity received from the risen and forgiving victim in our midst.

Note: The book descriptions are taken from Amazon.com.
Serve the city started in Brussels in 2005, when a Christian community organized a week of service to those in need in the city. The single week of service turned into monthly and then weekly events, until the idea was taken to other cities around the world by visitors surprised and impressed by the simple yet powerful concept. Now as many as 100 cities are “serving the city” and the City of Light is proud to be among them.

The ACP got involved last summer when the youth group joined in with Serve the City in Brussels. They were so enthusiastic that they launched their own successful Volunteer Week in March of this year. So this is our second event.

Practically speaking, the role of Serve the City is to be a bridge between people with a spirit to serve and charitable organizations: we try to be the place where the supply and the demand of volunteers meet. The concept is that we know people would like to help, but they don’t know how to cross that invisible line that separates those in the city who are in an urgent and visible need and those who are not. Serve the City invites everybody to play a role.

Serve the city: Paris is currently partnering with organizations that have ongoing programs, like the ACP homeless ministry, the Friday Mission Lunch and the Foyer de Grenelle, and more. From 6-12 July, the American Church in Paris will host Serve the city: Youth, a week-long youth camp for teenagers. Each of the participants will volunteer with at least two organizations per day offering their time, energy and smile to the homeless, the elderly and all who will cross their paths.

Serve the City: Paris is a long-term project, so if you can’t help out this week, there will be further opportunities. You too can help to build partnerships, mobilize people and serve the city for the Kingdom. Speak to one of the pastors, or contact ParisServetheCity@gmail.com for more information.

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

@AmChurchParis /AmericanChurchParis
RED ALERT! This is the traffic news everyone faces in summer. The dates are predictable; the first day of school vacation, the long weekend of the 14th July (Bastille Day), the 1st and 15th August and, of course, the end of August for the grand return. How many 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 2 weeks paid vacation (congés payés) in the summer. Over the years this vacation has been augmented to 5 weeks of paid vacation. What an opportunity for a long visit to the beach! Vive les vacances!

I recently 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 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 12 years ago, so that she can visit her grandmother. In fact she left 25 June as an unaccompanied minor, or, “Kids Solo” in the new Air France parlance.

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 capitol 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!

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Exhibit by photographer Jérôme Tisné, curated by Liyu Yeo, in the American Church sanctuary. The exhibit is open to the public this summer during our Open Door Ministry times.

The photographs portray the fascination that the artist has for the horizon line, “the almost neat separation between earth and sky, where vision ends in infinity.” A generous donor made this exhibit possible; to help raise funds for ACP ministries look for the donation box in the Narthex.

©Jérôme Tisné: Left: Mali, Mopti, 2003; Right Egypte, Taba, 2004
Soup, salad and sundaes
Cuisine de Thurber Thursday
By Carol Brown

Thurber Thursday at ACP is an adult-oriented dinner and speaker event. The speakers are invited to lecture on a variety of topics. The lecture is followed by a question-and-answer time.

Before the lecture, a dinner is prepared and served by a team of ACP volunteers. This year the dinner has taken the form of “Soup, Salad and Sundaes.” The menu alternates between vegetarian and meat-based soups. The salad is in the form of a salad bar, allowing each person to customize their meal according to their preferences. On vegetarian soup days, there is a meat choice in the salad bar.

How about a little spice for your summer evening? This month we are providing the recipe for our Chicken Tortilla Soup.

### Chicken Tortilla Soup

**Serves 4**

| 2 boneless chicken breasts, cubed | 125 gr corn | Tortilla chips |
| ½ tsp olive oil | 1 large onion, chopped | Shredded cheese |
| ½ tsp garlic, minced | ½ tsp chili powder | Sour cream |
| ¼ tsp cumin | Juice of ½ lemon | Cilantro |
| 860 ml chicken broth | 240 ml sala |

In a medium pot, over medium heat, cook the chicken in the oil for about 5 minutes.

Add the garlic and cumin and mix well.

Then add the chicken broth, corn, chili powder, lemon juice and salsa.

Reduce the heat and simmer for about 20-30 minutes.

Place tortilla chips in individual serving bowls and pour soup over the chips. Top with cheese, sour cream and cilantro.

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Our Thurber Thursday series has taken a break over the summer

But you can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions.

The video is available on our website at [http://acparis.org/thurber-thursdays-archives](http://acparis.org/thurber-thursdays-archives).
A tale of two countries

By Alison Benney

In the mid-1920s when our windows were being planned, memories of the First World War were less than 10 years old. The idea for this window was suggested by an American Expeditionary Force veteran onboard ship during one of Reverend Cochran’s voyages to the US. So this window is a memorial to Americans fallen in the “Great War,” while at the same time paying tribute to the French who fought in the American revolutionary war.

The central figures are those of General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette (originally Gilbert du Motier). The two met when General Washington was 45 years old and recruiting for the war, and Lafayette was an ambitious 19-year-old who put his ship and his wealth at the service of the revolution. The Marquis was a lifelong supporter of American ideals, and is buried in a Paris cemetery, but under soil from Bunker Hill that he had shipped over for that purpose.

Who else at the top left of this window, but Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, who helped to draft both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. He faces another leader for change, Abraham Lincoln, who in addition to fighting against slavery, is also known for his way with words.

In the window below Washington, the Liberty Bell is being rung. Its well-known inscription, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof" is taken from Leviticus 25:10.

Below Lafayette, bells of liberty are also being rung, but just behind them you can see the Bastille prison tipping over, depicting quite literally the fall of the Bastille.

Thanks to Fred Gramann for his invaluable archive of photos of our stained glass windows.
The caring career of Kithsiri

By Gigi Oyog

Come September, something else about the American Church will change. Over the years, the walls of the sanctuary have been cleaned, the floors of the Theater have been replaced, the ceiling of the Thurber Room has been sound-proofed, and the garden has been replaced by a courtyard. In a few months, the lobby of the church building will look different to those who regularly pass through it in the evenings and during the weekend. At the end of August, after some 30 years at the front desk, the evening and weekend receptionist Kithsiri Fernando is retiring.

“I am looking forward to retirement. I have had a good career,” Kith said. “I will get to do more reading now, and see the museums in Paris which I haven’t had time to visit. I’ll probably also travel a bit – to Australia, most likely, and maybe the Philippines, too.”

Kith’s life at the American Church began accidentally. He passed by one day, but unlike many students who scanned the ad boards hopefully for housing and employment opportunities, Kith was not looking for a job. He already was working, with the American Legion. During one visit, however, Georgette, the church secretary, casually told him that there was a vacancy for a receptionist for a couple of days. The two days’ work eventually became a permanent position in 1989. In those days, Kith said that there were different receptionists working the evenings and weekends. “That was to give many people, particularly students, a chance to earn some pocket money.” During the day, however, Steve Dharmasena (who retired a few years back) was working full-time.

His tasks, he said, were as they are now: typing (on a real typewriter!) the ads to be posted the following day, making security rounds or handing keys to the room users. But his most important job has been to be the face that most people see upon stepping inside the church lobby, or the first ear to listen to their grievances. “My job has not just been to hand out the keys or to type ads. It is to show a compassionate side, the Christian side. One must be patient, because people who walk through come from different situations – the sane and the not-so-sane, the sober and the not-so-sober.”

Kith explained: “You must bear in mind that you are working for a church, not for a profit-making, commercial establishment. You are a church worker. That is one fundamental thing that I always have in mind.”

Chatting with Kith invariably means recalling anecdotes, some funny and others not so – which give an idea of the kinds of people and the kinds of situations that Kith has had to deal with: the naked man who walked into the multicultural couples group gathering, or angry room users when the same room has been booked by one or two other groups for the same time slot.

“What do you do? You use your brains. Have presence of mind,” said Kith. “When tricky situations arise, daytime staff are able to consult other staff members. But in the evenings or weekends, staff members are not around and church residents cannot be disturbed.”

Talking with Kith also means recalling fond memories: “Do you know Tom Duggan? Do you know Mr. Garcia, the handyman and the equivalent of today’s Tom Padden? Were you already here when Madam Rondeau cooked the Sunday lunches or when Pizza Night was held every week?”

In a few months, anyone who has been to the American Church long enough will also be asking: “Do you remember Kith?” Yes, we do.
A visit to our Missionary in Ghana
By Eliane Kakpo

The first time I visited Anna Cobbinah, our missionary with The Living Truth Foundation in Ghana, was last summer. It was also the first time I had ever visited a prison. As some of you know, Anna has dedicated her life to the prisoners and those in the hospitals in south-central Ghana, preaching and running Bible study programs. I was amazed at the work Anna was doing, so I decided to return this year and help in any way I could.

I went to Benin first to see my family, and told them about my plans. Two of my sisters, Stella and Faith, were so curious that they decided to come with me. We arrived in Ghana on May 12th and met Anna at the mission house near Cape Coast, where we stayed during our visit. It was a joy to see how well she manages despite the difficulties. We accompanied her in her work during our stay.

My sisters were equally amazed and would love to return. When we arrived back in Benin we talked a lot about Anna and others want to visit her also. I am so amazed at the power of this woman. Her goodness not only touches the prisoner’s hearts and souls, but it also reaches the prison officers and guards, who look forward to her visits because of her ability to reach out and touch people. A woman like this is rare: able to work from both sides of the prison bars, and earning the respect of everyone.

Wednesday 13 May: We began at 7AM with Anna preaching and leading a worship service for patients at the Cape Coast hospital. We then went to the Contagious Disease Prison for fellowship with the sick prisoners there.

Thursday 14th: In the morning we were joined by Pastor Ben, a local pastor who assists Anna, and went to worship with the officers and guards at the Main Camp prison, where Anna preached. At 10h00 we left for the Sekondi prison (about an hour and a half drive from the mission house) to attend the Bible study class led by Ben from noon to 14h00.

Friday 15th: We started with Anna preaching at a 7h00 worship service with the officers and guards of the Maximum Security prison. At 8h45 we went to the Main Camp Prison where Ben preached during a worship service with the prisoners.

Saturday 16th: We left home at 6h30 to be at Sekondi for an 8h00 worship service for the prisoners; Anna preached. We then went to the Women’s Prison at Sekondi for fellowship with the women prisoners.

Sunday 17th: We returned to the Contagious Disease Prison for worship with the prisoners, then to the Main Camp Annex, also for worship with the prisoners; Anna preached at both services. After lunch it was time for us to leave, so we said goodbye to Anna and returned to Benin with lots of memories.

My sister were amazed and impressed by Anna and her ministry. They would love to return. In Benin we talked a lot about Anna and others friends want to visit her.

I asked Anna what her needs are and she told me that the money she receives from the American Church in Paris covers most of her expenses. However, it does not cover all the Bible study materials or the food and soap she would like to offer the prisoners for Christmas and Easter and at the graduation ceremonies for the prisoners completing the 9-month Bible study programs.

Thanks to the money earned at the Marché de Noël last December at the ACP, I was able to offer Anna a professional oven to cook for the prisoners for these special occasions.

So it would be a wonderful blessing for us to open our pocketbooks a little wider to help provide the food and gift of soap for the special occasions in the prisons, and the still much-needed Bible study materials.

To learn more about the ministries in Ghana, please contact the Mission Outreach Committee at missionoutreach@acparis.org. Donations can be made by check to the “ACP - Living Truth Foundation.”
Bloom Where You're Planted
An Orientation Program for
English-speaking Newcomers to Paris

The morning kicks off with a fascinating look at Parisian architecture and history, of course after some Starbucks coffee and French baked goods! Next up a trailing spouse (or a “stabilizing axis” as she calls it) shares her many expat experiences and how to make your new life in a new country and culture not just successful but one you will enjoy immensely. Closing the morning, an expert chef talks about working and cooking in Paris and shares some of the secrets of the trade with us.

After a delicious lunch we invite you to visit the extensive bookstore, along with an author book signing, courtesy of WH Smith. At the same time you can stop by the Exhibit Hall to explore a variety of social, service and business organizations here to provide you with valuable information.

The afternoon consists of several break-out sessions to choose from. This year’s topics covered include: shopping, setting up a home, taxes, real estate, working in France, education and kids, cooking, medical overview, and where to watch your favorite sports... plus much more!

We end the day with a «Wine Down» to toast your new life in Paris! Enjoy one of the many pleasures of living in France (the wine!) and mingle with new friends while you learn about the various regions of La Belle France and her infamous wines and cheeses. Cheers!

Of course, let us not forget our youngest attendees. While you learn and explore all that Paris has to offer you and your family, your children will be well taken care of in our Bloom Kids program, which takes place from 9h to 18h among our professional and always-smiling Bloom Kids team.

Join us on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the American Church in Paris for Bloom. Space is limited so register today! Visit www.bloom.acparis.org for more info and to sign up.

Don’t Just survive... Thrive!
Bloom Where You’re Planted

Connecting people and helping newcomers settle in and feel at home in Paris!

Saturday
3 October, 2015
9h to 18h30

For more info visit:
bloom.acparis.org
Registration now open!

Don’t just survive... Thrive!!!

American Church in Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris
bloom.acparis@gmail.com
+33 1 40 62 05 00
# ACP Spire Diary – July/August

**events, meetings and concerts**

(please check [www.acparis.org/whatson](http://www.acparis.org/whatson) for updates, and also Young Adults and weekly schedules)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Choir - St. George’s College and St George’s Junior School, Surrey, UK</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 5 July</td>
<td>11h00 service</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Gathering - Rosalyn McKeown</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 5 July</td>
<td>12h30 - 13h30</td>
<td>ACP Library</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Serve the City: Youth</strong></td>
<td>Week 6-11 July</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ParisServetheCity@gmail.com">ParisServetheCity@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 6 July</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
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<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 10 July</td>
<td>10h00 - 14h00</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org">fridaymissionlunch@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harpischord Recital - Sean Heath</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 11 July</td>
<td>20h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Choir - The Celebration Singers from First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 12 July</td>
<td>11h00 service</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Youth Book Sale</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 12 July</td>
<td>12h30 - 15h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - The Celebration Singers from First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 12 July</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bastille Day / Fête Nationale</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 14 July</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Friday 17 July</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:homelesssandwich@acparis.org">homelesssandwich@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Café</strong></td>
<td>Friday 17 July</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal / Holly Nugent <a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guest preacher - Rev. Leo Curry</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 19 July</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor, Fordham United Methodist Church, Bronx, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Youth Book Sale</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 19 July</td>
<td>12h30 - 15h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>English and French used and new books. All proceeds benefit Serve the City: Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 20 July</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 23 July</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2 or Courtyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie selection is <em>Inside Out (Vice Versa)</em>, <em>Une Second Mère</em>, <em>Love &amp; Mercy</em>, and <em>La Isla mínima</em>. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Youth Book Sale</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 26 July</td>
<td>12h30 - 15h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>English and French used and new books. All proceeds benefit Serve the City: Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 3 Aug</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assumption of Mary Day / Fête de l’Assomption</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 15 Aug</td>
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<td>Church building closed for public holiday.</td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 17 Aug</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Vacation Bible School - SonSpark Labs</strong></td>
<td>Week 24-28 Aug</td>
<td>9h00 - 13h00</td>
<td>Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Children ages 3-10. More information and registration at <a href="http://acparis.org/vbs">http://acparis.org/vbs</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Young Artists Week 2015</strong></td>
<td>Week 24-28 Aug</td>
<td>12h30 - 16h30</td>
<td><a href="mailto:youthintern@acparis.org">youthintern@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Youth ages 11-18. More information and registration at <a href="http://acparis.org/yaw">http://acparis.org/yaw</a></td>
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BOOK SALE
The American Church in Paris
L'église Américaine de Paris
65 quai d'Orsay 75007 Paris
Metro Invalides

July 12, 19 & 26

12, 19, 26 July
12h30-15h30 after worship

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