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On the cover: Photo by Fred Gramann
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

Having lived in Paris for six years, I’m starting to scratch the cultural surface of the religious heritage that is so much a part of this city’s history. Recently, a friend asked about the holiday coming up this summer on Friday, 15 August. Parisians will enjoy the day off because of the “Assumption of Mary” holiday! Pope Pius XII formally defined the dogma of the Assumption in his apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* on 1 November, 1950: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

As a Protestant who has spent over 12 years serving in primarily Roman Catholic *tierra santa* (six years in Mexico and six years in France), I have learned to mitigate my negative reflex responses to what some Christians call the "mariolatry" (idolatry of Mary) in the Roman tradition when it comes to Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Protestant position is typically, “If it’s not found in scripture, forget about it!” We are more inclined to hold to the *sola scriptura* teaching of the Reformers of the 16th century: “scripture alone” is our guide!

But in fact, we all have our *traditions*. The question is, what good might come from the tradition of the “Assumption of Mary”? Perhaps we Protestants can show some respect by at least trying to understand what some Christians call the “mariolatry” (idolatry of Mary) in the Roman tradition when it comes to Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Protestant position is typically, “If it’s not found in scripture, forget about it!” We are more inclined to hold to the *sola scriptura* teaching of the Reformers of the 16th century: “scripture alone” is our guide!

Mary is in a sense the First Disciple, and received an early blessing that in fact all will enjoy one day

In Ephesians 2:4-7, we read the most amazing teaching of all, that “God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (italics mine). The verbs here are *past tense*.

So, in one sense, the Assumption of Mary can be a holiday to celebrate how all those who are part of the Body of Christ have been assumed into the heavenly reality of our Lord. That’s a past and future reality for which we all can give God thanks and praise!

I hope you will make some time to enjoy the summer, friends. Savor the good news that, like Mary, *by grace you have been saved*, and that in a very real way you have been raised up...

In Christ,

Thoughts from
The Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor
Vacation Bible School
Allison Wheeler
Director of Children’s Ministry

When August rolls around, who among us wouldn’t like to jet off on an island getaway? But if, like me, the closest you will be getting to a beach paradise this summer might be an especially humid day somewhere exotic like the American Midwest, then luckily for you ACP is offering the next best thing! From 25 August through the 29th, the sounds of steel drums (and hopefully something resembling an island breeze) will transform the American Church in Paris into *Son Treasure Island*, a tropical destination where kids can discover God’s love.

Children from ages 3-10 are invited to come for a week of island games, colorful crafts, themed snacks, catchy songs, and a catered lunch. More importantly, they are invited to come learn about God’s love as revealed through the beautiful words of 1 Corinthians 13. Each day, the children will hear one of five key truths about God’s love as described in this treasured passage of Scripture:

*God’s love is giving, God’s love is kind, God’s love is caring, God’s love is forgiving, and God’s love is forever.*

This week is a wonderful opportunity to bring new families to our church, so please encourage your children to invite a friend (if your little one is shy, you have the added benefit of making sure they have a guaranteed buddy for the entire week). And please consider busting out your old Hawaiian shirts and joining the fun yourself: we are in need of adult and youth volunteers to make sure that this week is a fun, safe experience for all.

We look forward to welcoming any and all children who wish to come and learn about the love of God regardless of the language that they speak or their level of ability. Please register your children through our website, acparis.org. There will be a 25 euro registration fee for each child to be paid on the first day of VBS. Please contact me at childrensworship@acparis.org to join us as a volunteer, or with any other VBS questions that you may have.

I’m already counting the days to ACP’s own island experience. I hope that you and your children will be there to be a part of the fun!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We are looking for adult and youth volunteers to help out at Vacation Bible School, from 9h-13h, the week of 25-29 August, catered lunch provided.

Please contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

You won’t want to miss this!
*Beer, barbecue, bluegrass and books!*

**4th of July Country Fair at ACP**

17h-22h, Friday 4 July, at the American Church in Paris
InSpired

The Rev. Michelle Wahila
Associate Pastor

Dear friends,

Each month during the year, and even during the summer, the American Church in Paris publishes the *Spire*. Not only does the newsletter contain valuable information about what is going on within this community of faith, it is produced by many hands and really is a labor of love. Made up of many different types of articles and letters, the *Spire* also becomes a record of the life and work of the ACP community.

The production of this edition of the *Spire* got me thinking about just how valuable letters are. After all, the Apostle Paul thought letters were pretty worthwhile, so why shouldn’t we? Letters have their own personalities – special stationary, the ink and even the handwriting make a letter a unique expression of sentiment. And unlike the text or the mobile call, letters can be preserved for the future.

In his salutation to the Philippian Church, Paul encouraged the church to overflow in love and to grow in knowledge of the Lord. Despite being in chains, the Apostle urges believers to have compassion, to stand firm in the spirit and to live life in a manner worthy of the gospel. It is by God’s grace that we have been marked as heavenly citizens; therefore, believers should set their minds on heavenly things. Moreover, he tells the church that God is at work within each one of them.

Paul’s letters preserved many of the joys and struggles that the early faith community encountered. They detail what life together was like for the early church, and they point to the reality of how God’s grace works through the community.

This summer as you flip through your *Spire*, I encourage you to reflect on the many ways in which God is working within this faith community. My hope is that our continuous reflection on where God is already working will lead us to envision new ways to serve God and neighbor through the fellowship, worship and mission of this community. For indeed, God is at work within each and every one of us.

And, if you have a chance this summer, write a letter. Everyone appreciates receiving a letter in the mail! Who knows, maybe your letter will provide encouragement for someone else – just another little piece of God’s grace, arriving courtesy of snail mail.

Bénédictions,
Michelle

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Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight so help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:1-11
Success: ACP ran and walked to Jerusalem
By Megan Staley

We did it! We’ve made it to Jerusalem and are now resting our tired feet and legs.

We beat our target by 1797 km! (1117 miles), thanks in large part to the 18 members of Our Lady of the Rosary from St. Paul, Minnesota, who each walked 72 miles on a pilgrimage to Chartres, along with ACP’s Eileen Heuston.

This is not to diminish the contributions of the other 27 people taking part in this virtual journey, which included ACP members and friends of all ages (babies too!) and all fitness levels.

It included families taking weekend hikes, people meeting and running together, people running alone, those training for upcoming races, and those who run/walk just for the love of exercise and being in nature.

Stay tuned for future events, runs, races, and photo projects from the ACP Running Group. To get connected, email running@acparis.org

Painting with the Spirit
Tuesday 10 June
by Rev. Scott Herr

God is so good. I had a fun time, and for our son Matthew, it turned out to be a birthday experience he will never forget!

I was also impressed with so many people who helped out and participated, some I knew and many who I did not know.

A special thanks to the CREW team members who showed up early and late to help set up and break down. Hats off to them!

I pray that the Lord was honored in a new and surprising way. Was it prayer? Was it worship? I just know that one young woman who had never been in our church before was speechless. With a big smile on her face, when I asked her “What did you think of the experience?” she said, “It was awesome! I’ve never been part of anything like it before!” Perhaps new seeds of faith were planted?

Working with you all has been the biggest blessing of the whole journey. It was fun to be a part of this team. Thank you each so much for your faith, friendship, hard work, prayers, investment, and willingness to risk something “out of the box” in order to allow the Holy Spirit to do a new thing!

Soli Deo Gloria...

The exhibition of paintings runs through 10 July. Thanks to Don Herr and Monica Bassett for the photos.
In April 1943, a man was arrested by the German Gestapo for his involvement in the Nazi resistance movement and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. On 9 April, 1945, just two weeks before Allied forces liberated the camp and three weeks before Hitler's suicide, he was executed by hanging. This man was a Lutheran pastor, a theologian, author, founding member of the Confessing Church, and known for his vocal opposition to Hitler’s euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews.

This man was Dietrich Bonhoeffer and, like so many Christians before and after him, he suffered for his faith, martyred as a Christ-follower. It was precisely his Christian faith that led him to take action, to stand against the Nazi movement and try to thwart its advancement, by all means possible.

He wrote these words:

“There remains an experience of incomparable value. We have for once learned to see the great events of world history from below, from the perspective of the outcasts, the suspects, the maltreated — in short, from the perspective of those who suffer. Mere waiting and looking on is not Christian behavior. Christians are called to compassion and to action.”

The truth is that our actions have consequences. Often, if we take a stand for our faith and what we hold to be true and right, we will suffer the consequences. Bonhoeffer was not afraid to suffer, for to him, God is a suffering God. Throughout his writings, he argued that Christians should not retreat from the world but act within it, believing that two elements were constitutive of faith: the implementation of justice and the acceptance of divine suffering. Bonhoeffer insisted that the church, like the Christians, "had to share in the sufferings of God at the hands of a godless world" if it were to be a true church of Christ.

Today, millions of people suffer for their faith and there exists growing resistance to the liberating gospel of Christ in our world. In increasing number and severity, Christians around the globe are being persecuted and even executed for their faith. We know from Scriptures (the example of Christ, the tradition of the apostles, Hebrews 11, etc.) and from history, that often this can be the “cost of discipleship”, which Bonhoeffer wrote about and experienced.

Here at The American Church in Paris, we have brothers and sisters in Christ unable to return to their homes because of persecution. It is easy to look at our persecutors as enemies and to see suffering as evil. However, centuries of Christian witness affirms the power and beauty in following the example of Christ and seeing suffering as a pathway to God and our enemies as channels to extend God’s love.

After years of imprisonment, much of Bonhoeffer’s personal theology and communal confessions emerged. Rather than turn towards bitterness and anger, he believed that love and blessing were paramount.

I conclude with one more quotation:

“Bless them that persecute you. If our enemy cannot put up with us any longer and takes to cursing us, our immediate reaction must be to lift up our hands and bless him. Our enemies are the blessed of the Lord. Their curses can do us no harm. May their poverty be enriched with all the riches of God, with the blessing of Him whom they seek to oppose in vain. We are ready to endure their curses so long as they redound to their blessing.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

For more information on the Confessing Church see: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confessing_Church

For more information about present-day persecution of Christians, see: www.persecution.com

Gallery of 20th Century Martyrs at Westminster Abbey
From left, Mother Elizabeth of Russia, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oscar Romero and Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ Isaiah 6:7

The words of prophet Isaiah were in my mind after I graduated from the Theological Institute 9 years ago and moved to France. I knew God was calling me to serve him, and when I was hired at the church it became clearer to me. I have been serving the church for 7 years and I am so pleased that I was part of such a wonderful community. Since day one I have been growing, and the staff here was very helpful as well as the church members who prayed for me, and the volunteers who helped to make my job easier.

When I first came to the office 3,000 emails were waiting to be answered, we had a simple black & white copy machine and Sonia was helping every Friday evening to fold the bulletins for Sunday.

Technology changed things: we now have a color photocopy machine that actually folds and staples booklets. The emails never stopped coming but this shows that we are an active congregation, there are many needs and we are busy working for the Lord.

As many have said, this church is my home away from home. Serving with the Young Adults, going to Habitat for Humanity trips, singing in the contemporary worship band, and providing support for the pastors and the wedding couples, all these things were possible only through God’s guidance and grace. I am honored that He chose me to do his work here.

During those 7 years I was privileged to welcome over 1,000 couples. We have given out hundreds of Japanese bibles, and our visiting pastors were always there to support and enrich the wedding ministry. We always strived to provide a wedding blessing service which was meaningful and wonderful.

The best moments of my work were the couples who have returned after 20 or 50 years and say: “I had my wedding at ACP; I would like to see the church”. I always bring the wedding registry out to show them their signature.

Here are a few comments from happy couples:

“Thank you so much for all of your help in coordinating our wedding! It was absolutely perfect and we appreciate everything you did to make it beautiful.” Dianne and Shawn

“A huge thank you to you and Pastor Brown for a magical, blessed, and unforgettable wedding ceremony. Pastor’s Brown homily was very touching and the ceremony was a beautiful affirmation of our love before God and all our friends and family.” Sylvia and Damian

“Dear Pastor Morgan, Shauna and I thank you for all that you did to make our wedding even more than we hoped. Even after we missed our rehearsal you went above and beyond to readjust your schedule... We appreciate you and Ilinca’s important roles in our marriage. We will forever remember you and what our ceremony was about.” Philippe and Shaun

When I read these thank you notes, I am reminded of the blessings God has given us. We have a beautiful sanctuary, an incredibly organized staff, faithful ministers and a supporting congregation. God’s presence binds us together and we are able to share our gifts and talents with others.

Now the Lord is calling me to another season of my life. I am getting married to a wonderful young man who was brave enough to come all the way to Paris and ask me to be his wife. Our wedding is on 26 July at ACP. I once coordinated weddings for other people, now the time has come to plan my own.

It is a bittersweet transition to leave behind friends and family and it is a new beginning for me. My new church home will be in England, but my heart will always be in Paris at the ACP. Everything I was taught I am planning to use for His glory wherever he may send me.

Like Isaiah now, I say it again as I did nine years ago: “Lord, here I am, send me”.

ACP staff and Whitedoor coordinators
“I remember the weddings in those days,” said Rev. Rick Sommers, former ACP Associate Pastor. “We had weddings Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and since there were three of us, each pastor took one day and gave it up pretty much to weddings. No ‘Visiting Pastor’ back then!”

Music Director Fred Gramann added, “Oh yes, and the Japanese agencies brought fresh flowers for each wedding. Some days we had four or five one-hour weddings, and flowers were everywhere in the church. We cleared away flowers from one wedding to prepare for the next.”

So it goes in the wedding trade, I suppose. As my time draws to an end as the Visiting Pastor doing the yeoman’s portion of 127 weddings, I enjoy reflecting on my six months with you, and also hearing the stories from years ago concerning weddings.

Let me recount some anecdotes from the first six months of weddings this year:

—A bride arriving in the sanctuary for a renewal of vows wasn’t aware of what her husband had in mind when she agreed to their vow renewal. She burst into tears at the sight of the sanctuary, saying, “At my wedding some years ago, I was so caught up in the details and planning that I didn’t really experience it. Today, walking in here, I feel the emotions I didn’t experience then, plus more, as I think of re-enacting my wedding now I’m more mature and grounded.”

—A young Asian bride arrived attired in her wedding clothes, accompanied by parents and two younger sisters (14 and 16). The girls had on cute frocks for this occasion, underpinned by white Converse sneakers, circa 1965. They were a striking contrast: contemporary and retro. When the bride, in her beautiful gown, ascended the stairs to the chancel, she lifted her skirt just a bit. Beneath one saw her shoes - yes, they were an act of solidarity with her young sisters: Converse All-Stars!

—A couple from China, she from one of the remote provinces, he a French-born resident of China, arrived with some 40 family members, all of whom spoke French. The bride spoke a Chinese dialect as well as English. The groom spoke French, Mandarin Chinese and a little English.

—A couple arrived from Japan. The bride was Korean and the groom Japanese. I asked where they met. They answered: San Diego, adding “We worked and lived a year in New York City after meeting.” The bride, who learned Japanese in public school in Korea, noted the language came in handy when she met her future Japanese husband that day in California.

This account to you of my half-year wouldn’t be complete without a few words of thanks to all who have made this work so agreeable, especially the staff of the church. Terry and I have enjoyed these months among you and feel like we’ve turned Paris from what was a tourist destination, into our home away from our home.

I also close by telling you that Ilinca Mreana, the church’s first full-time Wedding Coordinator “retired” from her work after 7 years, at the end of June. Ilinca will be married herself at the church on 26 July. Her replacement is Keiko Matsushima. We wish Ilinca well as she plans her own wedding after helping 2,000 other couples from around the world hold their wedding blessing here.

In July, Terry and I will leave you and this fair city to return to our own fair city: Greensboro, North Carolina. Days there will be different, I suppose. We’ll attend Terry’s parents’ 70th wedding anniversary, have a family vacation and then get down to the satisfying business of planting flower beds, rehabbing trees that suffered in the severe southern winter, and spoiling our grandchildren for a time at what we call “Camp Schooley.”

It will be a return to rhythms we recognize and in which we delight. We shall miss you greatly and on some days we will turn our face toward the East, hoping to see what is happening with “y’all.” May God look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the summer, when it sizzles...

If you love Paris in the springtime when it drizzles, you’re going to really enjoy summer in the city. Consult our list of selected highlights. Read about the legal history of Frances en vacances; peaceful Paris; the Bastille eve firemen’s public dances; the background of the Gideon’s Bible; finally, we suggest a few Christian / American interest walking tours. Bonnes vacances!

Listing by Karen Albrecht

Les Berges: See and be Seine
Paris’s newest and coolest riverside attraction boasts floating gardens, converted shipping containers you can reserve ahead to hang out in and open stretches for jogging, biking, strolling and people-watching. Free. lesberges.paris.fr

The Liberation of Paris: 70 years on
A free, giant-screen audiovisual show at Hôtel de Ville showcases the arrival of French and American troops in August 1944 and the popular uprising that greeted them. At the Carnavalet history museum, a free photo exhibit “Paris liberated, Paris photographed, Paris exposed”. www.paris.fr

Life’s a beach: Paris Plages
Paris’s popular beach festival dumps 5,000 tonnes of sand on the Right Bank express lanes. There are lounge chairs for sunning and sprinklers to cool off. The La Villette branch boasts ballroom dancing plus kayaking on the canal. Free.
19 July - 17 August http://quefaire.paris.fr/parisplages

Hit the Rodin
The leafy sculpture gardens of the Musée Rodin are a summer classic. Inside, Mapplethorpe Rodin explores eerie, unexpected parallels between Mapplethorpe’s sensual black and white photos and Rodin’s black (cast metal) and white (marble) statuary. www.musee-rodin.fr

The eclectic company: Paris Quartier d’été
This summerfest brings weird and wonderful acts to indoor and outdoor venues across Paris and beyond. Hawaiian ukelele, dancing grandmothers from South Korea and Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream by a troupe from French Guiana. 14 July-10 August www.quartierdete.com

Parc Floral: serious jazz, silly fun
The Paris Jazz Festival at the Parc Floral in Bois de Vincennes hosts al fresco concerts by jazz greats. This year’s program highlights African jazz and finishes off with charismatic saxophonist Joshua Redman. Through 27 July; concerts free, park entrance €5.50 www.parisjazzfestival.fr

At the Paris monuments-themed mini-golf, putt your way (uphill!) to a diminutive Sacré Coeur, send your golf ball clanking down the pipes of a whimsical Centre Pompidou. Kitschy fun for Paris nerds of all ages. www.parcforaldeparisjeux.com

14 July: storming the Bastille Day celebrations
The precision military parade sashays down the Champs-Élysées at 10am, a dazzling display to enjoy in person or on French TV. The 11pm fireworks opposite the Eiffel Tower are themed "War and Peace" in honor of the centennial of World War I.

Parisiens of all generations get down and boogie 13 and 14 July at local fireman’s balls; fire stations at 11 rue du Vieux Colombier in the 6th and 7 rue de Sévigné in the 4th are especially festive.

Open-air cinema fest: it’s not easy being teen
Bring a blanket and picnic to the Prairie du Triangle in the Parc de la Villette to enjoy cinema classics projected on an inflatable giant screen. This year’s theme is adolescence, with Quadrophenia, American Graffiti, Lolita, Pauline à la Plage, Sweet Sixteen and more. Films in original language with French subtitles. 23 July-24 August, Wed-Sun at nightfall. Free. www.villette.com

A star is born: Paris 1900, La Ville Spectacle
If all of life is a stage, Paris is definitely a superstar strutting the boards. Focusing on the 1900 Universal Exposition, this show combines tremulous early movie footage with paintings, sumptuous decorative items and over-the-top ladies’ fashions. Ends 17 August www.petitpalais.paris.fr

Centre Pompidou: going global
Aiming at “a worldwide history of art”, the blockbuster show “Plural Modernities From 1905 To 1970” brings together over 1,000 works by 400 artists from 47 countries, including modern art in Africa and urban architecture in India. Quite an undertaking! Luckily the show runs until 26 January 2015 and stays open until 9pm. www.centrepompidou.fr

Bonnes vacances!
Once anyone’s been in France for a summer they can’t help but notice that things happen differently here. The observation that everything is shut down in August is legendary – and true. This belief in an ordained right to be off from work in August dates back a long way, but it was not always so.

The big turnaround came with the election of the Front Populaire in the spring of 1936. This socialist coalition led by Leon Blum proposed, and received, a mandatory 2-week summer vacation for all workers, to be paid for by their employers. These employers stipulated that everyone take the vacation at the same time, so to save money factories and shops all shut down in August.

The idea of a carefree summer holiday took hold among workers, public and private. Students, seen through the pastel eyes of Marcel Pagnol, already enjoyed their liberty during August with “vacances scolaires” wrapping into September. While a century ago, students were expected to be on hand at the end of September to help with the harvest, by end-1930s this was no longer the case. Scholastic vacation expanded to include July and the school rentrée was set at 1 September.

So Blum’s proposal met no opposition. This was the first opportunity for many people in the interior of France profonde to get to the beach, and it brought on a new kind of economy. Parisians flocked to Normandy, less than a day away by train. Vacation sites mushroomed overnight. Even with the repercussions of the Depression, hotels and restaurants were quickly constructed, camping sites blossomed, and all sorts of diversions were created for workers’ families on holiday.

Like the “Tickets Restaurant” today, the “Cheques Vacances”, launched in 1982 under Mitterand, found favor with the crowds and profit for some creative entrepreneurs. The mentality of the midsummer family holiday blossomed and grew. Summer at the beach or in the countryside would no longer be the exclusive preserve of the well-off. Vive La France – en vacances!

Get your souvenirs here: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 - this summer on 1 and 15 July, and 5 and 19 August. 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 - and also for those who would like to listen in at their leisure via the website.

Visitors, what better souvenir to take home from the ACP than to be able to keep connected? All our shows are downloaded within 48 hours to our website, at www.acparis.org/acptoday. Faith talk from Paris - it’s a 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.
For some time, there has existed a certain good-humored animosity between French Parisians and those of the provincial ilk. The Parisians, for their part, cannot – for the life of them – imagine wanting to live anywhere else besides within the peripheral walls of their cultural and economic mecca, and “everyone else” wants nothing to do with a city whose inhabitants have been stereotyped as inconsiderate, impatient grumps.

But there is one time of the year when the two manage to get along. It’s when the costal inhabitants as well as those in the center crave a bit of excitement and cultural stimulation, and the city-dwellers, sick of pollution allergies and a daily 3-hour metro commute, make their way to the sand and sun. This moment – August – is when the two parties rush past one another in search of greener grass. It has been said that August, when the cosmopolites have fled the city, is the best time to visit Paris. I don’t know if it’s true that the lack of Parisians make August an ideal moment to be in Paris, but the lack of bodies in general does provide some much-needed breathing room.

Compared to many metropolitan capitols, Paris is not a city in want of vegetation. But on warm, sunny spring days, especially on the weekends, finding a small square of grass at one of the city’s many well-manicured parks is almost an impossible feat. In August, the weather is a bit toastier, but the people are also scarcer, rendering the experience much more enjoyable.

Nor does the metro ride seem so long and exhausting; the emptiness of the cars, listening to the hum of the wheels racing along the tracks rather than your neighbor yelling “You’re cutting out!” into his or her cell phone, provides a pleasant interruption in the day when we’re just sitting, breathing, existing, before we rush off to our next rendezvous.

However, trying to get anything accomplished administratively is wishful thinking. Most civil servants and government officials are on holiday with the rest of the country, so your problem will just have to wait.

As the old joke goes, “If you want to invade France, do it in August.” Nobody’s home. Many businesses are also closed and/or have irregular summer hours; from your favorite bakery to your corner café, the owner might have “exceptionally” closed up shop early today.

Despite the inconvenience of inaccessible shops and offices, fun summery activities more than make up for the lack of productivity. Outdoor cinemas, countless music festivals – and who can forget the best beach north of the Côte d’Azur, Paris Plage – entertain those lucky enough to have already used up their five weeks of congé earlier.

As alien as the Parisians can sometimes make expats feel during the rest of the year, August is our moment to shine. Devoid of native French men and women who can (and do) pick out our accents, we effortlessly answer questions from visiting foreigners. In a city inundated with tourists, for just one month no one asks you how long you’re visiting.

Then September arrives, and the Parisians come pouring back into the city, the streets and the metros, waking Paris up from its nap.

This is the time of year when the question on everyone’s mind is “What are you doing this summer?” In the busy city of Paris among our very international congregation, there are hundreds of possible answers to this question.

Some will be traveling to exotic countries to visit family and friends or just traveling for the sake of travel. Others will be saying good-bye to the city of lights to return to their home country or perhaps take on the next in a series of international assignments. Many of our youth might be taking the leap from lycée to university, with their parents nervously anticipating their departure.

Some will be spend the summer enjoying the quieter days in the city and exploring a bit. Others will use the time to catch up at the office or finish some of those niggling projects around the house. And still others might be spending the summer settling in and making Paris their new home.

Whatever you are doing this summer, we wish you the time to rest and refresh and simply reflect on what is
Spontaneous combustion
Les bals des pompiers
By Tendayi O. Chirawu

The annual tradition of opening the doors of the fire stations for a public dance on 13 July is so popular that some stations host up to 2,000 partyers. But how did it all begin and why?

Every petite histoire needs a protagonist and ours is fireman Sergeant Cournet. On 14 July, 1937 the pompiers were returning from the Fête Nationale celebrations in Montmartre when our hero had a light bulb moment. He suggested that the public be invited to explore their fire station. Permission was granted, and the people thronged. He got his fellow firemen to employ their talents to entertain the crowds, and before long there was a stage and a make-shift bar. This spontaneous action was such a success that before long what had started off as a random idea became citywide tradition.

The bals are open to the public for free from 9pm to 4am in each fire station’s inner courtyard. The dance floor sometimes flows over into the streets as people dance the night away, along with other members of the national service, such as marines who make the trip inland for the military parade the next day.

Contrary to popular belief, firemen are not just a bunch of ripped guys who spend their days sliding down poles and rescuing the occasional cat. Bernard Tourner, a former member of the American Church in Paris and the commanding officer of the “1er groupement d’incendie”, said that all firemen in Paris are soldiers. Bernard is responsible for 23 fire stations covering the north of Paris and the Seine-Saint-Denis area.

While the firemen seem at ease amid the festivities, they are actually on duty and Bernard encourages his firemen to stay sober. During the balls, Bernard and his officers patrol the different stations to make sure everything remains under control. Bernard says:

I encourage them to wear an immaculate uniform and to respect men and women. They are allowed to dance, provided their attitude is compatible with wearing the uniform.

I know temptation is great for young men (most of them are in their 20s), with the excitement of alcohol, loud music and many single women. So I enforce a very strict policy on rule breaking: sanctions range from days of arrest (meaning the soldier is not allowed to leave the station for several days) to losing their jobs.

Is there room for Christianity in your duties?

Being a Christian helps me continuously in my leadership position. Every situation, whether in command or in completing my duty, is an opportunity to be on mission and share the Good News. The more I progress in my faith journey, the more confident I feel to be a good leader. Even though the Army is a secular organization, and French policy on secularism is rather strict, I find it quite easy to regularly offer prayers for people or to share the Christian perspective on a situation.

So if you haven’t yet had the pleasure of attending a Bastille Day bal des pompiers, I hope you’re now convinced to do so this year. If you’ve already been to dance with hot firemen (pun intended), then party on!

For more information about the bals des pompiers, see: www.pompiersparis.fr/

What’s Going On

important to you. And, when the summer draws to a close, there will be plenty of rentrée activities at ACP to welcome you. The week before school starts the ACP church house will be filled with children for Vacation Bible School. In September, we host Garrison Keillor for two shows of “The Prairie Home Companion” radio broadcast.

Then, 14 September is the ministry fair, your chance to meet and greet the leaders of the missions and programs at ACP. Whether you are a newcomer seeking programs to join or a long-time member looking for ways to volunteer, the ministry fair is a great place to find out more about what’s going on at ACP and get involved. In October is “Bloom Where You’re Planted” for newcomers to Paris. And for those who have been in Paris for a while, “Bloom” is another excellent opportunity to get involved and give back to the community.

On behalf of the ACP Council, I wish all of you “bonnes vacances” and encourage you to consider how you can get involved in the life, programs and missions of ACP à la rentrée.

In Christ,

Pam Bohl

ACP Spire, July / August 2014 13
Many of us will travel and stay in hotels this summer, where you’re almost sure to find a Gideon’s Bible in your nightstand drawer. The International Gideon Organization began this practice in 1908 when they left free Bibles at the Superior Hotel in Superior, Montana. However the organization itself was founded 10 years earlier in 1899 by three travelling businessmen at the YMCA in Janesville, Wisconsin. They fashioned themselves as evangelists in the form of Gideon, as found in the book of Judges.

Gideon was described as a man of faith, obedience and humility who did what God wanted him to do without considering his own opinion of the plan or results. This is the standard that the Gideons try to establish among all its members, each man to be ready to do God’s will any time, place, and in any way that the Holy Spirit leads.

And they are all men. The membership of Gideons International is over 300,000; women may not be members but wives of Gideons may join the Gideons Auxiliary. Its headquarters is in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2012 the Gideons distributed over 84.6 million King James-version Bibles and New Testaments, which they call Scriptures. More than 1.8 billion have been distributed since 1908 and it is anticipated that the two-billionth Scripture will be placed in 2015. On average, more than two copies are provided each second.

The Scriptures are not only left in hotel rooms, but in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and to students and the military in over 196 countries in 93 languages. A typical Bible or New Testament from The Gideons International contains: a short preface, a pamphlet suggesting Bible verses that may help in times of trouble, translations of John 3:16, and a short description of the evangelical understanding of salvation, with a place for the reader to sign and date a personal confession of Jesus as their savior.

The covers of the Scriptures vary. White is reserved for doctors and hospitals, camouflage for the military, light blue for the auxiliaries, prisons, universities and schools receive green. There has been strong opposition to distribution on public school grounds in the United States, with rulings against the Gideons in the Supreme Court.

In keeping with the symbolism of Gideon, the organization’s logo is a 2-handled pitcher and torch. “And he divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man’s hand with empty pitchers and lamps within the pitchers”: Judges 7:16.

Today other denominations also freely distribute Bibles; and whether one agrees or not with the tenets of these groups, finding the Word of God in your hotel desk drawer is certainly a blessing.

Summer walking tours

The literary tour association Lire et Partir and ACP member Rebecca Brite give walking tours of American or church related interest all year long, but especially during the summer.

On Sunday 6 July, it's Lire et Partir’s annual Founding Fathers in Paris tour, following in the footsteps of those famous expatriates Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, among many others. 20€ per person, leaves at 1:30pm from the Thomas Jefferson statue on the quai by the Musée d’Orsay. Also available by request, with rates depending on group size.

Another longtime favorite of Lire et Partir focuses on the writers of the Lost Generation and others in Paris between the world wars. As this month’s Spire history pages note, there were special connections between some Lost Generation notables and the ACP. By request, rates depend on group size.

Rebecca’s tour on Protestant history in Paris will take place this year on the 442nd anniversary of the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre: Sunday, August 24, at 3pm. With a special rate for ACP members of 10€, it leaves from the church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

Rebecca and Shari Leslie Segall, another Lire et Partir guide, give the Founding Fathers and Lost Generation tours. For information on any of the three tours, or to make reservations for 6 July or 24 August, contact briterabecca@gmail.com
Tuesday 10 June
*Painting with the Spirit* Exhibition in the Sanctuary through 10 July.

Saturday 6 September
Garrison Keillor and Prairie Home Companion broadcasts live radio show from ACP Sanctuary

Saturday 11 October
Commemoration Service for all English-speaking churches with Dr. Mark Labberton, President of Fuller Theological Seminary, at the église de la Madeleine

28 – 30 October
ACP hosts the City to City Europe Church Planting Conference, featuring Dr. Tim Keller, Senior Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church of New York

### Events to celebrate the 200th anniversary

**Stratford-on-Odéon**

A literary mecca between the wars

By Rebecca Brite

From the years before World War I to well into the 1920s, Paris was the epicenter of the modernist movement in the arts. Painters, poets, novelists, composers and other creative types flocked here from around the world. They weren’t always drawn just by the artistic ferment of the city: some had been dislocated by war, while others had more pragmatic reasons. The postwar dollar-franc exchange rate, for instance, made Paris irresistible to many Americans.

Among the most famous of these were the people whom Ernest Hemingway, quoting the novelist Gertrude Stein, would call the Lost Generation: F. Scott Fitzgerald, T.S. Eliot, John Dos Passos, E.E. Cummings and Hart Crane, along with Hemingway himself. Stein and the poet Ezra Pound, here since before the war, served as mentors to them.

All found a haven at Shakespeare and Company, the Rue de l’Odéon bookshop of Sylvia Beach. Another great writer of the period, the Irishman James Joyce, nicknamed the shop “Stratford-on-Odéon.” Beach was the first to publish his masterpiece, *Ulysses*, and her lifelong companion, French bookshop owner Adrienne Monnier, brought the novel out in French. The two also translated Eliot’s poem “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” into French.

Beach, who opened the shop in 1919, had first come to Paris around the turn of the century with her family: her father, the Rev. Sylvester Beach, was an assistant pastor of the future ACP and ran its student center.

Joyce, too, had a connection with the church via its future music director, the organist and composer Edmund Pendleton. As longtime music critic of the New York Herald Tribune’s Paris edition, Pendleton was a friend of many notable expats, including Joyce, Hemingway and Pablo Picasso. His setting of Joyce’s 1904 song “Bid Adieu to Girlish Days” is still performed.

**Bragging rights**

Entertainer *Josephine Baker* joined the Red Cross, then assisted the French Resistance by garnering and passing intelligence as she toured in France and north Africa. It is said that she would pin her notes inside her underwear, or written in invisible ink on her sheet music. After the war, Baker received the Croix de guerre and the Rosette de la Résistance, and was made a Chevalier of the Légion d’honneur by General Charles de Gaulle.

**Ernest Hemingway** was indeed present at the liberation of Paris on 25 August, but contrary to popular legend, he did not liberate the Ritz. He did receive a Bronze Star for his bravery during World War II for venturing into battle to vividly portray the “difficulties and triumphs of the front-line soldier.”

Journalist Janet Flanners and Hemingway

Entertainer Josephine Baker

Ernest Hemingway

James Joyce and Sylvia Beach in front of the bookstore

Edmund Pendleton
This year marks the 200th anniversary of English-language worship in Paris. Each month we will tell the history in 20 to 25-year increments, from the point of view of the American Church in Paris, the first established American church overseas. This month: 1925-1945. By Alison Benney

**History in context**

1925 - Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* published
1926 - Ernest Hemingway publishes *The Sun Also Rises*
1927 - Charles Lindbergh makes 1st flight across the Atlantic
1927 - Work on Mount Rushmore begins
1927 - Philo T. Farnsworth demonstrates television model
1927 - Georges Lemaître proposes Big Bang Theory
1928 – Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin
1928 - Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly over the Atlantic Ocean
1929 - Wall Street “Crash” signaled the end of the Roaring 20s
1930 - Construction work on the Empire State Building
1931 - The Star-Spangled Banner is approved as the national anthem
1931 - Christ monument built on Rio de Janeiro hilltop
1933 - Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany
1933 - Prohibition ends in America
1935 - The Social Security Act passed by Congress, part of New Deal
1935 - Alcoholics Anonymous founded
1935 – Germany issues the anti-Jewish Nuremberg laws
1938 - The National Minimum Wage is signed into law, established a minimum wage of $0.25
1939 – *Wizard of Oz* the top film of the 1930s
1939 - Albert Einstein alerts Franklin D. Roosevelt to an A-bomb opportunity, led to the Manhattan Project
1939 - The Night of Broken Glass, seen as beginning of the Holocaust
1939 - The US declares its neutrality in the European war after Germany invades Poland
1940 - Paris fell to the German army and Auschwitz received its first Polish prisoners
1940 - Leon Trotsky assassinated
1941 - The attack on Pearl Harbor. US declares war on Japan, officially entering World War II
1942 - Anne Frank goes into hiding
1942 - The development of the first atomic bomb is signed into agreement between Churchill and Roosevelt in Hyde Park, New York
1944 - The Normandy Invasion, D-Day
1944 - The G.I. Bill of Rights is signed into law
1945 - President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Premier Josef Stalin hold the Yalta Conference in the Soviet Union
1945 - The unconditional surrender of Germany at Reims, France
1945 – US drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
1945 - First computer built (ENIAC)

**Growing pains**

It was the fall of 1924, and American Church pastor Joseph Wilson Cochran and piano teacher Wager Swayne contemplated the site of an old tobacco factory on the corner of the quai d’Orsay and rue Jean Nicot. “Here is where you should build,” said Mr. Swayne.

This, despite the fact that the neighborhood was disreputable, with the notorious Magic City down the street. Also, the property was for sale under strict conditions, that it be purchased for cash, no mortgage, with option-to-buy rights for only two months. Dr. Cochran traveled to the US to seek funding, and was able to raise the $163,000 necessary (at 2,000 francs or 300 euros per square meter) just in time.

Mr. Carroll Greenough, an American architect living in Paris, produced the most popular blueprint. He wisely placed the church house on the corner of Jean Nicot, with the sanctuary sandwiched between our neighbors, instead of the other way around.

The first spade of ground was dug on 24 February 1926, during a service of prayer and thanksgiving, attended by the pastor from the American Cathedral, a pastor representing the French Protestant church, and the American Boy Scout troup.

But - ten million francs! That was the estimated cost to construct our church, considered a staggering sum for our church to raise. Yet just over a year later, on 14 March 1926, the church treasurer announced that we had raised more than that amount, from pledges in Paris and the US. The total cost of building and furnishing the church came to 25.5 million francs, equivalent to $860,000 at that time.

It helped that real estate value boomed, and we were able to sell our church property on rue de Berri to the *New York Herald* for three million francs (almost 500,000 euros). Plus, the old foundations of the tobacco factory were used to support the church house walls, saving money and time, although special engineering methods had to be used to protect the basement against flooding. The foundations were completed on 1 October 1926, right up to the first floor, “with provisions for the gymnasium, heating plant, coal bunkers, concierge living rooms, bowling alleys...”

However, a disagreement arose over the choice of staying
with a 12th century Gothic-style versus the more elaborate 15th-century design, causing a halt in construction from October 1926 to June 1927! The decision went with the more flamboyant taste of the period, and architect Dr. Ralph Cram was brought over from the US to work with Mr. Greenough. This delayed the laying of the cornerstone until 10 October 1927 which, happily, coincided with the church's 70th anniversary.

There were many generous contributors to the building fund, including John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Edward S. Harkness. But this publication would have a different name if it hadn't been for our staunch supporter, Arthur Curtiss James. The church was constructed on a pay-as-you-go system, and when it came time to build the church steeple, the funds had run dry. Fortunately Mr. James doubled the money he'd already donated, insisting that the spire be built. He requested anonymity, however, so the church recognized his generosity by discreetly engraving his initials in the arch beneath the spire.

As for our windows, that will take another article. Suffice to say that Dr. Cochran worked out the themes for the windows and Charles J. Connick from Boston executed his ideas. Connick also came up with an innovative scheme: by shipping the glass in from London and assembling the windows in France, many in Chartres, he saved the church two-thirds the cost of having them manufactured and delivered from the US.

The last service held in our church on rue de Berri was on Easter, 1929. We were kindly offered the use of the French Baptist Church at 8 rue de Lille for worship until we were able to use our new assembly room (what we now call the Theater) on 26 May 1929. The American Church of Paris was dedicated two years later, on Sunday 26 May, 1931.

World War II

Difficult times followed. After the 1929 financial crash and during the worldwide depression, many Americans left Paris. Dr. Clayton Williams, the senior pastor after Dr. Cochran retired in 1933, was paid only a cost of living allowance instead of a salary. When World War II broke out, Dr. Williams was persuaded to take his family to safety in the US.

The Germans marched into Paris in June 1940. Edmund Pendleton, music director, organist, and temporary director of the church, stayed behind to keep the services going until the US entered the war in December 1941. The Germans returned for him, but he was able to hide in the Sanctuary, behind the organ pipes, and watch as they came through the church. He then escaped to the south and worked with the Red Cross during the rest of the war.

Of the 30,000 Americans living in Paris, an estimated 2,500 Americans remained during the war. Some of the women, including Sylvia Beach, were rounded up and interned in the zoo at the Jardin d'Acclimatation in the Bois de Boulogne.

The Ladies Benevolent Association still met twice a week, making pajamas for military hospitals. During the Occupation, our church services were kept going by the kind efforts of a number of French pastors, albeit to a dwindling congregation of eventually only four women.

While the Germans requisitioned the American Cathedral for their officers' worship, they took over only ACP's basement, for the use of the gymnasium and showers. A story which has been handed down but not documented, relates that a German tank stopped across the river from our building. It turned, aimed its gun at our building and stayed in that position for a few hours before continuing on its way.

After the liberation of Paris, life rapidly returned to normal, with the first service organised on 3 September 1944 for General E.W. Timberlake, 200 officers and 50 civilians. As Ruth Dixon writes in A Church on the Seine, "Mr. Pendleton returned with the American forces moving up from the south. Mr. Wood requisitioned coal so the sanctuary was heated. Flowers reappeared on the communion table... At Thanksgiving there was a joint service with the Holy Trinity congregation. On Easter, 420 attended church."

Rev. Clayton Williams and his family returned in May 1945, and he remained as head pastor for another 17 years. Next month, we talk about the "Williams era" and the 100th anniversary of the church.
The fight to liberate the capital started some days earlier, on 10 August 1944, with a strike by railway workers, which quickly spread to include Paris métro workers, the Gendarmerie and police. By 18 August it had grown into a general strike, involving Parisians in all sectors across the city. Barricades were erected in the streets and Parisians were called to mobilise by Henri Rol-Tanguy, head of the Ile de France FFI (French Forces of the Interior). Intense street fighting followed, with 22 August marking the most bloody day.

With the Allies advancing toward Paris and with increasing uprising in the city, Hitler ordered the city to be held and destroyed. Much has been written, and speculated, about why Paris was saved and not destroyed or burnt to the ground as Hitler had ordered. We may never know whether it was truly due to General von Cholitz, who was Commander of the German garrison and military governor of Paris, whose love of the city or simply his desire to cut himself a deal with the Allies meant that Paris was spared. Recently dramatized in the film Diplomatie, it is known that he held talks with Swedish Consul Raoul Nordling and that, happily for this beautiful city, Hitler's orders were never carried out.

After four years of occupation and days of fighting, the French 2nd Armoured Division led by General Leclerc entered Paris at the Porte d’Orléans while the Allied forces, spearheaded by the US 4th Infantry Division, entered Paris from the East. German forces officially surrendered at 15h30 on 25 August 1944 when von Cholitz surrendered at the Hôtel Meurice.

That same day General de Gaulle arrived in Paris, at Gare Montparnasse, and at 19h15 at the Hôtel de Ville he gave what has become one of the most famous speeches of the liberation period:

“Why should we hide the emotion which seizes us all, men and women, who are here, at home, in Paris that stood up to liberate itself and that succeeded in doing this with its own hands? No! We will not hide this deep and sacred emotion. These are minutes which go beyond each of our poor lives. Paris! Paris outraged! Paris broken! Paris martyred! But Paris liberated!”

On 26 August, cheered by thousands of people lining the streets, De Gaulle walked down the Champs Elysées in a triumphal procession starting at the Arc de Triomphe and ending at Notre Dame. He was followed by General Leclerc, commander of the French 2nd Armoured Division, as well as other supporters and members of the FFI and Resistance who had played key roles in the battle to re-take the capital.

However, as the procession passed by the Hôtel de Crillon, shots rang out across the crowd from pockets of German snipers and collaborators. The same night the Luftwaffe (German air force) bombed Paris, killing 189 people and injuring a further 890. The fight to liberate Paris lasted another four days, with American troops finally parading down the Champs-Elysées on 29 August.

There are a number of events planned around the anniversary of the Liberation. From 20 June to 27 September, there will be a free exhibition and a giant screen set up at the Hôtel de Ville, as well as a bal populaire on 25 August, planned by the city of Paris.
“That’s the news from Lake Woebegon, where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average.”

If you recognize this radio show sign-off, you are one of the over 4 million listeners who tune in every week to “A Prairie Home Companion” with Garrison Keillor, on one of 600 American public radio stations.

And now you can be part of the performance. Radio legend and bestselling author Keillor comes to Paris in his red shoes and suspenders for two shows, Friday and Saturday, 5 and 6 September. He brings along his talented company, including the incomparable “voice actors” Sue Scott and Tim Russell, and special effects genius Fred Newman.

A Prairie Home Companion showcases the best of midwest American culture with Keillor’s folksy narration, incorporating music, humorous anecdotes, clever skits, poetry, impersonations and old-time radio sound effects. The audience is an integral part of the show, taking part in responses as well as in pre-show or intermission chats.

While part of Keillor’s appeal is his down-home coziness, he understands the expat experience, after living in the 80s in Denmark with his first wife, Ella. He has been married to Minnesota violinist, Jenny Lind Nilsson, since 1995, and they have a teenaged daughter, Maia Grace Keillor. He still lives in Minnesota, where he has described the weather by saying “God designed the month of March ‘to show people who don’t drink what a hangover feels like’.”

Keillor has received a Grammy, a Peabody and the John Steinbeck Award, plus a medal for spoken language from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of A Prairie Home Companion, and for its debut performance in France, Keillor has generously agreed to donate ticket receipts to the American Church. After meeting Pastor Scott last year, thanks to connections via a couple of Minnesota expats, Keillor is giving a nod to the 200th anniversary of English-speaking Protestants in Paris.

Slate once called Keillor “the shock jock of wholesomeness”. Yet Garrison Keillor cares what others feel and seems to want to alleviate the pain of the human condition, even if it is just to recount a crispy little story that he made up an hour before the show. He adds a requisite pinch of the spice of life to his anecdotes, enough to give the day a cheerful tweak.

He is one of the most talented satirists, writers and radio entertainers in American media. He has been compared to Mark Twain and Will Rogers for his culturally rich and humorous storytelling and writing. Known for his virtuous wit, Keillor enlightens with statements like, “Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian, must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car.”

Buy your tickets now, as both shows will be quickly sold out. Choose either Friday 5 September at 20h, or Saturday 6 September at 16h, at the American Church in Paris, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007. Tickets for both shows are €30, no reserved seating: www.acparis.org/phc

For more on Garrison Keillor, see www.GarrisonKeillor.com, or if you’d like to get a taste of a Prairie Home Companion, listen in at http://prairiehome.publicradio.org/
Care and feeding of the ACP receptionist

“Reception” and “receptionist” are misleading words. Yes, the person behind the glass in our community house foyer is receiving queries, but the person that receives the most from each encounter is not the employee. Receptionists are generally under-appreciated, acting as the front-line defense for a busy building and non-stop requests. This is especially true when they work in what is essentially a public church-focused community center.

What do our receptionists do behind that glass all day?

It doesn’t look like much, but they are kept busy answering the phones, typing up ads, keeping an eye on the surveillance cameras, and explaining to visitors for the 50th time that day how the ads work, where the toilets are or what time the English-language conversation group meets. They listen to stories, decipher accents from around the world, try to prevent people from breaking the elevators, provide directions to low-cost hostels or public care centers, keep the brochure stands tidy, and soothe tempers when there are clashes over space, loud music or ad-board misunderstandings.

Fair enough, but where is he/she when I need something?

If there is no one behind the glass window in the reception when you show up, it could be for a number of reasons. The average receptionist needs to eat occasionally, so may step out for a bite. He or she may be doing a walk-through of the building to make sure everything is under control. Or in the office making photocopies for a church function. Or opening up a room for a renter, or locking it up after they leave. The receptionist may have gone to put up the notices on the board outside or to take out the garbage bins. He/she may be dealing with a belligerent SDF or pointing a tourist in the direction of the Eiffel Tower.

Oh. So we couldn’t just make do with an information board.

Nope. The receptionists run the lost-and-found, act as the mail drop, as de facto security guard, as message-takers for the staff, and keeper of the keys. The announcements get channeled through the reception, as do complaints, church deliveries and newspapers. The area is open to the elements, so the receptionists shiver in the winter and perspire in the summer. In the evenings and all day on Saturday, they are the ones who deal with emergencies, with irate renters and often the lost or the hungry. The receptionist is often the first person in the church house every day, and is certainly the last non-resident to turn off the lights.

And did I mention that they manage to handle all this with a smile?

So remember, if you happen to notice an American Church receptionist just sitting behind the desk staring into space, it doesn’t mean he/she is being idle. It’s just a moment of rare calm in the receptionist storm.

MARK YOUR FALL CALENDARS

Friday 5 and Saturday 6 September: Garrison Keillor performs A Prairie Home Companion, two shows

Sunday September 14: First Sunday of Children's Worship and Ministry Fair

Saturday 20 September: Journées du Patrimoine, tours of the Sanctuary from 10h-17h

Saturday 27 September: All-day Council Training retreat

Sunday 28 September: Council Installation at the 11h service

Saturday 11 October: Worship Service celebrating 200 years of English-speaking worship in France, at the Madeleine church, with Mark Labberton as guest preacher
What do you mean you didn’t notice I was away for a month! Okay, my replacements were amazing: Peter Bannister on the organ, and Franck Chastrusse, Peter Smith and Caroline Drury working with the choir. I am so blessed to have these superb musicians willing to minister through music to our congregation.

My time away in the US was extremely satisfying in a number of ways. I reconnected with some former ACP friends: Rick and Teresa Sommers (a former Associate Pastor), Charlie and Edda Brown (a former wedding pastor), and Greg and Kathy Turner (former “everythings” from officiating at weddings to being interim senior pastor).

I worked with over 600 enthusiastic handbell ringers, enjoying the best seat in the house from atop my mile-high podiums!

I traveled to new places like Reno, Nevada where I was tempted to hook handbells to the one-armed slot machines and see what music they played (the Caching Concerto?), and Ashland, Oregon, home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival where I had a front-row seat for The Tempest.

There were two especially memorable moments. The first was upon entering Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. The nave was hung with thousands of multi-colored ribbons. From my viewpoint at the end of the building they appeared somewhat like floating stained-glass windows. Moving to the center and standing under them, I saw they were just out of reach, seeming to provide a connection between earth and heaven. The different colors reminded me of our congregation with its many denominations and races. Every single ribbon made it all the way to heaven. I have to believe we all can too.

The second moment was equally spiritual for me as I slowly walked the large labyrinth in the marble floor. I prayed my way around, ever so slowly, asking God to direct my life so I could be more of what he desires.

The twists and turns were surprising. Just when the center was within reach the pathway veered off and led to the outer rim. That has been like my life this year, experiencing some dark hours and feeling uncomfortably far from the “center” at times. But if one does not abandon ship and continues on the labyrinth, you eventually end up in the center. So it is in life. I am experiencing that as my personal labyrinth leads me gradually, ever-so-slowly back “home”, to the center, to those loving, patient arms.

Happy to be inside His wall,

Fred
Another year comes to a close

It’s time to thank all those who have given of their musical talents this past year. Being part of a choir requires a considerable time commitment with the weekly rehearsals.

Pictured here are the Bronze Ringers and the Adult Choir. Equally as dedicated are the Spire Ringers and Celebration Ringers.

Our talented accompanist Laurana Mitchelmore amazes us all with her gifts!

To each and everyone who has participated during the 2013-14 year, THANK YOU!

The American Festival Choir

will perform an extraordinary compilation of Gospel Music

Thursday 3 July 2014 at 12h30
at the American Church in Paris
Free Admission

The American Festival Choir is pleased to perform an extraordinary compilation of Gospel Music at the American Church in Paris on their 2014 Paris/London tour. The 55-voice choir is comprised of outstanding church choirs from throughout the United States, including:

- First Baptist Church - Prattville, Alabama - Mitch Loftin, Minister of Music
- First Baptist Church - Milton, Florida - Kenneth Martin, Minister of Music
- Foothills Baptist Church - Las Vegas, Nevada - Loren Minnick, Minister of Music

This unique concert will also feature best-loved worship songs and hymns from throughout the world arranged in fresh settings. The choir is produced by Dr. Phil Barfoot, an internationally known composer, author and music ministry professional who has written and created over 20 major choral works and musicals that collectively include over 200 songs. Admission is free.
Sixty members of the Hartford Chorale will sing for the 11h00 worship service on Sunday 6 July.

Founded in 1972, the Hartford Chorale is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization, and serves as the primary symphonic chorus for the greater Hartford community. The Chorale provides experienced, talented singers with the opportunity to study and perform at a professional level of musicianship. Through its concerts and collaborations with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and other organizations, the Chorale seeks to reach and inspire the widest possible audience with exceptional performances of a broad range of choral literature, including renowned choral masterpieces. THC members regularly commute from the Greater Hartford area.

Richard Coffey, Musical Director for the Hartford Chorale, is a friend and colleague of mine. While studying organ in Paris, Richard practiced here at the American Church.

The choir will sing Randall Thompson’s «Alleluia», «O Sacrum Convivium» of Olivier Messiaen, Edward Tyler’s arrangement of «How Can I Keep from Singing», «His Yoke is Easy» from the Messiah, two movements from the «Requiem» of Maurice Duruflé, and two Spirituals.
What’s on Tap for Next Year?

Share these dates with your friends abroad who enjoy handbells!

During the 2014-15 season I will once again have the opportunity to work with many individual handbell choirs and also guest direct for numerous handbell festivals outside of France. These include:

- October 29 – Nov. 1  UK Bronze Festival, Sutton Surrey, England
- February 21-23  Lutheridge, Arden, North Carolina
- February 26  The Raleigh Ringers, Raleigh, North Carolina
- February 28 – March 2  Lutheridge, Arden, North Carolina
- April 17-18  DeColores Handbell Choir, Spokane, Washington
- April 24-25  Area V Festival - Mackinac Island, Michigan (at the Grand Hotel)
- April 28-29:  FUMC Choir and Handbell Festival, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
- July 2-5  Classic Bronze Festival, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Save these dates!!

Saturday 11 October the ACP choir will join singers from other choirs to form the Anniversary Service Choir for the service at the Madeleine Church celebrating 200 years of English-speaking public worship in France. It will begin at 15h30.

The annual Candlelight Christmas Concerts will be on Saturday 13 December at 17H and 20h. There will be music for choirs, handbells, soloists, and of course the singing of carols.

The Spring Choir Concert will be held on the evening of Saturday 11 April. Our choir will join the choir “Lux Perpetua” in a gala performance of “Lobgesang” (Song of Praise) by Felix Mendelssohn. It will be accompanied the Association Symphonique de Paris under the direction of Franck Chastrusse. It will also be given as a charity event at UNESCO on Monday evening 13 April.
This is the fourth year that the American Church has hosted the International Music Festival featuring choirs from all over the world. This year the concerts will take place Thursday through Saturday, 21-23 August. All the concerts are free to the public. You’ll experience music in a multitude of styles and languages. Watch the ACP website for the concert schedule closer to the festival.

“Tonight, tonight won’t be just any night!” Under the auspices of Tiffany Musica, Sunday 6 July at 17h will be an amazing night, full of singable, toe-tapping hits from your favorite Broadway musicals. Vocal soloists will include Caroline Drury, Nicole Primmer, Jennifer Young, John Bernard, Hadi Fakhreddine, plus some childhood stars in the making: Ava and Mia Primmer and Matthew Herr. Running their fingers up and down the 88s will be Laurana Mitchelmore and Debra Takakjian.

So get your coat and get your hat. Leave your worries on the doorstep. Just direct your feet to the Broadway side of the street... 65 quai d’Orsay. Admission is free.
More of You
the new album by Still Point
Release June 21st

More of You
le tout nouvel album de Still Point
Sortie le 21 Juin
Youth choirs shine at end-of-year performance

By Ellen Kountz

On Saturday 24 May, ACP’s theater was blessed with the voices and musical talents of the Youth Choirs. Proud parents and families looked on, with digital cameras snapping and smartphone video rolling, to immortalize the special two-hour concert.

Youth Choir Director Bonnie Woolley orchestrated the event, which began with the youngest singers, the Cherubs. From there, the youth handbell ringers chimed in (pun intended!) As the evening continued, the Shine choir sang popular tunes, including “I’m Coming Home on a Cloud” and Simon & Garfunkel’s “You Can Tell the World”.

The evening concluded with a contribution from Reid Hall’s Rendez-Vous choir, university exchange students from Columbia University. Many children and youth performed solos and duets, accompanied by piano and guitar.

This concert was also an opportunity for Bonnie to remind parents that the program will start up again in the fall, and that children of all ages are welcome to join! Contact youthmusic@acparis.org

Fête de la musique: Still Point

ACP fêted the music of Still Point - and guests - on Saturday 21st June, with a well-attended concert, and fried chicken and ice cream sundaes from Kent’s Party Solution. Over 50 people from both the American Church and visitors dropped in and listened to Christian rock and blues. And we sold some CDs! Get yours, at the Welcome Table after church.
Bloom Where You’re Planted

Connecting people in Paris for over 44 years

Saturday
4 October 2014
9h ~ 18h

Visit the ACP Welcome Table for full details
For online registration: bloom.acparis.org

ACP Movie Discussion Group
meets all summer

The ACP movie group’s choices for July are Clint Eastwood’s Jersey Boys, Jonathan Glazer’s Under the Skin, Charlie Siskel and John Maloof’s Finding Vivian Maier and Hossein Amini’s The Two Faces of January. See any or all of these films in the cinema at your convenience, then join the group for discussion on Thursday, July 17, at 7:30pm in basement room G2.

Planning on DVD shopping on your US vacation? Here are some of the movie group’s American favorites from recent months:

Steve McQueen’s 12 Years a Slave, not easy to watch but brilliantly made and, paradoxically, incredibly gorgeous to look at. Jean-Marc Vallée’s Dallas Buyers Club and David O. Russell’s American Hustle, both depicting offbeat episodes of US history and featuring amazing acting. Wes Anderson’s The Grand Budapest Hotel, a meticulously crafted tribute to 1930s Hollywood masterpieces.

John Lee Hancock’s Saving Mr. Banks, the story of a Disney favorite. Alexander Payne’s Nebraska, a father-son road trip in lyrical black and white. Destin Cretton’s Short Term 12, a well-made tale of young people caring for troubled youths.

The ACP movie discussion group prides itself on never missing a month – even August. As the movies and dates are chosen month to month, we don’t yet know what August’s will be, but you can find out by sending a message to movies@acparis.org.
Don't just survive... Thrive!

By Marta Hobbs

Hard to believe that the 44th Bloom Where You’re Planted is almost here. This year, our well-known outreach program to English-speaking newcomers to Paris features an exceptional line-up of speakers.

The day will start off with a history overview of Paris and its architecture presented by Peter Caine (founder of Paris-Walks.com), who is always an illuminating and entertaining speaker.

Melissa Bradford aka “Global Mom” (author of Global Mom: Sixteen Addresses, Eight Countries, Five Languages, and One Family) will offer insight into what it means to be "Third Culture" and tips on how to adapt and make Paris your home.

David Lebovitz (author of six cookbooks, including The Sweet Life in Paris and his latest My Paris Kitchen), pastry chef extraordinaire, and foodie blogger and tour guide, will share "how he came to fall in love with - and even understand - this glorious, maddening city."

Why should you tell your friends about Bloom Where You’re Planted? Two reasons - you either know someone who would benefit greatly from attending or you know someone who’d love to get involved!

Who should attend? Anyone who is new to Paris and wondering how to make this city their home. Not sure how the metro system works, what the difference in baguettes is at the bakery, where to file your taxes, send your kids to school, buy a reasonably priced carpet or blinds, how to deal with the leak in your bathroom and your noisy neighbors.... the list goes on, you know just what we mean.

It is a new place; a new language; a new culture; a new way of doing so many things -- but it is the same old you! How do you survive and thrive in this amazing city and learn to love it here? Bloom introduces you not only to others in your shoes, but those of us who have been through it and are here to help.

Learn about cooking like the French, shopping like a Parisian, setting up your new home and getting out and about the City of Lights. Listen to experts talk about real estate, working in a French office and where to find the best beers and the bars to watch your favorite sports on TV.

Concerned about how your family will adapt to your new hometown? We’ll discuss transitioning your kids into a new culture and explain the education system and school options available to you. We cover the health system and how it works, as well as what resources are available to you if you’re struggling. We end the day by introducing you to French wine: learn how to buy it, what to pair it with, and most importantly raise your glass and join us in toasting your new life in Paris.

We hope to see you on Saturday 4 October, 2014 for Bloom Where You’re Planted! Visit www.bloom.acparis.org to register today. Space is limited and we expect to fully sell out.

Call for volunteers

Stop by the Bloom Where You Are Planted table after lunch to sign up as a volunteer. We need helping hands and friendly faces for Reception, Greeters, Children’s Program, Food service and Set-Up/Decoration. Contact Shannon: bloom.volunteer@gmail.com
Greetings from Tanzania
An update from JoAnn

Praise the LORD, O my soul, who heals all your diseases. Psalm 103:2a & 3b

Once again it is time to greet you in the name of the Lord (a common greeting here in Tanzania). For this edition, I focus on my role as the Health Care Manager. This job of caring for the health needs of all the children seemed like a daunting job when I was first asked to do it shortly after coming to Tanzania. But with the ever-present nearness of the Lord, and relying upon Him who heals in prayer, I have found joy in helping the children through big health issues and small sniffs and viruses. Dr. Kent Martin and his wife Peggy are my e-mail consultants for tough issues when I need advice and have been to Tanzania several time to give physicals to all of the children.

These are some of the children that are daily becoming stronger and healthier.

A time of healing

GIFT: I’ve written before about Gift Towo, the little boy who had both legs operated on last December before coming to Rafiki. Mother Yasinta has faithfully exercised and massaged Gift’s feet as she crooned the ABC’s and numbers to help him with his English. After a month of having his legs in a cast, Gift went to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center and there had braces made for both of his legs. He is now running and jumping. Unless he has on shorts, you wouldn’t even know he had any type of physical limitation.

BEATRICE AND REBECCA: Both girls are 10 years old and have a pronounced overbite. A few months ago I took them to a local dentist who made them a retainer to wear at night. We go into Moshi twice a month to have the retainers adjusted. The girls are faithfully wearing the retainers and take good care of them. The dentist said that the teeth are moving “slowly, slowly”. The girls have such big, beautiful smiles. They are looking forward to the day when their top teeth and their bottom teeth finally come together.

SINDANI AND BLESSING: These two girls are our youngest residents. Both came to Rafiki with significant health problems. Blessing (Umu) was seriously malnourished and neglected. Sindani, the youngest sister of two of our Maasai girls, was also malnourished, as well as being very sickly with chronic ear infections and upper respiratory problems. Over the last months, both of these girls have recovered their health and are now happy and well-adjusted.
VICTORIA: Several months ago Victoria started vomiting a significant amount of bright red blood. I took her to the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Hospital where she was admitted, given medicine to control the internal bleeding and observed for two days. Her Rafiki mother, Anamesia, stayed in the hospital with her.

Victoria was scheduled for an endoscopy a few weeks later which showed no evidence of internal bleeding. She is now eating a normal diet and has had no further problems.

ADELLA: She is one of the first children to come to Rafiki and has been here since June 2008. Adella was very sickly when she first came to Rafiki. In fact, the aunt with whom she had been living later said she didn’t expect Adella to live very long. Adella’s main health issue has been asthma.

With the expert help of Dr. Martin, Adella has been on a regime of asthma medicine for several years now. She has enjoyed good health and has had only had one bad asthma attack since she started the medications. She participates in gym classes and has no physical limitations.

It has truly been a pleasure to be a part of God’s work in helping these children to have a healthy life-style. Two dietary additions I’ve made are to drink more water and eat more vegetables. Both of these things have helped with constipation and sniffly noses. We now have a wonderful vegetable garden and aim to grow much of our own food.

As I close, I thank God for each of you who take an interest in what Rafiki is doing here in Africa – either by praying, supporting me, or supporting a child.

PRAISES

No major health issues among the children at the present time.
A seventh cottage is almost ready to accept girls who are on our waiting list.
A new mother was just hired and is in training to be the mother of the seventh cottage.
The goodness of God in all He is doing here in our Rafiki village.
Tanzania is a peaceful country where we are blessed with a stable government.

PETITIONS

For God to continue with His protection and healing of all the children here.
For good relations with the national staff and all the ROS (Rafiki Overseas Staff).
For protection on the road driving and as we’re out and about.
For strength, wisdom, and perseverance for me, and that I daily do God’s will as ChildCare Administrator.
May blessing abound for you as they have abounded for us here at Rafiki Tanzania.

En agape,
JoAnn Neal has been working with the Rafiki Foundation in Africa for more than a decade with support from the ACP.
From our Prayer Chain Team

Do you have a prayer request for our Prayer Team?

If so, please forward your prayer by e-mail to prayerrequests@acparis.org. Your prayer request will remain strictly private and confidential. Prayer is powerful. We are here for you.

James 5:13-16 (NIV)
Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available.

Meet in the chapel next to the theater.
Keeping up with Patti at Rafiki Village in Uganda

In September 2011, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village

Not just loaves and fishes

Here’s the math: 103 Rafiki resident children plus 120 Day Scholars eat 7,000 hearty, healthy meals each week. Vitamins, protein and pleasure are the guidelines for each and every meal.

Developed over the 11 years of Rafiki Village Uganda’s existence, the bi-weekly menus include both local indigenous staples and Rafiki specialties: Millet or soya porridge, banana and milk tea for breakfast, then beans, posho, rice, potatoes, pumpkin, peas, cooked greens, and chapatti (thick salty corn flour crepes) are prepared by kitchen manager Uncle Silver and his team of 8 cooks.

How do you make a huge pot of ordinary beans (legume-type) taste delicious? Mince an enormous bowl full of onions, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, curry and other spices to mix in. They smell wonderful cooking all morning! Posho is one of the Uganda’s favorite staple “comfort” foods: finely ground corn flour “mingled” with water makes a dense pile that is cubed into bowl-sized servings. “Tastes just like a white school eraser...” according to one young Mini Missionary; but I’ve developed a real fondness for it, especially with the yummy sauce from the beans.

The children look forward to the evening and weekend meals of scrambled eggs, banana muffins, pancakes for breakfast, then tilapia or beef stew with rice or cornbread, roast chicken, meatballs, chicken spaghetti, cabbage, fresh greens. Avocados, mangoes, “paw-paws” (cantaloupe-like fruits that grow on tall palms) fall off our trees here, plus sweet bananas and pineapples picked from the field yesterday balance out the carefully-planned food pyramid.

The budget? $9,000 per month, or much more in months of five Fridays & Saturdays or Sundays.

The result? Strong, lean children (not an ounce of fat on anyone) who grow daily. Rafiki children are healthy: they usually throw off the still-too-frequent viruses, colds, flu, and malaria very quickly. Our children are truly blessed. We are grateful to all of our supporters who make God’s work possible here.

Following our Destiny!

By Destiny E. Ryales

Did you know that we added a nursery program to the Excellence Computer Technology Foundation (ECTF)? The nursery program is called ECTF Academy. Parents could not afford to pay for a nursery school teacher so their children were just sitting outside doing nothing. Some mornings the children would come to the computer lab to enjoy the presence of other people and try their hand to the computer world.

Needless to say, I love the attention but they should be learning seriously at this stage. God placed the desire on my heart to hire their last year’s teacher to continue where their lessons stopped. We went to the market to pick up all the necessary supplies and classes started in March. With the donations I received in Paris during my last visit, I was able to purchase a package of Alphabet cards, 1-30 Numbering Chart and Shapes, and color poster board, so today we are able to teach the students their alphabets and numbers with visual aids.

The nursery class is held at the same community center where we provide the computer lessons. Currently, there are 7-10 children in the 9am to 2pm nursery academy. The class will eventually host 30 students, but we are waiting for their uniforms to be delivered. Thanks be to God that Dyllis Morrison has joined our staff as the nursery school teacher!

See Excellence Computer Technology Foundation: www.excellencectc.org
### Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Painting with the Spirit (Monica Bassett art exhibit)</strong></td>
<td>through 10 July</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concert</strong> - The American Festival Choir, performing Gospel music. Free admission.</td>
<td>Thursday 3 July</td>
<td>12h30</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td><strong>Thurber Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dr. Martha Robbins: Towards a Christian Evolutionary Spirituality</td>
<td>Thursday 3 July</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30&lt;br&gt;Dinner;Lecture&lt;br&gt;Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila&lt;br&gt;associatepastor&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Habitat for Humanity Used Book Sale</strong></td>
<td>Friday 4 July</td>
<td>15h00-21h00</td>
<td><a href="mailto:habitat@acparis.org">habitat@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>US Independence Day Celebration</strong>&lt;br&gt;Still Point, bluegrass band, bbq, games, crafts, bouncy houses, mechanical bull, 5k run and sparklers — Fun!</td>
<td>Friday 4 July</td>
<td>17h00-20h00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteers greatly appreciated, please contact: communitylife&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Ministry</strong>&lt;br&gt;Preparation: Friday 19h30 at ACP&lt;br&gt;Distribution: Saturday 8h00, meet at ACP</td>
<td>Friday 4 July&lt;br&gt;Saturday 5 July</td>
<td>19h30&lt;br&gt;8h00</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo&lt;br&gt;homelesssandwich&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Choir at 11h00 service</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Hartford Chorale. Richard Coffey, Musical Director</td>
<td>Sunday 6 July</td>
<td>11h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering ACP’s Tiffany Musica presents “Broadway on the Quai,” a concert of songs from American musicals</td>
<td>Sunday 6 July</td>
<td>17h00</td>
<td>Sanctuary&lt;br&gt;Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday 7 July</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM&lt;br&gt;Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Fête nationale française (Bastille Day)</strong>&lt;br&gt;public holiday, church building closed</td>
<td>Monday 14 July</td>
<td>All day</td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;Movie selection is Clint Eastwood’s Jersey Boys, Jonathan Glazer’s Under the Skin, Charlie Siskel and John Maloof’s Finding Vivian Maier, and Hossein Amini’s The Two Faces of January. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion</td>
<td>Thursday 17 July</td>
<td>19h30&lt;br&gt;Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong>&lt;br&gt;Preparation: Friday 19h30 at ACP&lt;br&gt;Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP</td>
<td>Friday 18 July&lt;br&gt;Saturday 19 July</td>
<td>19h30&lt;br&gt;13h30</td>
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The Spire needs volunteers to help write, edit or proofread articles, provide photos or images, or distribute. Any help is appreciated, big or small. Drop us a line at spire@acparis.org

### ACP Spire Diary - events, meetings & concerts (cont.)
(please check www.acparis.org/diary for updates)

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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering &quot;Music on the Seine – A Franco-American Celebration&quot; Eugenia Choi violin, William Terwilliger violin, Debra Takakjian piano, Andrew Cooperstock piano</td>
<td>Sunday 10 August 17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fête de l'Assomption (Assumption Day)</strong> public holiday, church building closed</td>
<td>Friday 15 August All day</td>
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<td><strong>The International Music Festival</strong>, hosted by ACP, with choirs from all over the world. Experience music in a multitude of styles and languages. All the concerts are free to the public.</td>
<td>Thursday-Saturday 21-23 August</td>
<td>See acparis.org for schedule closer to the festival</td>
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<td><strong>Vacation Bible School</strong> for children ages 3-10 This year we'll be journeying to &quot;SonTreasure Island,&quot; a tropical paradise where children can discover the greatest treasure of all: God's love for us.</td>
<td>Monday-Friday 25-29 August 9h00-13h00</td>
<td>More information and registration at: acparis.org/vbs</td>
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<td><strong>Young Artists Week // 2014 // Fresh Sight</strong> Young Artists Week this year will be an informal gathering of youth between the ages of 11 and 18. This event is free and open to any college or lycée students.</td>
<td>Monday-Friday 25-29 August 13h00-16h00</td>
<td>More information and registration at: acparis.org/yaw</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong> Tune in for inspiring music, interviews, and sermon highlights.</td>
<td>Monday 1 Sept 20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<td><strong>Garrison Keillor presents the A Prairie Home Companion</strong> radio show at ACP. This radio show is heard by over 4 million listeners weekly on hundreds of radio stations across the US. Tickets for the two shows are available at <a href="http://www.acparis.org/phc">www.acparis.org/phc</a>.</td>
<td>Friday 5 Sept; Saturday 6 Sept 20h00 16h00</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acparis.org/phc">www.acparis.org/phc</a></td>
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<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering Christina Chae-Young Kim, piano</td>
<td>Sunday 7 Sept 17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Worship, commences for 2014-2015</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept 11h00 &amp; 13h30</td>
<td><a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Ministry Fair</strong> - ACP Council committees and other groups will be showcase their projects and activities to welcome new members and participants to join in the fun of being a part of the greater ACP community.</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept 12h30 Theater</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Group, commences for 2014-2015</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept 15h00 Catacombs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:youthintern@acparis.org">youthintern@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong> - Free admission, with free-will offering Harumi Kinoshita, harpsichord</td>
<td>Sunday 14 Sept 17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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</table>
Garrison Keillor
A Prairie Home Companion
at the American Church in Paris

Parlez-vous Garrison Keillor? Slow-talking, down-home Minnesota native Garrison Keillor makes his radio debut in Lake Wobegon, France.

A Prairie Home Companion, the radio show heard by over 4 million listeners weekly on hundreds of radio stations across the US, will be recorded live at the American Church in Paris.

Friday 5 September at 20h
Saturday 6 September at 16h

Ticket proceeds will be donated to the church, and are on sale now, for €30. It will be open seating, with doors open an hour before each show.

See our website http://acparis.org/phc.