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I recently attended my 50th reunion of the Class of 1967 at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, USA. I found it hard to believe that I was that old. It seems that it was only yesterday that I was a university student exploring Paris with my copy in hand of Arthur Frommer's 1964 guidebook *Europe on $5 A Day*. Now, that has really changed.

Anyway, someone suggested that theme of the reunion should be "Getting together to see who's falling apart." I am thankful not to be falling apart yet and in relatively good health. I thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing with my classmates about our student days. One of the popular traditions at Hope College was that the student body voted every year to select a professor to give a "Last Chance Talk." What would the professor share with the academic community? We all listened expectantly and intently.

Jesus gave a "Last Chance Talk" to his students (disciples) at the time of his ascension to heaven and it's recorded in Matthew 28:16-20.

'And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”'

This passage is known as the "Great Commission" because Jesus is commissioning his disciples to go into all the world and make disciples. This is not the "Great Suggestion" or even still worse, "The Great Omission" of the Church. It is a mandate, a marching order from the Risen Lord that is to be faithfully realized through us. Actually the "Great Commission" is sandwiched between a great affirmation on one hand and a great promise on the other.

The great affirmation: "All authority in the universe has been given to me," is a cosmic statement of the supreme and universal Lordship of Jesus. Early Christians confessed at their baptism that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Great Commission flows out of that great affirmation. Notice the linking word “therefore.”

There is only one imperative verb in the Great Commission, and that is the verb “make disciples.” In Greek “go” is here expressed as a present participle and should be translated “Therefore, as you are going, make disciples of all nations.” So the emphasis is not on the going but on the making of disciples. The word disciple means an apprentice, an understudy, or a student. So Jesus is saying that as the 11 disciples have apprenticed themselves to him and learned from him in the past three years, now they are to invite the Gentiles, the nations, to also do the same.

How are they to do that? By baptizing them in the name of the triune God and by teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded. It is in the community of the baptized, the Church, that we learn what it is to be an apprentice to Jesus and to grow into the mission and purpose of Jesus. Matthew chapters 5-8, the Sermon on the Mount, give a good summary of what Jesus commanded of us. I encourage you to take time to meditate on this description of what it means to be a Jesus-follower.

Finally, we come to the great promise. “And, remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Jesus promises his empowering Spirit, his presence, to us, his Church. This is a promise that we can claim if we are seeking to obey Jesus, to be his disciples, who invite others to be his disciples with us.

This “Last Chance Talk” of Jesus is amazingly comprehensive. “All authority has been given to me. Therefore, make disciples of all peoples... teaching them to obey everything that I have taught. And remember, I am with you always...”

On the Way with Jesus,
Jeff
Serve the City Mission Project

The Serve the City Mission Project is distributing food donated by Prêt à Manger to the needy. There are now nearly 20 American Church volunteers serving up to 150 meals five days a week to the less fortunate in and around Paris. Additional volunteers are needed to help pick up sandwiches from the Prêt à Manger’s Neuilly-sur-Seine shop at 8h and distribute them to homeless people. Come join the team and help us Serve the City! Contact parisservethecity@gmail.com.

Prayer Chain Team

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

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

Congregational conversation summary

By the Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

Remember, remember, remember... “Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them” - Deuteronomy 4:9. The command to remember the faithfulness of God and his mighty acts are repeated again and again throughout the biblical story.

This is one of the primary reasons that we decided to have a congregational conversation about our most significant experiences of God here at ACP (and beyond). We wanted to remember and retell our stories of experiencing God’s shalom - peace, belonging, welcome - so that our faith might be encouraged.

Following our small group conversations from 26 March, we gathered a small group of leaders together to listen to the summaries of what everyone shared. This group included MaryClaire King, Ashleigh Searle, Camille Sowder, Noah Genovesi, and myself.

While reviewing our stories, listening for words, themes, and ideas that stood out, we identified three primary areas where people had significant experiences of God: Worship, Community (experiences of home, welcome, care, belonging, and connection), and Service.

But there was one larger theme that stood out for us that connected all the various stories together. And this theme was PRAYER. So we began to wonder if perhaps God was simply inviting us as a church to explore the many life-giving ways that we can encounter God through prayer.

Ashleigh Searle, Christian Education chair, put it well when she said, “We gathered together to have conversations with each other, and discovered God’s invitation to be in conversation with him as well.”

But perhaps we should note that this invitation to pray might be met with either excitement or anxiety, depending upon our experiences and expectations. Perhaps prayer has been narrowly defined as waking up really earlier and praying for long periods of time. This prayer practice can be very meaningful for many, but what if it’s not practical or life-giving for you?

Are there prayer exercises for night owls or people with a short attention span? What about prayer for busy parents or kids? What about for extroverts or introverts or skeptics?

Christian history offers us plenty of options. Prayer can be alone or it can be done together with other people. Prayer can be our own words or questions or the words and questions of Scripture. We can pray together the words of other Christians around the world and throughout time, who have wrestled with articulating their faith, fears, and desires in prayer. Prayer can be rest, it can be movement, it can be music, it can be silence, it can be more than any of us have imagined.

But whatever practices of prayer we experiment with, it is important to remember, remember, remember the faithfulness and mighty acts of God. The power to strengthen and transform us and our church is solely in God’s hands and not dependent upon how much or how well or how often we pray.

I once heard another pastor say, “We PRAY because we don’t have to pray in order to be loved and welcomed by God.” This may be a good place to start as we explore what it means to pray.

Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. - Deuteronomy 4:9.
Annual ACP spring retreat for adults  
16-18 June

Companions on the Inner Way

On 16 June we return to the Abbaye-Fleury, a historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. The theme of the retreat will be "Companions on the Inner Way," and will be led by Visiting Pastor Jeff Powell and Alba Powell. The retreat will explore how we as a community of Christ-followers share in the daily rhythm of life that is immersed in prayer, Bible reading and reflection, and spiritual fellowship.

The primary focus of the retreat will be restorative and contemplative, in keeping with the Monastery’s stated purpose: The monastery welcomes those in search of silence to recover in the presence of God, find themselves, listen to God’s words, living in the community and at their own pace, in a climate of recollection. All will be encouraged to take part in the daily prayer "Offices" of the monks of the Abbaye.

There will also be some optional time for shared reflection, scheduled so as not to conflict with the services of the Abbaye, and to allow ample free time. The retreat is limited to a maximum of 36 people, with 12 single rooms and 12 rooms with two beds. The cost is 125€ per person, which includes two nights’ lodging and six meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch). Registration deadline is 7 June.

For further information, contact Sue Orsoni at susanorsoni@gmail.com, visit the sign-up table in the Theater during coffee hour after services, or see the ACP website for updated information.

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Sunday Women’s Potluck Fellowship
Sunday, 11 June

12h15-13h30, Thurber Room

On Sunday 11 June, come celebrate! Join us for a pot-luck lunch. We'll praise God, enjoy fellowship and focus on our blessings. All women are welcome; if you can't bring food to share, that's okay---come and share yourself with us! Free childcare is available on the basement level.
We've had a wonderful spring with the youth and young adults at ACP. They are a great group to spend time with and we're thankful that we have been called to lead these ministries for a season.

One of the main responsibilities of job is to recruit and nurture volunteer leaders who can assist us in the role of mentoring and providing leadership and care to the youth of our church. Youth ministry is not a solitary task and because kids come with varying personalities, so should our leadership.

We're been blessed with an amazing crew of volunteers this year but as is often the case at ACP, we are having to bid many of them farewell this spring. One of these amazing youth leaders is Savannah Prince. She comments, “Being a youth leader made me feel part of the ACP family straight away. I walked into church the week after joining and kids and their parents came to ask how my week had been. Being a youth leader in your spare time allows you to really be an active part of the church. To not just see each other but know each other. No matter how far from home you are or how long you’re staying; be it a few months or a year. Giving your spare time to youth group or any activity at church will pay back in multitudes. I made a family and found my place here in Paris.”

Long-time youth leader Matt Brown believes that leading youth group is a chance to deepen your own faith. He says, “To lead requires you to learn more about what you believe and why you believe it. Then to help young people do the same.

Volunteering with the youth group was never something I thought I would do, but it has become one of the highlights of my week for years. In guiding others in their faith, your own faith is challenged and grows. This is one of the most dynamic groups in our church. A place to challenge each other, to work through and explore questions of our faith together. Why is leading youth group a good way to spend your time? You have a chance to deepen your faith.”

Finding a place of belonging, being more fully known not just seen, deepening your faith, exploring questions of faith: These are fantastic benefits of being a youth leader! In addition to all that, you get to build relationships with some of the most fantastic, fun, and thoughtful human beings at ACP.

We know that youth ministry at ACP is highly valued, but we need you to know that youth ministry at ACP cannot thrive without volunteer leaders. Perhaps you think you could never be a youth leader because you are too old. Doug and I have proven that you are never too old to be involved in youth ministry. And I have to say, it's like drinking from the fountain of youth! Yes, volunteering with youth ministry requires a commitment of time and energy. But you will find that while you might be a bit tired at the end of Sundays, you are fully energized by the energy and joy of the youth.

So whether you’ve been pondering volunteering but are just having trouble taking the next step, or you’ve never really thought about it but are now interested, please do speak with Jodi or Doug. You just never know. It might turn out to be the most energizing, growth-producing blessing you’ve ever received.

Please consider becoming a volunteer for youth and young adult ministries!
Originating in Left Bank studios in 1895, the Atelier Concert Series became part of the cultural activities at the American Church in Paris during the early 1930s. These concerts provide a performance opportunity in Paris for talented musicians of all nationalities.

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of concerts, see http://acparis.org

Sunday 4 June 17h00

Angela KRAFT CROSS – organ

Sunday 11 June 17h00

Amaya DOMINGUEZ – mezzo soprano; Stephen LANCASTER – baritone; LAURE COLLADANT – piano

Sunday 18 June 17h00

Janis BILHAUT – piano; Sara CHENAL – violin; Nicolas GALIERE – viola; Valerie KOHLRUSCH – cello

Sunday 25 June 17h00

Anders Gabriel SUNDSTRÖM – piano

Mozart
Quatuor n° 2 en mi bémol majeur

Schumann
Quatuor en mi bémol majeur, op. 47

Schubert et Schumann

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN
Sonate en la bémol majeur op. 110 (1822)

Felix MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY
Four Songs without Words (1830-1844)

Edvard GRIEG
Four Song Transcriptions op. 48 (1885)

Emil JÖGREN
Seven Variations on the Swedish King’s Song op. 64 (1915)
“Time flies when you’re having fun,” they say, and the months have certainly flown by! It’s hard to believe that I’ve already been at ACP more than nine months and my time is coming to a close. The Young Adults finish on 6 June, the Youth Group end-of-the-year party is on 11 June, and while we have a few things planned for summer programing there will be a large shift in people as families move and students travel. So it certainly feels like my time is winding down. My flight back to the US on 27 July is looming closer and closer.

More than once, youth and congregants have asked me if I have considered staying on longer at ACP. Of course I have. Need you ask? With all the transition the Youth and Young Adults ministries have experienced this year, I feel terrible being yet another person in the revolving door. I deeply wish I could stay to give consistency and stability. I wish I could continue pouring into these brilliant youth and fervent young adults. But sadly, I have always known this could only be a year’s stay. The government is conspiring against me (i.e., my visa is running out), and I must return to Princeton Seminary and complete my Masters. I will graduate in May 2018, Lord-willing, and I hope to continue on for a PhD in Early Christianity. I would deeply appreciate your prayers for God’s guidance, provision, and encouragement over the next year.

One thing I am realizing throughout this process is that as much as I would like to be a stable presence for somebody else, only God can be that fully consistent presence. God is the only one who remains with us through heartbreaking goodbyes, unexpected moves, and challenging losses. I would not have survived this year without God’s strength, comfort, and love - expressed oftentimes through all of you. And I know that the same God will be with the youth and the young adults when I leave. He will encourage them, rejoice with them, cry with them, and continue drawing them towards Himself.

God has already provided by bringing Jodi and Doug as interim pastors for these groups. God has further provided by lining up a new seminary intern, Jake van Asten, and his wife Tricia, who will be a blessing to this community. And I am confident that God has provided in even more ways, which He will reveal at exactly the right time.

This doesn’t mean leaving is easy. Far from it. But know that I will treasure my relationship with each of you, and know that I will be praying for God’s best for ACP. (But we don’t need to say goodbye just yet. We’ve still got the summer!)

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

- Jeremiah 29:7
The ACP is making a difference in Paris and around the world. You can participate through praying for our missions, serving in the local missions, going on a mission trip, or making a financial gift to the church. Your involvement and support make all the difference. Contact us at missionoutreach@acparis.org

Local missions

**Homeless Ministry:**
ACP Young Adults distribute food every Saturday around Paris through the Breakfast and Sandwich Ministries.

**Serve the City Paris:**
Monday through Friday, ACP volunteers distribute leftover food donated by Prêt à Manger to those hungry and in need in Paris. Other activities, too, depending on seasonal needs identified.

**Friday Mission Lunch:** In partnership with the American Cathedral, volunteers provide a hot nutritious sit-down meal at the Cathedral every Friday to those in need.

**Foyer de Grenelle:** A Christian-inspired Paris social center where volunteers provide meals for the needy, assistance to the unemployed, tutoring for children, French lessons, legal help and mailing addresses for immigrants.

**Tiffany Musica:** ACP singers and musicians bring the joy of live music into places where it is not usually performed: where meals are served to the homeless, and in rest homes, hospitals and prisons.

**Marché de Noël:** Christmas gift items are sold at this market held annually at the ACP in early November. Proceeds go to benefit ACP missions.

**Love in a Box:** Organized by the American Cathedral, the ACP participates in this program through which Christmas gifts are delivered to underprivileged children in France and Europe.

**Refugee Ministry:** Every other Wednesday afternoon free individual consultation is provided for people facing difficulties such as immigration, getting papers, divorce and apartment problems.

**SOS Help:** An English-language telephone crisis line - compassionate, anonymous and non-judgmental help is provided daily by trained volunteers recruited semi-annually.

**Paris Prison Ministry:** ACP members accompany prison chaplains to attend worship services in prisons around Paris.

Global missions: our missionaries

**Patti Lafage in Uganda, with the Rafiki Foundation:**
Patti and other missionaries in the Rafiki Training Village provide homes, Christian education and healthcare for over 100 abandoned and orphaned children in Uganda.

**Anna Cobbinah in Ghana, of The Living Truth Foundation:** Anna evangelizes in the prisons, schools and hospitals in south-central Ghana, where she preaches and conducts Disciple Bible Study classes.

**Destiny Ryales in Ghana, of Excellence Computer Technology Foundation:** Destiny trains teachers who offer free computer literacy lessons to school children in villages.

Other global missions

**King’s Garden Children’s Home in the Philippines:**
ACP supports this orphanage through prayers, shipments of clothing, school supplies and toys, and university endowments.

**Cameroonian Presbyterian Church:** The ACP donates financially to help in the construction of this church in North Douala, which houses a 500-member congregation.

Mission trips

**Youth Mission Trip:** ACP youth travel annually to locations in Europe or Africa to participate in mission work.

**Habitat for Humanity:** This ACP partner organization seeks to eliminate poverty housing and provide decent shelter. ACP sends teams every year to locations in Europe to build or renovate houses.
I’m a sucker for infant and child baptisms. The little ones dressed in their finery, the proud parents and families, the holy act of acknowledging that this child was created to be a part of Christ’s Body on earth - I love every minute. But the moment that always gets me misty is when the pastor brings the child up and down the aisle of the sanctuary to present them to their new church family. We, the congregation, get a chance to “ooh” and “aah” at the bundle of cuteness, but more importantly, we get to see up close our new brother or sister in Christ. And then we promise, with one voice, to help the child’s parents to raise them in the faith, to demonstrate through our love and care the ways of Jesus Christ, to take a serious interest in the spiritual welfare of the newly baptized child.

As the mother of two young children myself, I cannot adequately express the deep gratitude I hold for our church family’s role in Josie and Ben’s lives. They benefit enormously from your love and care, and Jonathan and I benefit from knowing that we are not walking the challenging path of parenting alone.

As the Director of Children’s ministries, I, along with our Children’s Worship volunteers, am privileged to remember and to live out the baptismal promises that I have made to the children and families of our church to nurture and care for their young ones every week.

But what we in Children’s Worship do is only one of the ways that we can care for the young people of this church. My infant son is just one of the many babies and toddlers who benefit from the loving care of Pamela Gonder and the nursery staff each Sunday. In this crucial ministry, children form their earliest memories of church as a place where they feel safe, loved, and cared for. We in Children’s Worship have the opportunity to build on these foundations through our Sunday worship times, as well as special programs like Vacation Bible School. And as the children grow into teenagers and young adults, our wonderful youth ministry team is there to guide them through the difficult years of adolescence. With patience and love, they welcome their questions and give space for the deeper spiritual discernment that happens with growing maturity.

Each of these ministries (the nursery, Children’s Worship, and youth group) is in need of people in our congregation - people of different ages, backgrounds, and abilities- to invest their time and talents into these programs, to walk alongside these babies, children, and youth. In other words, we need folks to remember the promises that they made to these children in their baptisms. On behalf of myself, Pamela, and Pastors Jodi and Doug, I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can be nurturing the faith of this next generation of church leaders.

Please consider becoming a volunteer for youth and children’s ministries!

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

Children (ages 3-10) are invited to join us in Rome! We will explore the caves of the underground church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool Bible-times projects, experience thrilling dramas, play high-energy games, hear unforgettable music, and make new friends! Register at acparis.org/vbs. A 25-euro fee per child to cover material costs is to be paid the first day. Lots of adult and youth volunteers are needed, please contact Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org for more information.
Body of Christ: What’s up in Paris
By MaryClaire King

A selection of interesting events for Christians in and around Paris. All events are in French unless otherwise stated.

50 years of interfaith dialogue

A two-day conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Science and Theology of Religions of Paris. Theologians, historians, philosophers, and representatives of all major world religions will:
• retrace the great religious dynamics of the past half century
• identify historical cuts in the priorities of theological and pastoral responses
• address the acuteness of the question of the interpretation of conciliar sources of interreligious dialogue.
7-8 June, Institut Catholique de Paris, 21 rue de Assas, 75006 Paris. For tickets and further information: www.icp.fr (under Agenda).

Liturgy and religiosity

The theme of the 64th annual Week of Liturgical Studies at the Institute of Orthodox Theology of Saint-Serge will be Liturgy and Religiosity. These academic meetings came out of a desire for dialogue among Christians that focuses on what unites rather than what divides them. The speakers, from a variety of denominations, are invited to present biblical, patristic or liturgical theological research in an ecumenical climate of dialogue.
26-29 June, Institute of Orthodox Theology Saint-Serge, 93, rue de Crimée, 75019 Paris. For registration and information: http://www.saint-serge.net.

ACAT vigil against torture

For the last 12 years, on 26 June, thousands of Christians in France and around the world unite in a prayer vigil to support the victims of torture with the hope of faith. ACAT (Action of Christians against Torture) also invites participants to send messages to ten victims of torture. Whether in Mexico, Palestine or Djibouti, these people have been beaten, tortured, or imprisoned for their commitment to human rights and protection of the poor.
For more information, go to: http://www.nuitdesveilleurs.com.

30 + Small Group: 7 and 21 June at 20h

If you are roughly 30 or older and want to grow spiritually, you are invited to join the new 30+ small group!
We meet on Wednesdays, twice a month for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.
Just come as you are! More information at thirtyplus@acparis.org.
Multifarious megamix

For 35 years now Paris's Fête de la Musique has been turning the longest day of the year into a gigantic symphony bringing together musicians of all genres and wildly varying levels of skill. The festival emphasizes the staggering array of cultures and traditions represented in this most international of cities. Concerts both organized and the opposite spill out across roads, bridges, public spaces, restaurants and cafés in a joyful cacophony that lasts well into the shortest night of the year. Got a guitar? Go for it! 21 June, http://fetedelamusique.culturecommunication.gouv.fr

Moonlight mixer

Linking l'Institut de France on the Left Bank with the Louvre on the Right Bank, the Pont des Arts footbridge symbolically connects literature with the visual arts. Each month, on the night of the full moon, the bridge is awash in far less linear cultural connections, as genial toastmaster Bob Mohl sets up his telescope, and a not-quite-random mix of Paris residents and passers-by gathers to admire the rising moon and to swap tales of their travels and travails, amid shared snacks, slices of saucisson and sips from plastic cups.

Every month (weather permitting) on or around the date of the full moon.

www.meetup.com/Paris-Full-Moon-Picnic-Group

Islamic icebreaker

The "Rock the Kasbah" festival at the Institut des Cultures de l'Islam is featuring a deliberately and deliciously diverse sampling of often improbable offerings, ranging from iconoclastic contemporary art to the alternative Uyghur musical scene in China, via Syrian poetry and Franco-Arabic karaoke, heavy metal, and hip-hop. And to celebrate Ramadan: traditional storytelling, whirling dervishes and a tribute to the queen of the heartrending love song, the unforgettable Oum Kalsoum. Until 30 July, www.institut-cultures-islam.org

Building bridges

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is devoting its annual Forum to the theme of "bridging divides," looking at how to close the gaps between young and old, rich and poor, urban and rural, analog and digital, and even human and robot. A packed roster of thought-provoking presentations and workshops will touch on health, civic engagement, green finance, inclusive entrepreneurship and even a fun foray into virtual reality. Members of the public can request a free invitation. 6-7 June, www.oecd.org/forum

Caribbean crossroads

The exuberant "Jamaica Jamaica!" exhibition at La Philharmonie explores the nation's unique musical heritage, from origin-mixing traditions brought by African slaves with colonial culture, through the highly idiosyncratic genesis of reggae and the island's other distinctive musical genres, absorbing influences from Cuba and other neighboring countries. Perhaps the most iconic moment: footage of Bob Marley bringing two bitter political rivals on stage and literally joining their hands in a plea for unity. And the most infectious: video of a fierce "dancehall" competition taking pelvic gyrations to near-Olympic levels of acrobatics — and theatrics. Until 13 August, http://philharmoniedeparis.fr

Uniting in diversity - Solidays

Musicians of all stripes come from the four corners of the globe for this boisterous blockbuster of an outdoor festival, all in aid of the 37 million people worldwide who are living with HIV-AIDS. Thousands of up-for-it music and dance fans gather to bask in the dizzying array of acts, from reggae legends Toots and the Maytals to soulful French songstress Imany, US hip-hop heroes House of Pain and Italian electro phenomenon The Bloody Beetroots. This year's edition will help fund a taboo-free youth community center in Togo, and housing assistance for mothers with HIV in Paris. 23-25 June at the Longchamps racecourse, www.solidays.org

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© deadserpents
Life at Deep Griha
By Pascale Deforge

Do you know the story of these little sewing machines?
Three years ago I met a man during a Blablacar trip and talked with him about Deep Griha sewing projects. Afterward, he gave me four small sewing machines! At the airport check-in, my luggage with these machines was too heavy! I prayed to God, asking him to do something if he wanted these machines to be in Pune. I do not know what happened but the lady at the check-in counter told me that it was OK and that the luggage was going directly to Pune - without charging me anything...

This year, finally we brought them by rickshaw to the slum and we use them for our training.

The Deep Griha Society (DGS) is an independent charitable organization that focuses on nutrition and education programs, including: Child, Youth & Women Empowerment; Medical & Health Care; Disha (HIV/AIDS awareness); and Rural Empowerment. It works to better the lives of people living in the slums of Pune, India’s seventh largest city, situated about 160km from Mumbai. For more information, see the ACP website: acparis.org/deepgriha-society or www.deepgriha.org.

We are beginning a "little snowball" startup, helping women to become independent by producing school uniforms. The five ladies coming to the workshops we organize are very poor. They have the dream and desire to earn money by starting a business. One of these women, Rajesree, 35 years old, has three children and "a husband who does not help her."

Our challenge is to teach these five women to produce good-quality school uniforms, and to help them find time to work together, as their lives are already busy with family chores. Deep Griha is committed to helping them but has no money.

Please pray for God’s providence and protection. Help us make this small snowball into a big one!

Do you know the story of these little sewing machines?

What’s going on? Tune in: ACP Today

Have you tuned in to ACP Today, the American Church in Paris’ radio show yet? Join us on Mondays at 20h45 – this month on 5 and 19 June. The 45-minute program is an exciting and inspiring mix of music, interviews, sermon highlights, and discussion on hot topics.

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

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

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or would like to contribute to the show, be sure to contact us at acptoday@acparis.org.
I would like to share three comments on the text of Hebrews 13:3.

First: “those who are in prison…”
It does not specify Christians who are in prison, even though a large number of believers and witnesses have been in prison, as we all know: Joseph, Jeremiah, Paul, Silas, and through the centuries, countless martyrs: Georges Fox, Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, and many others.

It does not say the innocent among the inmates. It says, "those who are in prison": innocent and guilty, good and bad. All without distinction. It is not the quality of the person that counts, it is the condition of being a prisoner. The prisoner as a person. It is he who is the object of the memory of the Church.

Everything must be done so that churches recognize and assume this task: to remember those who are in prison. The Church must understand the overall task of chaplains in the prison.

Second: Remember...
The memory. We know the central role it plays in the Bible. The entire story of salvation is contained, summarized, recounted, and repeated in the memory of the Church. Israel must remember the Exodus, and the Easter liturgy is there every year to help the memory of Israel.

Also in the Christian Church, the Lord’s Supper is celebrated in memory – to remember the cross and the resurrection of Jesus. Each Christian holiday is a memorial: from the birth of Christ to our worship, of the transfiguration, Good Friday, Easter, the Ascension, and Pentecost.

So the memory of the Church is a privileged place. Augustine called it the true temple of God. In this holy place, in this sanctuary, there is room for those who are in prison.

What does this mean?
It means do not reject or cast off the prisoners. Those in prison are already social outcasts. Forgotten people. Prison is like being buried. The memory of the Church must rise against this.

It also means to remember the prisoners in prayer. Bonhoeffer wrote in a letter from prison in 1944: "For me, it has often been a great relief to think, in the evening, of all those who I know intercede for me, whether children or adults. And I am sure I owe a lot of protection in my life to the prayers of people known and unknown."

To "remember", in the sanctuary of the memory, means to pray.

Third: … as if you were prisoners with them.
This is the Christian memory. It is woven memories of solidarity; a support network. This is not a memory that keeps its distance. On the contrary, it is a memory that connects, unites, and strengthens.

George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, who was imprisoned repeatedly, recounts in his diary that when a "friend" was put in jail, immediately 10, 20, 30 "friends" went to the judge and asked to be jailed also.

To remember means to make yourself present. A memory that becomes a presence.

"As if you were prisoners with them": We are not, even we chaplains. But we are there, as a presence, not an absence. We are in fact the presence of God, so to speak, the memory of the Church. We lend our bodies and your souls to make this memory present.

This is the message of this Gospel text.

In the sanctuary of the memory, where the Church remembers God and his great works, it also remembers those who are in prison, and this memory is against social rejection; it becomes prayer and presence.

Beloved of God, I came to wake you up today and also to thank you for having encouraged Carolyn Bouazouni to join us in this service. We ask for your support, especially in prayer, because our task is difficult.

Thank you for this opportunity and may God bless you all!
Let There Be Lumina

The ACP’s chamber choir "Ensemble Lumina" has finished another rewarding year of music making with a major concert on 13 May. Under the direction of Caroline Drury, the 21 singers shared all types of repertoire, from the Italian Renaissance composer Palestrina, to a contemporary work by Esenvalds accompanied by crystal glasses. Throughout the year the auditioned ensemble rehearses on Tuesday evenings and has an occasional Saturday marathon rehearsal. The ensemble also shares uplifting music for numerous worship services and for our annual Christmas Concerts. We are blessed by their vital music ministry.

Youth Mission — Serve Our City

The third annual ACP Youth summer mission week takes place 10-13 July.

All ACP youth (ages 11-18*) are invited to join us for a super fun and intensive 4 day/3 night mission at the American Church in Paris. Each day we’ll focus on unique ways to serve people in the city of Paris, as well as people within our church.

We’ll stay overnight at the church, cook our own meals, and have special times of worship and reflection focused on our theme verses for the week -- Philippians 2:3-4. Of course there will be plenty of time for games and hanging out together each evening, too!

*Students who are younger than 11 but who will be entering collège in the fall are also welcome.

Registration deadline: Sunday, 18 June.
Programs on two world wars, Richard Nixon, American judicial independence, the digital age and more are scheduled at the American Library in Paris in June.

The following events all start at 19h30 at the library at 10 rue du Général Camou, 75007 Paris.

– Susan Rubin Suleiman will speak about her book, *The Némirovsky Question: The Life, Death and Legacy of a Jewish Writer in 20th-Century France*, on Wednesday, 7 June. Irène Némirovsky had a promising career as a novelist when her life was cut short at Auschwitz after she was deported from France as a “foreign Jew” in 1942. The posthumous publication of her novel, *Suite Française*, an international best seller, brought criticism from some condemning her as a self-hating Jew.

Suleiman, Harvard professor of the civilization of France, wrote a biography situating Némirovsky in the literary and political climate of interwar France.

– The library will screen the documentary, “Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War,” on Wednesday, 14 June. It’s about Americans Martha and Waitstill Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife, who went to Europe on the precipice of World War II and in two danger-filled years rescued more than a hundred political dissidents and Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi occupation. Ken Burns and the Sharp’s grandson Artemis Joukowsky co-directed the film. A question-and-answer session with the Sharp’s great-granddaughter Emma Baxter, associate producer for the film, will follow the screening.

– U.S. Federal Judge Margaret McKeown will speak on “Judicial Independence, Politics and the American Judiciary” on Wednesday, 21 June. Appointed by President Clinton to the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit, McKeown is chair of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative Board. She served in the White House in 1980-1981.

– Novelist Colson Whitehead will discuss his book, *The Underground Railroad*, on Thursday, 22 June. New York City resident Whitehead won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 2016 National Book Award for this latest of his eight books, which imagines the process of spiriting slaves to freedom as a literal railroad.


– Longtime journalist John A. Farrell will talk about his book, *Richard Nixon: The Life*, on Wednesday, 28 June. It demonstrates how the political world we live in was created by Nixon’s imprint on the presidency and the culture. Farrell, who also wrote books on Clarence Darrow and Tip O’Neill, has worked for the *Denver Post* and *Boston Globe*, where he served as White House correspondent.


– More buzz at the library involves an adult spelling bee at 19h30 on Tuesday, 6 June. (It’s D-Day, but there will be many words that start with other letters.)

More information about the programs and authors is available on-line at [www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org).
Who else to polish off our series of meditations on the theme of shalom in the city, but Rabbi Tom Cohen? He introduced the topic of the Jewish spin on shalom, saying, “Shalom is mentioned 240 times in the Jewish Bible.” He explained that shalom means to be complete, perfect and full.

How do we treat each other, how do we create this wholeness? What are the central values to live by? It is better to achieve peace, he said, rather than truth or justice. The path, pax, or pact, between justice and compassion is shalom.

He touched on the challenges of the social media era. “Modern media don’t create serenity. We say what we want, let it all hang out, behind the Twitter or Facebook wall. There’s no human context, subtle tones of voice, twinkle in the eyes. How can we move people from the virtual world to the real world?”

He continued, “Judaism has always taken the text of the Bible to say that when God created the world, He said it was good, not that it was perfect! And it’s the role of human beings to be partners with God to perfect the world.”

If you missed his talk, you can still watch it on the ACP website at acparis.org, under “Prayer & Learning.” Or listen to ACP Today radio show on 15 May, which features an interview with Rabbi Cohen.

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The Movie Discussion Group

19h30, Thursday 22 June,
Room G2 or, weather permitting, the courtyard

This month’s movies to see beforehand: L’Amant double by François Ozon, Psiconautas by Pedro Rivero and Alberto Vázquez, Departures by Andrew Steggall, and Les Lauriers-roses rouges by Rubaiyat Hossain. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion. Contact: movies@acparis.org

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Mindfulness Meditation Group

Saturdays - 12h00 to 13h15 - Room G7

For those who already have a meditation practice as well as for those who are interested in beginning a practice, mindfulness meditation is a way of learning to pay attention to our life as it unfolds moment by moment. Open to church members and to the larger community. Facilitator: Norma Jean Deak, a longtime practitioner and teacher of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction. Questions? Contact Norma Jean: normajeandeak@gmail.com

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17 May Thurber Lecture
Shalom: Judaism & Peace

Rabbi Tom Cohen
Kehilat Gesher synagogue
Wedding blessings

By Emma Barton

Since I began working as the ACP Wedding Ministry Coordinator in August 2016, I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, volunteers, and members who make up this church. ACP has an exciting atmosphere as there always seems to be something going on - and the wedding ministry is no exception! I have seen 139 weddings and vow renewal ceremonies, and met many more couples who are planning weddings for this year and beyond. This June will be my busiest month so far, with 29 weddings planned (and counting!).

I’ve seen many different kinds of weddings, from the simple and intimate to the spectacular. I’ve seen red carpets, string quartets, Indian drummers, bubble machines, a magnificent flower arch and countless beautiful dresses. Some couples cry, others are quietly composed, and some are exuberantly joyful. One wedding particularly springs to mind: Pastor Jeff was coming downstairs, hurrying to quieten a group of loud children he had heard outside the church, and whom he feared might disturb the wedding, only to discover that the noisy group was in fact the joyful wedding party themselves.

We are blessed to have couples come from all over the world to celebrate their weddings at ACP: I’ve met couples from the United States, Japan, China, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Colombia, Australia, and New Zealand – to name just a few. All these couples are very different, but they all come to celebrate their marriage and the love that they share.

Although some couples are Christians, many are not. Indeed, some have never been in a Christian church before. We give some couples a Bible as a gift after their service, with their wedding readings highlighted for them, and we hope that they will read these passages again, and continue to read further. In many of our wedding services, 1 Corinthians 13 and 1 John 4 are read; these passages teach us how we should love each other, and describe God’s perfect, sacrificial love for us. We hope, of course, that couples will leave with beautiful memories of their wedding here at ACP, but we also pray that they will leave with a sense of God’s presence, and a better understanding, perhaps for the first time, of his love for them.

I know that many of you have received requests from me to move rooms or to keep quiet, to avoid disturbing a wedding. For others, I have asked if we can interrupt you to set up wedding flowers, or to adjust your timings so that couples can hold their wedding ceremonies at the best time for them. I would like to sincerely thank all of you for being so kind and patient. I hope that you can continue to bear with me in all of this.

Most importantly, I ask that you please join me in praying for all the brides and grooms who have been married here, and who will pass through our doors this year: 183 are booked in 2017 so far. Please pray that they experience a very happy wedding here in Paris, that God blesses them in their married life, and that each one knows God’s amazing love for them.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. - 1 John 4: 10-11
Did you miss any of ACP’s Thurber Lectures this year? The series is over until September, but you can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions. The archived video is available on the ACP website at acparis.org, under “Prayer & Learning.”

The 30Plus Adult Fellowship
Friday 7 July and Friday 4 August, from 19h

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

No age limit! Couples are welcome!
Location will be decided depending on the weather forecast; cafe indoors or terrace, picnic …

For more information: 30plusfellowship@acparis.org

Women meet on Saturdays

Women’s monthly Saturday Fellowship
Come and fellowship in the Spirit! One Saturday a month, all sisters in Christ are welcome to join this potluck gathering. All you need to do is show up -- no fee, no registration. We hope to see you! For more information, please contact Elodie Mbette at elodieruth@aol.com.

Saturday 17 June 14h-17h, G2: Sisterhood and female friendship

Women’s monthly Saturday Bible Study
Once a month Elodie Mbette will lead a Bible study with the theme “Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on love” based on 1 Corinthians 13. Come join us! For more information, please contact Elodie Mbette at elodieruth@aol.com.

Saturday 24 June 15h-17h
You may know that in the late 19th century Europe became enamored of Japanese art, but did you know the feeling was mutual? Impressionism was especially popular among eclectic Japanese art collectors, one of whom was Shojiro Ishibashi.

Ishibashi lived at a time when Japan was becoming less isolated and more open to other cultures. Aside from being an art collector, he is recognized as a key player in the technological modernization of his country. He took over his family garment factory, gradually diversifying into rubber, and eventually manufacturing tires. The company name is a direct translation of his last name: Ishi, meaning Stone and Bashi meaning bridge....familiar to many as Bridgestone Tires. Who knew there was a connection to art?

As Ishibashi continued to add to his personal art collection, he decided to make it accessible to the public by establishing the Ishibashi Foundation and a museum in Tokyo. The museum is currently going through major renovations, so Tokyo’s loss is Paris’ gain while masterpieces are temporarily on loan to the Musée de l’Orangerie in "Tokyo Paris, the Bridgestone Collection."

The exhibit is arranged chronologically and thematically. In the first two rooms you’ll discover works by Japanese artists influenced by Western style. Take a good look at the whimsical "Still Life with Cat" by Tsuguharu Fujita. All the elements of a classic still-life are present, with the addition of a curious cat who has spied his prey flying over the scene.

The next two rooms feature familiar artists, such as Monet, Renoir, and Cezanne. Modern works from Picasso, Maurice Denis, and Soutine, among others, are in the fifth room. Picasso’s "Bottle of Marc de Bourgogne, glasses and newspaper" shows his early foray into cubism when it's understandable. Everything mentioned in the title is clearly present, layered, and multidimensional. The exhibit ends with abstract and post-war pieces.

Before you leave the museum, take the time to see Monet’s "Waterlilies," beautifully presented in a large, oval space. They are magnificent. Remember that Monet had a Japanese-style bridge in the garden of his home in Giverney, thus bringing everything full circle.

Through 21 August, at the Musée de l’Orangerie.

By Karen Marin

Sunday, June 25
11h to 14h

Bag of Books Sale

Stock up on books for only 5 euros per bag... what a deal! Everything must go! Swing by St. Joe's (we'll be set up outside on the steps) and pick up some summer reading while supporting SOS Help. St. Joseph's Church, 50 avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris

Please note: As we are trying to clear out our stock, we will not be able to accept any book donations. Please hold on to them until our autumn sale - thanks!
### Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

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| **ThirtyPlus Adult Fellowship**  
Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday | Friday 2 June, From 20h | Daphne 30plusfellowship |
| **ACP Youth Music Concert – Life Is Good!**  
The Spirit, Son-Day, and Angel Choirs present the musical “Life Is Good” under the direction of Sara Barton. The musical brings Bible characters to life through fun songs and dramatic sketches, helping us all discover the joy of the Lord. Free admission with a free-will offering. | Saturday 3 June, 19h Sanctuary | Sara Barton ymusic@acparis.org |
| **Atelier Concert**  
Free admission, with free-will offering | Sunday 17h | Fred Gramann |
| **Pentecost Monday / Lundi de Pentecôte** | Monday, All day | |
| **ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show** | Monday, 20h45-21h30 | 100.7 FM, Radio |
| **Young Adults – End-of-Year Party**  
Summer is coming and it's time to celebrate! Play hilarious games, eat yummy food, take pictures at the photo booth, and look back on all the memories of this past year. Bring your favorite treat and come enjoy the last Young Adults event of the semester!" | Tuesday 6 June, 19h30-21h Library | youngadults @acparis.org |
| **Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)**  
Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for | Friday 9 June, 10h-14h The American Cathedral | If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel fridaymissionlunch |
| **Writers Group** | Saturday 14h30-16h30 | Tendayi Chirawu |
| **Women's Monthly Sunday Fellowship – End-of-year party and worship**  
Come celebrate! Join us for a pot-luck lunch. We'll praise God, enjoy fellowship and focus on our blessings. All women are welcome; if you can't bring food to share, that's okay - come and share yourself with us! Free | Sunday 11 June, 12h15-13h30 Thurber Room | Teri Lee Valluy women@acparis.org |
| **Atelier Concert**  
Free admission, with free-will offering  
Amaya DOMINGUEZ – mezzo soprano; Stephen | Sunday 11 June, 17h Sanctuary | Fred Gramann music@acparis.org |
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

**Retreat for Adults**
*Companions on the Inner Way* led by Visiting Pastor Jeff Powell and Alba Powell. A contemplative weekend at the historic Benedictine Monastery Abbaye-Fleury.
- **Weekend** 16-18 June
- **Abbey-Fleury**

**Women’s Monthly Saturday Fellowship**
All women are invited to this time of fellowship and a discussion on “sisterhood and female friendship.”
- **Saturday** 17 June
- **14h-17h G2**
- **Elodie Mbette**
  - [womenssaturdays@acparis.org](mailto:womenssaturdays@acparis.org)

**Atelier Concert**
Free admission, with free-will offering
- **Janis BILHAUT** – piano
- **Sara CHENAL** – violin
- **Nicolas GALIERE** – viola
- **Valerie KOHLRUSCH** – cello
- **Sunday** 18 June
- **17h Sanctuary**
- **Fred Gramann**
  - [music@acparis.org](mailto:music@acparis.org)

**ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show**
Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.
- **Monday** 19 June
- **20h45-21h30**
- **100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante**

**Movie Discussion Group**
This month’s movie listings: *L’Amant double* by François Ozon, *Psiconautas* by Pedro Rivero and Alberto Vázquez, *Departure* by Andrew Steggall, *Les Lauriers-roses rouges* by Rubaiyat Hossain. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.
- **Thursday** 22 June
- **19h30 Room G2**
- **(or courtyard, weather permitting)**
- **Rebecca Brite**
  - [movies@acparis.org](mailto:movies@acparis.org)

**Women’s Monthly Saturday Bible Study**
Once a month Elodie Mbette leads a Bible study with the theme “Love as a daily decision, action, and commitment: a reflection on love” based on 1 Corinthians 13.
- **Saturday** 24 June
- **15h-17h G2**
- **Elodie Mbette**
  - [womenssaturdays@acparis.org](mailto:womenssaturdays@acparis.org)

**Atelier Concert**
Free admission, with free-will offering
- **Anders Gabriel SUNDSTRÖM** – piano
- **Sunday** 25 June
- **17h Sanctuary**
- **Fred Gramann**
  - [music@acparis.org](mailto:music@acparis.org)

**Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner**
Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.
- **Friday** 30 June
- **20h Thurber Room**
- **Monica Bassett & Anja Wyss**
  - [multicultural@acparis.org](mailto:multicultural@acparis.org)

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

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Thanks to the guys who helped us say thanks to moms on the Fête des mères, 28 May!
La Compagnie Extra
avec le soutien du gouverneur militaire de Paris
et de l'ambassade des États-Unis d'Amérique en France
a le plaisir de vous convier à l'oratorio

ALAN SEEGER: INSTRUMENT DU DESTIN

COMPOSÉ
par Patrick Zimmerli

MERCREDI 7 JUIN 2017
à 20 heures
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129, rue de Grenelle, Paris 7e

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ou sur www.bit.ly/AlanSeegerOratorio