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Ash Wednesday service, ACP
6 March at 19h

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

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit…was led by the Spirit in the wilderness…* (Luke 4:1).

As we enter our Lenten journeys starting with our Ash Wednesday service on 6 March, I am still savoring the gift of our AICEME conference and touring in Egypt. After landing in Cairo on 4 February, we visited a couple of Coptic monasteries, then arrived at Anafora, a Coptic monastery and retreat center in the desert where we enjoyed a few days of restful worship, prayer, lectures, and small group discussions with colleagues and the center’s founder, Bishop Thomas. The name, Anafora, is the Coptic word for the part of the Eucharist liturgy meaning “lift up” (as in, Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord).

Bishop Thomas shared stories that showed how God taught him to trust and gave him compassion for outsiders. He recalled how his grandmother was a faithful Christian and gave generously to the poor. But Thomas, as a young boy, questioned why “the poor” were not welcome in their home and at their table? He told the story of an older man, George, whom he befriended on the street and with whom he would meet daily. Then one day George wasn’t there. Thomas searched and searched, but couldn’t find him. Finally, one of the local priests told him that George had died and because he had no family was buried in a common grave.

When Thomas became a Bishop in the Coptic Orthodox Church, he started Anafora as a community where all would be welcome. When young boys and men came to offer work, he asked them if they had been to school. Hearing no, he started a school. Widows and women who were traumatized by varying kinds of abuse are given shelter and taught trades like weaving, icon painting, and candle-making. There is an active bakery and farm. Everyone, as they are able, join in the morning communion worship (6:00 a.m.) and evening Vespers (6:00 p.m)! It is a thriving faith community that welcomes different people and is not only a literal but also a spiritual oasis for all.

As we are approaching our own Lenten journey, I invite you to reflect on where God is calling you/us to go. Monks don’t just see their vocation as separating from the world, but focusing on God more so they can better offer themselves for the world. For example, the traditional Lenten discipline of fasting is not just a personal spiritual exercise, but a with-holding of food from self in order to have more to share with the poor and hungry! What would it look like to be “Urban Monks”?

Lent is a great time to try on new ways of living that are more life-giving. Focused efforts can have big results… We worshiped with the St. Andrew’s Union Church of Cairo, a worshipping congregation of about 20 people. They help 35,000 refugees a year!

So in the coming 40 days, take time for meditation on the Scriptures, prayer, and fasting (with a doctor’s counsel!). Come join the Thursday Taizé at ACP prayer services. Or take time to volunteer at the Friday Mission Lunch, or help out with 100 Nights of Welcome. One friend suggested no “screen time” after dinner in the evenings, and simply getting up and walking to watch the sun come up, with no other agenda but to listen and be open to the beauty of the sky. Be creative. Try something new that is life-giving for you. But let us enter into the spirit of Anafora, and lift up our hearts to the Lord. May our Lenten journey “led by the Spirit” help us to lift up the Lord, for us and the world.

In Christ,
Bible readings for March

3 March  Transfiguration Sunday
Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

6 March  Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

10 March  First Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13

17 March  Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1

24 March  Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

31 March  Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Goldilocks and the 3 bottles of Champagne

by Rev. Tim Vance
Associate Pastor

Once upon a time there was a young woman named Goldilocks. One day she wandered into a French forest and happened upon an old tree house deep in the heart of bear country. She knocked on the door and when no one answered she let herself in. At the table she found a wonderful meal. She sat down and began to eat, but then she thought to herself... “this would be just right if only I had a nice glass of Champagne!”

Goldilocks went to the cave in the old tree house and found three bottles. She poured a glass from the first bottle and took a sip... “Oh no, this is much too bland!” she said. She poured a glass from the second bottle and took a sip... “Oh no, this is much too sweet!” she said. She took the third bottle and poured a nice sparkling golden liquid into her glass, took a sip... But just then the door to the old tree house opened and there stood three bears.

Goldilocks turned to the three bears and said, “This champagne is just right!” The three bears smiled, sat down at the table with Goldilocks and began to tell her the story of their Champagne.

The first bear began, “When we first started our own vineyard we knew that grapevines, like any plant, need water in order to grow. And since I did my studies in the United States, I thought to myself, if water is good for the vines, then certainly more water is better. And if more water is better, then EVEN MORE water must be the best! So we watered and watered and watered and the vines grew and grew and grew. But when we made the wine from these grapes it had no flavor. It was much too bland!

Then the second bear added, “It was then that I remembered that healthy grape vines actually need to experience a bit of stress or struggle so that it begins to grow deeper roots. And since I also studied in the United States, I thought to myself, if stress is good for the vines, then certainly more stress is better. And if more stress is better, then certainly EVEN MORE stress must be the best. So we planted our a vineyard in the desert and cut off all water so that the plants would be forced to grow deeper roots. Unfortunately, when we made wine from these mostly dehydrated grapes, we could only make one bottle and it much too sweet.

Then the third bear said, “Finally we returned to work in the vineyards that our great, great, great grandparents had planted many generations ago in the Champagne region of France. It’s here that our vines struggle through challenging seasons of heat and cold. But it’s also here that our vineyard has grown deep roots into the chalky soil. And in that healthy soil there is both water and warmth through even the harshest seasons.”

Goldilocks raised her glass and added, “which makes for a glass of Champagne that is Just Right!” And Goldilocks returned every Saturday to the home of the three bears for more of their delicious champagne.

In this adapted fairytale from my last sermon, where do you find yourself? What does it look like to have too much water? In what ways are we or others desperate for water?

I’m hesitant to attribute our suffering to God, but in what ways does Jesus redeem our experiences of pain and struggle? What does it look like for our lives to be deeply rooted in the soil of God’s love and grace?

Read again Luke 6:20-26 with this parable of a vineyards with too much or too little in mind. What might Jesus (as a good gardener) be doing?

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green. In the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. – Jeremiah 17:7-8
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 3 March 17h00
Laia TERRÉ - cello; Ramon ANDREU - piano

Sunday 10 March 17h00
Makiko SUZUMURA - piano

Sunday 17 March 17h00
Quatuor Midi-Minuit

Sunday 24 March 17h00
Swetlana MEERMANN-MURET - piano

Sunday 31 March 17h00
Svetlana TELTSOVA - piano

“L’ÂME RUSSE”
ceuvres pour piano de
PETER TCHAIKOVSKI, SERGEI RACHMANINOV,
ANATOL LIADOV, ANTON ARENSKI

JANÁČEK
Quatuor n°2 “Lettres intimes”

DVORÁK
Quatuor américain

DEBUSSY
Clair de Lune / Estampes / L’Isle joyeuse
Préludes Deuxième livre :

Brouillards
La Puerta del Vino (La porte du vin)
Les flots sont d’espaces désespérés
Bréguets
Générale Lucine - Eucaristie
Onfile
Cinespe
Les terras alternadas
Face d’artifice

Oeuvres de
Bach/Liszt, Schubert, Chopin,
Orda et Moniuszko
Au revoir
by Reverends Odette and Jim Lockwood-Stewart, Visiting Pastors

Au revoir, Pasteurs Visitants!

The Reverends Odette and Jim Lockwood-Stewart have served as ACP Visiting Pastors for the past year. On 27 March they will return to the United States for six months, to their home in Berkeley, California. They will travel the US visiting family, teaching, and consulting for six months before they return to ACP on 1 October for another six-month stay.

Reverend Jim Lockwood-Stewart

It has been a joy to return to ACP for the past year, renewing and creating friendships and entering in the life of the congregation. While Odette has carried primary responsibility as the official Visiting Pastor, it has been my privilege to conduct the Japanese and Chinese agency weddings, which comprised roughly 80% of the 373 wedding blessings of the year. I also have participated as a pastoral presence with the Filipino Fellowship, including some Bible Study leadership and Memorial observances. It was a privilege to lead a group of ACP Choir members on 11 November, representing ACP at a World War I Peace Centennial Interreligious Service, hosted by the German Evangelical Church of Christ in Paris.

Beyond pastoral responsibilities, a significant part of my experience this year has been immersion in music as a member of the ACP Choir and the Ensemble Lumina. I also have been enriched by the faith and fellowship of the Thursday morning men’s Bible Study, and by the experience of being among the overnight volunteers in ACP’s 100 Nights of Welcome.

Reverend Odette Lockwood-Stewart

At ACP, wildly diverse people discern, explore, and live God’s call and claim upon their lives. This has been true for Jim and me as we returned to ACP for a full year to share life and ministry with this community.

As the first woman Visiting Pastor, I have not conducted agency weddings, but have worked closely with Emma Barton guiding this ministry, and with couples from the US and many nations on their weddings and vow renewals. I have preached six times, led worship weekly with wonderful pastoral colleagues, and have led retreats, studies and workshops. Sharing in and speaking to African and Women’s Fellowships has been a joy. And I have been a witness to ACP’s splendid lay leadership as I engaged regularly with prison ministry, Council meetings, the Stewardship Committee, Refugee Ministry, worship design, and volunteered with 100 Nights of Welcome.

Through communications ministries, partnerships, and the ACP Today Radio program, I have heard brilliant testimonies of lives changed and ministries born and grown by God’s spirit. We each and all are called to witness in word and deed to the Good News of Jesus Christ in our daily lives and to communicate boldly the ways God’s Spirit is alive and moving at ACP.

As mentor, pastoral counselor, and spiritual director, I have been privileged to accompany members of this community in vocational discernment and discovery, in spiritual growth, and through challenging times of transition and suffering.

It has been a gift to be part of such an excellent pastoral team and staff led by Pastor Scott Herr. And we have been truly blessed to begin to know the depth and beauty of the children of God gathered, nurtured, sent forth at ACP. We thank God for you and will pray for you while we are apart!

Every Sunday at the ACP, 15h-17h

Reflect and focus on God’s word
Look back on how your faith was shaped
Grow as Christ’s follower and help spread His good news to the world
Find out how you can apply the Scriptures to everyday life
sundayafternoon@acparis.org

ACP Spire, March 2019 7
I want to express my immense gratitude to my colleagues and to the members of the congregation for celebrating my ordination in such a spectacular, unforgettable way. My seminary journey, and my journey to being an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has been long and challenging in ways ordinary and unexpected.

Both of my children were born during my time as a student at Phillips Theological Seminary, my eldest with severe, life-threatening complications that made her first year of life very difficult. But through that dark time, and through the rest of my seminary days, I have been buoyed by the grace of God, the love of my family, and the support and encouragement of this congregation, along with my sponsoring congregation, Northwest Christian Church in Columbus, Ohio.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for walking this journey with me, and for shaping me into the pastor that I am today.

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On Sunday 24 March

Remember to do the math!

9h00 service + 11h00 service + 13h30 service =

One BIG

ACP Congregational Service

at 11h30

12h45: Congregational meeting
Taizé @ ACP during Lent
by Rev. Odette Lockwood-Stewart, Nicole Taylor, and Julia Metcalf

You are invited to weekly Taizé Candlelight Prayer Services at ACP, as a part of the Lenten season. Beginning Thursday evening, 7 March, in the ACP Chapel, restore your soul midweek with meditative worship based in simple music, scripture readings, and prayerful silence. Every Thursday experience new forms of simple, sung and silent prayer in Christian community.

You are also invited to attend one or all Taizé Song Workshops every Tuesday evening at ACP in room G5. Nicole Taylor, from the ACP Choir, will lead us in learning the simple prayerful songs we will pray throughout Lent.

History of Taizé
In 1940, at the age of 25, Brother Roger, a Reformed Protestant, left Switzerland to live in France. For years he had been ill with tuberculosis. During that long convalescence the call to create a community matured within him.

The small village of Taizé, where he settled, was quite close to the demarcation line dividing France: it was well situated for sheltering refugees fleeing the war. Out of discretion towards those he was sheltering, Brother Roger prayed alone; he often went to sing far from the house, in the woods. So that none of the refugees, Jews or agnostics, would feel ill-at-ease.

In the words of the late Brother Roger:
What do we wish most for those who come here? We wish that they maybe listened to, that they be heard. Not that they come to receive advice, direction, none of that! But that they may be heard and that something may be liberated in us, in every person through that listening, that understanding, which is Love.

Today, the Taizé Community is an ecumenical community of over a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. By its very existence, the community is a “parable of community” that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples. The brothers of the community live solely by their work. They do not accept donations.

Over 100,000 young people come to Taizé each year to pray, study the Bible, and serve. To learn more about Taizé: www.taize.fr/en.

ACP and Taizé
Julia Metcalf, ACP's Youth/Youth Adult Intern, visited Taizé 21-23 February for “a retreat in every sense of the word: worship, healing, nature, slowing down, and make space to listen to God in a new way.” Julia also went “to experience the Taizé worship before we start the weekly prayer services. I am excited. It is important and impactful.”

Julia, Pastor Victor, Pastor Odette, and Nicole Taylor have been preparing for a future youth and young adult visit to Taizé. Nicole has visited Taizé many times since 1999. She served as a cantor during the 2008-09 Taizé European Youth Meeting in Brussels, and began teaching Taizé song workshops in 2009. Pastor Odette first visited in 1977 and looks forward to returning. Since then her daily prayers draw upon Taize's simple practice of song, silence, service and prayer.

The Taizé Community on the importance of singing:
Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly.

The community that gathers at ACP will pray together guided by the Spirit, by music, by scripture, by silence.

Taizé at ACP, Lent 2019
Taizé song workshops led by Nicole Taylor: Tuesdays, 12 March-9 April, 19h-20h15 in G5. Learn the simple, prayerful songs of the Taizé Christian community. Each participant will receive a book of selected songs and learn the music.

Taizé candlelight prayer services: Thursdays, 7 March-11 April, 18h30-19h30 in the ACP Chapel.
Annual Women’s Retreat

Saturday 6 April, 9h-16h
ACP Thurber Room

Treat yourself to a special day of worshipping, studying and resting in God's love and grace as we reflect on "Listening to Love and Living Blessed" taken from the scriptural theme of Psalm 139:15, “You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.”

Our speaker, Emily Rova-Hegener, is a Lutheran pastor and spiritual director who lives in Oslo, Norway. She is passionate about listening to God along life’s way, loving people, and laughing.

You may register each Sunday in March during Coffee Fellowship; look for the Women’s Retreat Table in the Theater. Payment can be made by check or cash only. Please register early as there is limited space! Registration includes:

- Catered lunch
- Participants - 20 euros
- Children’s retreat: 5 euros per family
- Scholarships available

For any questions regarding the retreat or Women’s Ministry activities, please contact Kim at women.acparis@gmail.com

Significant Marriage

One Day Workshop

Discover how God wants to use your marriage to make a difference. In the Significant Marriage Workshop you will learn to be intentional in creating a plan together to become all God has created you to be as a couple.

95€/couple

Paris, France
30 March 2019

Time: 9h00 - 17h00
Location: The American Church in Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris, France
Register: online at www.acparis.org
Childcare: 15€ per child / registration required
Questions: email associatepastor@acparis.org
ACP Women's Ministry activities for March

Women’s Ministry activities provide an opportunity to meet other women from the church, to be encouraged in your faith journey and participate in a community striving to love and serve Christ more each day. All women are invited to join in our activities. Childcare is provided for the majority of our events. For more information contact women@acparis.org.

Sunday Women’s Fellowship
Sunday, 17 March
12h15-13h30, ACP

Please join us as we welcome Virginia Jacinto, one of the founding members of the Filipino Fellowship, to share "Journey through faith and the healing power of prayer." Virginia is from Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, in the northern part of Luzon, Philippines. She is a preacher's kid (PK), as her father was a minister of The United Methodist Church. She arrived in Paris in 1983.

If you are able, please bring a sweet or savory treat to share during our fellowship time. Childcare is provided in G1. All women are invited to attend.

International Women's Day
is celebrated on 8 March every year. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights.

After the Socialist Party of America organized a Women's Day on 28 February, 1909 in New York, the 1910 International Socialist Woman's Conference suggested a Women's Day be held annually. After women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia in 1917, 8 March became a national holiday there. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the socialist movement and communist countries, until it was adopted in 1975 by the United Nations.

In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim 8 March as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace. Today, International Women's Day is a public holiday in some countries and largely ignored elsewhere. In some places, it is a day of protest; in others, it is a day that celebrates womanhood.

- from Wikipedia

Weekly Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study
10h30 – 12h30, Catacombs

Using Navigators Life Change series on the book of Galatians, we study God’s word, pray for one another and have a time of fellowship with coffee and treats.

March 12: Lesson 5
March 19: Lesson 6
March 26: Prayer and shared lunch

All women are welcome to attend. If you need childcare, please email at least a week in advance: women@acparis.org.

Monthly Sunday Women's Bible Study
Sunday 10 March
12h15-13h15, F2 (1st floor)

This study of The Lord's Prayer, is led by Teri Lee Valluy and meets one Sunday each month. The focus for this month's study is "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." All women are invited to attend and childcare is provided.

The Lord's Prayer

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Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus
with Dr. Reggie Williams
Thurber Lecture, 19 March, 19h00 – 21h15
by Rev. Tim Vance, Associate Pastor

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor, theologian and activist who publicly confronted Nazism and anti-Semitic racism in Hitler’s Germany. The Reich’s political ideology, when mixed with theology of the German Christian movement, turned Jesus into a divine representation of the ideal, racially pure Aryan, and allowed race-hate to become part of Germany’s religious life. Bonhoeffer provided a Christian response to Nazi atrocities that was sparked by his experiences in Harlem in 1930.

What Bonhoeffer learned about Jesus in Harlem’s churches was that they featured a black Christ who suffered with African Americans in their struggle against systemic injustice and racial violence – and then resisted. In the pews of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, under the leadership of Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., Bonhoeffer absorbed the Christianity of the Harlem Renaissance. This Christianity included a Jesus who stands with the oppressed rather than joining the oppressors, and a theology that challenges the way God can be used to underwrite a union of race and religion.

Dr. Reggie Williams argues in his book Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus that the black American narrative led Dietrich Bonhoeffer to the truth that obedience to Jesus requires concrete historical action. This ethic of resistance not only indicted the church of the German Volk, but also continues to shape the nature of Christian discipleship today.

If you are interested in hearing more about Bonhoeffer’s experience in Harlem please join us on Tuesday, 19 March at ACP for a conversation with Dr. Reggie Williams about Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus. The evening will begin with a light meal at 19h00 followed by a lecture and conversation from 19h15-21h15.
What’s up in Paris

March event listings

by Karen Albrecht

Yankee ingénue-ity

The award-winning 1950 musical “Guys and Dolls” comes to the Paris stage for the very first time, courtesy of the newly spruced-up Théâtre Marigny. A true classic of the genre, this madcap midcentury tale set (where else) in New York City, throws together a shady bunch of gamblers, a bevy of big-hearted showgirls and an army of earnest evangelists, celebrating the triumph of true love against all odds, with some unforgettable song and dance. In English with French surtitles.


Dutch treat

Following on from the hit inaugural show on Gustav Klimt, the new exhibition “Starry night” at the Atelier des Lumières showcases the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh. Located in a former foundry, the 360° “immersive experience” uses 140 digital video projectors to bring the Dutch impressionist’s vivid colors and arresting compositions to life, flashing through the iconic landscapes, night skies, portraits and still-lifes. The companion piece “Dreamed Japan” explores the stylized Japanese aesthetic that profoundly influenced Van Gogh’s work.

Until 31 Dec. www.atelier-lumieres.com

Oh-so-French flourishes

The French post-impressionist painters known as the Nabis explored decorative arts as the intersection between art and daily life, bringing their lusciously colorful designs to wallpaper, prints, tapestry, stained glass, and ceramics. This first-ever show dedicated to the Nabis’ decorative efforts looks at works by Bonnard, Vuillard, Maurice Denis, Sérusier, Ranson, and others, highlighting the influence of Japonisme and forays into esoteric and spiritual themes.

13 Mar-30 June, museeduluxembourg.fr

Olympia hall

Celtic tigers

In honor of St. Patrick’s day, the bouncy Celtic Legends dance troupe will be jigging away 15-17 March at the Olympia music hall. The weekend-long St. Patrick’s Festival at the Centre Culturel Irlandais located (you guessed it) in the rue des Irlandais features a family day and great Irish music. There’s even an authentic St. Patrick’s mass at the gorgeous Église St. Etienne du Mont on Sunday 17 March, at 16h.

www.olympiahall.com; www.centreculturelirlandais.com

Viva Argentina

The all-male Che Malambo troupe celebrates the legacy of the gauchos, the fierce cowboys of Argentinian Pampas. Malambo began in the 17th century as ritualized duels in which cowboys showed off their skills, evolving into foot-stomping dances, energetic percussion, and masterful twirling of the boleadoras, a weapon made from a cord and two stones. Add in the artistic touch of French choreographer Gilles Brinas and you’ve got a recipe for some serious drum-beating, boot-stomping fun.

Until 21 Apr, bobino.fr

A world of books

The mammoth Paris book fair, while of course a high point of the French (and francophone) literary calendar, also offers a window onto the whole wide world of books. This year’s special theme is Europe, featuring a one-hour spotlight on the latest literary likes and luminaries from each European state. Slovak capital Bratislava is the featured city, while Oman, certainly not many people’s idea of a literary Mecca, is this year’s special guest. Star-studded lectures and book signings, plus endless browsing for fans of mysteries, mangas, children’s books, and more draw a huge, multigenerational horde of book lovers.

15-18 Mar, www.livreparis.com

ACP Spire, March 2019  13
The Refugee Ministry makes recommendations to the Mission Outreach Committee on ways to motivate members of our congregation to help alleviate the refugee crisis in Paris. The team is looking for new members. If you would like to join or see what we do, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com.
Welcome Dinners were launched by the ACP’s Refugee Ministry. The project was created as a way to help us “break barriers by breaking bread with refugees.” We aim to have 12 dinners (96 participants) blessed by this ministry project in the first year. The hope is for members of the American Church in Paris to get to know one another better, and to meet and get to know refugees. In one evening, you can experience the blessing of extending hospitality, meeting Christ in the stranger, and forming new relationships in the breaking of bread.

The aim is to invite church members to host dinners in their homes in order to bring together refugees living in and around Paris and fellow ACP-goers in a warm, casual setting. Dinners typically include eight people: the host plus three local people, and four refugees under the auspices of the Jesuit Refugee Service.

The invited refugees are single males, generally in their 20s and 30s, who are in different stages of the immigration process – seeking asylum or refugee status, having arrived in France recently or several years ago, working or unemployed. The program seeks to encourage getting to know “the refugee,” giving him a name, a face, a place at the dinner table, and a chance to interact with courteous and open-minded people who may personally know what it is like to navigate being an outsider in France.

If you would like to host a Welcome Dinner, please contact Ursula Perrier at ursulaperrier@gmail.com.

We spent an enriching evening with some young asylum seekers and two Parisians last night, when our dining room table was transformed into a sort of altar to Gratitude...

Where humble halal beef stew (with a bit too many turnips) became a magic potion for time-and-space travel back to childhood innocence before bombs and dead bodies...

Where Love became greater than faith, and Love’s unorthodox prayers of hope of a future for gardeners, dancers, gym teachers, and chefs lifted chins and shoulders...

Where inhibitions took a back seat to dancing with strangers and Bruno Mars and uptown funky walk...

Where we toasted the night with Pouding Chomeur (poor man’s pudding, and fingers crossed that no one noticed the unintended pun for such a group).

Thank you, Ursula and Pauline, for organizing this with us. Our French friends (in the picture) loved it so much that with our guidance would like to do it again, at their home. We would love to have the same group. Gerald from Uganda was my invite when one of the other guests could not make it. I met him at one of the 100 Nights of Welcome.

God bless you all!

Peter and Patricia DeWit
**EASTER BREAKFAST INVITATION**

The American Church in Paris invites you to celebrate our Risen Lord in fellowship with your faith family at its annual Easter breakfast on Sunday 21 April.

The full breakfast will consist of French toast with raspberry sauce or maple syrup, sausages, eggs, fruit, yogurt, juice, coffee/tea, and homemade chocolates!

The meal will be served from 8h to 9h in the Thurber Room, allowing early-bird worshippers to eat after the Sunrise service at the Seine, or before attending the 9h worship service.

Donations will be accepted to help defray the costs of the breakfast.

Anyone who would like to help with this event please write to the breakfast coordinator Mary Hovind-Gay at bemary1212@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed either or both Saturday afternoon 20 April to help prepare food, make chocolates and set-up the room, and on Sunday morning for cooking, serving and clean-up.

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**The Movie Discussion Group**

19h30, Thursday, 21 March

Salle G2

This month’s movies to see beforehand:

- Vice
- La Chute de l’Empire américain
- Stan & Ollie
- Rosie Davis

Contact: movies@acparis.org

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**What we are looking for is what is looking.** ~St. Francis of Assisi

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**French language classes**

French classes are held on Tuesdays at ACP, from 18h30-20h, taught by Francois Pierre and Yasmina Rezkallah. The class is intended for beginners who are committed to learning French. Attendance is limited to 20. The annual fee is €80, and a book purchase is necessary. There is no age or nationality restriction, and no pre-requirements.

Remember, learning a new language requires significant work. There is no such thing as “French made easy.” Therefore, weekly attendance is a requirement and ongoing progress is expected. If you are interested, please come along to a Tuesday night class for a sample class.

Would you like to help teach French to beginners? We need more volunteers, so if you are available and interested, please email fkpierre@gmail.com.
ACP’s headhunters
by Gigi Oyog, Nominating Committee

The American Church in Paris, like many churches, is not run by staff alone. The Council, as one of its governing bodies, oversees the committees that make important decisions on the direction and activities of the church, from finances to maintenance. Getting the right volunteer for the right job is crucial, and can be challenging for both nominator and nominee.

So when the ACP Nominating Committee goes about filling up Council vacancies, candidates cannot run and they cannot hide. Not for long. Sooner or later, church members displaying leadership and other qualities will inevitably be spotted, approached, invited, persuaded, encouraged, and prayed for.

Delia Esteban, from the Philippines and currently Music and Worship Committee Vice-Chair, tried running away when she was asked. She was caught completely off-guard and blurted out: “Why me?” Filled with self-doubt, she did not accept or refuse at the moment, but the Nominating Committee encouraged her, advising that she pray about it. It was a daunting decision to make. “During the week, I was having nightmares and sleepless nights. I felt pressure,” she said. Then Pastor Scott’s sermon the following Sunday struck a chord: “His message was something like ‘If you can’t go over it, go through it.’ There, I was hit. I surrendered.”

Like Delia, Elizabeth Eposi from Cameroon did not believe at first that she had what it took to head a Council committee. She became a member of ACP around 1991, and in 2018 she was asked to be Chair of the Christian Education Committee. It was going to be her first time on Council. She remembered saying, “Wow!” How will I be able to do it? She also prayed hard about it and finally accepted. “How can I refuse to do God’s work, if it is God’s will? You do not have the right to refuse. If He will direct me, I will be able to do it,” she said.

Michael Ott, Council Moderator, had similar reservations when invited: “I was pretty sure I was going to turn it down initially, but I knew that there was a strong team in place so that I could rely on many experts and people who really cared and worked hard.”

He recalled that he was asked to be Assistant Secretary within nine months of arriving in Paris and around five months after becoming church members, and a year later for the position of Moderator. “I was a little surprised that it happened so quickly. Second, I was unsure that I could do the job properly, largely because I did not know many people individually nor the congregational history.”

The Nominating Committee is responsible for filling up vacancies in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the church. Composed of members representing the three worship services, the Nominating Committee invites the congregation to submit names of persons they believe would be able to serve. It then spends time discerning which position would be best filled by the names brought forward.

Other looming committee vacancies are in Communications, Stewardship, Finance and Development, and Human Resources. During the congregational meeting in May, the congregation will vote on the Council slate.

There are 18 elected members of Council representing seven committees each with a Chair and a Vice-Chair, and the Executive Committee. Each position is for a one-year term, with a maximum of three consecutive years. The Council meets once a month.

ACP members are eligible to serve on Council. Candidates must have a desire to serve, the time, and the skills for the responsibilities of the position. “I feel honoured to be part of Council but I have also realized that it is a big responsibility and that it should not be taken lightly,” Elizabeth said.

The Nominating Committee is composed of Lela Losq (Co-Chair), Rose Burke (Co-Chair), Nathaniel Akujobe, Tom Johnson, Gigi Oyog, Ashleigh Searle and Pastor Scott Herr.
ACP welcomes Georges Seba and the Chœur Gospel de Paris® that he founded in 2006. The Chœur Gospel de Paris® is the choir of residence at the Temple du Marais where they share a message of hope and goodwill. Bringing together the fervor of American gospel ensembles and the joy of traditional African culture, its singers hail from every corner of the world, echoing the universality of the gospel message they celebrate.
Yes, the American Church is not only a beacon on the Seine, but also a voice on the Paris airwaves. Inaugurated in February 2012, a dedicated and fluid team consisting of ACP staff and volunteers have faithfully produced a 45-minute show twice a month on Radio Fréquence Protestante, 100.7 FM.

The initial idea for ACP Today was to start easy and build it up, with the first show aimed at simply broadcasting recorded sermons, atelier concerts, or Thurber Thursday talks. How hard could that be? But the plans took on a higher frequency with the assistance of ACP member Genie Godula, a broadcast journalist working as a news anchor at France 24. She challenged us to create original, content-filled shows each month, and continues to coordinate the teamwork.

Each broadcast mixes music selections from ACP talent and discussions of hot topics. It includes segments such as “Question of Faith,” to address questions and concerns by listeners or ACP members, interviews with the prestigious guest lecturers who come to the American Church, and sometimes a “Spiritual Challenge,” to follow up on issues raised from the latest sermon. These are punctuated with segments of “Meditation in Music”, “My Story My Song,” and “What’s Happening When,” a brief roundup of the ACP calendar.

It’s an exciting mission. ACP members provide a rich pool of talent, information, and history that can be tapped and broadcast to inspire those who are housebound, those who are searching for English-language Christian programming, and of course those of us who would simply like more than weekly devotions. We reach listeners from around the country – and beyond, as the link to the recording of each show is available on ACP’s website.

So on the first and third Mondays of each month, (e.g. 4 and 18 March), turn to 100.7 on your FM dial and listen in as ACP Today mixes the testimony of our faith and the science of broadcast to speak to you via the magic of radio waves.

Don’t like the radio? Listen online at http://frequenceprotestante.com. Don’t have that time slot free? Tune in at your leisure via the ACP website, at https://acparis.org.

“ACP Today: Faith Talk from Paris!”

ACP Today radio show is dedicated to being an encouragement, as well as a place to question what we struggle with as aspects of our faith in Christ. It invites you to listen in to conversations interspersed with uplifting music. Let it strengthen your faith, encourage you in difficulties, shine the light upon your way when in doubt.
St. Patrick at the ACP

“My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers. I am looked down upon by many.” – St. Patrick’s Confessio

So begins St. Patrick’s confession. The Irish saint may never have chased snakes out of the country, or actually compared the shamrock to the Trinity, and was apparently kicked out of the priesthood for failure to submit to authority. However, he built the first Christian Church in Ireland in 432 AD, was a prolific Christian writer and a respected theologian, and as a missionary, reached out to an entire country for the Kingdom of God.

His image can be found within the American Church, as part of the missionary window at the back above the balcony. It depicts missionaries from around the world, and we see St. Patrick holding the famous green shamrock.

Sunday Worship at the ACP

09h00:
Traditional Service, with weekly communion

11h00:
Traditional Service, with choirs, children’s worship service; communion first Sunday of the month

13h30:
Contemporary Service, with children’s worship service, and live band accompanying sung worship

The Heritage Society

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

Prayer Chain Team

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

If you would like someone to pray with you after services, a Prayer Team member is available. Meet in the chapel next to the theater after each service.
Please help keep our children healthy

Because we want to keep the ACP nursery and toddler rooms safe and hygienic places to play and rest, children who are sick will not be admitted to the nursery and toddler rooms. This is to protect all of our children from communicable illnesses. We also assume that a child who is unwell will prefer to be at home with their parent(s) or caregiver(s) rather than at Sunday nursery. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation. If you have any questions, please email Allison Wheeler at childrensworship@acparis.org.

The very name Azzedine Alaia elicits ooh’s and aah’s from any fashion aficionado. Couturier, master tailor, and darling of the 1980s supermodels, Alaia produced drool-worthy garments that always flattered a woman’s body, and clung to the contours in the most alluring way. Decades earlier, Hollywood designer Gilbert Adrian was equally renowned for his glamorous gowns and modern suits geared towards the career woman on film. Alaia, who collected couture masterpieces, was a huge fan of Adrian’s work and acquired over 300 pieces from his archive. In what can only be called a fashionista’s dream, “Azzedine Alaia, Collector” brings these two geniuses together, juxtaposing the exquisite precision and sartorial expertise used in the design and production of women’s suit jackets.

Alaia, who passed away in 2017, was one of the most respected fashion designers in the world. A tiny man who was painfully shy, he was the king of body-conscious silhouettes, enveloping the likes of Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford, and dressing iconic celebrities like Tina Turner. Alaia had studied sculpture and he used his knowledge of the body to perfect the cut and fit of his collections. He was obsessed with the art of tailoring, an obsession he shared with Adrian. In his lifetime, he amassed a museum-quality collection of couture chefs d’oeuvres. In his eyes, preserving the garments was synonymous with preserving art.

Gilbert Adrian had been the head of costumes at MGM Studios during the Golden Age of Hollywood. He is almost unknown in France, although his creations appear in such classic films as The Women, The Wizard of Oz, and The Philadelphia Story. Recognized for their strong shoulders and nipped-in waistlines, Adrian’s designs constitute the original “power suits” worn so famously by Joan Crawford. His designs were in such demand that he left Hollywood to open his own maison in New York in the 1940s, effectively filling a demand when French fashion could not be exported during the German occupation. Adrian’s work is acclaimed for having had a lasting influence on American fashion.

The exhibit showcases small groups of suit jackets by designer. In a sea of black, grey, and beige, it is surprising to note silhouettes and shapes common to both couturiers even though they worked nearly 50 years apart. Equally surprising is the timelessness of the styles. The black jacket is a staple in any woman’s wardrobe, and in this exhibit there are many that could be easily be worn today.

Be sure to take time to watch two film clips that feature the designers work in action. The James Bond classic, A View to a Kill, features “glamazon” Grace Jones, magnificently outfitted by Alaia, while The Women showcases the amazing wardrobes Adrian created for Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, and Rosalind Russell, among others. A delightful way to end the show.

The exhibit runs through 23 June, at Galerie Alaia, 18 rue de la Verrerie, 75004.

Azzedine Alaia, Collector
by Karen Marin

Power suit by Alaia
Power suit by Adrian

Power suit by Alaia

Power suit by Adrian
## Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult Fellowship</strong></td>
<td>Friday 1 Mar</td>
<td>From 20h email contact for location</td>
<td>From 20h email contact for location</td>
<td>Daphne 30plusfellowship @acparis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singles and pairs, join us for fellowship every first Friday of the month in a lounge café setting, sharing testimonies, talking about the highs and lows of your life with brothers and sisters in Christ.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 3 Mar</td>
<td>17h Sanctuary</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laia TERRÉ - cello; Ramon ANDREU - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong></td>
<td>Monday 4 Mar</td>
<td>20h45-21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday Service</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 6 Mar</td>
<td>19h Sanctuary</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special service marking the beginning of a 40-day time of fasting in preparation for the celebration of Easter.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taizé candlelight prayer services (Thursdays during Lent)</strong></td>
<td>Thursday 7 Mar</td>
<td>18h30-19h30 ACP Chapel</td>
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<td>Restore your soul midweek with meditative worship based in simple music, scripture readings, and prayerful silence.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 8 Mar</td>
<td>10h-14h</td>
<td>The American Cathedral</td>
<td>If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel <a href="mailto:fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com">fridaymissionlunch@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-18)</strong></td>
<td>Friday 8 Mar</td>
<td>10h-12h</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mops@acparis.org">mops@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free childcare available.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Café</strong></td>
<td>Friday 8 Mar</td>
<td>19h30-21h30</td>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal <a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Come hear live music by the musicians of the Orsay Jazz Trio and friends. Open to all. Free entry. Dinner and drinks served. Invite your friends!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Writers’ Group</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 9 Mar</td>
<td>14h30 - 16h30 email for location</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tendai Chirawu <a href="mailto:writers@acparis.org">writers@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>This study on the Lord’s Prayer meets once monthly. All women welcome! Free childcare is provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ensemble Lumina Choral Concert</strong></td>
<td>Saturday 9 Mar</td>
<td>20h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACP’s chamber choir, directed by Caroline Drury, presents a concert of works by Byrd, Debussy, Elgar, our own Fred Gramann, &amp; others. Admission free w/ a free-will offering taken.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Monthly Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 10 Mar</td>
<td>12h15-13h15 F2 (first floor).</td>
<td></td>
<td>Teri Lee Valluy <a href="mailto:sundaywomensbible@acparis.org">sundaywomensbible@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Kids’ Monthly Bible Study</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 10 Mar</td>
<td>12h15-13h15 Catacombs and G2.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Wheeler <a href="mailto:childrensworship@acparis.org">childrensworship@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Worship leads Bible study on the first Sunday of each month for children ages 7-12. The course is taught in both English and French.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contemporary worship service - Guest musicians Georges Séba and Chœur Gospel de Paris®</strong></td>
<td>Sunday 10 Mar</td>
<td>13h30 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal <a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>bring together the fervor of American gospel ensembles and the joy of traditional African culture, its singers hail from every corner of the world, echoing the universality of the gospel message they celebrate.</td>
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<td>Sunday 10 Mar</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td>Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makiko SUZUMURA - piano</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taizé song workshops (Tuesdays during Lent)</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday 12 Mar</td>
<td>19h-20h15 G5</td>
<td>Led by Nicole Taylor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn the simple, prayerful songs of the Taizé Christian community.</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18h30-19h30</td>
<td>ACP Chapel.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vente de La Cause</strong></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15h-19h</td>
<td>ACP Chapel.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lacause.org">www.lacause.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual fundraising sale of La Cause, Protestant Foundation in Paris. Concert, tombola, antiques, toys, collectible post cards, food, books, and more.</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10h-17h</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Fellowship – Virginia Jacinto will speak on “Journey through faith and the healing power of prayer”</strong> (Virginia is one of the founders of the Filipino Fellowship.)</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>12h15-13h30</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Kim Herr <a href="mailto:women@acparis.org">women@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert Quatuor Midi-Minuit</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Thurber Lecture - Dr. Reggie Williams will speak on “Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus”</strong> (Reggie L. Williams is associate professor of Christian Ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and author of <em>Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethnic of Resistance.</em> )</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19h meal; 19h45 program Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
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<td><strong>Taizé song workshops</strong> (Tuesdays during Lent)</td>
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<td>ACP Chapel.</td>
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<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite <a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie selection: <em>Vice</em>, <em>La Chute de l’Empire américain</em>, <em>Stan &amp; Ollie</em>, and <em>Rosie Davis</em>. See any or all at your leisure; join the group for discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Combined Traditional/Contemporary Worship Service and Annual Congregational Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11h30 worship 12h45 meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert Swetlana MEERMANN-MURET - piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fried Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Significant Marriage Seminar – Led by Dave &amp; Mary Goth</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9h-17h</td>
<td>Thurber Room</td>
<td>Tim Vance associatepastor @acparis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This day-long seminar teaches couples to be intentional in creating a plan to become all God has created them to be as a couple. Information/registration at <a href="http://www.acparis.org">www.acparis.org</a>.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Change: Summer Time / Daylight Savings Time / Heure d’été</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>2h (3h)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fred Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set clocks forward one hour</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert Svetlana TELTSOVA - piano</strong></td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fried Gramann <a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- All times are in Paris, France (CET).
- Events are subject to change.
- Check the website for the latest information.

**Contact Information:**
- events@acparis.org
- music@acparis.org
- women@acparis.org
Taizé at ACP
Candlelight Prayer during Lent
Thursdays 18h30 - 19h30

The American Church in Paris
65 quai d’Orsay, 75007 Paris | acparis.org