Thoughts From
Rev. Dr. Scott Herr
Senior Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

By the time you receive this edition of *The Spire* we will have already entered into the Lenten journey. I hope that you are taking advantage of the on-line or hard copy version of the *Lenten Devotional* that has been compiled from contributions from a wide diversity of members and friends of our congregation. You may also be taking this season as an opportunity to join a small group using the *Hole in Our Gospel* book by the President of *World Vision*, Richard Stearns and/or using the study guide on-line. I love Bono’s review: "His form of worship is to be the eyes of the blind and the feet of the lame. Rich Stearns is much more than a powerful voice in the fight against AIDS and extreme poverty; he is an action hero."

I wonder if you can imagine yourself as an *action hero* for Christ? I think God can and does! I think God dreams about the church coming alive in this Lenten Spring and embodying the grace and truth of the gospel in creative ways. *One person can change everything.* We remember in this season how Jesus’ patient and persistent journey toward the cross changed everything. I love the ironic fact that this year Palm Sunday, the gateway into Holy Week, also happens to be April Fool’s Day! Paul writes in the first chapter of *I Corinthians*, “for the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’"

God has called even us to follow Jesus along the way of the cross and in this season of Lent we are considering what it means to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. What do we need to let go of, and what do we need to embrace to follow Jesus more faithfully all the way to the cross? I admit that sometimes it is hard to know where God is leading. I can only rest in the assurance that God’s will is to lead us into resurrection life, into the *new creation* and Kingdom life that has begun already in Jesus Christ.

My spiritual director gave me the following prayer which I think is helpful for us as we continue along the Lenten journey of the cross together: “*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone*” (Thomas Merton – *Thoughts in Solitude*). Being transformed with you to be an “action hero” ...and “a fool”?

In Christ,  *Scott*
MARCH MADNESS...

occurs in the middle of this month in the United States of America as the top basketball teams from the Division I Universities play against each other to determine the best in the nation. Sixty-four schools are chosen from each of the regions of that nation. In a round-robin format teams are narrowed down to 32 then to 16, and then to eight, until the Final Four who vie for the championship. Similar to the African Cup of Football that just was completed in Gabon, Africa.

March is also when the Irish and those wanting a fun time go mad celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. I understand that those outside Ireland make much more of St. Patrick’s Day than do those in Ireland. March named for planet Mars, has a sinister quality as well. “The Ides of March,” (in the ancient Roman calendar was the 15th day of the month), is associated with the murder of Julius Caesar, first emperor of Rome in 14 AD. The Vernal Equinox (first official day of Spring) is March 21. In Central America it marks the return of the rains and time for planting seeds. Christians commemorate Lent (Spring & Lengthening of Days) which continues through March.

For us, Lent is a time of Study and Reflection. Two instruments are available to assist us. A Lenten Devotional, available on our church’s website: www.acparis.org was written by our members. Begin with today’s date and read one each day. The second tool is The Hole In Our Gospel. Again it is also available, as a link, on our website. We encourage you to join a small group studying this topic. Groups are available at different times, days and locations through the week. There will be a poster, on the welcome table in the theater, with all the locations, days and times of small groups. Choose the one most convenient for you and sign your name in that box. Contact me, if you don’t see a group for you or if you can’t attend worship, at associatepastor@acparis.org and I will assist you in finding a group.

Did you know that God has given you a Spiritual Gift for use Ministry within this congregation and our surrounding community? If so, do you know what that gift is? When you know and use God’s gift to you, you will be freed and equipped for ministry. I will be leading a workshop on Spiritual Gifts, 7 March from 9h00 – 12h00. If you would like to attend contact me at the email address, above. If you cannot attend during the day, write me and we will look for another time to lead this workshop.

March Madness, and St. Patrick’s Day, seem out of step with Lent. That is the reality of the world in which we live. Taking a few minutes a day to read a devotion, reflect, pray and participate in a weekly small group will assist in keeping the Power of the Transforming Good News (Gospel) balanced with our daily activities and the choices we make.

During this month let us envision walking with Jesus towards Jerusalem even knowing what he faced when he arrived. Holy Week starts Palm Sunday, which is 1 April, and culminates with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is Next month’s topic.

March is a fun month filled with madness and celebration. Let us balance it by worshiping each Sunday, using the Lenten Devotional, and participating in a small group.

In the Joy of the Lord,

Glen Thorp
Saint Patrick’s Day has become a huge cultural celebration that transcends religious beliefs and ethnic boundaries. Hey, after all, everyone is Irish on St. Patty's Day!

But it occurred to me that very few students and young adults know the story behind the parade and green beer…the man called Patrick. If you have never read or familiarized yourself with his life, I highly recommend it.

Kidnapped and enslaved at age 16 he was brought from his home in England to the land of savages in Ireland, Patrick where he had visions from God that gave him strength and lead to his escape. So inspired and moved by God once home, he felt compelled to return as a missionary to preach the gospel to a land that had never heard the message of Christ before. The story continues and his writings are full of profound insights, theology, prayers, and confessions that challenge and inspire me deeply. I have included a hymn written by Patrick back around 430 AD.

Yet, very few Christians (especially Protestants) know his story. Often we neglect to appreciate the deep and rich history of our faith and to admire courageous men like Patrick for their example, commitment to Christ, and ministry. One of the aspects I most admire and appreciate about serving here at ACP is the deep respect, understanding and appreciation our community has for multiple traditions and denominations within Christianity.

I am reminded again that we have much to learn and celebrate from the rich and diverse history of our faith. The traditions of past and present, while different than our own, provide a wonderful opportunity for our faith to increase. Perhaps our small, tightly packaged box of beliefs and views can actually open up and expand to become a much larger, fuller, and deeper box.

This national "holiday" of sorts, Saint Patrick’s Day as celebrated in America and certainly Ireland has given me an opportunity and invitation to expand the horizons of my students as we learn together to appreciate what God has been doing through his servants throughout the centuries. Of course, we can also expand our food and spirits horizons at our local Irish pub!

So this March as you listen to U2 or Celtic hymns (depending on your style) and possibly raise a pint of Guinness, thank God for examples like Patrick, and may we all follow in his footsteps of a life of obedience, sacrifice, service, piety, faith, prayer, and mission as we all follow in the footsteps of Christ.

In Christ,
Dan Haugh
A Hymn by St. Patrick

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me forever,
By power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan River;
His death on cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb;
His riding up the heavenly way;
His coming at the day of doom;
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself the power
Of the great love of the Cherubim;
The sweet 'Well done' in judgment hour;
The service of the Seraphim,
Confessors' faith, Apostles' word,
The Patriarchs' prayers, the Prophets' scrolls,
All good deeds done unto the Lord,
And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the starlit heaven,
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even,
The flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
The stable earth, the deep salt sea,
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, his shield to ward,
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force,
The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile men that mar my course;
Or few or many, far or nigh,
In every place and in all hours
Against their fierce hostility,
I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy,
Against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry,
Against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death-wound and the burning
The choking wave and the poisoned shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
The strong name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.
Notice to All Members

The ACP Council invites all members of the church to attend on 11 March

The Annual Congregational Meeting

The meeting will be in the theater immediately following the 11h00 service. The agenda will include 2011 annual reports and the 2012 budget. Should a member not be able to attend, please request a proxy form, at the reception desk or directly from the council secretary at councilsecretary@acparis.org, to be filled out and left it in the box of the Council secretary behind the reception desk.

Thoughts From your Moderator

Mark Primmer

Members and Friends of ACP,

It is the Lenten Season, a time for spiritual transformation and renewal. As we reflect on what this means to us personally, and as a community, I would like to encourage you to explore all the programs and opportunities for fellowship that we have at ACP.

We are blessed to have a gifted and committed team serving on Council this year; leading and supporting a vast array of programs and ministry activities. At the same time, we are blessed by the many “quiet” acts of faithful service that go on behind the scenes. We all contribute in our own way to the ACP family, and we are healthier, wiser, and spiritually stronger, thanks to the inspiring faith-driven commitment and tireless devotion to serve our place of worship.

In the days of anticipation and preparation for Easter, may we continue to pray for strength and peace, thereby opening ourselves more to God’s love and grace.

In Christ,
Mark Primmer

Development and Property Committee

Daniel Grout and Bill Johnson

The property committee, supported by the ACP business manager, is continually taking action to maintain the property so it is in a good running order. We’ve took advantage of the French school holidays to perform a few new projects. For starters, in the gymnasium we are fixing the men’s shower room. Also, we are creating a dustbin room in the garage to be in compliance with the fire brigade regulations.

Another project involves changing the window in G8 to allow more light come through to this meeting room. Additionally, a glass partition between G7 and G8 will be installed, and the new cupboards in G8 will be freshly painted.

We are happy to continue to improve the facilities we have and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.
Nominating Committee
Thelma Fuchs and Christopher Wobo

This committee is presently in the process of identifying and discovering potential Council member nominees as the following Council positions are due for replacement this spring:
- Moderator and Vice Moderator
- Property/Development Chair
- Finance/Stewardship Vice-Chair
- Human Resources Vice-Chair
- Mission Outreach Chair
- Nominating Chair and Vice-Chair

The Search for This Fall’s Retreat Coordinator
Owing to the need for a fall retreat coordinator for 2012 that will focus on developing the family aspect and children’s program, we are presently assisting the Christian Education committee with this special need.

Update on the Associate Pastor Search
The 85 complete applications that were received have been read. Each candidate was discussed and prayed for, and the top candidates have been asked to send two sermons in mp3 format. Interviews with the top candidates and their references will start in March. Please continue praying for AP Search Committee as they begin this next step in their search. It was noted again that God already knows who the next ACP Associate Pastor is; and it is our job to come to the same decision.

Community Life
Camilla Macfarlane and Nathaniel Akujuobi

We would like to welcome our new church members as of 12 Feb! Please give them a warm welcome!

An Tampere          Clotilde Galard          Nigel Connor
Sarah Schmitt       Wagih Megalli       Elodie Lasserre
Ashleigh Picq       Eric Sadoux           Cheryl and Steve Bendix
Priscillia Ntongone Joanne Sopt            Chad and Deanna DuBose
Collin Ngeleka      Ariane Nzambaza        Bennett Arthur
Freda Obeng-Ampafo  Sherin Shehadeh        Joanne and Thomas Price
Taylor Payne         and Garvin and Elizabeth Price

We are starting the preparations for our Easter Brunch that will take place between at 8h00 to 9h30. We are in need of volunteers to help set up on Saturday evening, 7 April, and also for people to bring pastry items (such as croissants and rolls) for the buffet table. I know it is surprising, but we also need a clean-up crew! Please contact Camilla Macfarlane if you are called to serve in any of these areas!

Other ideas we are working on include wearing name tags and being more active in the welcoming of new comers during the coffee hour. Please let us know what you think of this idea! Would YOU wear a name tag?
Christian Education
Sharon Hermanson and Lori Kolo

Thurber Thursdays
...an adult community gathering and growth time, open to all.
We share a meal at 18h30 and the evening program Takes place at 19h30 and lasts until 21h00.

March 1 ~ Daniel Watkins
What is a Modern Church?
Christianity and Modernity in Historical Perspective

Daniel Watkins is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio (United States). He received a B.A. in History and Comparative Religions from the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL) in 2005 and a M.A. in Early Modern European History from the same institution in 2008. Daniel also spent a year studying theology at Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA). Trained in the history of medieval and early modern Europe as well as the history of religion more broadly, Daniel's current research focuses on the eighteenth-century French Enlightenment and the many ways that the Catholic Church affected and was affected by this cultural movement. He is currently living in Paris while undertaking research for his dissertation at a variety of libraries and archives around France and much of Western Europe.

March 8 ~ Dr. Jean Staune
Vers une nouvelle synthèse entre science et foi
(Towards a new synthesis between science and faith)

Jean Staune Ph.D. has degrees in the philosophy of science, mathematics, paleontology, political science, computer science, and management. He is the founder and general secretary of the Interdisciplinary University of Paris and an assistant professor in philosophy in one of Europe’s prominent business schools, the MBA program of the HEC. He has been an invited teacher in two Pontifical universities and in China’s Shandong University. Jean is a researcher and lecturer on Philosophy of Science and issues in mind-brain research at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – Laboratoire d’Informatique et de Visualisation (LIV), Editor of the series Science et Quête de Sens (Science and the Quest of Meaning), Editions Presses de la Renaissance, General Secretary of the Interdisciplinary University of Paris, Lecturer in Philosophy of Science, Business Ethics and Evolution of Capitalism in the MBA program of HEC (Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales), and a member of the Board of Advisors of the John Templeton Foundation.
March 15 ~ Dr. Gene Ice  
(Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

**Faith and Science**

Gene E. Ice received a B.S. in physics in 1972 from Harvey Mudd College and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Oregon in 1977. He is considered an internationally recognized leader in the areas of materials science and advanced X-ray optics.

Dr. Ice is now group leader and distinguished staff scientist in the X-ray Research and Applications Group in the Metals and Ceramics Division. His contributions have been recognized with an IR100 award, an R&D 100 award, a DOE sustained outstanding achievement award, and an ORNL Scientific Team of the Year Award. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Additionally, he was named a corporate fellow in 2003, and he is an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

March 22 ~ Rev. Dr. George Hobson  
(Canon for Theological Education, Anglican Diocese of Europe)

**The Explanatory Power of a Trinitarian Natural Theology**

The Rev. Dr. Hobson is currently a parishioner at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Paris. He served for many years as Canon Pastor at the American Cathedral in Paris, and retains the title of Canon to the Bishop for Theological Education in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. He earned his doctorate in Systematic Theology at Oxford in the 1980’s, under the supervision of the current Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams. In the 1970’s, he and his wife Victoria served as lay ministers in France, working with Roman Catholics and Protestants in the ecumenical context of the Renewal Movement. Since 2000, he has travelled widely with Victoria, teaching theology in seminaries and theological colleges in the developing countries such as Rwanda, Burundi, Haiti, Pakistan, and Armenia. While not trained as a scientist, he retains a keen interest in the science/religion dialogue and in the question of technology in relation to Christian faith.

March 27, 28, 29 ~ Prof. Keith Ward  
(Emeritus Professor of Divinity, Oxford University;  
Professorial Research Fellow, Heythrop College)

**2012 ACP Lenten Lectures**

The Rev. Professor Keith Ward is an Anglican priest, theologian, and philosopher. From 1991 to 2004, Dr. Ward was Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University in England, and is a Fellow of the British Academy. Among Dr. Ward’s many interests are the dialogue between religions and the relationship between science and religion. The author of over 20 books on theology and philosophy, Dr. Ward’s most recent publications include *The Big Questions in Science and Religion* (2008), *The God Conclusion* (2009), *More than Matter* (2010) and *Is Religion Irrational* (2011).
Mission Outreach
Kristie Worrel and Anne Mildred

The ACP MOC focus for 2012 is to remain committed to God’s work in mission – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, aiding the poor, parenting the orphans, caring for the widows and elderly, providing restoration and reform for the prisoners, giving medicinal care for the sick, assisting the refugees, encouraging the downhearted, mentoring the young.....

Mission Trips
April 14-22 Habitat for Humanity has a team of 10 Young Adults (18-30 yrs) traveling to Cluj, Romania to work on a home building project.

April 19-May 25 Carolyn Bouazzouni will be visiting The Living Truth Foundation in Ghana to work with the expanding prison ministry there. We are currently looking for a source for 4000 English Bibles for this growing program. She will then travel on to Uganda to visit Patti Lafage at the Rafiki Village where Patti has recently become a missionary in charge of education.

July 8-22 Pastor Dan and the Youth Group (a team of ten, 15-18 yr. olds) will be traveling to Gabon to do mission work there with the organization Envision.

July-August Habitat for Humanity will be leading a second team back to Cluj, Romania to continue work on the home being built there for a family in need.

Events and Fundraising
Concerts: 12 April will be the annual Rotary Club Concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity. 19 May will be a charity concert to benefit our global ministries.

Africa Night: A fundraising dinner and evening of musical entertainment is being organized by the MOC for Saturday, 31 March to benefit our African missions.

Theater: An American Gospel Musical entitled “SOULZ” will be performed on 28 April with a reception following the play. The benefits of this event will go to support The Living Truth Foundation.

Cookie Sales & Café Music Night: are currently being organized by the Youth to raise proceeds for their trips. Any baking volunteers? Contact Teteh.

Community Awareness: Arlene Gross is working to organize an evening presentation this spring for FAIR TRADE – a movement to counter the usage of child and slave labor in business.

Marché de Noel: Organizing begins for the Christmas market on Saturday, 17 Nov.

Refugee Ministry Crisis Intervention
Progress continues in our work to develop better venues to give assistance to the refugees and those in need within our own Paris community who come to the ACP seeking council and aid. We are growing our involvement and relationship with the Foyer de Grenelle in this regard. Its direct connection and network with organizations such as Cimade, Arc75, Secours Catholique, CAF, Femmes Egalité and Dom’Asile has already been a source of great help to several of our own ACP members in need.

Friday Mission Lunch Program
Planning and preparations are still underway for the transfer of the FML program to move from the American Cathedral site to the ACP in the upcoming months. For the time being the program continues to be held at the Cathedral.
Have you heard about The Living Truth Foundation? It’s an ACP missionary partner in Elmina, Ghana started by our own Francis Cobbinah in 2003. Do you know Francis? He was here a while back, so the newer members would not have had the pleasure to experience his spirit-filled personality.

Francis was at ACP for four years when he decided to return to Ghana to help spread the good news and love of our amazing Lord. He currently is holding church service in the local prisons (the new maximum security prison has 4,000 prisoners) and hospital waiting (emergency and Aids/HIV) areas.

I have had the pleasure of going to Ghana twice, and have witnessed his church services that are a pure blessing and filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a choir that is composed of 10 prisoners playing local instruments and singing beautiful songs in the local dialect of Twi or Fanti.

A few selected prisoners partake in a 12-month Bible study program called “Disciples One” or “Disciples Two” which Francis himself had previously attended at the ACP. The workbooks and study Bibles are donated by The American Church in Paris or The American Church in London each year. At the end of the program, TLTF also hosts a wonderful, joyful, powerful, Holy-Spirit filled graduation ceremony in the middle of the prison camp. The next one will be on 22 April and our own Carolyn Bouazouni will be attending!

The ceremony is something special. Usually someone from the ACP, Carolyn or myself, will travel to Elmina, Ghana with clothes, monetary donations, Bibles, books and every day toiletries. Francis invites a pastor from the regional area as well, to participate in prayer and fellowship with the graduating class. The ceremony can last for up to 4 hours and always ends with a delicious dinner prepared by Francis’s wife, Anna Cobbinah.

Additionally, TLTF has heard God’s call to provide the released prisoners who completed the Disciples program with a place to live and work. Quite often when a prisoner is released, he is not welcome back into the family, so opportunity to go back to his old ways is a temptation. However, we are helping these graduates to avoid that cycle by having a fundraiser at the ACP on 28 April 2012, where the proceeds will benefit the preparation of numerous halfway homes and also a farm. Our fundraiser is going to be a musical called SoulZ.

Thirty acres of land were donated by a local chief when I was there in 2010 and now it’s time to purchase the farm, which will need supplies, animals, and building materials. After careful prayer and meditation, they decided that a fishery will be the first part of the farm to be created. The secondary part will include the piggery and chicken coop.

The halfway homes will be created as well, so the released prisoners, who will learn to become farmers, can stay on the land and safely out of trouble. All of the prisoners who live in the halfway homes will take care of the farm and re-establish themselves in an honorable way while learning a trade. The money raised from the farm will be split between the foundation and the individuals.

We are having a fundraiser for the halfway house and farm project that will be on 28 April at 7:30pm. See the announcement section for information on SoulZ: The Musical, created by ACP member Dawn Chevrotin, for The Living Truth Foundation.
Keeping up with Patti!

At Rafiki Village in Uganda

Late last September, Patti Lafage flew to Uganda to join the Rafiki Village. Rafiki, was built in 2003 and is now home to 102 resident orphans plus 72 local children who attend the pre-primary, primary, junior and senior secondary schools. Patti, who sang in the ACP Choir, says that the Lord has truly been at work here moving friends, family, churches, and even some people she did not know personally to support her for this mission. On these pages, Patti shares stories of “how God has been working to help (her to contribute to His transforming love in Africa.”

Glory Be, Ltd. By Patti Lafage

How could you possibly not fall in love with a country where the taxi companies are named Glory Be to God Taxis, Ltd., Power of the Lord and God is in Control? The name is usually stenciled in big fluorescent letters across the back of the taxis. There are a few, whose names point to trust in Allah, and a minority called Kikuka Boyz, but the message is clear: trust in God to protect you when you ride.

Here in Uganda, public transport means collective taxis licensed to carry 14 passengers and usually filled to 20+ capacity on the folding seats. By law there is a driver and a conductor, one or the other of which probably has a driver’s permit, however there is no mention of blinkers on the drivers’ test!

The experienced drivers know just where to swerve to avoid the crater-like potholes but don’t hesitate to brake suddenly and pull part way off the road when they spot a new fare. Surprisingly, there are very few accidents. God is in control, for sure!

Rafiki’s taxi service provider has safely ferried our children to our partner churches and back every Sunday for 10 years. The drivers and conductors are regulars and know each child and each Mama by name. They never fail to greet each one with a wide smile and usually have a few special words for each group. They in turn are called “Uncle” by the children and always pray reverently with them before departure. This Sunday, on their way to church, our 52 Rafiki girls were happily modeling their brand new skirts (and fresh haircuts, too), sewed especially for them by a volunteer who came from Montana on a one-month mini-mission.

Yes, faith in the Lord is vibrant, visible and audible here. A few casual words with a perfect stranger while waiting somewhere will often lead to a word of praise for the sunny day, or the rain, as the case may be. Gospel type hymns and praise songs play on every radio station, and the early morning broadcast called “D’Mighty Breakfast Club” includes devotionals and prayers along with news, sports and weather. This is a country that is breathtakingly beautiful, where everything grows quickly and where the prayed-for rains, came precisely on schedule this week to end the dusty dry season. God certainly loves Uganda, and there is no mistaking: He is in control.
Worship and Music
Anna Zweede and Tara Tranguch

What’s simpler than a smile? And yet, what is more heartwarming, more welcoming? What other tiny gesture can have as great an effect?

Haven’t you had the experience?

You’re standing at a bus stop. It’s raining. Your destination is not your favorite place to be. You sigh and probably have a small frown wrinkle between your eyes. The bus pulls up. As you line up behind the five or six people who’ll get on before you, you look through the window of the bus and see a 6 year old who’s looking out, smiling broadly. You smile back. That’s all it takes for your mood to lighten.

You are in the lobby of a government administration building. You have an appointment with officials that – if it goes well – will make a major positive change in your life. If it doesn’t…

You’re tense and nervous. It’s already a few minutes past the time of the appointment…

Suddenly, your number appears on the screen. You go into the office. The person behind the desk is standing, looking at you, smiling. You are reassured and feel recognized.

It’s Sunday morning. You’ve come to church a little tired, a little grumpy, and a little late. Deep down, you’re grateful for the ACP and looking forward to the service and fellowship. But, that’s underneath the layer of annoyances, worries, difficulties that the previous days have deposited. The usher at the door smiles and says hello. The two strata flip: the negatives are replaced by simple happiness at being here, now.

Tara and I would like to specially thank the ushers for their smiles, given so freely and beautifully, be it to welcome congregants to worship or visitors to special events such as concerts. We would also like to thank our fellow council-members for stepping up as volunteers throughout February, March and April.

We would also like to take this opportunity to mention that there are never enough smiles. If you would like to participate in the greeter-usher ministry, please let us know!

worshipandmusic@acparis.org

Tara Tranguch
Anna Zweede
Youth and Young Adult Activities

By Lisa Prevett

Young Adult Events for March (18-30years)

Come and join us every Tuesday for either Bible Study or Pizza Night, as we share fellowship and conversation.

For Pizza Night come at 18h00 to help cook and from 19h00 for dinner!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6, 20</td>
<td>19h30-21h00</td>
<td>Bible Study and Worship (Catacombs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8, 15, 22</td>
<td>07h30</td>
<td>Men's Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 11</td>
<td>12h30</td>
<td>Habitat team meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13, 27</td>
<td>18h00/19h00</td>
<td>Pizza Night (St. Patrick’s Pizza on the13th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekend 17-19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leadership team retreat to Rome</td>
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Youth Events (13-18yrs)

Youth Group meets on Sundays from 15h00 – 17h00 pm for fun, fellowship and Bible study in the Catacombs.

Please feel free to bring friends along – they are always welcome at ACP events!

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<tr>
<td>Sunday 4</td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>‘Why Should I pray when God doesn’t answer all my prayers?’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11</td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>‘Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?’ Africa Mission Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18</td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>‘Is believing in Jesus really the only way to get to heaven?’</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24-26</td>
<td>Weekend</td>
<td>Senior Class trip to Barcelona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 25</td>
<td>15h00-17h30</td>
<td>‘If there is only one God why are there so many different religions?’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 31</td>
<td>19h00</td>
<td>Africa Night - Missions Fundraiser In the ACP Theatre</td>
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Youth Worship (11-13yrs)

We meet each Sunday during the 11h00 worship service in the Youth Catacombs.

Follow the cross during the service to gather in the theater.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 4</td>
<td>Due to the winter holiday break, there is no youth worship this week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 11</td>
<td>Jesus Prays in the Garden and Is Betrayed Bible Story: Matthew 26:36-56 Discovery: Jesus was willing to die for every one of us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Faith Is Described to Us Bible Story: Heb 11:1-3, 8-19 Discovery: Jesus deserves our faith.</td>
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Follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/danhaugh) Or connect on Facebook (www.facebook.com/haugh.dan)
Opportunities for Personal Growth and Outreach

ACP BIBLE STUDIES and DISCUSSION GROUPS

LENTEN STUDY “A Hole in Our Gospel,” challenges us with questions such as: What does God expect of us? How can we participate as a neighbor in a global community? How does our personal relationship with God lead us to action in a world of growing inequalities? This study (4-6 sessions depending on your chosen group) provides a challenge, a thought-provoking call for reflection that leads to action. Study material is completely self-contained (the book is optional – there’s a copy in the library). Contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org to sign up for a group. Or…. Start your own! (Groups listed in Announcements) Download study guide from: http://www.theholeinourgospel.com/study-guide/

ACP SUNDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY Sunday morning between the 9h00 and 11h00 services, in G2. Contact Kristie Worrel for further information at missionoutreach@acparis.org

ACP TUESDAY WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY meets from 10h30 to 12h30 in the catacombs. All are welcome, and we are a warm and diverse group. We are currently studying Thessalonians I and II: Be Ready – Living in Light of God’s Return. If you have small children, the church nursery is available for a nominal fee. Please let us know if you’d be interested so we can ensure that we have the proper number of childcare givers.

ACP SIMPLY CHRISTIAN - Why Christianity Makes Sense by N. T. Wright. Have you ever wondered why humans in all places and times have yearned for beauty, truth, spirituality, and justice? Bishop Wright contends that it is because we hear the echoes of God’s voice -- the same God who created the world, is known through the children of Israel and Jesus Christ, and who is at work in the world through the Holy Spirit. Connecting to this God through worship, prayer, scripture and the church leads to life that is full and abundant.

ACP THURBER THURSDAYS: Theocratic discussions every Thursday in March. See attached list of guest speaker’s line up for this month! A meal is served (suggested 5€ donation) before the discussion at 18h30, with the program at 19h30 to 21h00.

PRAYER GROUPS and STUDY ACTIVITIES

ACP MEN – come for coffee, conversation, prayer and fellowship. Any men interested in further information or in being added to our e-mail list should contact Ed Hyslip for information about address and door codes.

ACP WORK AND FAITH GROUP - Christian professionals who seek to integrate their personal profession of faith with their public vocation. For more information contact Pascal Berger.

ACP FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY A Hole in Our Gospel. The study begins at 14h00 and all are welcome! For further information contact Virginia Jacinto

MOMS IN TOUCH PRAYER GROUP: Would you like to join with other moms as we lift up our cares and concerns for our children and their schools to our loving Father? Experience the joy of replacing anxiety with peace and hope when we pray scripture together. Moms in Touch groups are in 120 countries and now English language groups are forming in Paris. Contact Caroline at MomsInTouchParis@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: Monday evenings in the Sanctuary. For more information contact Denise Dampierre Website: http://bsfinternational.org/
Opportunities for Personal Growth and Outreach
(Continued)

ACP and OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES

ACP MULTICULTURAL COUPLES. Bring a dish to share and join the fun on 9 Mar at 20h00 in the Thurber Room. For more info, contact Marie Grout.

THE KNITTING GROUP welcomes newcomers and experts, and others in between – all are welcome. Some of us are knitting now for Mission Outreach, and some for ourselves and our families. This month, some of us will be making an afghan together – anyone can join in! We can guide you toward Paris knit shops, patterns, online resources, local knitting events and more. Drop in; bring a friend and check it out! Monday afternoons at 17h00.

WOMEN’S RUNNING TEAM: If you are interested in being part of the ACP running team (men are welcome too!), please contact Kim at woac_president@yahoo.com. We will be looking for other races to run. Several have already signed up for various races in the coming months!

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: The movie group’s choices for March are Dieci inverni (Dix hivers à Venise) by Valerio Mieli, War Horse (Cheval de Guerre) by Steven Spielberg, Martha Marcy May Marlene by Sean Durkin, and Apart Together by Wang Quan’an. See any or all in the cinema at your convenience, and then join the group for discussion on Thursday, 15 March at 19h30 in basement room G2.

ACP WRITERS GROUP meets the second Saturday of the month from 14h – 17h in room G2.

ACP VOLUNTEERING and OUTREACH

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP We could use your time (one hour) twice a month at the 13h30 service with the ACP children’s worship. Please contact Jeanette Laugier at childrensworship@acparis.org.

AN INVITATION! Are you a greeter or an usher at the 9h00 and/or 11h00 services? Are you interested in becoming one? This invitation is to you! For any questions, please contact Anna Zweede at worshipandmusic@acparis.org

FRIDAY MISSION LUNCH. Every Friday, the Mission Lunch Program provides a free, cooked lunch at the host church (American Cathedral, 23 Avenue George V, Paris 8e) to those in need. ACP organizes the lunch on the second Friday of each month, but volunteers are needed every week for cooking, serving, and cleaning-up. Contact: Kristie at missionoutreach@acparis.org

FOYER DE GRENELLE has an urgent need for babysitters Mondays or Thursdays, 2-4PM. Please Contact Anne Mildred at missionoutreach@acparis.org

SOULZ An American Gospel Musical entitled “SOULZ” will be performed on 28 April with a reception following the play. The benefits of this event will go to support The Living Truth Foundation. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Destiny Ryales.

THURBER THURSDAY SET UP and CLEAN UP CREW
Looking for people to help set up tables and chairs, set up dining room, and help with the dishes. Please contact Camilla Macfarlane at communitylife@acparis.org.
Women’s Ministry
of The American Church in Paris

“... by the power of God, who has saved us and
called us to a holy life—not because of anything
we have done but because of his own purpose
and grace.” 2 Timothy 1:8 - 9

Discerning where God is Leading Us ... 

“Oh, I know the plans I have for you says the Lord...” We have spent a number of months discerning those plans, discussing how to encourage, support, and care for one another in our faith journeys. The three areas of focus that have repeatedly been mentioned are listed on the side panel. We look forward to implementing many of these activities over the coming months. If you’d like to help, contact woac_president@yahoo.com.

Look for news in the next Spire for our first Annual Retreat to be held in May. Enuma Okoro, author of A Reluctant Pilgrim, will be leading us in an encouraging workshop that you don’t want to miss!

“By all this we are encouraged.”
2 Corinthians 7:13

Areas of Focus

- Spiritual Formation and Education
  - Bible Studies
  - Weekend Retreat
  - Lecture Series

- Fellowship and Hospitality
  - Coffees
  - Ladies Night Out
  - Hobby/Craft Group

- Community Service
  - Women’s Shelter
  - Orphanage
Sustainability and Christianity: Living Abundantly
Part II of the series

*I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10 [NKJV]*

For some people the concept of sustainability creates a fear of scarcity and produces images of making do with less. However, it is my experience that sustainability does not have to come with scarcity, discomfort, large sacrifice, or declining standard of living, especially if we co-create a sustainable future with God. After all, Jesus came so that we all may have life and have it more abundantly.

First let’s explore the roots of the fear of scarcity in the world today. Bruce Bradshaw in his book *Change Across Cultures: A Narrative Approach to Social Transformation* writes about the concept of “limited good,” set in an agricultural context. Bradshaw writes:

A team of agricultural facilitators encouraged the farmers in an East African village to try some innovations that would increase their yield of sorghum and maize by 30 percent. The farmers listened attentively as the agriculturalist told them about hybrid seeds, fertilizers, irrigation methods, and soil conditioning. The agriculturalists, however, were disappointed that only one farmer agreed to try the new methods, but they were content to begin their project with the one farmer, whose name was Mdumbwa. They assumed that the other farmers would follow his example after they saw his success, but they did not anticipate the manner in which the people perceived the influence of the unseen realm on the seen realm.

As the agriculturalists expected, Mdumbwa’s harvest increased, yielding six more bags of sorghum than in the previous year. The agriculturalists were delighted and expected the villagers to be also. Instead of approbation, however, the agriculturalists found suspicion. The other farmers suspected Mdumbwa of using a form of witchcraft called *bukuzi*, which is used to steal crops from other farms. It is based on the image of limited good, which implies that all agricultural production exists in fixed amounts, even before it is produced, so that farmers should get equal harvests unless they do something to upset the natural balance of agricultural distribution. The villagers explained any disparity in the farmers’ harvest by witchcraft. (pp 67-68)

From our Western experience, this example of limited good seems amusing or illogical. Yet, in some ways we also believe in limited good. Unfortunately, it affects how we envision the future—one of fear and scarcity as opposed to one of love and abundance.

Let’s look at our own society and the way that the concept of limited good is active and silently feeds our fears and motivates politicians and us to “protect” our futures. Non-renewable resource use, such as fossil fuels, is an example. About 5% of the world’s population uses approximately two-thirds of the energy produced globally. Furthermore, the US was the world’s second largest energy consumer in 2010. One of my geography professors at university explained natural resources strategy in the early 1970s as “grab as much as you can for yourself and use the other guy’s resources as well.” Over my lifetime, I have seen this play out many times whether for oil, water, or commodities such as timber. Frankly, we need to examine where the concept of limited good is preventing us from acting in sustainable and Christian ways.
In contrast let’s look at life in the 21st century from an abundance perspective. My husband Gene, who is a physicist, says that the one un-conserved property of the universe is love. Matter, energy, and momentum are all conserved. Love that comes to us from God is limitless. From this love comes abundance. Those of us, who receive God’s love, blessings, and abundance, are to share them with others.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 [NIV]

Although our society is characterized as having “keeping up with the Jones” motivation in terms of consumption and material goods, there are many individuals living with a sense of abundance. I am fortunate to be experiencing it. As many of you know, I am living in Paris. I moved here with two suitcases of clothing and my laptop computer. I live in a 43 square meters (462 square feet) one-bedroom furnished apartment. My lifestyle leaves a small ecological footprint. I walk to work and take the metro on the weekends to visit museums and churches. I buy locally grown foods. For errands and recreation, I have a bicycle subscription, with which I can pick up a bike only a block from my apartment and ride it across the city depositing it at one of the dozens of stations. Although by material standards, I have far less in Paris than Gene and I have in Tennessee, I want for nothing. I have an incredible sense of abundance. That abundance is a gift from God.

I am not the only one living abroad with a sense of abundance. Ask an international YAV participant or Peace Corps volunteer if they felt constantly deprived while living in another country at or below the poverty line. They will most likely tell you they and their host families had all the important things in life—fresh food, a safe place to sleep, family and friends to talk and laugh with as well as make music, and places to worship. Yes, initially, the volunteers missed 20-minute hot showers, but after a short time a three-minute lukewarm shower was sufficient. They also dropped the sugar from their diets along with large portions of meat. If you want a firsthand account, I suggest that you talk to Destiny Ryales about her mission trips to Ghana.

This sense of abundance comes not from material possessions but from being in relationship with God.

Recalling, the three human relationships of the sustainability framework:
- Humans with God,
- Humans with humans, and
- Humans with creation,

A sense of abundance comes from our relationship with God through which we received God’s love. However, the love, blessings and abundance does not stop there. We are instructed to pass the love and abundance on to others.

Having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

We are to pass God’s love forward through caring for one another and the Earth. It is through such acts of caring that we will create a more sustainable and equitable world in which all will live abundantly.

Grace, blessings, peace, and joy,
Roz Ice
© 2012 Roz Ice

This essay was written with support from the ACP Writer’s Group, which meets the second Saturday of the month from 14h to 17h in room G2.

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1 YAV – Young Adult Volunteer Program of the Presbyterian Church USA, http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/yav/
Extraordinary Words and Extraordinary Ways
By Daniel J. Watkins

It's often difficult to read the stories of the saints and not consider them overly fantastic and extraordinary. We marvel at the tales of dignity and courage, yet the stories remain simply stories with no more relevance in our lives than a good action movie. Twenty-first-century Christians, indeed, celebrate the saints not for their inspirational stories but for the more practical reality that they often give us a good holiday. Who among us doesn't like an excuse to get together with friends, share a good meal, and perhaps indulge in the spirits of the season? But what of the figures themselves? Might we, as believers, be able to take from them more than just an appreciation for the celebrations that they produce?

Let us look at the case of Saint Patrick. A fourth/fifth-century missionary, Patrick spent much of his ecclesiastical career in Ireland. According to the seventh-century vita written about him, Patrick was first brought there as a captured slave at the age of sixteen and sold to a pagan chieftain. He spent six years in captivity until finally he managed to flee. Once back home, he began the process of spiritual development under the tutelage of notable bishops and saints. Though free and working as a priest, Patrick would be drawn back to the land of his captors as the leader of a papal-sponsored evangelical mission. The mission was reportedly an outstanding success, and Patrick allegedly performed many miraculous deeds. He froze the chieftain Dichu's arm in place when the chieftain sought to strike him; he converted many through simple words and exhortations; and, in a famous episode near the region of Tara, he even constructed an inextinguishable fire, much to the chagrin of the local pagan king. The many stories of his miracles and his missionary endeavors, presented in his vita, led to the Christianization of Ireland and his canonization as the patron saint of this island.

Patrick's is a fascinating tale, yet for me it simply remains that: an interesting and entertaining story produced in a specific historical context. The significance of Patrick, however, changes when one reads his own writings. Far more impactful than the writings about Patrick, the writings of this saint have a great value to those of us living the faith now. One example is in the famous Lorica of St. Patrick—a poetic piece most often attributed to the saint himself. In it he writes this prayer:

Christ (be) with me, Christ before me, Christ after me, Christ in me, Christ under me, Christ over me, Christ at my right, Christ at my left, Christ at this side, Christ at that side, Christ at my back. Christ (be) in the heart of every person whom I speak to, Christ in the mouth of each person who speaks to me, Christ in each eye which sees me, Christ in each ear which hears me.

Beautiful words that are as relevant to me as they were to the great missionary who wrote them. In reading these words, I began to think that maybe it's not the stories about the saints that need to inspire us today; maybe we can gain and grow from what the saints themselves said. In these writings we come to find a more intimate portrayal of what is often a rather fantastic figure. We see that this saint was, like us, someone who relied entirely upon Christ for every action and activity of his life. He too longed for Christ to be in all places in him and around him, and in his Lorica he provides us with beautiful words that we might use in asking God for the same. We may do very different things in our lives than what St. Patrick did; we may never find our way to a distant land or produce miraculous fires that never go out. But we all have the opportunity to pray the words that Patrick wrote in hope and expectation that Christ too will use us in wonderful and extraordinary ways.

Note: See bio information for Daniel Watkins under Christian Education: Thurber Thursday
~ ACP ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

~ From The African Fellowship ~

Want to sing?
Join the African Fellowship Choir!

Rehearsals start THIS month!
Contact Elizabeth Eposi for more details

Also, don’t miss this special presentation on...

Black History Month

Sunday, Mar 4 at 13hoo in the Thurber Room

Support the Youth Mission’s Trip to Gabon in July!

Africa Night is 31 March!

A three course West African meal accompanied by live dance and music performances from North and West Africa.
Suggested donation is 20€ for adults, 15€ for students and 10€ for children.
RSVP to Deborah First-Quao

SoulZ: The Musical  Coming 28 April 2012

Take a musical voyage through time as W.E.B. Dubois discovers the history and progression of jazz, soul and gospel music after meeting an angel at the Paris World fair of 1900. Follow Dubois beyond our time into the future where he is faced with the challenge of convincing a young male RnB artist to follow his true calling to sing gospel music.
Soulz will leave audiences breathless as they discover the spiritual history of all modern music and the vital role it will play in our future.

Proceeds go towards The Living Truth Foundation
If you have any questions or would like to volunteer or donate,
Please contact Destiny Ryales
Spirtual Gifts Workshop
Now concerning Spiritual Gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be uniformed. (I Corinthians 12:1)

If Each Christian properly understood their Spiritual Gift, it would not only motivate him or her to Greater commitment and service, it would also bring a new excitement to the Body of Christ.

If you want to learn about and understand your Spiritual Gift,

Rev. Dr. Glen Thorp
will be leading this workshop on the

Wednesday, 7 March 9h00 – 12h00 at ACP.

For more information or to indicate you your interest contact Glen at associatepastor@acparis.org

Get your copy!
For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” –Isaiah 56:7

Lenten Devotional 2012
Available online at www.acparis.org/lent2012

Have you signed up for a Lenten Bible Study?
Here are times and places studies will be gathering.
If there is a time you would like to have a study, but the time you would like isn’t listed or available, perhaps you would like to be leader? Contact Pastor Glen!

The study will be once a week for 4 to 6 weeks, depending on the group.
The program material is available for download on the website.

Small Group Times, Places and Leaders

Starting Date:

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 29 Feb</td>
<td>14h00</td>
<td>ACP in G2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 29 Feb</td>
<td>18h30</td>
<td>ACP in G7</td>
<td>Tom Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 29 Feb</td>
<td>19h30</td>
<td>ACP in G2</td>
<td>Jim Nendel</td>
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<td>Friday, 2 Mar</td>
<td>11h</td>
<td>in the 5th</td>
<td>Camilla Macfarlane</td>
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<td>Saturday, 3 Mar</td>
<td>11h</td>
<td>in the 5th</td>
<td>Camilla Macfarlane</td>
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<td>Sunday, 4 Mar</td>
<td>10h</td>
<td>ACP in G2</td>
<td>Kristie Worrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 4 Mar</td>
<td>11h</td>
<td>ACP in G2</td>
<td>Pascale Deforge</td>
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<td>Sunday, 4 Mar</td>
<td>12h30</td>
<td>ACP in G2</td>
<td>Zaiunabu Taylor</td>
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<td>Sunday, 4 Mar</td>
<td>14h</td>
<td>ACP Thurber Room</td>
<td>Virginia Jacinto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 11 Mar</td>
<td>17h</td>
<td>in the 7th</td>
<td>Janice and Ed Hyslip</td>
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*abbreviated study of 4 gatherings

Contact Camilla Macfarlane for more information about the study or to sign up for a group at communitylife@acparis.org

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” –Isaiah 56:7
Yoga for (Habitat for) Humanity - Friday Fundraisers

with Lisa Laney

2 March 19h15-20h00 in the Thurber Room
9 March 19h30-20h45 in the ACP Gym
16 March 17h30-18h45 in the ACP Gym
30 March 19h00-20h15 in the ACP Gym

For all classes, please bring a yoga mat and a water bottle.

For these classes, suggested donation of 10€ is greatly appreciated.

About Lisa and Yoga for Humanity

Yoga for Humanity her own way of giving back to the community and is a small non-profit service that she created to support the church youth mission work, and currently for Habitat for Humanity.

She donates the money she makes from her classes on Friday nights and weekend workshops.

So far, Yoga for Humanity has donated over 350€!

Her classes are donation based and you can pay what you can.

Additionally, besides the Friday Fundraisers, on Saturday, March 31, there will be a fun and challenging two hour yoga workshop for athletes.

The focus will be the balanced athlete and how to support the body through proper alignment while practicing yoga and how it will build strength, flexibility and body awareness in any particular sport. This will be a safe and effective way to learn body adjustments and breathe awareness. You will learn how yoga can help and prevent injuries.

All ages welcome.

Yoga for Athletes
Saturday, 31 Mar
14h00-16h00 in the Church Theatre

To register please email Lisa at lisa.laney@puressencyoga.com
25€ suggested donation
DONT MISS
Alexia Rabé
9 March 2012
20h00
Gospel and jazz vocalist and pianist, joins Still Point for a concert supporting ACP’s Young Adult Habitat for Humanity Mission Team to Romania.

Free Entry with a 15€ suggested donation.

Dessert and coffee reception following in the Theatre.

On another note.....

Thursday, 15 March 20h00
The Bronze Ringers Handbell Choir Performs!
Come listen to the handbells, as they get ready for their performance in London on Saturday, 17 March 2012.
There is no admission charge

The ACP Adult Choir with Orchestra
24 March at 20h at ACP
The ACP Choir will be joined by “Lux Perpetua” choir, and the Association Symphonique de Paris, conducted by Franck Chastrusse for a special concert. They will perform: “Mass to Saint Cecelia” by Charles Gounoud and “Requiem Mass” of Carl Wiltse.
The Atelier Concert Series

Presents

Sunday, 4 March at 17h

Katherine et Verouchka Nikitine, piano
Julien Massol, violoncelle

J. S. Bach: Suite no. 1 for solo cello
J. Haydn: Concerto in D Major for cello and organ
et oeuvres pour piano solo de
Haendel, Ligeti et Liszt

Sunday, 11 March at 17h

Marta Power Luce, harpe
Stéphane Edouard, clarinette

I. Müller: Serenade
A. Piazzola: Histoire du Tango
A. Ghidoni: Nocturne et Sicilienne
A. Ghidoni: Jazzy Celtic Suite
J. Massenet: Méditation de Thaïs
B. Bartok: Danses Roumaines

Sunday, 18 March at 17h

Vadim Tchijik, violon et Eric Astoul, piano

Clara Schumann – Trois Romances for violin and piano op. 22
Johannes Brahms - Sonata for violin and piano op.108, no. 3 in D minor
Robert Schumann – Sonata for violin and piano op.121, no. 2 in D minor

Sunday, 25 March at 17h

Anne-Laure Riche, flûte et Naoko Fujiiwara, piano

César Frank - Transcription de la Sonate pour violon en la mineur
Gabriel Pierné - Nocturne en forme de valse op.’42-2)
Lili Boulanger - D’un matin de printemps
Fauré - Sicilienne
Debussy – Claire de lune
Ravel - Pavane pour une infante défunte

Free entrance and free-will offering for all Atelier Series Concerts
Getting to Know You!

Coffee Time With
Paula Taquet-Woolfolk
The Annie Vallatton Christian Lending Library
Article by Brigitte Sands Yode

“When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people”. - Abraham Joshua Heschel, theology professor (1907-1972)

Paula uses this quote a lot and after I met with her I understood why. She herself is such a kind person. I could not take my eyes off her smiling face while she was speaking about her job and the joy she had being a volunteer Head Librarian at the ACP's Annie Vallotton Library.

Paula Taquet-Woolfolk, a classical singer and an English teacher from Delaware, first came to Paris in the summer of 1983 to meet with a French composer, Jacques Leguerney, to write an article about him for the NATS journal. Now she is the wife of consultant Jean Taquet, whom she met in that same summer. They have been married since 1986 and have two children, Lucille, 20 and Eric, 17. The Taquet family has attended ACP since 1991, and Paula has been the Head Librarian of the church since 2007.

When Paula began volunteering at the library, the library was in a tiny little room. Paula is very pleased that it has been recently moved to a bigger space downstairs (G4), with more lighting, and is excited that the library is now open 5.5 hours on every Sunday, and that books are being lent to approximately 70 library card holding members. Additionally, the library lends DVDs, CDs, and Audio/Video cassettes.

Although she is stepping down as head librarian to devote herself to personal things she hasn’t had time to do over the last several years, she shares great memories with her team, all of whom work hard to make it all possible. Paula says they do it from their heart and that they give their time so the Library can continue and grow. Friends like Noemi Plaza-Cuoq, Vicky Daguasi Mindo, Nimfa Pitalgo, Thelma Fuchs, Nancy Mungai, Sonia Marron and Nathaniel Akujuobi (the new Head Librarian as of March) work diligently to make the library function smoothly. She wishes the best and many blessings to all that give so much.

On a special note, she wants to thank Senior Pastor Scott Herr, who has been very supportive of the library, and the librarians, since his mother was a librarian herself. More thanks go to Sarah Holmes, Bettina Chehab, Patti Turquet de la Boissière, Claudia Miranda, Ilinca Mreana, Fred Gramann, Dani Lippoldt, (the former Head Librarian), Monica Montolie (for Annie’s artwork), Amy Johnson (who worked on Annie’s biography), her patient and loving husband, Jean, and last but not least, the namesake of the Library, Annie Vallotton.

Perhaps you aren’t familiar with the history of the Library, or why it has been named after Annie Vallotton. Paula would like you to know something about this wonderful woman, and her history with the ACP:

**Annie Vallotton**

Annie Vallotton was born on 21 February 1915 in Lausanne, Switzerland. Her father was Swiss, and her mother was French-Alsatian. Annie became a Christian at a young age, and studied art in Strasbourg. In 1969, Annie’s book, *Priority: Jesus’ life in Sixty Drawings* was published, and soon after, the American Bible Society approached her and asked for simple illustrations for the Good News Bible, a new Basic English translation.

The translators wanted a Bible that would be “accessible and enjoyable,” and Annie responded by creating 500 line drawings featuring “maximum expression with a minimum of lines.” Some of her drawings went through 90 revisions before she was satisfied. “I wanted to get to the truth, the most important thing,” she explained. “I tried to find total simplicity.”

Over the years she taught various classes at the American Church in Paris, and due to her love of the church, and the United States, Annie donated some of her art work and many of her English language books and curriculum materials to the ACP. In June 2008 the ACP Lending Library was renamed in her honor. Annie is now retired and living in the 14th arrondissement, not far from the American Church. Paula often finds time to visit with her and says that she enjoys music -- particularly the violin -- and continues to teach children about the Bible through drawings and storytelling.

"He leaves the creature to stand up on its own legs- to carry out from the will alone duties which have lost all relish... He wants them to learn to walk and must therefore take away his hand; and if only the will to walk is really there He is pleased even with their stumbles”  C.S. Lewis

Paula and I walked to the church like old friends, meditating on this quote by C.S. Lewis, who is the most requested author at the Annie Vallotton Library. It was an extraordinary day, learning about the library, about Annie and about Paula.
Meet our Receptionists!
By An Tampere

Whenever you pass by or whoever you are, you will always be warmly welcomed at the American Church by one of its four receptionists. They help you with any question you may have and make your visit as pleasant as possible. Although we all appreciate what they do, day in and day out, we rarely get to know who these persons are behind the reception desk. It was thus time to meet them and discover just that.

On Sundays the reception is in the hands of Ms. Boryana Dimitrova. Originally from Bulgaria, she came to Paris to learn French as well as to pursue her studies of law. While studying, the former pastor, Tina Blair, hired her to babysit her children. She then suggested Boryana to stand in for absent receptionists, first on a temporary basis than permanently every Sunday from 8h30 until 19h30. Boryana enjoys very much the contact with the visitors as well as the possibility of meeting new people. However this job needs sometimes quite some diplomacy when she has to answer to specific requests. For example, a woman asked her once if the Church sold tickets to the service! When Boryana is not at the American church, she likes to read, to study history or to go to the movies. In the near future, Boryana hopes to find a job according to her Master’s Degree in European Union Law at University Panthéon-Assas of Paris. We wish her all the luck for the realization of her ambition!

Steve Dharmasena, a former Sri Lankan journalist, is the receptionist who will welcome you every weekday from 9h30 until 17h. He came to France in 1978 to attend the Journalism School of Lille and then pursued a PhD at the Sorbonne. In order to finance his studies, Steve started to work at the American Church as a part-time receptionist. Being able to help out his compatriots when they arrive in France is for Steve one of the main joys of this job. Unfortunately, he is sometimes also confronted with physical and verbal aggressions, but as he says himself, he is still alive! In his free time, Steve likes to travel with Marie, his wife since 1982, and his three daughters. Writing for Sri Lankan newspapers and periodicals as well as composing music and playing several music instruments are his other interests.

At night, you will find Fernando Kitshiri at the reception to welcome you. He also comes from Sri Lanka where he studied accountancy, purchasing and supply-management as well as stock-controlling and marketing. Kitshiri came to France in 1978 to learn French and then started to work on a part-time basis at the Commander’s Office of the American Legion. When he heard a full-time job was available at the American Church, he did not hesitate a second to apply and was happy he got the job. Kitshiri appreciates his long hours, as he can better aid those who look for help, as it’s not always comfortable entering the Church. He feels very grateful for those moments where he can help and for being a member of the team.

Note: Unfortunately, Martha Gachoka, ACP’s Saturday Receptionist wasn’t available for an interview.
February in Review

The Book Sale Fundraiser

Perhaps you bought books at the book sale? All proceeds benefited the Youth Ministry’s humanitarian project in Gabon, Africa that will be happening this summer! So Thank You!

Eric Taquet was stellar in attracting attention to all that was available! Good job, Eric!

WORSHIP CENTRAL

Many of our Youth and Young Adults attended Worship Central, a 3-hour worship and prayer concert, sponsored by a ministry in the UK and hosted by the Protestant Federation of France Youth Movement. It looks like there was quite a turn out!

Youth Mardi Gras Dinner

was a great success and €650 was earned for the upcoming habitat trip! Additionally, it was a good time and great exposure for future Habitat interest and involvement of people not usually associated with ACP, or Habitat.

A big thanks goes to Lisa Laney, Wagih Megalli, Claudia Miranda, Chris Garwood, Raphaelle, Daniel Grout, Teth Atikpo and all the others that helped too!

More Habitat Fundraising

Teth Atikpo, Stanley and Melissa Marcello, and Catriona Melrose, signing up people, auctioning off a package of Valentine delights, and selling baked goods!
Were you at the Ash Wednesday Service?
If you didn’t get a chance to attend, here is a summary of this wonderful service.
By Dan Haugh and Pictures by Ilinca Mreana

The Young Adults of ACP organized and led the Ash Wednesday service on 22 February. The first part of the evening was a traditional Lenten service consisting of a call to worship, prayers of confession and assurance, special musical pieces, a congregational hymn, Scripture readings, a brief meditation, and Holy Communion.

Following the service, the remainder of the evening was structured to allow the church to experience the “Journey to the Cross” and fully enter into the narrative of the “Passion of Christ”. Eight Lenten prayer stations were created and strategically placed throughout the sanctuary and narthex with the road leading up to the balcony where a large wooden Cross stood tall and the final stations awaited.

These Lenten stations took participants on a journey from Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the events of the last week of Jesus’ life, ending with the Crucifixion and the hope of the new life that is to come on Easter Sunday. It was an interactive, multi-sensory opportunity to reflect on the last week in the life of Jesus and a time of quiet in the midst of our busy lives.

Prayer Station 1: Last Week on Earth
The focus of this station was to mediate on the last week in the life of Jesus and then reflect on one’s own life: What would participants do if they only had a week to live? Participants took time to listen to meditative music and reflect on their life, and then wrote a postcard describing what they would do and where they would be if they only had one week to live.

Prayer Station 2: Triumphal Entry
This station allowed people to consider the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and provided an opportunity for them to express praise and thanksgiving to Jesus. Participants walked down a path set up to remind them of the triumphal entry, and they wrote their prayers and praise on palm branches and placed them on the path.

Prayer Station 3: Jesus Anointed at Bethany (John 12: 1-11)
The focus of this station was the extravagant gift of love the woman gave Jesus by anointing him with oil and wiping his feet with her hair. Participants prayed about the things they value the most and about their willingness to give that same kind of extravagant love to Jesus. Participants dipped a paper stick into bowl of lavender oil, and took away a strip of scented paper as a reminder to express extravagant love for Jesus on a regular basis.

Prayer Station 4: The Garden of Gethsemane
This station invited participants to pray for those suffering around the world as they considered the suffering of Jesus. Participants looked at photos of global poverty and suffering, and prayed for both local and global sufferers. They also tasted the cup of suffering by drinking a sip of red-wine vinegar.
Prayer Station 5: Betrayal and Denial- Judas and Peter

Participants considered times they have been betrayed and times they have betrayed others. They also prayed about how they have personally betrayed Jesus. Participants wrote their names on cut out "kisses" and put them on a large cross with Jesus on it.

Prayer Station 6: Jesus Before Pilate

Pilate and the Pharisees failed to recognize Jesus for who he really is - the way, the truth, and the life. They had the Light of the World standing before them. But they were blind to him because of their pride and desire for power. The purpose of this station was to help participants realize that sometimes we too miss Jesus, and do not recognize him in our own lives, or in the lives of others. Participants lit candles as they prayed about recognizing the Light of the World in their lives and in the lives of others.

*The following 2 stations were located in the balcony and focused on the large wooden cross in the center. Participants had to climb the stairs up towards the "hill" of the crucifixion.

Prayer Station 7: Forgiveness

The focus of this station was forgiveness. We are forgiven because of Jesus' death on the cross. This station gave participants a chance to ask Jesus to forgive themselves and to help them forgive others. Participants read the powerful poem "God on a Stick" by Paul Hobbs and then made crosses from card stock paper and wrote on them, the name, or names, of people they need to forgive. These were left at the foot of the cross.

Prayer Station 8: The Words from the Cross

This station looked at the final words of Jesus and allowed participants to really consider what Jesus did on the cross. Participants read the words Jesus spoke from the cross and prayed about what they need Jesus to say to them today.

As people left the service and the finished in the prayer stations, they were encouraged to receive the Imposition of Ashes offered by the pastoral staff.
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Interim Associate Pastor
Visiting Pastor
Dir. Youth & Young Adults
Music Director
Contemporary Music Director
Youth Music Director
Business Manager
Accountant
Administrative Assistant
Daytime Receptionist
Evening Receptionist
Saturday Receptionist
Sunday Receptionist
Building Maintenance

Scott Herr
Glen Thorp
Bedford Transou
Dan Haugh
Fred Gramann
Natalie Raynal
Bonnie Woolley
Chira Rosen
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