Thoughts from the Rev. Dr. Scott Herr

In this issue

Thurber Thursdays

Planning for now, by Rev. Michelle Wahila

Bible readings for May

Under the sun: May away days, by Rev. Dan Haugh

Sunday concert series

Wedding blessings and vow renewals: An ACP guide by Rev. Jeff Powell

A word from your ACP Council, by Pam Bohl

Financial stewardship & French taxes, by John Newman

Carpe Diem: Seize the month

May, the month of holidays, by Tendayi O. Chirawu

Short trips for long weekends, by Rebecca Brite

Finding the prayer of your heart: Spring retreat, by Rev. Jeff Powell

What’s up in Paris, by Karen Albrecht

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley at the ACP

The Evangelists Window, by Alison Benney

Sunday concert series

Feting the 70th anniversary of VE Day, by Amit Pieter

Cuisine de Thurber Thursday

Mission Outreach: Message from Michael Beeman

Mission Outreach: Life skills and fun, by Patti Lafage

May ACP calendar

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley at the ACP, page 18

Short trips for long weekends, page 14

An ACP guide to weddings, page 9
Dear Members and Friends of the ACP,

We are preparing to welcome the Rev. Dr. Howard John Wesley to the pulpit on Pentecost Sunday later this month. He is an honored guest, as we remember and pay tribute this year to the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who preached at the ACP 50 years ago this coming October.

Part of the miracle of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 is that the people gathered were able to hear the gospel in their own language. What strikes me as important for all of us to remember is that God speaks a variety of languages in a multitude of voices. Part of our duty as Christians is to learn to listen to how God is speaking to us especially through voices different than our own.

Freddie Gray died on 19th April after sustaining a severe spinal cord injury following his arrest by Baltimore police. His funeral held on Monday, 27th April, was followed by peaceful demonstrations that turned into violent clashes between protesters and police. The violence broke out as result of growing frustration with a litany of publicly reported instances of police brutality.

What do you suppose the following people all have in common: Jeffrey Alston, Anthony Anderson, Tanisha Anderson, Rekia Boyd, Barbara Floyd, Eric Garner, Eric Harris, Jerriel Lyles, Dondi Johnson Sr., Kelly Overbey, and Yvette Smith? They are all African Americans who suffered police brutality. Of course you’ve heard of Travon Martin, Michael Brown, and Walter Scott, but there are so many more killings and abuses that go unreported or forgotten.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once poignantly remarked, “The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.”

Ouch. As an American white male, I must admit that it is painful to hear the voices of African American brothers and sisters who are increasingly expressing frustration that the “white church” seems to be oblivious to the racism that too many people of color experience on a daily basis. It struck me again when an African American friend wrote recently about “The Talk” that inevitably parents of young African American men must have... When I think of “The Talk” I have had with my sons, it is about sex. That’s very different than “The Talk” African American parents must have with their sons. “The Talk” for them, unfortunately, is about how they need to be extremely careful around white police. They will be profiled and they will be stopped and they will be searched. The talk is to warn them, “Be careful! Do not over-react to this unfair treatment. It will only end badly if you do!”

We have so much to learn from the voices of those who are different from us, and whose life experiences are different than our own. But at times it is hard to hear the truth, even when it is spoken in love. As we reflect more deeply on what it means to “Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God,” it is extremely important that we learn to listen to the voices of those who are experiencing injustice. And it is high time we remember that “when one part of the body suffers, the whole body suffers.”

My prayer is that we will be open to learning. The first part of confronting the sin of racism is to acknowledge that it exists, and that we might even be complicit, however unwittingly. Yes, progress has been made over the years, but let’s stop being defensive, and recognize that there is still a long way to go before many of our brothers and sisters receive equal treatment under the law.

Please plan to come for the Thurber Thursday lecture by Rev. Dr. Wesley on 21st May, as he will be addressing the topic, "#BlackLivesMatter: The Continual Quest for the Kingdom in America." Then come and listen to the preacher that President Obama listened to on Easter, one of the great African American preachers of our day, here at the ACP on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. I look forward to listening and learning with you.

In Christ,
Scott
Missed out?
If you can’t make it to Thurber Thursday, you can still enjoy our amazing speakers and discussions. The video is available on our website at http://acparis.org/thurber-thursdays-archives.

#BlackLivesMatter: The Continual Quest for the Kingdom in America
Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley

Rev. Wesley is Senior Pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, and a 2015 inductee into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College. He will discuss recent police use of deadly force against unarmed Black men in the United States and the resulting community uprisings.

He is one of the 2013 recipients of The Root 100: A Who’s Who of Black America award, and one of seven to receive the James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award presented by Howard University School of Divinity, in April 2014. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Wesley is an avid golfer who also enjoys movies, reading, and working out. He is the proud father of two beautiful sons, Howard-John, II and Cooper Reece. This talk is part of our ongoing commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Centering Prayer
Pastor Karla Halvorson

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God’s presence within us. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. Come and hear what God is up to at San Marcos Lutheran Church through the practice of Centering Prayer.

Karla Halvorson is a pastor of San Marcos Lutheran Church, CA, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is a board member of Churches Against (Human) Trafficking (CAT). She is here on sabbatical through a Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant. The grant proposal includes time for study and reflection on the Christian practices of contemplation and meditation and how

Leadership in the Bible
Paul Ohana

Our guest speaker will be Paul Ohana. Paul, co-author of Leadership in the Bible (www.leadershipinthebible.com), is an international management consultant, has a broad background in leadership. Entrepreneur, author and lecturer, he strives to make everyone a better leader.

Paul has a multidisciplinary background in engineering, law, economics, management, and marketing acquired at ENSTelecommunications Paris, the Sorbonne, International Marketing Institute of the Harvard Graduate School of Business, and at the graduate School of the University of Pittsburgh. He has managed large companies and innovative start-ups in France, Morocco, Israel and the United States. Paul lives in Paris.
Dear friends,

I admit it – I struggle with distractions. I don’t mean distractions in a “squirrel seeking nut” kind of way, but in more of an “overachieving, multi-tasking, must do it all” kind of way. In the name of “balance” I often find myself multi-tasking to the point of craziness. I catch myself bathing the boys while answering emails. Really, water + smartphone = disaster. The result of being so distracted is not, however, a good one. It costs a lot in terms of relational capital. No one and nothing gets my full attention when I am busy multi-tasking toward an unrealistic and perfectionist end game.

It’s usually when I am holding my smart phone over the bubble bath that I realize that my elaborate plans are just that – mine. It might feel fantastic to clear my desk, finish the laundry, and bake cookies for the goûter, but if I do all of that at the expense of actually spending time with people, what good have I achieved?

The reality is that life is not about looking good, getting much done or accomplishing great things. It’s much more about seeking the good. For me the “good” life is all about being present – being present with God, in nature, and with family and friends.

First and foremost, God desires our time and wants to be present with us. If we are too busy and too distracted to spend time with God than we are missing out on the fullness of His abundance. As a mother/pastor/wife, I know that my time with God fills me up so that I am able to give of myself for my important life responsibilities. So unless God starts sending me email, I am trying to put down that phone more often – especially in the mornings when I most need God to infiltrate my heart for the day.

Second, I know that I feel God’s presence in the outdoors. When you live and work in the same building it can be quite difficult to remember that there is, in fact, an outdoors! For me, it is of the utmost importance to be active outside. Sometimes that means a very early morning run, but I know that it will also mean time to see God’s amazing presence around me. When I am running through Paris I am reminded of the beauty of this city and the great gift that it is to live here. By the pounding of my feet, I can feel my heart open up to what God has to show me in the present moment.

Third, the goodness of God’s presence comes through those around us. And we have the opportunity to be God’s graceful presence too. Why would we miss an opportunity to be God’s graceful presence to our family and friends? Realizing that laundry still needs to be done and dinner still needs to be made, I haven’t given up all productivity for the sake of gazing into my children/spouse/friends’ eyes to see Christ. Instead, I am trying to come to a place where I simply...
“give my all” to the person before me. I invite the children to prepare dinner and do the laundry with me. I make precious time for visiting friends and for an evening out with my spouse. In doing those normal day-to-day things, I find laughter, joy and the goodness of God. I try to capture those moments in my heart and focus on them as they are happening.

I’m far from perfect at any of this. I pray for daily grace for living this out and daily forgiveness when I fail. Luckily, when I am failing miserably at this balancing act, my husband promises to send my smart phone sailing across our living room as a reminder to be present. I may not be the most amazing and productive “Super Mom/Wife/Pastor” but I hope and pray that each day I glorify God with the life I am living. In the end I know that I don’t need to make elaborate plans, God’s plans are quite fine by me! But I can use each day for the good, knowing that it is by the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit that our plans, and our daily lives, are sanctified by a very good God.

Benedictions,
Michelle

---

Special Sunday Morning Women’s Gathering
3 May 12h30-13h30 in the Library
Paula Lucas, the founder of The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center and author of *Harvesting Stones*, her personal story of escape from domestic violence, will be speaking. Paula will share some of her life journey and talk about resources and tools that are available for women who are being subjected to this type of violence.

---

Bible readings for May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>5th Sunday of Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acts 8:26-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 22:25-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 John 4:7-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John 15:1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>6th Sunday of Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acts 10:44-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 John 5:1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John 15:9-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>7th Sunday of Easter - Ascension Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 John 5:9-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John 17:6-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acts 1:1-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 47 or Psalm 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ephesians 1:15-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>Day of Pentecost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Acts 2:1-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Trinity Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Acts 2:1-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you have lived in Paris for any length of time you know that the month of May is rather...unique! With many national bank holidays, some of which are for historical and/or religious events, the people of France enjoy a much slower pace, and many a long weekend. Like France, most European countries also feature many four-day weekends, in which two days adjoining the weekend are holidays. Examples may include Easter Monday / Good Friday, and Christmas, for example.

Furthermore, when a lone holiday occurs on a Tuesday or a Thursday, the gap between that day and the weekend may also be designated as a holiday, or set to be a movable or floating holiday, or indeed work/school may be avoided by unofficial consensus. This is typically referred to by a phrase involving "bridge" in most languages. The famous "pont" weekends here in France have become somewhat of a national sport in May. Any four-day bridge, for example: Thursday (holiday) and Friday (bridge day) for Ascension, is essentially a "five-day weekend"!

Having two to three of those in one month makes for a relatively short work month. Some bemoan this as having a negative impact on the economy here in France, with correlating loss of productivity. However, I have learned to appreciate these extended weekends, in addition to the two-week holiday breaks re-occurring every six weeks. While the American cultural motto seems to be “Live to Work,” the French have more of a “Work to Live” mentality that I honestly think is healthier in many ways. Often we value the worth of something or someone in terms of productivity, no matter the cost. But great productivity has a cost, often that of health and happiness. Time with loved ones, personal rest and recreation are sacrificed too often on the altar of success and achievement.

In my four years living in France, I have witnessed friends make personal choices prioritizing the enjoying of life and focus on family. This should be admired and hopefully imitated. I realize I will probably not have five weeks of holiday or all of these “pont” weekends upon returning to the United States this summer. However, I am encouraged to try to work a bit less so I can live a bit more. Perhaps Europeans take to heart the words from the writer of Ecclesiastes: “So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.”

So this May, may we take time to enjoy the blessings of God as we bask in the glory of new life this Eastertide season, and soak in the sun with family and friends on the “ponts” of Paris!

In Christ,
Dan Haugh
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, at ACP, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of upcoming concerts, see http://acparis.org

---

Sunday 3 May at 17h

George Crumb: A little suite for Christmas
Baldassare Galuppi: Andante
Ludwig Van Beethoven: Sonata, Op.110
Chopin: Nocturne Op.32 No.1 / Ballade No.3 op.47
Liszt: Legende no. 2
Maurice Ravel: Jeux d’eau

---

Born in Milan, Italy in 1982, Güray Başol started playing the piano at the age of 15 at the Istanbul Anatolian Fine Arts High School, graduating with honors from Yıldız Technical University. He has studied at the “Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris” and the National Rueil-Malmaison Conservatory from which he graduated with the “Prix d’excellence.” He won first prize in the UFAM Chamber Music Contest, and has performed solo piano recitals in major concert halls in Turkey, France and England.

---

Monday 10 May at 17h

The Mirror Visions Ensemble presents

Sounds of Swedish Poetry

Favorite songs by Rangstrom, Sibelius and Stenhammer, alongside world premieres from Swedish composers Jonas Forsell, Hans Gefors, Kim Hedás, Anders Nilsson, Kjell Perder, Ylva Skog and Andrea Tarrodi. The Americans of Mirror Visions (soprano Vira Slywotzky, tenor Scott Murphree, baritone Mischa Bouvier and pianist Gary Chapman) are joined by Swedish musicians Lena Gutke (flute), Mimi Brundin Sunnerstam (cello) and Bernt Wilhelmsson (piano). The ensemble is led by Tobé Malawista.
You may have a friend or family member who is looking for a beautiful place to celebrate a wedding blessing or a vow renewal. ACP offers our exceptional sanctuary setting, first-class wedding service from Keiko Matsushima, Wedding Coordinator, and attentive pastoral care and inspiring ceremony from the Visiting Pastor. Wedding blessings and vow renewals are open to ACP members and non-members. Off-site weddings are also possible.

In France, only weddings solemnized by the civil authorities have a legal standing; thus, a church wedding has spiritual significance, but not legal status. Before the religious wedding ceremony can take place, you must show proof of civil marriage. Counseling sessions are strongly urged but if you come from abroad, we recommend that you seek premarital counseling at your home congregation.

**Wedding Blessings**

**Step 1:** Explore the ACP website at www.acparis.org/weddings for photographs of our sanctuary, wedding guidelines, information on how to make a reservation and other details.

**Step 2:** Select a date for the wedding ceremony and check to see that the ACP sanctuary is available that day. We are hopeful that we are able to accommodate that desired date. However, we urge couples to plan early and have an alternate day in mind.

**Step 3:** After reviewing the ACP Wedding Guidelines, agreeing to the expected donation and placing a deposit, the wedding reservation is confirmed.

**Step 4:** Once the balance of the donation is received (at least 60 days before the ceremony), our traditional wedding ceremony is sent to the couple and plans begin to be made with the pastor. Some personalization is possible. However, all changes and additions need to be discussed with and approved by the pastor. Parents and siblings, relatives and friends are welcome to participate in reading selected parts of the service. Ministers from other congregations may also co-officiate upon approval of the pastor.

**Step 5:** The wedding ceremony is finalized and a rehearsal is scheduled. A rehearsal is necessary for a tailored ceremony with special music and special readings, but not necessary for a small, simple ceremony.

**Step 6:** On the wedding day the ACP sanctuary is booked for two hours. Time may be allotted for set-up (florists and photographers) and/or the welcoming of guests. The ceremony is very rich with magnificent organ music, a unity candle, and special readings or soloists. It may last from 30 to 45 minutes, depending on what has been discussed with the pastor and the music director. Following the service there will be time for greeting and more photos.

**Renewal of Vows**

A Vow Renewal ceremony is available for couples who desire publically to recommit themselves to one another on special occasions, like an anniversary, for example (5th, 10th, etc). This is a brief ceremony with music. If desired, the ceremony can be simple with no music. Couples are encouraged to share significant experiences as a married couple during the planning of the ceremony. Family and friends are welcome to participate in the ceremony, which may last from 25 to 30 minutes.

I have been richly blessed as Visiting Pastor in participating in this important ministry of ACP and I heartily encourage you to recommend ACP to people in your family and social networks who are looking for a place to experience a joyful and meaningful wedding blessing or vow renewal.

In the Joy of His Service,

Pastor Jeff
A word from your ACP Council

Warm greetings to the Members and Friends of ACP!

As this issue of the Spire goes to print, the Council joyfully anticipates the approval of the members of ACP to call Billy Roberts to be the next Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Billy was the unanimous choice of the Search Committee and the Council also voted unanimously to recommend to the ACP membership to approve the call to Billy to serve a three-year term. We look forward to the culmination of the thorough and prayerful process by the Search Committee at the Special Congregational Meeting after the 11h00 service on 3 May. After the vote those present will get a chance to ‘meet’ Billy via Skype. The Council is thankful for the wonderful work of the Search Committee and eager to welcome Billy as the newest member of the ACP ministry team this summer!

This year the month of May is filled with opportunities to take advantage of long weekends in celebration of both Christian and patriotic holidays. It is a wonderful time of year to enjoy warmer weather and longer days with family and friends outdoors. Having just taken some important family time off during the April school break to explore the High Atlas Mountains and the beach in Morocco, it is my sincere wish that each of you will be able to indulge in your favorite form of rest and relaxation during these May holidays.

As our family came down from the remote mountain villages in the High Atlas and made it back to the connected world, we were crushed to hear of the incredible loss of life and livelihood caused by the earthquake in Nepal. While we were rejuvenated by our trek in the gorgeous mountains of North Africa and awed by the wonder of the natural world there, we were shocked to return to pictures of nature’s devastation in another part of the world. Let us remember these brothers and sisters in the days and weeks to come and pray that, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones, they will receive the assistance they so desperately need to rebuild their lives and communities.

Do keep in mind that 24 May, in addition to being Pentecost Sunday and the date we are blessed to welcome the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley to the ACP, is also the date of the May Congregational Meeting, to approve the slate of new leaders for the ACP Council. The Nominating Committee is busy finalizing the list of nominees to be presented to the Executive Committee and then to the Council in advance of the Congregational Meeting.

If you are asked by the Nominating Committee to consider taking a leadership role in the life of our church, I can assure you that your gifts of time and talents will be immensely appreciated and that you will get back more than you can imagine. And, if you are planning to make Pentecost weekend a “May getaway weekend,” please take the time to fill in a proxy form for your vote to be cast in your absence.

Wishing you all a restful month of May and the revival of the Spirit,

With warm blessings, in Christ,

Pam Bohl

St. Paul needs a hand

We know that St. Paul lost his head as a Christian martyr, and now it seems he’s lost his hand as a carved image. Can you guess what he was holding? If you know of a sculptor who can repair his broken wrist, please email Spire@acparis.org.
Each Sunday's worship bulletin contains the phrase "In France, your gift in Euros is deductible under the category 'réduction pour dons à des organismes d'intérêt général.'" Ever wondered what that means or how it works? Quite simply, it means the French government will help you give financially to the American Church in Paris.

At ACP, we believe that stewardship is an important part of being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. How we invest the resources of time, talent and money entrusted to us by God is a lifestyle issue for anyone who desires to grow in faith and commitment as a follower of Jesus. We believe that learning to give is an important way each of us embodies the gospel. Unfortunately, for many of us, limited resources keep us from giving at levels consistent with our personal discipleship. There is good news, though. The French government offers you a 66% tax credit (up to a maximum of 20% of your taxable income, or "revenu imposable") for every financial gift, offering, and tithe you give to the ACP. So, for example, if you were to give 100€ to the ACP during 2015, your taxes would be reduced by 66€ when you pay them in 2016.

To take advantage of this generous tax provision, you must:

- Designate each of your financial gifts, offerings, and tithes, so that ACP's accountant can track your giving. This information is confidential; only the accountant and the treasurer (not the pastors, nor anyone else) have access to giving records. Do this by putting cash offerings in an envelope marked with your name and postal address, or by giving via checks or bank transfers ("virements bancaires").
- Receive your “Reçu au titre des dons,” documenting your total gifts to ACP for the year (if over 50€), from the ACP Treasurer by the end of February.
- Report the amount of your total gifts on your Déclaration des revenus (form 2042) in the section entitled: "Réductions et crédits d’impôt on the line labeled: “Dons versés à ... des organismes d’intérêt general."
- Keep the titre des dons avis with your tax records in case the tax authorities ask for it at a later date.

Back to the example: Giving 294€ and claiming the tax credit of 66%, or 194€, is financially equivalent to giving 100€ without using the tax benefit. The tax credit nearly triples your capacity to give to the ACP, enabling you to give at a level more consistent with your personal discipleship. It also greatly helps the ACP in its work and mission.

For those paying taxes in the United States, there are also US tax benefits to giving to the ACP, but they are somewhat more complicated.

If you would like to learn more about how tax provisions in France and the United States can help you better meet your desired giving goals to the American Church in Paris, please contact the Finance and Stewardship team at this email: financeandstewardship@acparis.org.
Carpe Diem: Seize the day 
(especially May days)

Spring has sprung, and May brings four long weekends. So Parisians can either stick around and relax or get away for a change of pace. After the yearly rediscovery of April and springtime, and before the stress of end-of-year June, the month of May is perfect for simply relishing the moment and appreciating the blessings we have, practicing the dictum of carpe diem.

“Carpe diem” is a Latin aphorism usually translated to "seize the day," taken from a poem in the Odes (book 1, number 11) in 23 BC by the poet Horace:

Don’t ask (it’s forbidden to know) what end
the gods have given me or you, Leuconoe. Don’t play with Babylonian numerology either. How much better it is to endure whatever will be!
Whether Jupiter has allotted you many more winters or this one,
which even now wears out the Tyrrhenian sea on the opposing rocks, is the final one
be wise, be truthful, strain the wine, and scale back your long hopes
to a short period. While we speak, envious time will have [already] fled;
seize the day, trusting as little as possible in the next day.

The meaning of carpe diem, as advised by Horace, is not to ignore the future but rather not to trust that everything is going to fall into place for you, to take action for the future today. These thoughts are reflected in other ways, including another Latin phrase: "Collige, virgo, rosas" ("gather, girl, the roses"), which appears at the end of the poem "De rosis nascentibus" ("Of growing roses"), attributed to Ausonius or Virgil: “O maid, while youth is with the rose and thee, Pluck thou the rose: life is as swift for thee.

This may have inspired the 17th century poem by Robert Herrick, “To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time:"

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today, Tomorrow will be dying.

Mahatma Gandhi encouraged people to “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

And of course, many of us probably remember the 1989 film, “Dead Poets Society,” in which the English teacher John Keating, played by Robin Williams, says: "Carpe Diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary." This section of the Spire provides some ideas for you to seize the month.

By Alison Benney, with help from Wikipedia

ACP movie discussion group meets 21 May in G2

Films to see in advance: Taxi (Taxi for Téhéran), Still Life, L’Epreuve, and/or Un pigeon perché sur une branche philosophait sur l’existence. For more information: movies@acparis.org
If you feel like taking a quick trip to the family gîte, May is the month to do it. With so many public holidays to celebrate, there are plenty of long weekends for a quick getaway.

First up on the May holiday roster is May Day or Labour Day. In France it is known as the Fête du Travail. Rooted in labour union movements across the globe, this international holiday celebrates the work and accomplishments of the working population. This year it falls on a Friday, making it into a three-day weekend.

May 5th is Cinco de Mayo and while it is not an actual holiday it is celebrated as a day of Mexican ethnic pride in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla. The Mexican army defeated the French army in Puebla on the day in 1962 and the day chiefly commemorates the Mexican army both victorious and fallen and represents an end to European imperialism in the ‘New World’. Some restaurants and bars celebrating with specials on aged tequila and margaritas in Paris include Anahuacalli and Café Pacifico. The Instituto Cultural de Mexico en Francia can be contacted for further information on cultural activities surrounding the day in Paris here http://icm.sre.gob.mx/francia/.

The 8th of May is Fête de la Victoire or Victory Day. VE Day falls on a Friday and is the second long weekend of the month. The 70th anniversary of the end of WWII will be celebrated with the French flag flying high, a military parade on the Champs-Élysées attended by the president and veterans who participate in laying a wreath on the tomb of The Unknown Soldier. See article on page 21 for more. Information on events can be found here: http://www.france.fr/institutions-et-valeurs/victoire-du-8-mai-1945.html

Mother’s Day in the US falls on Sunday, 10 May, and is widely celebrated with gifts, cards, and flowers. Save that date - the ACP usually organises a breakfast for moms that morning.

Known as the “birthday of the church, Pentecost Sunday is on 24 May. It commemorates the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, 50 days after the Resurrection of Christ. This will also be Confirmation Sunday at the American Church in Paris. Many members who attended the confirmation classes will affirm their faith and intentions to live their lives as disciples.

This is followed by Pentecost Monday, on 25 May, which makes for the final long weekend of the month. It is one of the 11 French bank holidays.

Finally, the last day of the month, Sunday 31 May, is French Mother’s Day. Much like its American counterpart, the day is celebrated by families around the country.

Think you need more time off?
Compare your country’s working hours

May, the month of holidays
By Tendayi O. Chirawu
It’s May, otherwise known in France as “a month of Sundays,” with three 3-day weekends (the holidays of 1, 8 and 25 May) and, for those who take the pont (“bridge”), one 4-day one (the 14 May holiday, a Thursday). To help you decide what to do on all those weekends, here are some lesser-known destinations for trips from Paris, adapted from the ACP’s 2014 *Bloom Where You’re Planted* book. The destinations are listed in order from nearest to farthest from Paris.

**Vallée de Chevreuse** – Situated in the heart of this valley, about 35 km southwest of Paris, the private *Château de Breteuil* features recreations of some important events that took place there, using wax mannequins of 50 historical figures. Children, cat-lovers and fans of Perrault’s fairy tales will enjoy its many exquisitely designed cat mannequins and marionettes on the afternoon tours offered daily. www.breteuil.fr.

**Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte** – About 50 km southeast of Paris, this superb château was the inspiration and partial model for Versailles. King Louis XIV so admired the château and became so jealous of its owner, Nicolas Fouquet, that he had him thrown into prison and decided to build an even bigger, better and more beautiful château at Versailles. Vaux is one of the largest private properties in France; and its splendid gardens cover more than 50 ha.

Open daily 10am to 6pm. Fountain shows the second and last Saturday afternoon of May, candlelight tour every Saturday at dusk. Train from Gare de Lyon to Melun, then shuttle (weekends, holidays) or a 15-minute taxi ride. www.vaux-le-vicomte.com.

**Château de Courances** – A private estate some 50km south of Paris, dating from the 16th century, the château was largely rebuilt in the 17th century, when the formal gardens – among the most beautiful in France – were laid out. The Ecole River skirts its western boundary and provides the water for the moat and a large canal. Water is also harnessed for decorative purposes all over the garden, feeding many springs and two ornamental lakes, which lead to a lovely Japanese garden. A box *parterre de broderie* lies below the southern facade of the château. Open weekends and holidays 2-6pm.

RER D to Boutigny then a 14-km taxi ride. www.courances.net.

Two nearby places of interest are *Milly-la-Forêt*, a charming village dear to Jean Cocteau, who decorated a chapel there where he is now buried, and *Soisy-sur-Ecole*, with a glass factory where one can watch glassblowers at work and browse in the shop. www.verrerie-
long weekends

By Rebecca Brite

Gerberoy — With its roses, cobbled streets and time-honored architecture, this ancient village a little over 100km northeast of Paris is classified among the most beautiful in France. Wander the ramparts, visit the collégiale and enjoy a French country meal in one of the two restaurants. www.gerberoy.fr. Gerberoy also makes a good stopping off place if one is driving to Amiens, with its 13th century cathedral, France’s largest.

Verdun — About 260km east of Paris, reachable in an hour and 40 minutes by train and bus, is Verdun with its somber reminders of World War I: nearly 15,000 American war graves, a memorial tower, cloisters, an ossuary and the Bayonet Trench Memorial. The Unknown Soldier who lies under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris was chosen from among the dead of Verdun. On the way by car is Reims, famous for its Gothic cathedral and its Champagne. By train: TGV from Gare de l’Est to Meuse TGV station, then regional bus.

Mirecourt — Located about 350 km east of Paris, this town is historically famous for its stringed instrument and lace makers. Violinists and cellists from around the world still travel to Mirecourt to buy their instruments. The mairie, a beautiful 16th century building, has a violin museum. The other great achievement of Mirecourt is its lace and embroidery work, renowned outside Lorraine as early as the 16th century. The advent of lace-making machines dealt a blow to this craft but it is still practiced for luxury items. Other buildings of interest include the Chapelle de la Oultre (11th to 16th centuries); the Église Notre-Dame, founded in 1303 and enlarged in the 17th century, with exhibits from Lorraine artists; and Les Grandes Halles (fairs and markets), built in 1618. Three hours by train: TGV from Gare de l’Est to Nancy, then local train.
Finding the prayer of your heart
Spring retreat for adults, 26-28 June

The ACP’s annual Spring Retreat for adults will take place the weekend of 26-28 June. We will be returning to the Abbaye-Fleury, an historic Benedictine monastery on the banks of the Loire about two hours from Paris. This year’s retreat will focus on “finding the prayer of your heart.” God knows the longings of our hearts but with busy lives and multiple demands on our time, we sometimes get disconnected from ourselves and from God. This retreat is meant to give you a sense of spaciousness, with time to contemplate your life in the light of God’s purposes for you.

You will be introduced to a variety of prayer practices that have helped Christians through the ages to find the longing of their hearts and bring them before God in prayer. Bring a pen and a journal (blank sheets of paper will do), a Bible, an inquiring mind and an open heart.

Our program will begin with supper Friday evening, and end after lunch on Sunday. It will include discussion, meditation and prayer time, perhaps a question period with a monk, and some free time to relax. A very special opportunity we have is the option for each of us to attend any or all of the six daily offices with the monks. This is an environment conducive to a silent retreat for any who wish. The cost is 125€ per person (exclusive of transportation), limited to a maximum of 36 people.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jeff Powell at visitingpastor@acparis.com.

Would you like to propose articles, write, proofread, do layout or take photos? Contact Alison Benney at Spire@acparis.org Deadline for the next edition of the Spire is Saturday 16 May.

About Professor Hunsinger: Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger, Ph.D. has taught at Princeton Theological Seminary for 21 years. She holds the chair, Charlotte W. Newcombe Professor of Pastoral Theology, teaching courses in pastoral care and pastoral theology. Deborah is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She earned her M.Div. from Yale University Divinity School and her Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York in the field of Psychiatry and Religion.

Originally trained as a pastoral counselor, Deborah has extensive experience in a variety of therapeutic modalities, having worked with individuals, couples, families and groups. In 1988, she founded the Bangor Pastoral Counseling Service in Bangor, Maine as an outreach ministry of her home congregation and is a Fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. She is interested in educating both clergy and laypeople to offer theologically sound, psychologically informed and contextually sensitive pastoral care in the church. While Deborah is author of several books, the most pertinent one for our retreat was published in 2006. It is entitled Pray Without Ceasing: Revitalizing Pastoral Care.

Abbaye de Saint-Benoît-sur-Loire, also called Abbaye Fleury
What’s up in Paris
May event listings

By Karen Albrecht

Magic: Angels and demons in the Jewish tradition
The museum of Jewish art and history has gathered 300 supernaturally themed objects from the Middle Ages to the present, many displayed for the first time ever. Check out the spellbinding array of magic spells, amulets, daggers and mythical beasties designed to ward off the evil eye and offer protection over cradle, grave, and the perilous road in between.

Until 19 July. www.mahj.org

Hogwarts Express
The Cité du Cinéma in Saint-Denis is hosting a sprawling exhibit of props and special effects from the Harry Potter movies. Plunge into the whimsical world of the schoolboy sorcerer, complete with flying broomsticks, wizardly wardrobes and creepy creatures.

Until 6 Sept. www.harrypotterexhibition.com

Nuit magique
The annual Nuit des Musées now spans some 1300 museums all across France and Europe, but Paris is still the heart of the action. The long night of fun features music, film, midnight walks and even a live "Tweetwall" (#NDM15) to keep up with what you’re missing out on at other venues.


Planetary star power
After dazzling crowds in Montreal, London and San Francisco, “The Fashion World of Jean-Paul Gaultier: from the Sidewalk to the Catwalk” comes home to roost at the Grand Palais, bringing a fanciful peek into the creative genius who has more than one trick up his (sailor-striped) sleeve.

Until 3 August. www.grandpalais.fr

Sub-molecular sorcery
If your taste runs more to the Higgs boson particle than to haute couture, just nip around the back of the Grand Palais. The Palais de la Découverte’s show "Le Grand Collisionneur LHC" is celebrating the world’s most powerful particle accelerator with a geek’s paradise of endless equations and stranger-than-fiction science guaranteed to make your head spin.


The Magic Flute
Mozart composed this singspiel (literally, “singing-play”) in 1791, the last year of his life. A fanciful fairy tale tinged with philosophical overtones, in which Prince Tamino receives an enchanted flute to help him rescue the Queen of the Night’s kidnapped daughter, is the excuse for some of the best-loved arias of all time.

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley at the ACP

#BlackLivesMatter

Don’t miss the chance to learn from Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, the Senior Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church (ASBC) in Alexandria, Virginia. He will speak at Thurber Thursday on 21 May, on the subject of “#BlackLivesMatter: The Continual Quest for the Kingdom in America.” He will also preach the sermon on Sunday 24 May.

Rev. Wesley represents the fourth generation of Baptist preachers in his family. He is the son of the late Rev. Dr. Alvin J. Wesley and Dr. Helene J. Wesley. A 1994 magna cum laude graduate of Duke University, he double-majored in biomedical and electrical engineering.

After his first year in medical school, he yielded to God’s call and walked away from a medical career to attend seminary in preparation for serving God’s people. He attended the Boston University School of Theology, where he was a Martin L. King, Jr. Scholar and a 1997 summa cum laude graduate, concentrating on Biblical studies and African-American religious history. His passion for preaching and learning led him to the Associated Chicago Theological School’s Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program, where he graduated from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary with his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2003.

Dr. Wesley has received numerous awards and accolades. He is a 2013 recipient of The Root 100, a Who’s Who of Black America award; and he is one of seven to receive the James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award presented by Howard University School of Divinity, in collaboration with the United Church of Christ. He is associated with several organizations: Alexandria NAACP, the Northern Virginia Urban League, the Community Coalition for Haiti, a member of the Board of Directors for the Hopkins House and the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, a member of the Board for the Lott Carey Convention, and a member of the board of the John Leland Center for Theological Studies.

He has also served as honorary chairperson for the African American Adoptions, Inc. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Wesley is an avid golfer who also enjoys movies, reading, and working out. He celebrated his 25th year anniversary in the ministry on 29 November 2014. He is the proud father of two beautiful sons, Howard-John, II and Cooper Reece.

Five years ago, the Rev. Howard-John Wesley said he had three objectives for his congregation: Be biblically literate, be socially aware and be active in the world. Follow him on Twitter at @PastorHJW. For more on Dr. Wesley, see Pastor Scott’s article, page 3.

Prayer Chain Team

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

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

By Alison Benney

The Gospel lessons are not only the definitive chapters of the Bible for Protestants, but probably the best loved. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all tell the story of Jesus in slightly different ways. For instance, all my childhood friends in Lutheran school learned the Christmas story by having to memorize and sing each year the “Christmas Cantata,” taken directly from Luke chapter 2.

In our Evangelists window below Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is a story that is unique to that Gospel.

Matthew, for instance, told the story of the flight from Egypt in verse 2:13. “An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

Mark tells the story of the blind man of Bethsaida in verse 8:22: “They came to Bethsaida. They brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him.” This story of healing is unusual because Jesus did it in two steps rather than one: “When he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, ‘Can you see anything?’ And the man looked up and said, ‘I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.’ Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.”

Luke relates the story of his visit to the house of Martha and Mary, starting with verse 10:38, where Martha is working away and Mary is sitting at Jesus’ feet. The story ends with Jesus saying, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. I Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” Carpe diem?

John recounts the story of the first miracle of Christ, turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana, verse 2:1. The third verse rather than the first is reflected in the window: “When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.”
Sunday Concert Series

A different program is offered each Sunday evening at 17h00, September through November and January through June, at ACP, 65 quai d’Orsay, 75007. There is no admission fee, but a free-will offering is taken at the door to support the series. For the schedule of upcoming concerts, see http://acparis.org

Sunday 17 May at 17h

Bach - Busoni
“Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland” BWV 659
L. V. Beethoven
Sonata Op. 31 n. 2 (“The Tempest”)
F. Chopin
Scherzo op. 31 n. 2
F. Liszt
Après une lecture du Dante (“Fantasia Quasi Sonata”)
Mephisto Waltz - Rigoletto Paraphrase

Marco Grieco obtained his diploma in piano at the Umberto Giordano Music Conservatory in 2000 in Foggia, Italy, with highest honors under the guidance of A. Drago. He continued studies with Professor Pasquale Iannone. From 2008 to 2010, he won awards in more than 35 national and international music and piano competitions, including the Caramanico Terme “Paolo Barrasso”, the Prix Ars Nova, the Massafra International Music Competition “Valeria Martina” and the International Music Competition “M. Grazia Vivaldi” in Montalto Ligure.

Sunday 31 May at 17h

Music from the First World War

Cécile Chaminade: Au pays dévasté (1919)
William Baines: Paradise Gardens (1918-1919)
Leo Ornstein: Suicide in an Airplane (1918-1919)
Nadia Boulanger: Vers la vie nouvelle (1918)
Jean Cras: 4 Danze (1917)

Concert for the benefit of the Cancer Institute Gustave Roussy
If you’re heading to London the second weekend in May, don’t forget to bring your party gear and set your watch to BST. The whole country is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, with a concert, two minutes of silence and, of course, a parade.

After the June 1944 invasion, the liberation of Paris and the formal end of World War II, the act of military surrender was signed on 7 May in Reims, France and on 8 May in Berlin, Germany.

General Charles DeGaulle announced the victory on British radio. “We have won the war. Victory is ours.” Church bells all over France rang out and joyous crowds flooded the streets, singing and dancing, unfurling flags and banners. Quickly arriving in Paris, DeGaulle laid a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in front of throngs of cheering spectators.

In London, crowds massed at Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Winston Churchill stood on a balcony and saluted the cheering crowd.

In the US, Victory Day happened to fall on the birthday of newly-installed President Harry Truman. He said after his radio address that the surrender was his most enjoyable gift. He dedicated the victory to the memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had died less than a month earlier.

In 1953 the French government declared 8 May a national holiday. France, with 15 other countries, commemorate the end of the military conflict in Europe with a holiday. Yet they don’t all celebrate the same day. Russia, for instance, celebrates “Victory Day” on the 9th of May, Denmark and the Netherlands on the 5th, and Italy’s “Festa della Liberazione” is celebrated on 25 April.

Festivities in France will include the annual parade up the Champs-Elysées, and a moment of silence, after which President Hollande will lay a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There will also be a number of commemorations in Normandy.

In London on 8 May, a Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph will start with two minutes of silence, to coincide with the moment Winston Churchill broadcast to the nation on VE Day in 1945. That evening, a chain of over 100 torch “beams” will be lit throughout the UK.

On Saturday 9 May, churches will ring their bells at 11h00, and that evening look for a huge “Party to Remember” at the London Horse Guards Parade. Tickets are £36.

The next day, Sunday 10th, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will attend a religious ceremony at Westminster Abbey. A parade follows, starting from the Abbey to Horse Guards Parade via Parliament Square, Parliament Street and Whitehall, and that afternoon there will be a fly-past of aircraft soaring over the city, flying over Whitehall and St. James’s Park.

The Daily Mail reports that on VE Day in 1945, Queen Elizabeth, then a young princess, “famously joined the jubilant victory celebrations in London and danced the conga through the Ritz Hotel before joining crowds outside Buckingham Palace.” Bring your party gear.
He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8
Soup, salad and sundaes
Cuisine de Thurber Thursday
By Carol Brown

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

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

Spring has finally arrived in Paris and salads are more appetizing on these warm, sunny days. So, this month, we are providing the recipe for our Italian Dressing. It is very simple.

Italian Dressing
Makes about 1½ cups of dressing.

120 ml white balsamic vinegar ⅛ tsp dried basil 1 tbsp sugar
⅛ tsp salt ⅛ tsp dried oregano 200 ml olive oil (approximate)
⅛ tsp onion powder 2 garlic clove

Put everything, except the olive oil in a blender*. Blend completely.

Slowly pour the olive oil into the blender (while running) until the mixture emulsifies.

Enjoy over your favorite greens.

*Note that this can all be done by hand in a bowl with a whisk or fork, whisking the first ingredients and then slowly adding in the oil. You could also use a small food processor.

Multicultural Couples Group
20h, Friday 22 May, in the ACP Thurber Room

Calling all multicultural couples: You are warmly invited to bring a dish to share and join the fun. There is always great fellowship and fascinating cross-cultural discussion.

For more information contact Monica Bassett or Anja Wyss at multicultural@acparis.org
The Nile flows around Juba and there is one bridge out of Juba to the south towards Uganda. The bridge is always full of activity during the daylight hours. Big rigs arriving from Mombasa and Kampala haul goods to Juba, among the multitude of vehicles and motorcycles (“boda bodas”) driving in and out of Juba. One Saturday last month, I crossed the bridge, leaving Juba, to visit the Church of Don Bosco where the Salesian brothers operate schools, health clinics, vocational training centres, playgrounds, and churches. There are also some 300+ households displaced by the conflict that began in December 2013, situated on their land.

I was going in a taxi — a Japanese minivan fit for the roads of Tokyo, not Juba. The driver and I didn’t know exactly where the church was, but knew the general direction. After about a kilometre past the Juba bridge, we veered off the tarmac road onto a dirt track bordered by thatched homes randomly scattered across the land. We turned left, turned right, spotted the church on the horizon, but couldn’t figure out how to get there. After stopping to ask directions several times, we finally made it there.

Father David awaited me. I had met Father David some months prior for a project in support of the displaced families on the church’s land. This time I was visiting to learn more about the church. Father David has a stoic character. He is busy running many of the church’s programs, and leading daily mass, but you can’t tell how many distractions he has when you talk with him. He is focused, listening intently, engaged in the conversation.

I found out his church has a health clinic, a primary school, a secondary school, a vocational training centre, playgrounds, and churches (plural). Some 3,000 kids pass through their facilities each week. That is no small feat in Juba, especially when there are 10 individuals who manage it all.

The vocational training center is particularly interesting. With church funds and some support from the Spanish government, the center was established to include one building for electrical training, a second building for automotive repair, a third for welding, and finally a computer lab. Last year, their first group of students graduated from the 2-year program.

At the computer lab, students learn computer skills to complement their other studies. There are 45 laptops for them to use. Although audio is a component of the trainings, they did not have headphones. When I learned this several months ago, I thought of the gracious support from the ACP congregation, specifically the donation of the Bose headphones. So during this visit, on behalf of ACP, I presented 45 of the headphones to Father David. I plan to visit again to follow up with the team and pray that the computer lab and ACP’s gift will contribute to the students’ holistic development.

The Holy Spirit is moving in Juba, and it is a blessing to be a part of it. While we sing praises for the gifts, we are all too wary of the challenges, especially in an economy burdened by war. The Church of Don Bosco has also had recent challenges in its startup. Funding is slowing down, students find it hard to pay school fees, as the wartime economy is worsening, and as a result, teachers aren’t getting paid. We pray that the Lord will continue to move in the lives of the children who pass through the Church at Don Bosco, in particular for Father David and his colleagues who manage the grounds. Pray for good health and peace of mind that the Lord is control.

If you would like to learn more about the Church at Don Bosco or the situation in South Sudan in general, don’t hesitate to contact Michael at beeman.michael@gmail.com.
Our Rafiki children are growing up. We know that they will eventually leave us and strike out on their own. Some will go to university, others to vocational schools; all need to know more about what goes on in the big world “outside” Rafiki Village. Four Rafiki Uganda teenage boys visited an experimental demonstration pineapple garden near Rafiki Village recently, and four others spent a morning making bricks the good old-fashioned way.

Teacher Alan invited us to come learn about his medium-scale pineapple farming business. His one thousand pineapple plants thrive on the side of a dry, sandy hill. Properly planted and cared for, each one yields multiple fruits over a period of about six years. The return on investment can be high and pineapples are always in demand. Rafiki student Alex carefully noted down all the techniques for sowing, weeding, and harvesting while Kasozi was swift at calculating the costs and profits. All Rafiki children love to “dig” in the gardens here. These new techniques could take us to another level with an eye on the future.

Farmer John, father of eight, including three Rafiki day students, graciously hosted us at his homestead where he makes bricks from pure mud, at the beginning of each rainy season. John and his family make and sell 10,000 bricks once or twice a year to help pay school fees for the children. The Rafiki boys had fun making about 50 bricks in one morning. They learned that long, hard work is required to earn a small amount of cash. Or, perhaps, they will be able to build a brick wall around their own homestead someday.

Please pray God to show all the Rafiki missionaries, in all of our ten Villages, the ways to best prepare the future for the children He has put under our care.

If you would like to contact Patti, she can be reached at plafage@gmail.com. Donations can be made to her through the Rafiki Foundation website: www.rafikifoundation.org. Patti is ROS #207.
# ACP Spire Diary – May

**events, meetings and concerts**

*(please check www.acparis.org for updates)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Events and Monthly Meetings and Concerts</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Labor Day / Fête du Travail**  
Church house and office closed for public holiday. | Friday | All day |
| **Breakfast Ministry**  
Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception  
Distribution: Saturday 08h00, meet at ACP Reception | Friday 1 May  
Sat, 2 May | 19h30  
8h00 | Jurie Ane Feleo  
homelssandwich  
@acparis.org |
| **Women’s Gathering - Paula Lucas,**  
founder of The Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center and author of *Harvesting Stones,* shares some of her life journey and talks about resources and tools that are available for women who are subjected to domestic violence.  
Childcare available in G1. | Sunday 3 May | 10h00 - 11h00  
ACP Library  
*Note: special time* | Kim Herr  
women@acparis.org |
| **Special Congregational Meeting**  
Meeting to receive the final report of the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry Search Committee and to vote on their unanimous recommendation of a candidate to be our next Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry. | Sunday 3 May | 12h30  
Sanctuary |  |
| **Atelier Concert - Guray Basol, piano**  
Works by Crumb, Galuppi, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Liszt, Debussy, Breit, Schubert.  
Free admission, with free-will offering | Sunday 3 May | 17h00  
Sanctuary | Fred Gramann  
music@acparis.org |
| **ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show**  
Tune in for inspiring music and interviews. | Monday 4 May | 20h45 - 21h30  
100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante |  |
| **ACP MOPS (mothers of children ages newborn-6)**  
*Note: group meets exceptionally on Thursday this month* | Thursday 7 May | 10h00 - 12h00  
Catacombs | mops@acparis.org |
| **WWII Victory in Europe (VE) Day / Fête de la Victoire**  
Church house and office closed for public holiday. | Friday 8 May | All day |  |
| **Friday Mission Lunch (volunteers needed)**  
Every Friday a hot, nutritious meal is prepared for the homeless and needy. ACP is responsible for the meal on the second Friday of each month, but we are grateful for help with cooking, serving, and cleaning up every Friday. | Friday 8 May | 10h00 - 14h00  
The American Cathedral | If you are interested, please first contact: Kristie Worrel  
fridaymissionlunch  
@acparis.org |
| **Writers’ Group** | Saturday 9 May | 14h30 - 16h30  
Room G2 | Tendayi Chirawu  
writers@acparis.org |
| **Mother’s Day (United States)** | Sun, 10 May |  |  |
| **Women’s Gathering - Eileen Heuston,**  
speaks on her experiences on the Camino de Santiago Compostela *(The Way) Pilgrimage.* Childcare available in G1. | Sunday 10 May | 12h30 - 13h30  
ACP Library | Kim Herr  
women@acparis.org |
| **Atelier Concert - Mirror Visions Ensemble : “The Sounds of Swedish Poetry”**  
Works by Rangstrom, Sibelius and Stenhammer, and world premieres from Swedish composers Forsell, Gefors, Hedås, Nilsson, Perder, Skog and Tarrodi. | Sunday 10 May | 17h00  
Sanctuary | Fred Gramann  
music@acparis.org |
| **Ascension Day / L’Ascension**  
Church house and office closed for public holiday. | Thursday 14 May | All day |  |
## ACP Spire Diary – May
### events, meetings and concerts
(please check [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) for updates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Ministry</strong>&lt;br&gt;Preparation: Friday 19h30, meet at ACP Reception&lt;br&gt;Distribution: Saturday 13h30, meet at ACP Reception</td>
<td>Friday 15 May Sat, 16 May</td>
<td>19h30 13h30</td>
<td>Jurie Ane Feleo&lt;br&gt;homelesssandwich&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Café</strong>&lt;br&gt;Music from the Still Point band in a café setting. New music and covers by U2, Coldplay and more. Free entry, snacks, drinks. Dinner catered by Kent’s Party Solutions.</td>
<td>Friday 15 May</td>
<td>19h30 Theater</td>
<td>Natalie Raynal / Il-woong Seo&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:cmusic@acparis.org">cmusic@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Marco Grieco, piano</strong>&lt;br&gt;Works by Busoni, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt. Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Sunday 17 May</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACP Today: Faith Talk in Paris radio show</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tune in for inspiring music and interviews.</td>
<td>Monday 18 May</td>
<td>20h45 - 21h30</td>
<td>100.7 FM, Radio Fréquence Protestante</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley</strong>&lt;br&gt;BlackLivesMatter: The Continual Quest for the Kingdom in America.</td>
<td>Thursday 21 May</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila&lt;br&gt;associatepastor&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Movie Discussion Group</strong>&lt;br&gt;Movie selection is Taxi (Taxi for Téhéran), Still Life, L’Epreuve, Un pigeon perché sur une branche philosophait sur l’existence. See any or all at your leisure and join the group for discussion.</td>
<td>Thursday 21 May</td>
<td>19h30 Room G2</td>
<td>Rebecca Brite&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:movies@acparis.org">movies@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multicultural Couples Potluck Dinner</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fellowship and discussion on topics such as raising bicultural/bilingual children and cultural differences. Bring a dish to share.</td>
<td>Friday 22 May</td>
<td>20h00 Thurber Room</td>
<td>Monica Bassett &amp; Anja Wyss&lt;br&gt;multicultural&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pentecost</strong></td>
<td>Sun, 24 June</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guest preacher - Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley</strong>, Senior Pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church and a 2015 inductee into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College</td>
<td>Sunday 24 May</td>
<td>9h00, 11h00 &amp; 13h30 worship services Sanctuary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - The choir Lux Perpetua, the Brighton Chamber Choir and the TIAS Ensemble</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Mass in D Major” by Dvořák</td>
<td>Sunday 24 May</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whit Monday / Lundi de Pentecôte</strong>&lt;br&gt;Church house and office closed for public holiday.</td>
<td>Monday 25 May</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurber Thursday - Pastor Karla Halvorson</strong>&lt;br&gt;Centering Prayer</td>
<td>Thursday 28 May</td>
<td>18h30; 19h30 Dinner;Lecture Thurber Room</td>
<td>Michelle Wahila&lt;br&gt;associatepastor&lt;br&gt;@acparis.org</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother’s Day (France)</strong></td>
<td>Sun, 31 May</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atelier Concert - Anne de Fournel, piano</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Music from the First World War”&lt;br&gt;Works by Chaminade, Baines, Ornstein, Boulanger, Cras. Free admission, with free-will offering</td>
<td>Sunday 31 May</td>
<td>17h00 Sanctuary</td>
<td>Fred Gramann&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:music@acparis.org">music@acparis.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DVORÁK
Messe en ré majeur
et morceaux choisis

Lux Perpetua & Brighton Chamber Choir
& TIAS Ensemble

Sous la direction de Claire Lewis et Jane Money
Soliste invité: Anthony Hawgood  Orgue: Mark-Frédéric Indorf

24 Mai 2015  17h00
American Church, Quai d'Orsay, Paris 7ème

ENTRÉE LIBRE